



DEPARTMENT OF  
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
JACKSON

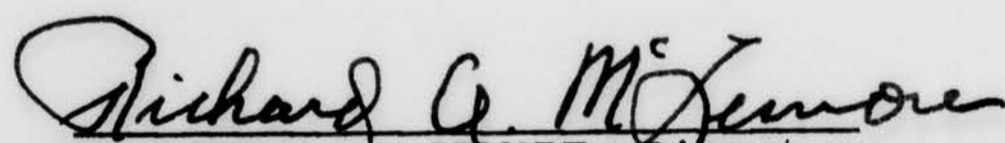
R. A. McLEMORE  
DIRECTOR

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



THE  
FISHING

THE  
FISHING

THE  
FISHING

Illustrated  
1930-31



WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
For  
MISSISSIPPI

Source Material  
For  
MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

---

DEBOTO COUNTY  
Vol. XVII

---

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

Illustrated

1936-38

## FOREWORD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

State Sponsor: Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Co-Sponsors: Mississippi Forestry Commission, Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc., Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Spanish American War Veterans and Auxiliary, American Legion, and the Adjutant General of the National Guard

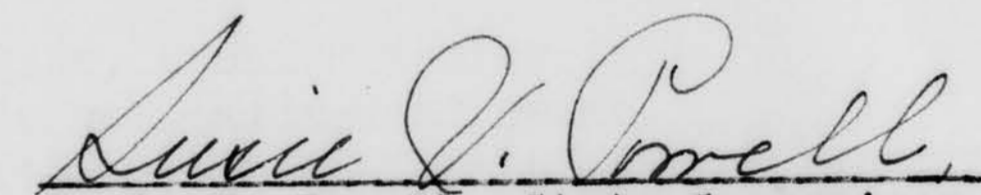
County Sponsors: Boards of Supervisors, County Officers, Departments of Education, and Municipal Boards

Local units of the organizations named above, church societies, and individual citizens

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

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

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

  
Susie V. Powell, State Supervisor  
Historical Research Project

INTRODUCTION  
by  
Judge J. G. McGowen

-----

"The cotton-field heaves with its glossy green leaves  
With its blossoms of crimson and cream  
While the corn's sharp spears with their juicy ears  
And their tassels of silk are astream.  
The cantaloupe swells, and the cantaloupe smells  
Like a gold-carven casket of musk;  
On the watermelon vine is a flagon of wine  
In the rosy-red heart of the husk.   xxx

With pansies a-glow, peonies a-blow  
Cometh June in her maidenhood sweet  
And I see her glide where the crape myrtles bide  
With their petals as pink as her feet.  
The Magnolias bloom, like an ostrich plume,  
Is a-waving to welcome the queen,  
And the iris rears through its serried spears,  
Like a banner through bayonets keen.

Judge Walter Malone."

Thus a native son aptly described DeSoto County as it appeared to a youth of his day in June time.

Judge Walter Malone achieved success, and DeSoto County may well be proud of the distinction won by him, and the honor he received from the great poets of the world in his time. His poem, "Opportunity," has been quoted throughout the English speaking world, and it is a hymn of hope to the downcast. The name of the county of his nativity, and that of its county site, perhaps, induced him to write his epic poem, "Hernando DeSoto." Sixty years ago, the tradition in that county was that DeSoto left his camp in Pontotoc County, and he and his companions marched along a trail, afterwards known as "Commerce Road," through DeSoto County and discovered the Mississippi River at a point where the river steamboat landing was subsequently located known as "Commerce."

DeSoto County, nestling as it does in the northwest corner of the State, touching the Mississippi River on the west side, and the Coldwater River on the southeast,

abounding in the most alluvial delta, together with the most inviting hill lands, has always been a county of beauty as well as profit.

In the yesteryear she gave to the city of Memphis many of her merchant princes, political leaders, and orators, whose lives colored that city with a touch of genuine Southern chivalry and sentiment.

In the political and judicial history of the State, it is probably true that DeSoto County takes high rank, which may be illustrated by a statement as to one fact of history. On March 3, 1876, John M. Stone, a stalwart Democrat and a genuine Southerner, took over the reins of government from the carpetbaggers as Governor of this State, and it is significant that during his term he selected three members of the Bar of Hernando as members of the Judiciary, Judge H. H. Chalmers on the Supreme Court Bench in 1876, and Judge Sam Powell, in the same year, as Circuit Judge. In 1878, he appointed Judge J. B. Morgan as Chancellor of the Third District. These men stood the test of the times, and we can attribute to Governor Stone certain traits of character in his selection of men for appointment. He sought efficiency and ability as well as genuine loyalty to the traditions of the state.

This preface would be incomplete if this writer did not refer to the fact that Felix La Bauve established a fund to perpetually furnish education for certain worthy sons of this county, which he represented in peace time in the state senate, and distinguished himself in war time, although he was a native of sunny France.

J. W. Odom, a brave soldier, represented this county in the Constitutional Convention of 1890, and he also set aside a fund to perpetuate, by essays from students at the University of Mississippi, the cause he loved.

The writer of this preface requests the reader to carefully note the facts which have been brought out by the collaborators in this book. No doubt the labor has been arduous and painstaking.

I also indulge the prophecy that, as DeSoto County has stood in the forefront in the past, so, in the present and the future, its sons and daughters will bear in mind its splendid history, and ever and always maintain its high standard as related to the other counties of our commonwealth.





CONTENTS

Chapter I

FORMATION

Establishment of the county - Size - Shape - Boundaries - Name - County seat - Early settlements: Jefferson, Pleasant Hill, Olive Branch, Center Hill, Love, Horn Lake, Nesbitt, Cockrum, Eudora - Pioneers - Other settlements - Landmarks - Story of the three courthouses - Early days in the county's history - The bandit and the pine trees.

Chapter II

TOPOGRAPHY

Introductory - Water-sheds - Elevation - Lakes and bayous - Springs, wells, and mineral waters - Origin and meaning of names of creeks, lakes, etc.

Chapter III

SOILS AND MINERALS

The Delta - Soil area - Types of soil - Deposits of gravel - Minerals - Clays - Sands - Wells - Coal suspected - Salt detected.

Chapter IV

FLORA

Location and extent of woodlands - Coldwater and Bluff bottoms - Economic value of forests - Forest trees in the county - Fruit bearing trees and vines - Method of cutting and marketing timber - Protecting the woods - Street and highway beautification - Tree survey: Historic, unusual, flowering - Wild flowers - Herbs used for medicinal purposes - Spring salads.

Chapter V

Fauna

Pests: Farm, garden, orchard, poultry, livestock,

man - Common roadside and field insects - Spiders - Other invertebrates - Fish and their relatives - Fowls: Song birds, other common birds, birds of prey - Mammals - Hoofed animals.

## Chapter VI

### INDIANS

Major and minor tribes - Customs and characteristics - Origin of the tribes: Chickasaws and Choctaws - Marriage customs - Mounds: Location and present condition - John Cranford exhibits Indian relics - Story and legend of Chief Mussacunna.

## Chapter VII

### ANTE-BELLUM DAYS

Old homes: Col. Thomas W. White, Ellis, Colonial home on old plank road, John W. Nichols, Raines, Col. Felix Labauve, George Banks, Dick Wilson, Major Nesbitt, Buchanan, Dr. Miller, Clint White, Robert Gale, Col. William L. Miller, antebellum home near State Line, Emerson, boyhood home of Walter Malone, W. S. Slade, W. Woods, home serving as hospital during yellow fever, Blocker, Albert Myers, Old Hernando Academy, Flynn, Davis, Botts, Walker, Rev. German Baker - Old homes at Pleasant Hill - Homes near Olive Branch - Homes near Love - Cockrum old homes - Other old homes - Antiques and relics.

## Chapter VIII

### WARS

Revolutionary War - Mexican War - War between the States: Fighting units from the county, First Mississippi Regiment, Record of individual soldiers, Veterans now living (1936), War reminiscences by "Old Hughey," Interviews, Home conditions during the war, Stories of raids upon homes - Spanish American War - World War: Individual records, World War nurses, Citations and medals, Letters from the front, Interviews, Organizations that did war work at home, Liberty Bond honor roll, Red Cross activities.

## Chapter IX

### RECONSTRUCTION

Political adjustment - The County Convention - Campaign of 1869 - Campaign of 1876 - Transportation in the

county - Social adjustment - Education and religious adjustment - Reunions of Confederate veterans - Economic adjustment - Carpet-baggers - Freedman's Bureau - Ku Klux Klan - Events and conditions during Reconstruction Period - Members of Ku Klux Klan - County government returned to white voters - Spinning wheel and loom - Personal reminiscences of Reconstruction Days.

## Chapter X

### OUTLAW DAYS

Gang and feud leaders - Riots and their results - The White Caps - Saloon Days - Early horse thieves and cattle rustlers - Periodic outlaws - Brutal murders - Douglass and Wooldridge duel.

## Chapter XI

### THE NEGRO

Census 1930 - Educational advantages - Farmers - Other occupations - Professional.

## Chapter XII

### FOLKLORE

Introductory - Observance of special days - Superstitions - Local customs: Social, table, dress, and religion - Religious customs among the negroes - Miscellaneous customs - Customs of by-gone days - Hunters club - Indian legend - Folk tales - Ghost stories.

## Chapter XIII

### RELIGION

Pioneer churches: Hernando Presbyterian, New Bethlem, Baker's Chapel, Pleasant Hill churches, Hernando Methodist, Oak Grove, Edmonston, Methodist church at Kelly - Financing early churches - Old camp-meetings - Rivalry in the early churches - Mormon churches - History of churches of today: Glenns Chapel, Minor Memorial Church - Sunday Schools and church societies - Negro churches - Negro church activities.

## Chapter XIV

### EDUCATION

Early schools: Rock Springs, Private schools, The

Bristol School, Private music school, Horn Lake Academy, New Bethel, Old Oak Hill Academy, Gray's Institute, Classical School for Boys, Hernando Male Academy, Baptist Female College, Randle University, Kitty Bowen School, and others - School tax levied - Semple Broadus College - Early schools of Eudora - Hernando Academy - Mississippi Female College - Early educators - First school board - Superintendents - Reid's report - Schools consolidated - Sources of school income - Appropriations - High schools established - Agricultural school - Consolidated schools: Horn Lake, Cockrum, Lake Cormorant, Olive Branch, Hernando High School, Emergency adult education - Mrs. Ethel T. Darden - List of negro schools in 1881 - Negro education in slave days - Negro public schools of the county - Negro adult education.

#### Chapter XV

##### AGRICULTURE

Importance of agriculture in the county - Soil erosion control - Early history of agriculture - Old farming equipment - Cotton, corn, and forage crops - Truck farming - Home garden products - Livestock - Home improvement - County agencies - 4-H clubs - Corn and pig club winners - Tomato clubs - Negro home demonstration agent - Agricultural schools - Horticulture.

#### Chapter XVI

##### INDUSTRY

Cheese plant, located at Olive Branch - Hatchery at Pleasant Hill - Early industries - Sawmills - Sweet potato plant - Public utilities.

#### Chapter XVII

##### TRANSPORTATION

Early roads and Indian traces - Old stage coach line - Historic roads - Present highways - National highways through the county - New route proposed for the Bankhead Highway - Report of conditions of Highway 51 - Bus lines - Railroad pioneering - Mississippi River travel.

#### Chapter XVIII

##### THE ARTS

Historians: James Henry Malone, Dr. Ferdinand M. Malone, Anna Gray Horn, Thelma Cox Dietrich - Poets: Walter Malone, Mrs. M. G. Robinson, Lula Scott, and others - Drama: Walter Malone, Dora Lelia Dean, Dr. Sam Watson, and others - Music: Organists, pianists, music groups, choirs - Painting: miniature and oil painters, and commercial art - Practical arts and crafts - Architecture - Landscaping: Parks, school grounds, and home gardens.

#### Chapter XIX

##### THE BAR

Lawyers of the past: Leonard F. Farley, Robert J. Farley, Felix LaBauve, Robert Edward Lee Morgan, Sam Holloway, John W. Lauderdale, Douglas Clifton Lauderdale, Mial Wall, Lem Banks, C. A. Marshall, R. L. Dabney, N. E. Wilroy, and others - Present day lawyers: Gerald Weissinger Chatham, R.F.B. Logan, Henry Edison Marshall, Clarence E. Clifton, Henry Grady Johnston, and others.

#### Chapter XX

##### THE PRESS

The county's first paper - Times and Press combined - Magazines and papers to date - Outstanding editorials - Report of hurricane 1923 - Notices of W.P.A. work - Social items - Odd advertisements - Notice of levee construction work.

#### Chapter XXI

##### HEALTH

Personnel of First State Board of Health - Three epidemics visit the county: Yellow fever, small pox, influenza - First meeting of county board - Quarantine established - Clean-up campaign - County and state cooperation - Report of Red Cross nurse - Sanitation - W.P.A. Sanitation Project - Child hygiene and public health nursing - Tuberculosis control - Communicable diseases and control - Present doctors in the county: Dr. H. M. Wadsworth - Old family doctors: Dr. A. J.

Weissinger, Dr. W. K. Love, Dr. W. S. Weissinger, Dr. William A. Powell, Dr. T. M. Jones, Dr. S. B. Robinson - Other pioneer doctors.

#### Chapter XXII

##### ORGANIZATIONS

Fraternal: Masonic Lodge of DeSoto County, Woodmen of the World of Hernando - Social and cultural: Girl Reserves, Hernando Music Club - Civic: Rotary Club, Federated garden club - Patriotic: American Legion Auxilliary, Bedford Forrest Chapter U.D.C. - Eastern Star Chapter No. 258.

#### Chapter XXIII

##### PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC LEADERS

Edwin Henderson Randle, Simon Bolivar Dean, James Henry Johnson, Hugh Foster, Joel Summers, Will Dockery, Mayre Manley Counts, Adolphus D. Williams, Mrs. Willie Abbey Howard, J. F. Conger, A. S. Campbell, James Buchanan Riley, G. C. Mingee, S. W. Eason, Mrs. Winifred Gatrell - Sketches of other leaders.

#### Chapter XXIV

##### ADDENDA

Act of Incorporation of Hernando Academy - Reflections of old Confederate veterans - Water from DeSoto wells - Election disturbances in the 1870's - Heard L.Q.C. Lamar speak in 1876 - Riot on the Showboat - Population of the county in 1930 - Chinese citizens in the county - Church statistics - Confederate soldier roster - World War roster.

#### ILLUSTRATIONS

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Hernando DeSoto                         | Frontispiece |
| Old Castle Courthouse                   | 15           |
| Chart of Government                     | 25           |
| Entrance to Home of Col. Thos. W. White | 89           |
| Old Flynn Home                          | 107          |
| Ruins of Old Cheatham Home              | 115          |
| Miner Memorial Methodist Church         | 249          |
| Negro Baptist Industrial Institute      | 297          |
| Gayosa Dairy Farms                      | 317          |
| Felix LaBauve                           | 387          |

## GENESIS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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

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

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

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

While county government in Mississippi has been described as "largely traditional, copied from institutions evolved more than a century ago-- not in Mississippi, but

in other states - and adopted in this state with little essential modification and with little, if any, critical study," other observers have noted that county government in Mississippi has undergone few changes in structure; but in recent years, there has come a marked change in the basis of its support. A new character, "State Aid," has come upon the stage and is demanding modernization of county government, both in structure and manner of the performance of its functions.

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

## Chapter I

### FORMATION

----

DeSoto County, established February 9, 1836, was one of the twelve counties formed in that year from the territory originally belonging to the Chickasaw Indian Nation, ceded under the Treaty of Pontotoc in 1832. This cession finally eliminated the Chickasaw Indians from the North Mississippi territory. By Act of the Legislature, the county was divided into five districts, and the election of one man as commissioner from each district was authorized to organize it. The Board of Police, the county's first official governing body, was organized in 1836.

#### Size, Shape, and Boundary

DeSoto County is located in the extreme northwestern corner of the state. It is bounded on the north by the state line which divides Mississippi and Tennessee, and on the east by Marshall County. Tate County adjoins DeSoto on the south, and the history of the two is closely interwoven. Coldwater River makes a part of the boundary between them. The Mississippi River touches it for a few miles on the west, and Tunica County completes its western boundary.

The original Act of the Legislature defined the boundaries of DeSoto County as follows: "Beginning at the point where the northern boundary line of the state intersects the Mississippi River, and running thence down said river to the point where the line between townships 2 and 3 intersects the same; thence with the said township line to the line between ranges 9 and 10 west; thence south with the said range line to the center of township 6, according to the sectional lines to the center of range 5 west, according to the sectional lines to the northern boundary line of the state; thence west with the said boundary line to the place of beginning." (1)

(1) Dunbar Rowland, Mississippi, The Heart of the South, Vol. II, p. 716.

The boundary line between DeSoto and Marshall Counties was again changed, as is shown in the following quotation: "This strip was the northeastern portion of the county lying east of the railroad and comprising 27 sections. This land had belonged to DeSoto since its organization and it was through the efforts of the carpet-baggers and negroes that it was added to Marshall, in 1873. It was afterward known as 'the strip'. This annexation was regarded as an outrage by the people of DeSoto, and the whites living in 'the strip' wanted to be joined again to DeSoto."

"On May 7, 1878, the voters in 'the strip' were allowed to hold an election to determine whether they should remain in Marshall County or whether their territory should be annexed to DeSoto. Nearly all the white people in the territory voted to go to DeSoto County; most of the negroes voted to remain in Marshall. DeSoto regained her territory." The county is an irregular oblong with an area of 475 square miles, aggregating 304,000. (1)

#### Name

The county was named for that great Spanish explorer, Hernando DeSoto, who discovered the mighty Mississippi River near this county.

#### County Seat

Hernando was made the county seat at the time of the establishment of the county, in 1836. The story of the three courthouses is appended: "Originally, the town was an Indian trading post, called Jefferson, but by legislation, the name was changed to Hernando, by Senator A. G. McNutt, as an added tribute to Hernando DeSoto. Hernando is in the central part of the county, located on the Illinois Central Railroad, and is a trading and shipping center for a widespread farming section, its principal crops being cotton and corn."

Mrs. Mildred Farrington, daughter of the late Thomas W. White, Colonel in the War between the States, and prominent citizen of Hernando, gave an interview, in which she discussed Hernando, as an early settlement.

(1) Times Promoter, November 13, 1930; Reprint from The Press and Times, May 12, 1878.

"Hernando," she said, "was originally an Indian trading post, known as Jefferson. It was the home of Generals Forrest and Chalmers; Colonels Morgan, White, Nesbit, and Harris; Majors Dockery and Chalmers; and minor officers."

Mrs. Farrington lived in Memphis for thirty years, but her childhood was spent in Hernando. She recalled witnessing, as a child, the burning of the courthouse by the northern forces about the year 1863, and the burning of her father's office located in town. She spoke of the Baptist Female College, and its educational activities during the war. Many of the schools of the county and state were closed during that period, but the Baptist Female College continued its instructions and many young ladies from other Mississippi towns came to Hernando at that time to continue their studies.

Among the citizens of unusual note, Mrs. Farrington mentioned General Nathan Bedford Forrest and Colonel Felix LaBauve. Forrest came to Hernando before the war and engaged in the mercantile business. He also operated a line of stage coaches on the "Hernando Plank Road." It was in Hernando that he organized his men for his temporary capture of the Federal Army at its headquarters at the Gayoso Hotel in Memphis. General Forrest married Miss Montgomery, and the old Montgomery home in Hernando, where they lived, was only recently destroyed. (1)

James Frank Conger, Chancery Clerk of DeSoto County, pointed to evidence that the Police Court, the first governing body of the county, was organized as early as 1836. In the Deed Record Book B, page 197, we find that on August 16, 1836, 40 acres of land were deeded to the Board of Police of DeSoto County for the site of the town then known as Jefferson. (2)

Judge John M. Kuykendall, Circuit Judge of the 17th District, in a recent interview, stated that Hernando was one of the oldest settlements, dating back prior to the formation of the county. He gave a list of the commissioners charged with the duty of organizing the county. They were, Felix H. Walker, John D. Martin, Beverly G. Mitchell, and Messrs. Cartwright and Moseley. C. B. Payne was the first sheriff of the county; Hucky Brown, first president of the Board of Police; Mumphrey Cobb, first Probate Judge; S. T. Cobb, first Clerk of the Probate Court; Robert Atchinson, first Clerk of the Circuit Court. The first courts were held in a small log house, and often litigants were outside pending the trial of their cases.

(1) Mrs. Mildred Farrington, Hernando, Miss.

(2) James F. Conger, Hernando, Miss.



Ruben Branch, an early pioneer from North Carolina, kept the first hotel at Hernando. (1)

#### Progressive Town

In the county paper, The Press, of October 8, 1868, we find the following information concerning the town of Hernando for that year:

"Notwithstanding the burning by the Yankees and their stealings combined, and the many failures of heretofore rich farmers, we can boast of more stores and larger stocks of goods than ever before. For instance, we have eight dry goods, hardware, and queensware stores; three fully supplied drug stores; six grocery stores, and one tinware store. Besides, the mechanics are kept constantly employed. There are one cabinet maker, two house and sign painters, one tailor, one boot and shoe maker, three wagon makers, one saddle and harness maker, one undertaker, two blacksmith shops, and carpenters and brickmasons. Within hailing distance of the town, a fine flouring mill is under full headway, grinding wheat and corn. This mill turns out as fine samples of flour and corn meal as can be found in any mill in the South. We have, also, two livery stables, one running a hack regularly to the railroad depot, one hotel, the Padley House; and a number of first class physicians.

"This being the county seat, we are well supplied with legal talent, there being twelve first class lawyers in full practice. Churches: Methodist, Baptist, Cumberland, Presbyterian, Episcopalian. Schools: Mrs. Moseley's, Miss Lem Cooke's; Male Academy; the Female College; and a newspaper - The Press." (2)

R.F.B. Logan, in addition to interviews already mentioned concerning the county seat, made the following statements:

"Hernando is a thriving business town, the center of a rich farming district. It is characterized by beautiful homes, many of which are antebellum. Before the organization of Tate County in 1873, Hernando was the business center for that section across Coldwater River, as well as the territory that now comprises DeSoto County.

"Hernando, rich in its legacy of a beautiful history of a hundred years, rests serenely atop its tree-

(1) History of Mississippi, Lowry and McCardle, p. 473  
(2) The Press, October 8, 1868

bordered hill - the hill upon which, as tradition claims, DeSoto once pitched his camp, before his discovery of the Mississippi River from a point in what is now Tunica County." (1)

#### Early Settlements

The early settlements in DeSoto County were practically all Indian trading posts, which gradually became towns and villages.

Jefferson, which became Hernando in 1836, originated as a trading post for barter with the Chickasaw Indians, but rapidly became the largest town in the county.

Mrs. Annie Lynn, old citizen of Hernando, lives out several miles southwest of the town at a beautiful old country home. Massacunnie Creek flows through her land, and the site of the old Indian village, or camp, is located near her house. Mrs. Lynn spoke of her grandfather, General J.C.M. Robertson, who fought in the War of 1812. General Robertson was a descendant of a Presbyterian Preacher of Scotland, and was one of the early settlers of the town of Jefferson. At one time during the Reconstruction Period, Mrs. Lynn entertained in her kitchen, her grandfather's negro carriage driver, Albert Handy, who had become a State Representative; Mr. Robertson was very active in the meetings held by Southerners at that time to help regain white supremacy. Simpson Tate, for whom Tate County was named, Mrs. Lynn said, was a nephew of her grandfather, J.C.M. Robertson. Simpson Tate was an abolitionist, and at one time went on the bond of Jeff Evans, negro sheriff of DeSoto County. (2)

Pleasant Hill was, originally, part of two sections of land granted by the United States government on January 25, 1836, to a Chickasaw Indian named Ta-To-Yea. Later, it came into the possession of B. D. Fields, who deeded the land to John M. Kean, March 30, 1838. The records show that George Anderson ~~Robertson~~ purchased this land November 22, 1849, and a settlement here was called ~~Robertson's~~ Cross Roads. A part of this land was given by ~~Robertson~~ to his son, Pleasant, and finally became known as Pleasant Hill. (3)

(1) R.F.B. Logan, Hernando, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. Annie Lynn, Hernando, Miss.  
(3) County Records.

Miss Maud Wesson gave us some interesting facts concerning the early settlement of what is now Olive Branch. Miss Wesson is a descendant of Milton Blocker, one of the first white settlers of the county, and told us that Blocker and wife, Mrs. Frankie Blocker, secured the land which now comprises the greater part of Olive Branch from a Chickasaw Indian in 1833. She said that she gained this information from an abstract which was in the possession of the family for years. In 1834, the Blocker home was built, and still stands as one of the familiar landmarks of Olive Branch, which was named by Mrs. Blocker and her daughter, Julia. (1)

J. Frank Conger, Chancery Clerk, helped find this bit of information concerning the present site of Olive Branch: In the Chain of Title, Court House Record, Volume I, we find that Lush-puh-tubby is recorded as the original owner of Section 34, Township 1, Range 6. It is recorded here that Stephen Flinn bought this section from Lush-puh-tubby, and that Milton Blocker, in turn, bought it from Stephen Flinn. However, Conger said, it is possible that the courthouse records are not entirely accurate in their statements concerning these early transfers of property. Miss Wesson is positive that Milton Blocker owned the property as early as 1833. (2)

In an interview at his home near Olive Branch, Dr. H. A. Stuart related some interesting facts about the early settlers of Olive Branch, and events took place near the town: Dr. Stuart said that his grandfather, Atabelepa Stuart, bought in 1837, from Alan Dupree, two sections of land, which included the present site of his home. The land cost only \$4.00 per acre, and Dr. Stuart pointed out the spot just back of his home where his grandfather's log house stood; near the home of Dr. Stuart, and south of Mineral Wells, there was once an Indian camp; that the old Pigeon Roost Road, now Highway 78, was, before the war, a plank road, and that it was torn away by General Sherman's army as it marched toward Holly Springs. The road was named "Pigeon Roost" because it was along its course that droves of pigeons roosted each year on their way to and from the South.

The first church of Olive Branch, Dr. Stuart continued, was the old State Line Baptist Church, a few miles

(1) Miss Maud Wesson, Olive Branch, Miss.  
(2) J. Frank Conger, Hernando, Miss.

north of Olive Branch. He recalled that Dr. W. H. McCargo was the town's first doctor, and that Paine and Rowlett owned the first store. Among the earliest settlers mentioned were: Messrs. Dandridge, Alan Dupree, and Sam Watson, who consecutively owned the old place where T. H. Norvell's modern home now stands. Here, in the old log house, Sam Watson, ardent spiritualist, wrote several books on spiritualism. (1)

Mrs. T. H. Norvell, Olive Branch, also spoke of Watson as being a scholarly person, and said that his books of spiritualism were written in a small brick study in the yard, which he used for a lodge or office. One of his books, "The Clock Struck One," is said to be very impressive. It was based upon an occurrence at the death of one of Mr. Watson's daughters. The book emphasizes the fact that an old clock in the loft of the house, which had not run or struck for years, suddenly struck one shortly after the death of the girl downstairs. (2)

Mrs. Anna Maples stated that, besides the Blockers, there were other families who settled at what is now the town of Olive Branch. These were the Paines, the Flynns, the Watsons, and the Rowletts. Rowlett Paine, former Mayor of Memphis, Tennessee, is a native son of Olive Branch. Mrs. Maples' present home is located on the land settled by the Rowlett family. She was of the opinion that the settlement, now Olive Branch, was originally called Cow Pen, and later, Watson, in honor of the Watson family, who were early settlers there. Among Mrs. Maples' valued possessions is an old scrap book containing many newspaper clippings. Among these clippings was an eighty-one year old advertisement which originally appeared in the city directory of Memphis in 1855. It was an advertisement for the firm of Forrest and Maples, Slave Dealers. The Forrest of the firm was General N. B. Forrest, of the War between the States. Her scrap book also contained a picture of what was believed to be the first automobile to enter DeSoto County - a Cadillac costing \$1,600.

An interesting fact concerning Gen. Forrest, related by Mrs. Maples, was his having worked for Josiah Maples in his youth, on the old Evans place, a few miles from Pleasant Hill. (3)

(1) Dr. H. A. Stuart, Olive Branch, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. T. H. Norvell, Olive Branch, Miss.  
(3) Mrs. Anna Maples, Olive Branch, Miss.

Center Hill was a community as early as 1850, as is shown by records of a land sale by Frances Blocker to the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens of the Masonic Lodge of Center Hill. (1)

Love: Dr. W. K. Love purchased land in 1851, which includes the present site of this little village. His slaves helped to build the Mississippi Tennessee Railroad, which is now part of the Illinois Central. The village, situated on this railroad, was first known as Love Station, in honor of Dr. Love. Bob Wheeler of Love, told us that Love first became a settlement when the Mississippi and Tennessee Railroad was constructed, about the year 1855. However, he added that the town only began to grow after the war. In 1873, Dr. W. K. Love, for whom the place is named, deeded to the trustees of the M.E. Church a lot, on which was constructed the first church. In 1874, according to Mr. Wheeler, he also deeded a site for a depot and a lot for a school. Mr. Wheeler said that he gained this information from the record book, Chain of Titles, Town Lots, in the courthouse at Hernando. At one time, Wheeler continued, Love was an incorporated town, having about six stores, two blacksmith shops, and other business houses. With the construction of good roads, business declined at Love, due in part to the proximity of Hernando. (2)

Horn Lake was a settlement before the War between the States. In November, 1855, a tract of land for a depot there was deeded to the Mississippi and Tennessee Railroad by Samuel C. Murphy.

Mrs. W. H. Hurt of Horn Lake, gives the following: "By 1880, the population had grown to such an extent that the town was incorporated; it was given the name of Horn Lake, because of its proximity to the large lake of the same name, which was located about eight miles west of the town. There were, at that time, seven stores, one drug store, a livery stable, a church and a school house. Billie Bynum was the depot agent. Some of the early settlers were: Drs. Baskerville, Lundy, Ballard, and Bolton; Deputy Sheriff, Cal Halbert; Mr. Welch, M. F. Taylor, and W. G. Elmore. (3)

Nesbitt: The records concerning this site were stolen from the courthouse several years ago, however,

- 
- (1) County Records
  - (2) Bob Wheeler, Love, Miss.
  - (3) Mfs. W. H. Hurt, Horn Lake, Miss.

it is well known that Colonel Tom Nesbitt deeded land to the public for a village, which was named after him.

Mrs. R. M. Lusher, wife of the present Mayor of Nesbitt, states that Nesbitt was incorporated during the Reconstruction Period, and says that Mr. Lusher recalls that the charter could not be secured unless two negroes were put on the Board of Aldermen. (1)

Cockrum was named for W. F. Cockrum, a pioneer settler, and is one of the earliest settlements in the county, being, originally an Indian trading post. Its first name was Cockrum Cross Roads. An article on the life of Felix Lebaue, by R. L. Dabney, published in the October 10, 1935, issue of the "Times Promoter" avers that Felix Lebaue settled there and was a trader for several years before he came to Hernando in 1836. Before the War between the States, during the slave days, Cockrum was a thriving community, being the headquarters and trading center for landlords and slave owners of this part of the country. At one time this community had 27 mercantile stores and two hotels, which were meeting places for the society of the Old South. The oldest and last building to be torn away - the Masonic Hall - was established many years before the War between the States, and was one of the meeting places for the various Masonic Lodge members.

When the War between the States began, many young men rushed to the colors of the Southland; during the conflict many engagements were fought in and around Cockrum Cross Roads, that being a strategic point on the Holly Springs- Hernando overland route. General Forrest fought a severe engagement at one time at Cockrum, and was victorious. With the end of the war and the freedom of the slaves, Cockrum began to disintegrate as a trading center and became poverty-stricken. It was the focal point of concentration of the Ku Klux Klan after it was organized in 1868. The Ku Klux Klan was used effectively during the carpet-bagger days for helping white supremacy and the down-trodden Southerners. Many political debates and meetings were held at Cockrum during the Reconstruction Period.

Among the early citizens of Cockrum were: Felix LeBaue, the Cockrums, the Langstons, the Bowens, the Thompsons, the Flowers, the Sages, the Elders, and the Duncans. (2)

- 
- (1) Mrs. R. M. Lusher, Nesbitt, Miss.
  - (2) Times Promoter, October 10, 1935. Article by R. L. Dabney.

### Voting Precincts

In "The People's Press," of February 15, 1866, which was the first issue of the paper after the War between the States, the following towns are listed as voting precincts: Senatobia, Coldwater, Horn Lake, Flawellyn's Cross Roads, Cockrum, Pleasant Hill, Olive Branch, Arkabutla, Whiteseld, Looxahoma, Center Hill, Dixie, DeSoto Front, Greenleaf. (1)

Since this list was printed before the formation of Tate County, and before the boundary between DeSoto and Marshall became settled, several of the above listed towns are not in DeSoto County today.

### Eudora

G. Wallace, one of the older citizens of the county, moved to Eudora in 1882, and tells us that there was one saloon there then run by Doll Stone, with Caesar Council as his clerk. There was, also, one saloon at Dixie, but neither was in operation long after Mr. Wallace moved to the Community. (2)

J. W. Nichols, born March 3, 1845, near Nesbitt, said his father, James Driver Nichols, was sheriff of DeSoto County in 1856, serving his term in the old courthouse, which was located about a quarter of a mile from the present location. After his term as sheriff, he served in the Mississippi Legislature; Nichols moved, with his parents, when he was a small boy to Eudora, then known as Dixie, and was located at what is now Dixie Cross Roads, one mile from Eudora. The Nichols had a large old plantation home at this place.

Mr. Nichols told of his attending school at the Hernando Male College, and of his enlisting in the Confederate Army, August 3, 1861. He was a close friend of Bill Forrest, brother of General Forrest, and stated that Mrs. Forrest, mother of the General, married a Mr. Luxton after her first husband's death.

A few years before the war, the town was moved to the present site of Eudora. Mr. Lewis, living there at the time, had a daughter named Ella - the name of the settlement became Ellaville in her honor. Later, a Mr. Harrell moved from the Delta to the town, and changed the name of the town to Eudora - in honor of his daughter.

(1) People's Press, February 15, 1866.

(2) G. Wallace, Eudora, Miss.

Nichols was elected Magistrate at Eudora and served 50 years in this office - said by him to be the longest period that any man in Mississippi ever held an office without interruption. (1)

Jimmie Tipton, Tax Assessor of DeSoto County, told us quite a different story of the naming of Eudora. Eudora was known as Ellaville until the Reconstruction Period, when, as tradition has it, the Yankee postmaster changed its name to Eudora. It is said that its name grew out of an occurrence on one of the muddy roads near the community. An old man's wagon got stuck in the mud, and, in his efforts to free his wagon, his repeated calls to his mule, "You, Dora," brought the name "Eudora" to the postmaster's mind. (2)

### Pioneers - Other Settlements

Mrs. Maggie Gray Robinson, Pleasant Hill, gave some information concerning Lewisburg, Plum Point, and the Steve Johnston Place:

"According to Mrs. Robinson, Lewisburg, a very small community, was settled about the year 1836 by Thomas Lewis, and later became known as Lewisburg.

Stephen D. Johnston came from Alabama to DeSoto County in 1836. Traveling by covered wagon, bringing cattle, hogs, and slaves, it took him about three months to make the trip, and as there were no roads, he had to travel by charts and compass. He settled about seven miles northeast of Hernando, and about four miles south of Pleasant Hill. The place is yet known as the old Steve Johnston place.

About the same date, 1836, Finley Holmes, a young married man of 34 years, came to DeSoto County from Georgia and settled at a place now known as Plum Point, situated about eight miles northwest of Pleasant Hill, on Section 17-1-7. He stopped at a place near the Mississippi and Tennessee state line, dug a well, and intended to build a house. After digging the well, he discovered he was just a few feet over in Tennessee, but said, "I have come all the way from Georgia to get into Mississippi, and I will get there," so he dug another well, made a crop, and built a house just over the line in Mississippi. Mr. Bledsoe also came to the community about the same year. A son of Finley Holmes, born in 1839, and named Francis Holmes, built the old antebellum home which now

(1) J. W. Nichols, Eudora, Miss.

(2) Jimmie Tipton, Hernando, Miss.

stands on the same spot, known as the old Holmes place. Plum Point got its name from a well-known plum thicket at a point in the section near the Holmes place. (1)

Jay Bird Community is so named for the numerous jaybirds to be found in the locality.

Bull Frog Corner is so named for the numerous bull frogs to be found in the surrounding bar pits and creeks.

Windy Corner derived its name from the meetings of older settlers at Hughey's store, who would tell long-winded tales of the past. This place later became known as Poplar Corner, since it was a popular place of meeting.

Lynchburg derived its name from the many lynchings that were held there during the outlaw days.

Ingram's Mill, one of the principal villages of 1836, derived its name from one of the earliest settlers, Ingram, who owned the saw mill.

Kelly was first given that name as an honor to a railroad official of the old Memphis, Birmingham, and Atlanta Railroad; the Frisco Road of today. In 1910 the name was changed to Mineral Wells, as an honor to Dr. R.E. Burlington, who discovered the mineral waters in this community, and built a summer resort there.

Mooretown was named as an honor to Captain Moore, who settled here before the War between the States, establishing a saw mill and a cotton gin.

Walls was known as Alpika until the year 1906, when the name was changed to Walls, in honor of Captain Walls, who was one of the earliest settlers, and a leader in the War between the States.

Lake Cormorant was known as Blythe, in honor of Captain Green Blythe, organizer and leader of the great Blythe's Battalion of the War between the States. In 1905 the name was changed to Lake Cormorant, being named for the lake, which is located near the town.

Days was first known as the "Chicago of Mississippi," due to the fact that the town was blocked out, streets named, and the business houses, transfer business, general merchandise stores, manufacturing business, wholesale and retail grocery, and floral depot, which were located there.

(1) Mrs. Maggie Gray Robinson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.

Monkey Town, named by the ladies of the community, was a saw mill town very thickly settled. The saw mill was owned by Vestral Stroud and Company, who later sold out to Wilson Brothers. It was at this time the name of the village was changed to Wilson's Mill, in honor of the Wilsons.

Cedar View, derived its name from the many cedars that are in this locality.

Miller derives its name from one of the earliest settlers - J. J. Miller. (1)

#### Old Landmarks

C. E. Emerson, Hernando, in response to inquiries about landmarks in the county, mentioned the following: Horn Lake, generally known as Lake View; the courthouse at Hernando, built in 1871, on the plan of a Norman Castle; monument of Felix LaBauve, located approximately 100 yards from Highway 51 (the old route), just outside of Hernando city limits; the Bluffs, extending south from Walls, to the Tunica County line; antebellum homes. (2)

Mrs. Sid Fogg, daughter of the late W. G. Elmore, one of the earlier settlers of Horn Lake, discussed the Elmore Place at Horn Lake. The Elmore Place, Mrs. Fogg stated, was originally owned by the Chickasaw Indians, who sold it to W. F. Taylor, of Memphis. In 1882, W. G. Elmore came to DeSoto County from Rockburg, Virginia, with his parents in an ox-driven covered wagon, taking nearly twelve months to make the trip. After the Elmores reached here with 100 slaves, they bought this place from Taylor. Mrs. Fogg still has in her possession some of the utensils that were brought here with the Elmores. Mr. Elmore had the first contract to carry mail from Horn Lake to Holly Springs, and it took him a week to make the round trip.

In 1884, Mr. Elmore built one of the first school houses of the vicinity on his property, known as the Elmore School; it was used as a schoolhouse until a few years ago, when the present Horn Lake Consolidated School was formed. This was a 16 x 18 foot room, having a dirt chimney, and benches made of split logs. On April 29, 1909, the Elmore home became a hospital for victims of a cyclone which blew away many homes and injured many people in the community. This place is now owned by Mrs. Sid Fogg. (3)

(1) Mrs. Julia Heraway, Historian

(2) C. E. Emerson, Hernando, Miss.

(3) Mrs. Sid Fogg, Horn Lake, Miss.

Mrs. Julia Hinkle, who lives five miles west of Eudora, said in an interview that her husband, the late John Hinkle, came from Germany. He was a naturalized American and one of DeSoto County's oldest and best citizens, one of the founders of the Eudora Baptist Church and a deacon in this church until his death four years ago. He bought the place upon which their home is located, from a man who bought it from an Indian named Wash-shin-mo, giving the Indian one-half dozen coon skins for the 160 acres of land. Hinkle was given an abstract deed to the place, and this deed was transferred to Bas-cum Parker last year, when he bought the place from Mrs. Hinkle. She said that the present Highway No. 3 and the road from Eudora to Olive Branch was an old stage coach road. From four to eight horses were required to pull the stage coach, which carried both passengers and freight. At that time the road in some places was through dense wildernesses of blue cane which overlapped above the stage coach. (1)

C. M. Dunaway gave the following information about Oak Grove, which he said, Mr. Janney, one of the oldest residents of that community, told him. Oak Grove, a small community, was named for Oak Grove Church, which was founded in 1836 by the Methodists. The late George Washington Nail, father of J. D. Nail, furnished the lot. In 1844, the Baptist people, with the financial help of Major Dockery, Major Dabney, and Sebron Jones, bought the church from the Methodists. It is the understanding of the older people of Oak Grove that the three men mentioned above named the church. (2)

Britt Hughey, son of the late S. A. Hughey, the "old Hughey" of Times Promoter fame, told us of three landings on the Mississippi River which were used before the war. These were Star Landing, Norfolk Landing, and Bass' Landing. Star Landing may be reached by the old road bearing that name, which Hughey said, is the oldest road in the county. Norfolk Landing was much-used during the war, and has been used until recently, when it caved into the river. Bass's Landing was west of Walls.

#### Story of the Three Courthouses

The first courthouse in DeSoto County was built in the latter part of 1836. It was a log house with a partition in the center, making two rooms and was located about a quarter of a mile south of the present courthouse, near where the old gallows was. This building burned in the

- 
- (1) Mrs. Julia Hinkle, Oak Grove, Miss.  
 (2) C. M. Emerson, Eudora, Miss.



OLD CASTLE COURTHOUSE  
 BUILT AFTER THE PLAN OF A NORMAN CASTLE.

early fifties. The second courthouse, a frame building, of several rooms, was built on the exact site of the present structure. One room was used as a jewelry store; this building, except one room on the south side, was burned by the Yankees in 1863. This room was fixed up and used by the clerks until 1870, when it was adjudged by the Board of Supervisors that the building was not safe. The offices were then moved to the Johnson Building on the north side of the square. The third courthouse was then planned. Felix LeBauve gave the plans of a French Castle in Paris to the architects, from which the present structure was drawn.

There was some controversy between Hernando and Senatobia as to the location of the new building, so it was referred to the Supreme Court, with a decision favoring Hernando. Subsequently, there was a tax put on the people known as the courthouse tax, which supplied the money for the building. Work on the new courthouse was begun in the fall of 1870, and it was completed in 1872.

The ruling of the Supreme Court aggravated the already controversial feeling between Hernando and Senatobia, the result being that, in 1873, a new county, Tate, was formed - with Senatobia as the county seat.

The Hernando Press of 1870 stated: "That the Board of Supervisors took action on the new courthouse question by adopting a plan drawn by Jones and Baldwin, architects of Memphis, and submitted by the building commissioners, (T. W. White, Josiah Bailey, and A. W. Stokes), who were, by order of the court, authorized to close a contract at once, and set the work going. When completed, the building was to cost between \$35,000 and \$40,000 and the united voice of all who saw the plan was that DeSoto County would have the most convenient and substantial, as well as the finest looking courthouse in the state. It was to be finished in 18 months, and paid for in two annual installments, which would make the tax scarcely felt by the people."

This paper also stated that the building commissioners were beginning in earnest on the job. It was estimated that 750,000 bricks would be required to build it, and contractors were notified that bids for furnishing and laying them would be received until the 24th of August, at Hernando.

It was ordered by the Board of Supervisors at the October meeting that the contract be let for the building

and that same be finished by January 1, 1872. First work on the courthouse was done in December, 1870. At the same time, the Board ordered the Commissioners to sell the old office, in event the county was successful in the courthouse tax case then before the Supreme Court. On May 1, 1871, the tax case was decided in favor of the county, and the commissioners sold the old building to the courthouse contractors - Seebring and Lee.

Work was held up on the courthouse by the refusal of the Circuit Clerk to move his office into the Johnson Building; the Board of Supervisors had to serve a second notice on him before he would move; work was resumed on the new building the first of June. An arrangement was effected by which no part of the courthouse tax would be collected until the next fall, and then only half of it; the other half was to be collected another year.

On January 11, 1872, the tower in front of the new building, which had reached a height of some 80 feet, fell to the ground, destroyed the whole sub-structure, but in no way injuring the walls of the main building. The falling of the tower was caused by its having been built when the weather was so cold that the mortar could not dry at all; 10,000 bricks were laid over the arches the day before it fell, for four immense clock faces. These new, undried arches, giving away and falling in, brought down the entire tower in a round pile on the foundation. The contractors took the blame and rebuilt it on the same plan, at their own expense; however, it was laid in cement this time, was much stronger, and not so tall. The *Hernando Press* of March 21, 1872, stated: That in a short time the rooms for the Circuit and Chancery Clerks would be ready for occupation; this paper further stated that brick-work on the tower of the new courthouse had been suspended for a while, until the weather became sufficiently open to complete it; plastering and other work was also to be pushed. On April 11, 1872, work upon the tower was resumed, and on June 27, 1872, the courthouse bell was removed from its old position under the shelter to the tower; this bell was the one used in the original log building.

On November 14, 1872, the building commissioners made their final report and tendered the new courthouse to the county as completed. The Board of Supervisors ordered that the building be accepted from the contractors and placed in the hands of the Sheriff as County property, according to law. It cost DeSoto County \$41,884.83 when completed. (1)

(1) *Hernando Press*, 1870.

The *Times Promoter* of December 14, 1933, told of repairs made; plans were drawn in this year to do considerable work on the courthouse with WPA funds; these called for a new vault on the north side for the storing of valuable records; the old vault was to be remodeled for an office for the Judge of the Chancery Court. Plans also called for an annex (17' x 20') to the south side of the building, affording an office for the Superintendent of Education. A passageway on the right side of the present stairway was to lead to it, and the stairs were to be narrowed about three feet. This hallway was also to lead into the present office of the Superintendent of Education, which was to be used by the County Attorney. The walls were to be strengthened and other work done. The Supervisor named for the work on the courthouse project under the Civil Works Administration was W. L. Perry, of Philadelphia; the architect was Mr. Nelson. Work began on the project December 28, 1933. The old high, concave upper ceiling of the courtroom was replaced with a flat ceiling overhead, as low as the lowest part of the old ceiling. A new heating plant was installed. (1)

#### Early Days in the County's History

From one of the oldest citizens of DeSoto County, E. B. Turner, and his wife, Mrs. Carolyn Jones Turner, we gathered the following information:

In the early days of DeSoto County, when Indians still inhabited part of the territory, there was, where Lynchburg, Horn Lake, and Lake View now are, a tribe of Indians belonging to the Chickasaw tribe. The chief was an Indian named Colbert. When the government traded land in the Indian territory, which is now Oklahoma, for the land in Mississippi, this tribe of Indians went to Oklahoma. Jimmy Johnson, a white man, and one of the earliest settlers of DeSoto County, married the daughter of Chief Colbert, who was Polly Colbert. Johnson and his wife had a beautiful home and a large plantation near Horn Lake, and he was white advisor for the Indians. Both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson died before the Indians left this territory, and are buried at Johnson's Cemetery, just across the Mississippi and Tennessee State Line. Johnson's Creek, near Horn Lake, is named in honor of this man.

Soon after the Indians left this part of the county, some people in Virginia, hearing of the rich farm lands in DeSoto County, sold out what they had in Virginia, and

(1) County Court Records



came here in covered wagons. Among these settlers were: E. B. Turner, Sr., James Turner, Major Ben Bynum, Dr. Drew Bynum, Major Lundy, Dr. William Lundy, Dr. Raines, Sam Raines, William Peeples, Burland Peeples, Bill Rawlinson, Tut Williamson, Benjamin Tiller, Joe Billy Bynum, Major Tiller and wife, Mrs. Sally Tiller. When they reached what is now Lynchburg, there was nothing but a wilderness there. A postoffice and one store were at Horn Lake. These people came here with the intention of building, and they brought all their slaves with them. As they had plenty of money, they began building log houses and establishing homesteads. The place became known as "The old Virginia Settlement." Turner stated that people throughout the county and from Memphis would come here to entertainments, which took the form of big balls, fish fries on Horn Lake, picnics, and dinners.

Mazeppa Turner, oldest brother to Mr. Turner, married Laura Johnson, daughter of Jimmy Johnson and Laura Colbert Johnson. He ran a hotel at Horn Lake, which is now known as Lake View. Many entertainments of much interest were held at his hotel. The lake here was named Horn Lake, because it is exactly in the shape of a cow's horn.

Major Tiller, grandfather of Turner, was killed in the War between the States, and others of the settlers were in service in the army. When the war was over, and the soldiers returned home, sad sights awaited them. The negroes had been freed, the fields were uncultivated, and the country was fast becoming a wilderness again. The negro cabins were empty and many of the fine old homes had fallen in decay, or had been destroyed by the enemy. The settlement was never the same again. Many of the old settlers scattered to other parts of the county, and some went to Oklahoma, the Indian territory, because the wife of Mazeppa Turner was connected with some Indian tribe there.

Turner remembers talking with an Indian woman in the Indian Territory who had once lived near Horn Lake. Her name was A-no-tubby. She asked Turner about Felix LeBauve, saying she would never forget him because he was such a good man and so good to the Indians. He had helped handle the Indians when Hernando was an Indian trading post.

Near Davis, Oklahoma, Mazeppa Turner discovered what is now the great Turner Falls, named in his honor. He was

one of the first members of the Legislature when Oklahoma was made a state, and his son was a member of the last Chickasaw legislature. He never returned to DeSoto County, and Mr. Turner said he died only a few years ago.

Mr. Turner remembers very clearly things that happened during the war, and said they lived so near the Tennessee line that he got to see several skirmishes, but no real battles. He remembers having to feed the Yankee horses. The Yankees would come up to his father's house and demand to be fed and have their horses fed. One or two times a week they would come down from Memphis, where their headquarters were, and make a raid, taking all the horses and mules they could find, driving off the cows and sheep, and taking anything they could. Turner remembers hearing his step-father, J. D. Nichols, who was at one time sheriff of DeSoto County, say that once the Yankees went into his house, got all his important papers, and scattered them all up the Dixie Road. At this time the Dixie Road was the only one from the territory around what is now Eudora to Memphis. At this time the community was located just north of the present site of Eudora, and was known as Dixie. At Dixie was a store operated by Mr. Wilburn, a store and saloon belonging to Lundy and Armstrong, and a saloon operated by John R. Tatum. When Eudora was built, Dixie was abolished.

Turner told us that his grandmother, Mrs. Sally Tiller, once entertained John Wesley and Mr. Morgan, founders of the Methodist Church.

Turner has a Texas cow horn three feet long, which Bill Bynum brought from the Indian Territory, and it has been handed down through three generations, and is nearly 100 years old. He also has a chair that a negro slave of Mrs. Tiller's made for her, and on which she sat when they came from Virginia to DeSoto County.

Mrs. Turner's grandmother, Mrs. Jones, had the first sewing machine in the Eudora community; Mrs. Mildred Turner Nichols had the first stove that came into the Eudora Community.

Mr. Turner is of the opinion that Mr. Luke Jones was the first white child born in DeSoto County. (1)

---

(1) E. B. Turner, Eudora, Miss.

The Bandit and the Pine Trees

Mrs. Mary Meriwether Robertson, born in DeSoto County, coming to Tunica County about fifty years ago, was the granddaughter of Charles Scott Meriwether, who was one of DeSoto's pioneers. He died in 1836, and left property to his son, Col. Valentine Meriwether, in both DeSoto and Tunica. Mrs. Robertson, daughter of Col. Valentine Meriwether, states that when the bandit, Rube Burrows, made his raids he was often in DeSoto County, and would hide out there. The interesting part of her story is that Burrows told the people who were willing to protect or aid him in any way, to plant a pine tree in their front yards and that he would never harm them. The old lady says that her father told her this, and pointed out pine trees to her that were planted as a sign to Burrows and his gang that friends lived there. She also says that some of the law-abiding folk found out about the scheme and planted pine trees also, hoping the robbers would pass them by. (1)

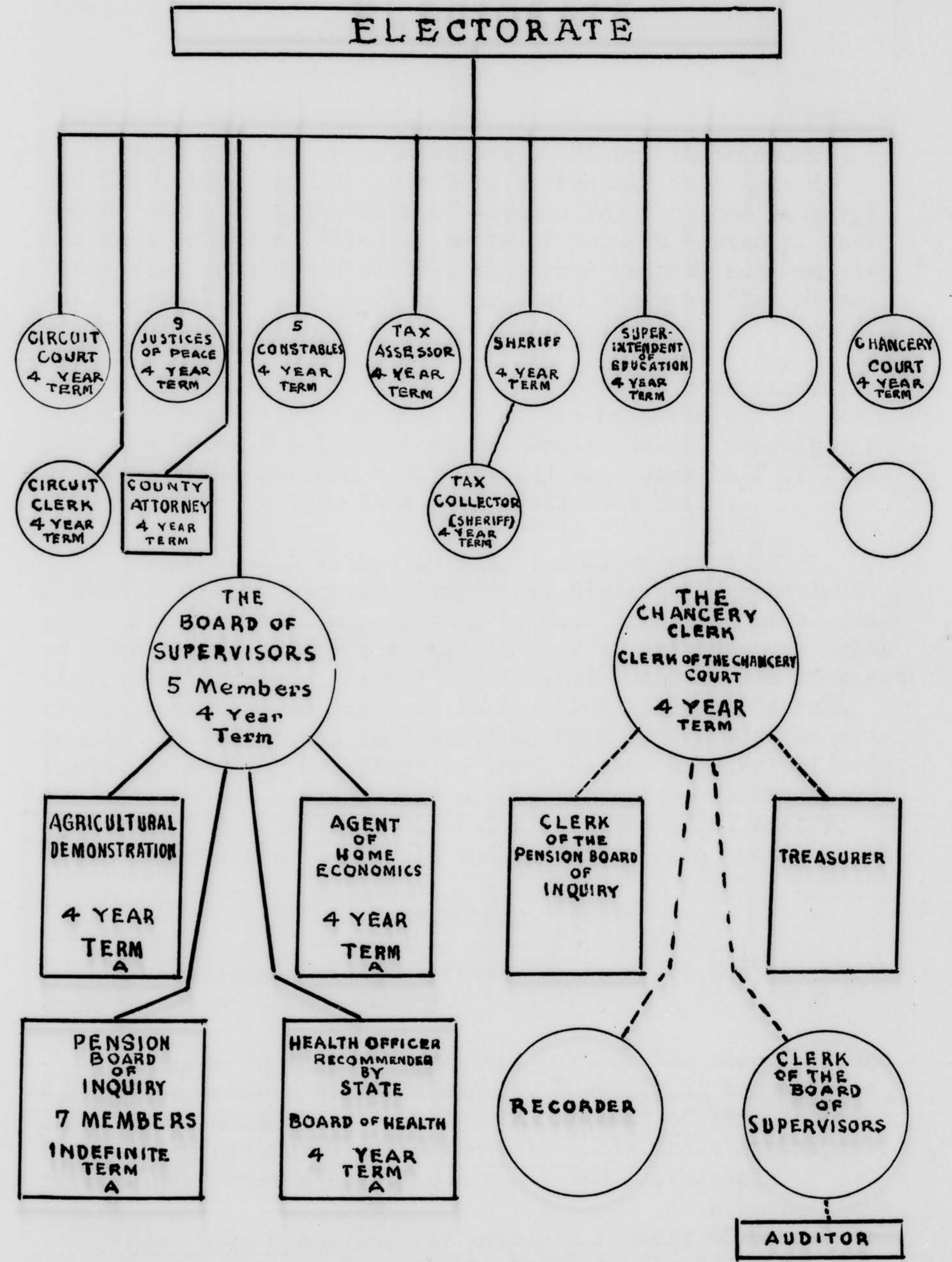
References

- Mrs. Lou Ella Clifton, Hernando, Miss.  
 The People's Press, Jan. 1, 1867  
 The Hernando Press, 1870-1871-1872-1933  
 County Records  
 Dr. Dunbar Rowland's Encyclopedia of Mississippi History.  
 Mississippi History, Lowery and McCardle.  
 Mrs. Julia Haraway  
 Mississippi, the Heart of the South, Vol. II, pp 716.  
 The Times Promoter, November 13, 1930  
 The Press and Times, May 12, 1878.  
 Mrs. Mildred Farrington, Hernando, Miss.  
 James F. Conger, Hernando, Miss.  
 The Press, October 8, 1868  
 R.F.B. Logan, Hernando, Miss.  
 Mrs. Annie Lynn, Hernando, Miss.  
 Miss Maud Wesson, Olive Branch, Miss.  
 Dr. H. A. Stuaft, Olive Branch, Miss.  
 Mrs. T. H. Norvell, Olive Branch, Miss.  
 Mrs. Annie Maples, Olive Branch, Miss.  
 Bob Wheeler, Love, Miss.  
 Mrs. W. H. Hunt, Horn Lake, Miss.  
 The Times Promoter, October 10, 1935  
 G. Wallace, Eudora, Miss.  
 I. W. Nichols, Eudora, Miss.

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway.

Jimmie Tipton, Hernando, Miss.  
 Mrs. Maggie Gray Robinson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
 Mrs. Julia Haraway  
 C. E. Emerson, Hernando, Miss.  
 Mrs. Sid Fogg, Horn Lake, Miss.  
 Mrs. Julia Hinkle, Eudora, Miss.  
 C. M. Dunaway, Oak Grove, Miss.

# CHART OF GOVERNMENT-DE SOTO COUNTY



O - ESTABLISHED BY CONSTITUTION. MADE ELECTIVE BY STATUTE.  
 □ - ESTABLISHED AND MADE ELECTIVE BY STATUTE.  
 A - APPOINTIVE.  
 ..... DOTTED LINES INDICATE EX-OFFICIO OFFICES.

## Chapter II

## TOPOGRAPHY

---

Ages ago the Upper Mississippi River, the Missouri, and Ohio discharged their waters separately into a land-locked 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 Mississippi-Yazoo Delta."

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

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 is parts of 31 states, built up from the leaf mould and fertility of a continent.

Water-Sheds

The Mississippi River forms the boundary for the northwest corner of DeSoto County.

A ridge in the north-central part of the county, Range 8, and the western half of Range 7, Township 1, has much to do with the directions in which the streams of that section flow, which are north and northwest, while those in the remaining part of the county run south and southwest.

Horn Lake Creek has its source northeast of Horn Lake town, in Section 25, Township 1, Range 8, flows northwest into the county line, and empties into a Lake of the same name in Tennessee, near the state line. The head of Calf Pen Creek is in Section 10, Township 1, Range 8, about two miles south of the town of Horn Lake, flowing almost directly north into Horn Lake Creek. This creek is so named because it

is in the shape of a cow's horn.

Coldwater River, named by the Indians because of its very cold water, enters this county from Marshall, at Section 9, Township 2, Range 5; and, taking a southern course, bearing to the west, becomes a part of the boundary between DeSoto and Tate Counties; thence the river takes a westerly course and enters Tunica, where DeSoto, Tate, and Tunica Counties meet.

Camp Creek rises in the northern part of DeSoto, in Section 22, Township 1, Range 7, and wends in an easterly and southerly direction, until it empties into Coldwater River, about two miles above the point where the river becomes the boundary line between DeSoto and Tate Counties. Neleho, a small creek, rises on the dividing line of Sections 21 and 28, Township, Range 6, and flows southwest into Camp Creek. Indians formerly camped on this creek, hence its name.

Pigeon Roost Creek, so named because so many pigeons were near its banks, enters the county from Tate, Section 31, Township 3, Range 5, and runs northwest into Coldwater River. Red Banks Creek, named for the red clay through which it flows, enters DeSoto from Marshall at Section 21, Township 3, Range 5, and flows west until it reaches Pigeon Roost Creek; Byhalia Creek crosses the county line into Section 9, Township 3, Range 5, and wends southwest, thence due west into Pigeon Roost.

Hurricane Creek has its beginning in Section 13, Township 2, Range 8, and flows in a southwesterly direction, reaching Coldwater at the county line, in Section 11, Township 4, Range 9. Mussacunni Creek, named for a famous Indian Chief of this territory, rises in Section 24, Township 3, Range 8, and flows in a southwesterly direction into Hurricane Creek. The Banks Ditch, (cut by convict labor a number of years ago) begins at Wooten's Corner, east of Nesbitt, and discharges into Hurricane, where it crosses the Horn Lake Road.

Johnson Creek rises in Section 9, Township 1, Range 8, and wends southwest into Lake Cormorant; Rush Creek heads at Section 16, Township 1, Range 8, and joins Johnson northwest of Eudora; Aplika Slough once annexed Johnson Creek, however, the slough has been drained, and the converted land is now in cultivation. Norfolk Bayou formerly began in Section 35, Township 1, Range 10, and emptied into Lake Cormorant, but it has since been drained.

In the delta section of the county, the land is drained by the Lake Cormorant Canal System, which extends from the town of Walls, across the county line, into Tunica County. This canal destroyed Long Pond and Lake Cormorant converged

with the canal, which extends through Tunica to the Coldwater River.

Bean Patch Creek has its source in Section 3, Township 2, Range 7, and courses in a southeasterly direction into Camp Creek.

There are five drainage districts in DeSoto, i.e., Red Banks, Byhalia, Pigeon Roost, Hurricane and Lake Cormorant. Due to this extensive system, there is a minimum of malaria and other diseases of like nature in the county. Due to this drainage, too, more fertile land is now in cultivation in the county, and there is less danger of crops being destroyed by overflows.

#### Elevation

The highest point in the county is the present location of the railroad water tank in Hernando, an elevation of 391 feet.

From a geodetic survey made in DeSoto County in 1931, the foot of the Ozark Mountain range was found to extend four miles southeast of Hernando to Jaybird Community.

The Mississippi Delta section (60 square miles) has the lowest level in DeSoto, and these lands, as well as the hill creek valleys, are unusually fertile because of frequent overflows. The hill section is level, to rolling, and free of rocks.

There are no prairie lands or rugged regions in the county.

#### Lakes and Bayous

There is only one natural lake in DeSoto County - Horn Lake, and only one bayou, the Cub Lake Bayou. These bodies of water tend to make the atmosphere more humid.

Horn Lake offers excellent fishing advantages, which tend to improve living conditions in that vicinity. Cub Lake Bayou has partially filled up, but is still in existence.

Several artificial lakes are located in DeSoto County. One of the largest, containing about 40 acres, is at Maywood, one mile north of Olive Branch. Many fine homes have been built by individuals along the shores of this lake. The fishing is especially good here, and sportsmen from Memphis and the surrounding territory take advantage of this quite frequently.

Carrollton Lake, located near Cub Lake, is about one-half mile wide and one and one-half miles long. It is a favorite camping and fishing spot.

At Camp Currier, Scout camp near Eudora, is an artificial lake containing about ten acres which is stocked with all kinds of game fish. Only the scouts are allowed to fish in the lake.

At Dr. Dean's club house on the Huddleston Place, three miles west of Horn Lake is a very beautiful artificial lake covering about eight acres. It is built in a U shape around a hill and is also, stocked with fish.

#### Springs, Wells, and Mineral Waters

There are a number of springs scattered throughout the hill section of DeSoto; especially numerous are they along the Bluffs in the western part of the county, and along the edge of Coldwater Bottoms.

A greater part of our water supply comes from ordinary wells, from 40 to 100 feet deep, and in almost every instance this water is pure and cold. M. E. Woodson, Olive Branch, has a fine artesian well at Maywood, his popular recreational center.

In the delta section of the county are several good artesian wells; two of these are located in the town of Lake Cormorant, and another at Penton. The well at Bass's Landing is an exceptionally forceful one, and three others, on the Harahan place at Marionette, the Brantley place on Lake Cormorant, and on the R. P. Harris place, on the levee west of Walls, supply large plantations with water.

At Mineral Wells, a hamlet north of Olive Branch, the water contains a large amount of minerals, principally sulphur. Some 25 years ago, this town was a small resort, and the water famed as a cure for indigestion. With the burning of the hotel, built by Dr. Billington, Mineral Wells ceased to be visited by health-seekers.

Sulphur Springs, on the old Moore place three miles south of Mooretown, consists of one large and several small springs. Sulphur can be seen on the bottom of the large spring, and the water has a decided sulphur taste. These springs are located in a beech grove which is a favorite picnic spot for the residents of Oak Grove and Mooretown.

Not far from Sulphur Springs is the Bluff Springs, which is on Uncle Luke Jones' homestead. This spring coming out from under a bluff of rocks has been in existence over 100 years, and in former years, was a favorite picnicing place.

Baker Springs is located southwest of Pleasant Hill on the Rev. German Baker place. Rev. Baker bought this place when he came to DeSoto County because of the spring, and for 75 years this spring furnished the water for all purposes. The ice cold, clear water flows from a mass of rocks down into a meadow. In later years the place was used for a picnic ground. Near the spring is a natural cave that has never been fully explored. During the war, boys entered this cave and found bedding and old clothes. It was never known whether it was used as a hiding place for soldiers or whether Indians had formerly occupied the cave.

Also on the Baker place is a small spring known as Rock Spring. It has a solid rock bottom, and is located near the Baker Cemetery and school house, which was also used as a church.

Church Springs is about one-fourth mile from Pleasant Hill, located between the Presbyterian Church lot and the David Maxwell hill. It has a rock bottom and has never been known to go dry. About two hundred feet from the spring is a pool that was formerly used for baptising by all denominations.

On the Wilson Lowe place at Pleasant Hill is a well about 75 feet deep. At intervals the water cannot be used because of the taste of coal oil. An oily scum also forms on the water. After a short period, the water clears and is good again.

About one mile from this well is located a small mound which, about 40 years ago, burned continuously for four years, emitting a strong odor of burning oil. Unsuccessful attempts were made to locate oil in this territory, although the smoke increased as the shafts were sunk deeper. In the last two years, another unsuccessful survey has been made here.

#### Origin of Names of Other Creeks and Lakes in County

Johnson's Creek is thus named in honor of Jimmy Johnson, one of the first white men to come to DeSoto County. Mr. Johnson married the daughter of an Indian Chief named Colbert and remained with the tribe as white advisor. He died before the tribe left for Oklahoma Territory, and is buried, together with his wife, in the Johnson Cemetery just across the Mississippi-Tennessee State line.

Mussacunnig Creek is thus named in honor of the famous Indian Chief, Mussacinna, who once had an Indian camp near its banks. Mussacinna was one of the most powerful and influential of the chiefs of the Mississippi Indians in former days. His tribe occupied thousands of acres of rich land between what is now Hernando and Coldwater River.

Grazes Creek was named by the Indians because there were so many deer to graze along this creek branch.

Cub Lake was so named by Captain Tom Dockery because of the numerous bears that were in this locality. There was another lake south of this, known as Bear Lake, so Captain Dockery called this new lake, Cub Lake for the little cubs.

Bean Patch Branch was so named because of the earlier settlers planting beans there during the dry seasons.

Lick Branch was so named because the deer licked salt from the banks of this branch.

Beartail Creek was so named because an early settler named Alex Scott killed a bear near this creek. When he skinned the bear, he threw his tail into the water and the creek has since that day been known as Beartail Creek.

Hurricane Creek named for one of the Indian warriors of the Mussacunni tribe of Indians. He was so swift and bold he was called Hurricane.

Banks Ditch was named as an honor to Mr. Banks the advocator and builder of the ditch that drains so much of the farmlands of the district.

White's Creek named in honor of the White family who owned the ditch and land through which the creek ran and most of the surrounding territory.

Jerry Branch named by the older settlers in the community because a man by the name of Jerry went hunting in the woods where the branch is and he was lost there, wandering around for several days before his people located him. After this, the branch was always called JERRY'S BRANCH.

Cow Pen so named because in eariler days it divided in the bottom forming a kind of island on which cows were herded for grazing. Its formation made a good cow's pen.

Lake Cormorant was named by some of the earlier settlers of this community in honor of one of the leaders of a tribe of Indians.

### References

Chain of Titles, Vol. I, DeSoto County Records.  
 Mrs. Mildred Farrington, Hernando.  
 Mrs. P. B. Marshall, Hernando.  
 Mrs. Julia Williamson, Pleasant Hill.  
 R.F.B. Logan, Hernando.  
 DeSoto Times, March 29, 1888.  
 DeSoto Times, February 20, 1890.  
 Mrs. J. J. Miller, Miller.  
 Miss Lula Scott, Love.  
 John Swan, Hernando  
 Mrs. J. W. Nichols, Eudora.  
 Mrs. J. H. Malone, Hernando.  
 J. B. Riley, Eudora.  
 Mrs. Freddie Crawford, Mooretown.  
 Mrs. George Nail, Oak Grove.  
 Mrs. Nettie White, Horn Lake.  
 Pete Welch, Hernando.  
 Howard Scott, Hernando.  
 Will Wood, Hernando.

## Chapter III

## SOILS AND MINERALS

Desota County is sharply divided in its geographic formation. About 400 square miles is in the brown loam or loess soil area, while the remaining 60 square miles is in the Yazoo Basin or Delta soil area. However, the soil for the most part is loam and clay.

In the brown loam area, the principal soil is formed by weathering of the loess. The loess, a Pleistocene deposit, is supposed to consist, for the most part, of ground-up rocks or rock-flour. It attains its greatest thickness, sometimes more than 100 feet, in the bluffs along the river. It thins out rapidly toward the east; hence the brown loam soil is occasionally interspersed with soils derived from underlying formations. The weathered loess contains enough clay to make its plastic, especially in the subsoil region. The texture of the brown loam soil is that of a silt loam. It has an average depth of from nine to twelve inches, though the depth varies greatly. Often the soil grades, by small degrees, into the subsoil, showing no sharp line of demarcation. As a rule, the physical condition of the soil makes it easy to cultivate.

The Yazoo Basin, or Delta-soil area, contains soil derived from the alluvium of the river flood plains. As the river overflowed, a deep soil was built, of fine rock particles, intermingled with organic matter. The heavier particles settled along the streams, while lighter particles, were swept into the inter-stream areas. Due to a larger amount of the sediment being deposited near the streams, the sandy loam soil is the best-drained in the basin. The depth of these loam soils is about eight to twelve inches, with a heavy loam or silty clay sub-soil. The main class of the clay soils is commonly known as "buckshot" soil, because in drying, the soil breaks up into cube-like sections. The physical properties of this are very much like those of the black prairie soils of the state. The other class of clay soil is a waxy soil, lying in the lowest sections of the inter-stream areas. It contains very little silt or sand, and is often covered with water until late in the growing season, causing little of it to be in cultivation.



The brown loam area contains soils belonging to the Memphis and Richland series derived from the loess. There are also small soil areas belonging to the Norfolk, the Orangeburg, the Ruston, and other series, where the loess has been removed by erosion and the older formations are exposed.

The soil types represented in the Delta section belong, principally to the Yazoo and Sharkey series.

The loess, or bluff silt, is in many respects the most interesting geological formation found within the state. This bluff formation, in DeSoto County, is found along the river border, just below Memphis, and on the high bluffs, which form the walls of the great trench cut by the river in a previous epoch. These bluffs are clothed with a blanket of loess 25 to 75 feet thick. This material is a uniform tawny, or buff-colored homogeneous silt, that tends to stand in vertical cliffs on weathering, making a striking and rugged topography. The material of the loess is very fine, the particles of uniform size, and mostly siliceous. In mass it is friable, being easily crumbled; but the material is very porous, and vertical walls have stood for years, showing little tendency to wash by running of rain water, because the rain sinks into it instead of flowing off the surface. Capillarity brings moisture to the surface in vertical cuts, so that they often become coated with green mosses. Brown loam is the name which has been given to a phase of the loess which some have regarded as simply a superficial modification due to weathering, but which Hilgard believed to represent a closing phase of loess deposition.

The loam soils of the Delta area have in many places been cultivated for 75 years or more; yet they are still productive. Due to inundation each year, the plant food is restored, and agriculture is pursued with satisfactory results. The clay soils of the Delta section of DeSoto County are principally of the buckshot type and are richer in plant foods than the loam soils.

The loess, or brown loam section of the county, is not as rich a farm land as the Delta area. It is suited admirably to cattle raising, dairying, and for timber raising. The Delta area is primarily a crop-raising section. Cotton raised in this area far excels that of the Hills. There is little timber grown in the Delta.

Along the bluffs, and throughout the loess area of DeSoto County, are found enormous deposits of gravel. All these gravels are water-laid materials, usually showing evidences of stratification. The gravels of DeSoto County are mixed with red sandy clays. They are used to a great extent on the roads of the County. The most unusual deposit of gravel in the county is found in the Diana McCook Wise pit, located about one-half mile southwest of Hernando. Here the gravel is divided into layers by masses of solidified rock and gravel, black in color. These rocky masses cannot be broken by picks, but must be blown out with dynamite. The intervening layers of gravel is of the ordinary red clay and sand mixture. Nearby citizens use the large masses of rock from this pit to form unusual rock gardens and even fences. Some of the gravel in DeSoto County is available for commercial use, but none has been utilized. A large pit at Olive Branch, DeSoto County, shows an immense deposit of excellent gravel. This pit is well equipped for shipping gravel.

Very little petrified rock has ever been found in DeSoto County.

#### Minerals

As far as we have been able to determine, there are no traces of iron in DeSoto County, except in the water supply on the bluff. It is supposed that the hard water there contains large quantities of iron.

Lignite is a fuel of organic origin, rating in value between wood and coal. This deposit has been found in DeSoto County, but not in great quantity. While no experiments have been made so far on Mississippi lignites, either in the gas produced or when made into briquettes, there can be no doubt that they will yield results equally satisfactory with the western lignites when so used, and we may confidently look forward to a time at no great distance in the future when the thicker beds of Mississippi lignites will be developed.

Before the War between the States, and for some years afterward, brick-making was a flourishing industry in DeSoto County, especially in the vicinity of Hernando. In late years, however, all the brick kilns have disappeared and the industry has been neglected. The red clay used in the manufacture of brick is abundant in all parts of the county.

### Clays

In several sections of the county, principally on the Spring Branch near Pleasant Hill, is found a white clay substance that is used for whitewash. This clay is said to excel whitewash made with lime, and is used to cover both exterior and interior of buildings. By adding a simple coloring mixture, a finish resembling kalsomine is obtained.

### Sands

Although they have never been put to commercial use, there are sands, clear and glassy in appearance, to be found in great quantities on the bluff, and also in the Dockery gravel pit, west of Hernando. It is believed that these sands would be admirably suited to the manufacture of glass.

### Wells

The largest supply of mineral waters in the county is said to be found at Mineral Wells, near the Tennessee state line. At one time a health resort was located here, but the water is no longer utilized for commercial purposes. Sulphur Springs is a group, located about three miles south of Moorestown; the sulphur content of this water is very great.

Unsuccessful attempts have been made to find oil at Walls and at Pleasant Hill, and plans are being made to drill for oil on an island in Horn Lake this summer. (1936).

### Coal Suspected

The following article was published in the Times-Promoter, March 31, 1900:

"In 1890, while some of the farm hands were plowing on one of Lon W. Williamson's plantations, which was located southwest of Pleasant Hill, a vein of what they thought was black rock was unearthed. Mr. Williamson saw this rock, and on examining it, decided that it might be coal or lignite. He carried several pieces to Memphis and had them assayed, and was told that it was coal in the process of formation. It was tried, to see if it would burn, only to find that it would char or smoulder. There appeared to be too much

mineral matter in it to burn freely. No further efforts were made to ascertain whether there was another vein underneath this first one, and if so, whether it was of a better quality.

"In the fall of 1899, a crew of laborers was cleaning up the leaves and other trash on this place and, after raking the debris up in a pile near the foot of a hill, set fire to it and after it had all burned, it was noticed that the ground continued to smoulder. This smouldering kept up for several weeks, and people for miles around came to see it. No one suspected that there might be coal formation there, but thought, perhaps, there might be old drift wood or other matter under the surface, as this debris was placed at the foot of a hill."

"Mr. Williamson recalled that, several years prior to this, a coal formation had been found on this place, so he set to work, and from his investigations, found that it was really coal that was smouldering. There was very little coal, it being of a very poor formation; the vein was a narrow one and not of a very great length, so soon burned itself out."

This information was secured from the Hernando Press dated May 9, 1872:

"A coal deposit was found in DeSoto County in 1872, located on a place near Horn Lake, owned by a Mr. Bell. Mr. Bell was digging a well when the coal stratum was struck, 40 feet below the surface of the ground. A specimen of the coal was sent to Col. Mellersh, an expert of Memphis. It was found to be the real bituminous article, equalling the best quality of Pittsburg."

### Salt Detected

From interview with W. W. White, Eudora:

"One mile north of Eudora, on the old Jones Place, now owned by W. A. Earnheart, there is a big bluff that, in olden days, was called 'Deer Lick'. This name was derived from the fact that deer came here to lick the salt from the rocks. During the war, many people obtained their salt from this natural source by sifting the sand to free the salt. Today salt can still be tasted in this dirt."

A brick kiln was (at one time) operated on the place now owned by Walter White, of Eudora. Bill Barbee was in

charge of this kiln, which burned 50,000 brick very successfully.

The following information was secured from the Times-Promoter, June 24, 1904:

"In 1904, Dockery and Emerson, of Cub Lake, established a brick yard near their store. This yard was in charge of William Trannuel of Birmingham, Ala., and the capacity was about 12,000 per day. They burned a kiln of 200,000 bricks, which were put on the market.

#### Reference

Mrs. Mae Westerman, Hernando.  
Mrs. P. B. Marshall, Hernando.  
Mr. R. F. B. Logan, Hernando.  
The soils of Miss. (Technical Bulletin No. 7), by William N. Logan, Agricultural College, Miss., 1916.  
Miss. State Geological Survey, Bulletin No. 20, by E. N. Lowe, (1925), page 124.  
Times Promoter.

## Chapter IV

## FLORA

Camp Currier - The Boy Scout Camp

---

DeSoto County is not so fortunate as to have a National Forest Reserve unit. However, Camp Currier, the Boy Scout Camp, located 1.3 miles west of Eudora, one-half mile off Highway No. 3, is a Forest Reserve worth mentioning.

This camp comprises 340 acres of land, 10 acres are in a lake, which is stocked with every kind of game fish. Fishing is permitted to scouts only, and the number caught is limited.

About 20 miles of road, winds its way to the different scout cabins, and to the Annual Jubilee grounds, of about five acres. At the south entrance to the camp is a clearing of about three acres. With the exception of this, the remainder of the camp-site is forest.

Here is found a specimen of every kind of tree growing in other sections of DeSoto County, and many that were not originally on the camp grounds have been transplanted there by the boy scouts. In addition to the trees, they have a variety of wild flowers. The boys cultivate these flowers and ferns in the dells and arrange them in picturesque clumps.

Artificial streams, cause springs to send clear water over the rock-covered bottoms into the big lake. These streams are spanned by artistic bridges, with ferns and wild flowers along the banks. Large boulders form rock piles, and rustic benches are attractively placed under the trees. One of the troops has constructed a road which leads from the lake and twists around one of the steepest hills, designated as "Dream Land." The road has been graveled, and large piles of rocks, similar to a fence, keeps one from driving off the hill.

This camp is sponsored by the Chickasaw Council of the Boy Scouts of America, so named in honor of Mrs. Currier

of Switzerland, who gave a generous donation to a Boy Scout Camp in the United States. This site was selected by the council in charge of the camp location. Mr. Brock, of Memphis, was also another contributor; donating \$1,000 each year for five years, but requested that the identity of the donor be kept secret, and it was not made known until after his death - in 1933.

About 1500 boys, between the ages of 12 and 18, from DeSoto and Shelby Counties, have membership in this camp, altogether 108 troops, of whom 33 have cabins.

These cabins are constructed of logs and cypress slabs, from one to three rooms in size, well screened, and ventilated; the sleeping facilities are bunks built on the walls, the boys furnishing their own bedding, with the exception of one troop, which has folding bunks and bedding included. Some troops have made chairs, settees, chests of drawers, window boxes, or lockers, for their cabins. The quarters are heated by open fireplaces, which may be used for cooking as well. However, the boys prefer several barbecue pits on the grounds for most of the cooking. One troop has a cook house with a built-in brick stove.

The Camp Director's headquarters burned in April, 1936. This was a beautiful building, constructed of split cypress poles, which made a rustic exterior and a smooth interior. The furniture was hand-made by H. C. Myers, the first camp director, but all this was burned. The Chickasaw Council is now making plans to erect a brick-veneer building on the same site, and has completed a deep well, and working on a swimming pool.

A Camp Director stays at headquarters all the time, assisted by Scout Masters.

No hunting is allowed on these grounds; not even a snake can be killed. In addition to being a forest and game reserve, it is also a vegetation preserve.

DeSoto County, being near the numerous nurseries of Memphis, has no nurseries of any kind, but from the woods of the county, seedlings are successfully transplanted.

#### Location and Extent of Woodlands

The most extensive woodlands we have are those of Coldwater bottoms and the Bluff. Coldwater bottoms enter DeSoto County northeast of Miller and extend as far south and west as the Tate and Tunica County lines.

Cypress is our most common tree in the bottoms, and generally grouped in what are called "cypress brakes." Other trees thrive in the scrubby undergrowth, such as willow and ironwood, with some hickory, swamp privet, bitter pecan, beech, and a few catalpas.

This is a good grazing locality for stock, but fires destroy most of the grasses and much young timber. The bluff joins Coldwater bottom in the southwestern part of the county, dividing it into the Delta and the hill sections.

Very few trees are found in the fertile delta section, but some timber remains behind the river levee, or between the levee and the Mississippi River. It is here that people go for hickory nuts and pecans.

The bluff varies from one to three miles in width, and is approximately 35 miles in length. Many species of trees flourish on these hills, with our prettiest wild flowers and ferns, clear, running springs, gravel pits, sand pits, and vegetation.

Pigeon Roost Bottom, south of Byhalia, is also a woodland, stocked with specimens of trees, undergrowth, and wild flowers. This bottom ranges in width from one-half to one mile, and is about three miles long. The waters from Pigeon Roost Creek empty into Coldwater River one-half mile above the Cockrum and Lewisburg levees.

About 75 years ago, (1861) before the county became so thickly settled, this bottom was a dense wilderness. So many pigeons halted their flight in that section that they broke branches off the trees, a fact that suggested the name of "Pigeon Roost."

North of Olive Branch is another bottom woodland, from one to one-half miles in width, and twelve miles long. This is Camp Creek bottom, and joins Coldwater Bottom at the Mill Bridge, between Cockrum and Hernando. Murray Branch, surrounded by a strip of bottom land, three-fourths of a mile in width and five miles in length, empties into Camp Creek just south of Olive Branch. This bottom has much timber and is a good grazing range for livestock.

Hurricane bottom and Cowpen bottom are located in the southern part of the county, between Hernando and Eudora. Hurricane starts near Nesbitt, and at that point, is only about one mile wide, but as it joins Cowpen, five miles south of Hernando, it widens out to from one and one-half to two miles. Water from the creeks forming in these bottoms empties into Coldwater River, two miles south of Cub Lake, making the entire length of Hurricane bottom approximately

17 miles, and that of Cowpen, nine miles.

#### Economic Value of Forests

DeSoto County is made up primarily of hills and flats. In the Coldwater bottom region, a small percent of Hurricane bottom and a small percent of Pigeon Roost Bottom, are swamps in which water usually stands from one to four feet deep during the winter, and which do not dry out until late summer. The hills and flats are in the southern, central and eastern part of the county, elevations of a few inches to several feet above the prevailing ground level. On these hills or ridges, where trees have grown for years and have been cut for commercial lumber, a farmer may have a "new ground." This is exceedingly good agricultural soil, because of its richness. The trees have protected it against soil erosion, and have also enriched the land by supplying it with nitrogen.

Scattered throughout the country are woodlots, tracts of timbered pastures, which are privately owned. The trees in these various places are a great protection to man and livestock against the extreme temperatures. Hardly a home exists in the county that does not have shade trees, which also provide a defense against storms.

Woodlands greatly increase the income of a farm; besides supplying fuel and repairs, the commercial value of the timber and the grazing of livestock, trees make a farm more salable. A prospective purchaser always inquires about woodlands.

The fruit and nut supply from forest and woodlands is about 50% of that produced in the county, because there are so many people who do not have fruit and nut orchards and get their entire supply from the wild fruits.

People from Memphis often come into DeSoto County to gather wild fruits and wild greens. Local citizens also gather and market these products in the city.

It is estimated that about 85% of our county people use wood for fuel. Even in the large towns, wood is burned largely for cooking and heating. In the rural districts the use is almost universal.

Many homes in the county are built of material from the local woods and forests. On the hill plantations and the larger farms, the tenant houses are constructed altogether from commercial lumber and are generally covered with hand-riven boards. For the last two years it has become quite a fad to build dwelling houses from logs and cover them with boards, and to build club houses from rough cypress slabs.

#### Forest Trees and Forest Types

Pine and cypress are our only cone-bearing trees. The short-leaf pines, chiefly near homesteads, are probably not natives, but have been imported from other sections. The hardwoods are: oaks, ash, hickory, persimmon, dogwood, elm, beech, and gum.

#### Fruit-Bearing Trees and Vines

We have two classes of fruit-bearing trees, the cultivated and wild fruits. In orchards we find peach, apple, plum, pear, cherry, fig, and damson. The fruit from these trees is preserved by the housewives to furnish a winter supply. Jellies, jams, marmalade, and fruit juices, as well as the canned fruit, add a pleasing variety to the monotony of winter diet.

With the instruction and help of the home demonstration agent, and the clubs, she has organized, the housewife has learned how to make delicious fruit cocktails and desserts, such as pies, puddings, ices, and ice cream, and fruit gelatines. Even the negroes are learning, that with these additions, they can make a simple meal complete and satisfying.

Wild fruit-bearing trees are many: the elderberry is common as a scrubby undergrowth, furnishing its berries and blossoms for the manufacture of wine. Jelly is made from berries. The red mulberry, confined largely to ridges, produces a berry that is edible. The persimmon supplies a fruit that is good to eat. Wild cherries are another fruit used for wine-making.

Red and yellow wild plums, numerous in most of the old fields and pastures, are used extensively for jelly, marmalade and preserves. Perhaps more of these plums are canned than any other fruit. The crabapple is used for jelly; pawpaws, confined to loamy ridges, are plentiful around the bluff. Their fruit is very much like a banana. The red haw also grows small berries that are sometimes eaten.

The following vine-growing fruits are numerous and excellent for canning. The blackberry, dewberry, himalaya berry, raspberry, strawberry, gooseberry, loganberry, wild summer grapes, 'possum grapes, muscadines, and scuppernongs. Our nut-bearing trees are the black walnut, hazlenut, chestnut, beechnut, and pecan, are helping to provide the nut supply for winter consumption.

### Method of Cutting and Handling Timber on the Farm

If a farmer needs wood for fuel, he takes his wagon team, and a couple of men, and with an axe and saw, goes out in the woods to cut what he wants. Wood for sale is hauled into the towns with a wagon, or lately, in farm trucks.

Timber buyers purchase tracts of timber and employ negro or white labor to cut it with cross-cut saws and axes by hand. If it be in a location where trucks can reach it, logs are loaded on them and hauled directly to a local saw mill or to Memphis, the principal marketing center. If it is situated on a steep bluff, or in a flat where trucks cannot go, it is snaked out by mules to a designated place, where trucks can handle it.

C. D. Williams, who is, perhaps, De Soto County's biggest timber buyer, has a team of oxen that he uses in snaking and hauling timber out of Coldwater bottom, where it is difficult to reach with log trucks.

### Marketing Farm Timber

Ash is locally used for wagon repairs and handles. There is one axe-handle factory located five miles west of Eudora, privately owned by J. S. McElhaney, who markets almost all of the output to merchants of the county, but the surplus is carried to Memphis or adjoining counties. Porch and lawn swings are other products of this factory, made of ash and hickory from the local forests.

A few years ago a mill was placed in Coldwater bottom to cut ash for baseball bats. As a result, much of our small ash was cut and sold. Next to ash, hickory has probably been the most sought-after species. Hickory now seems to be on the decline, because of its scarcity and high cost. Most of the present supply is in farm woodlands, and it is evident that future needs must look largely to these farms. Sweet gum is prized for bridge building, because of its adaptability to creosote treatment. Many gum and birch blocks have been cut from Coldwater bottom for the manufacture of veneer for boxes and, to some extent, in furniture. Trees grown for posts are black locust, mulberry, and post oak.

In recent years there has been an increasing interest in planting and growing black locust on the farms. A number of farmers have planted locust, not only for its commercial value, but also to conserve and build up their

soil. Almost every farm contains a few acres of waste land in gullied fields, worn-out pastures, or steep ditches that could be planted in these trees, and, in a few years, be rewarded by usable and salable posts and regenerated land. The locust is a soil builder because it is a legume, like beans and peas, and adds nitrogen to the soil. Because of its extensive root system, it is a good stoppage for erosion in gullies.

Cypress is much in demand, and found here, among the sloughs and bayous of Coldwater bottom. In some places the growth is so dense that they form what is known as cypress brakes. Cypress is one of the outstanding commercial trees, for tank and ship building, for bridges, piling and telephone poles, cross-ties, flooring, finish, furniture, fixtures, and coffins. Many of our club houses, and some private homes, are built of cypress poles, while rural farm houses are covered with handdriven cypress boards.

Although the lumber shipping business is on the decline now, due to the lack of marketable timber, at one time DeSoto County shipped much lumber to outside markets. Before the advent of good roads, Love and Hernando, on the I. C. Railroad, were shipping-centers; logs were brought to these points on wagons drawn by mule or ox teams. Since most of the roads in the county are now graveled or concreted, trucks carry logs from the wood directly to Memphis or other markets.

### Protecting the Woods

Fire, fungi, insects, waste, and improper cutting of timber, have destroyed much of our original forests. There is no organized protection, nothing except the little that individuals cheerfully give.

DeSoto County is confronted with a serious problem of soil erosion, which is undermining and destroying what was once considered our most fertile sections.

Mr. Minges, the county agent, has been successful in getting some of the more prosperous farmers to see the mistakes they are making by the improper handling of their land, the poor method of cultivation and their one-crop system.

Now these farmers are planting black locust trees on their most worn land to stop erosion, and sowing some in peas and soy beans to be turned under for soil enriching. It is hoped that the few who are interested will be able to convert others.

### Streets and Highway Trees

The trees on the streets and highways are box-elders, magnolias, silver poplar, dogwood, redbud, wateroaks, maple, and elm.

In Hernando the garden club has done much toward beautifying their streets. In some of the other towns, progressive citizens or church organizations have planted trees and shrubbery.

Recently, the WPA Highway Department project has accomplished quite a bit of right-of-way and street beautification on Highway 51. Evergreens and shrubbery have been planted in Hernando. Terracing has helped in making the bare banks less ugly, white gullies washed along the road have been filled. Dogwood, mimosa, redbud and magnolias have been set out by the roadside, and in some places running roses.

The prettiest stretch of Highway we have is on 51 at Horn Lake, where fences around Gayoso farm are covered with pink and white, running roses that make one solid bouquet for half a mile.

Local flower-lovers are glad to care for the trees and shrubbery near their homes, and the WPA Beautification Project is accomplishing marvels. This project plants trees and shrubbery in towns and on public grounds, and tends those that are already set out. At present, this project is beautifying the plot surrounding LaBauve's grave.

### Tree Survey

DeSoto County has a number of historic trees, still standing, and there are also a number of freak and unusual trees, as well as many beautiful flowering trees. A description of these trees which follows adds a richness to this chapter in DeSoto's unique history.

### Historical Trees

About four miles northeast of Hernando, on what is known as the Mount Pleasant Road, stands one of DeSoto's most historical trees in all its glowing beauty. This tree is ten feet in circumference, and has limbs that measure thirty feet in length. It was under this tree that General Bedford Forrest camped on one of his trips across the country to the mighty Mississippi.

If the two beautiful old Magnolias that stand in the yard of the home of Mrs. Mildred Ferrington, of Hernando, could speak, what facts would be revealed of the meeting that was held in the old southern home of Col. White, between the generals of North and South during the War between the States. Other tales would also be told of such great men as Felix LaBuave, L. Q. C. Lamar, and Jefferson Davis. These trees are three feet in diameter.

So many trees have their love secrets, but perhaps none so fatal as the stately old oak that has stood for over one hundred years, just below Trinity Church. This tree is 125 inches in circumference, and even though nothing has been done to preserve it, it has no weather marks of time. It was under this tree years ago, that two men had a quarrel over a fair maiden they both loved and were courting. One man stuck his knife through the heart of his rival, who crawled to a feed trough that was beneath this tree, and there died. It so happened that he was the one the girl loved best, so she would not marry the other man and he left the country and was never heard of after.

One mile west of Hernando stands a lone pine tree, in a lonesome spot where a house once stood. This tree was brought here from the north in the early settlement of the county, by some of the Jones family. Sam Williams, who hunted disobedient and lawless slaves during the War between the States, hanged several of these slaves from the limbs of this tree for committing rape and other crimes. This tree is 70 feet tall, two feet in diameter, and very straight. Many of the lower limbs have been broken or cut from the tree, leaving most of the evergreen toward the top.

When J. Yockinah, an Indian, owned the place where Mrs. W. A. Powell, now lives, he never thought of clearing the land. Later in 1845, when Dr. A. D. McNeese, purchased this land from Golmon Ruffin, he installed a saw mill to saw the timber into lumber to build the house which now stands. There were three beautiful old oaks left standing to shade this house, which was at that time an Inn on the old "Plank Road." Today these beautiful old oaks stand unmarred by the passing of time. They are well cared for, and are 40 feet tall, having been topped a number of times, and are from four to four and one half feet in diameter, with the limbs at least a foot in diameter and very long.

At the home of Mrs. Hector Davis, two and one-half miles east of Highway #51, stands several beautiful maple trees which were brought from the north and planted there by Mrs. Beverly Davis, about eighty years ago. They are nearly one hundred feet in the air, and are two feet in diameter.



The giant old oak trees in the yard of Mrs. E. J. Bell, of Hernando, seem to portray the love of the beautiful that was in the noble heart of the boy who grew to manhood there, and so often played beneath the shade of these lovely old oaks - Colonel Felix Labauve. These trees have been topped and the limbs have been sawed off near the trunk until they do not present the same picturesque appearance as when Colonel Labauve, bartered with the Indians there, or returned from some of his journeys to rest beneath their welcome shades. They are two and one-half feet and three feet in diameter and about 35 feet tall.

Will McClanahan, when he moved from Georgia to this country, brought with him a small pine tree which he planted at the home he purchased from Dr. Miller, near Eudora. This pine tree still stands. It is two and one-half feet in diameter and approximately 90 feet tall. The limbs have been badly damaged by snow and ice, and there are great open places in the tree caused by the breaking limbs. Near this pine stand three cedar trees that are very much marked by the passing of time. During the War between the States, the Yankees made a raid on this home, taking and destroying many things, beating the feathers from the bed ticks around these cedar trees.

#### Freak or Unusual Trees

Two and one half miles west of Hernando, off Middle Road, stands two unusual trees on the James S. Oliver place. These trees are a small distance apart, one has a ridge (or wart) completely around it, five and one half feet up from the ground. The circumference of this wart around the tree is five feet. Just back of this tree stands the other tree. At the base of this tree begins in a curve, forming a kind of half moon shape, bending so that the top is about twenty-five feet from the ground. There was at one time an old horse gin near these trees, and Mrs. W. D. Gooch believes that horses had been tied to the trees when they were young, causing the wart to form on the one and the other to be so bent.

Two miles west of Hernando on the side of the Middle Road, stands a small unusual tree, one foot in diameter. This tree grows straight for six feet from the ground, then it turns in almost "bent elbow" curve and on this bend two limbs almost as large as the tree, have grown straight up.

One and one-half miles southeast of Eudora, on Jim Boggan's place, stands a tree two and one-half feet in diameter, which had been burned at the base, causing a hole through the tree, with the front and back being out and only two small pieces of the wood and bark on each side holding the tree. It is as green as any of the other trees around it, being supported by the two strips that hold it up.

Just south of Eudora, in the pasture of Leslie Browning is a large oak tree, three feet in diameter, and 85 feet tall. About twenty feet of the top of this tree is dead, and the rest of the tree from there down is green, the limbs being very green and bushy. This tree presents an odd appearance to one going west to Eudora, with its black dead branches protruding above the green foliage.

In this same pasture, but about 200 yards from the Browning house is a holly tree, one foot in diameter and thirty feet tall. This unusual tree has created much interest for people throughout the county and from Memphis. No one knows its exact age, but older citizens of Eudora say that it has been there since they can remember. The leaves are large, and in the fall there are many bright red berries clustered on the branches.

Two and one-half miles below Trinity Church, on top of the Bluff Hill is an oak tree that measures 144 inches or twelve feet around. It is 60 feet tall and its lower limbs measure from two to two and one-half feet in diameter and are thirty feet long. This tree stands on the side of a gravel road that cuts through the bluff, descending into Tunica County. In 1886, J. B. Riley, on whose place it stands, had a store near there, and he said that this tree was as large then as it is now. Near this tree stands an old log house, and Mr. Riley states that some of the older citizens told him the logs for this house were cut out by the Indians.

In the yard of the home of Mrs. W. D. Gooch, at Hernando, formerly the old L. O. Dockery place, is a red oak tree, 25 feet in circumference at the base. The age of this tree is unknown. Mrs. M. N. Rice, who recently died at the age of 105, remembered that the tree was there when she lived there. Mrs. Lillie Dockery David, of Forrest City, Arkansas, said that the tree was hollow inside, and she remembered that when she was a small girl an old hen set in the hollow of this tree.

On the church lot at Oak Grove stands an oak tree three feet in diameter, with large spreading limbs which is loved by every person of the Oak Grove Community. It is under this tree that lunch has been spread on many occasions, such as the annual grave cleanings, home comings, and Fifth Sunday meetings, since the Oak Grove Church has been standing.

At the foot of the Bluff near Walls, stands a freak oak tree. For four feet above the ground this is one distinct tree, but at this height it divides into three separate and distinct trees. It is approximately sixty feet high and at the dividing line is two and one-half feet in diameter. Each tree above this line measures one foot in diameter.

At Glover, on the lawn of the Knight place, are two very unusual trees. One is a twin elm and the other is a triple wateroak. The twin elm for four feet above the ground has a seam on each side, branching at this height into two distinct trees with a deep hollow between them. Mr. Sanders who now lives there, states that he does not know how old these trees are, but they must be very old, perhaps were there when Mr. Knight bought and cleared the land. The limbs of this elm measure 40 feet in length and is 75 feet tall, measuring four feet in diameter.

The triple wateroak grows somewhat as the elm, but instead of two distinct trees there are three, four feet above the ground base. This tree is three feet in diameter, extending 65 or 70 feet high, each branching tree is one foot in diameter with limbs extending thirty feet.

There is a sugar maple on the Cox place, three and one-half feet in diameter and 70 feet tall. The tree is very straight for ten feet high, then it bushes out for twenty feet more or less, before the limbs begin to extend any distance.

On the Gayoso Farm near Horn Lake, on Highway #51, stands an oak tree which is five feet in diameter and approximately 80 feet tall. This tree has been struck by lightning, killing half the tree, while the other half is just as green as any tree near it.

#### Fine Specimens of Flowering Trees:

There are some mimosa trees to be found on Highway # 51 near Love. A bunch of these is found on the home place of Miss

Frances Lester, at Eudora and one is on Highway No. 3, near the McGowen corner. None of these trees are very large, from six to seventeen inches in circumference, very bushy, and nothing is being done to preserve them.

In many of the home yards of the county we find the Magnolia tree. They are planted by some member of the family. In this county they range from two to five feet in diameter and are well cared for by the owners.

Dogwood and redbud trees grow wild in abundance in all woodlands in the county. Recently many have been transferred to the home flower gardens as shrubbery.

Locust trees are very common on flat and clay ridges throughout the county. There are some pink locust trees in the home gardens.

Chinaberry trees are not so prominent in the county. Found scatterly in some of the old fields, but used mostly for quick growing shades.

The Catalpa is found in low marshy places and in many of the home yards and on the lawns as shade trees.

#### Wild Flowers

Wild flowers flaunt their loveliness in old fields, pastures and along the roadsides. Some have been transplanted into flower gardens and are being cultivated. Of these we have sweet williams, wild violet, Jack-in-the-pulpit, butterfly weed, dogwood, and redbud. The trumpet vine and wistaria vine also are cultivated by many flower lovers.

#### Herbs Used for Medicinal Purposes

The wild flowers that are still used by some of the older people in the county for medicine, and by many of the negroes are:

Mayapple root, Gensing, Mullin, Catnip, Jimson weed, Buck-eye, Rabbitt's tobacco, Poke-root, Fever grass, Smartweed, Mouse ear, Indian turnip, Beggar lice, Jerusalem Oak, Swamproot, and Mistletoe.

#### Spring Salads

Flowers and herbs used for eating as spring salads are: peppermint grass, water cress, wild mustard, dock, dandelion,

poke-berry leaves, mouse-ear, tongue grass, sheep sorrel.

Other wild flowers are: black-eyed Susan, snow-on-the-mountain, goldenrod, cat-tail, clover, wild begarmot, Spanish needle, wood sage, passion flower, wild aster, sumac, wild rose, wild sweet potato (vine), ground ivy, bush honeysuckle, bittersweet, pennyroyal, cockscomb, bluebell, marigold, wild touch-me-not, night shade, morning glory (vine), flax vine, trumpet honeysuckle, water lily, fox glove, primrose, wild sunflower, wild sweet pea (vine), blackberry, lily, and white honeysuckle.

#### References

- Mrs. Norma Burns, Eudora  
 J. T. Livingstone, Eudora  
 Mrs. Thomas Earnheart, Eudora  
 Mrs. Craig, Hernando  
 Mrs. Dave Dockery, Hernando  
 Mrs. S. N. Dunaway, Hernando  
 Mrs. J. E. Riley, Eudora  
 Mrs. J. B. Riley, Eudora  
 Mrs. J. N. Riley, Eudora  
 Ernest Bell, Hernando  
 Maggie Thomas (colored) Eudora  
 Mrs. Muriel White, Eudora  
 Mrs. P. B. Marshall, Hernando  
 Mrs. Mildred Farrington, Hernando  
 Paul Williams, Cub Lake Community  
 Mrs. W. A. Powell, Nesbitt  
 Mrs. E. J. Bell, Hernando  
 Mrs. Hector Davis, Horn Lake  
 Tom Burrus, Eudora  
 Mrs. W. D. Gooch, Hernando  
 R. L. Westerman, Eudora  
 Jim Boggan, Eudora  
 Leslie Browning, Penton  
 J. B. Riley, Eudora  
 J. W. Sanders, Glover  
 Mrs. C. G. Malone, Hernando  
 Miss Lula Scott, Love  
 Miss Francis Lester, Eudora  
 Mrs. Sara Jones, Hernando  
 Mrs. Burk Dabney, Hernando  
 Mrs. Jimmie Dean, Hernando.  
 Fifth Biennial Report of the Mississippi Forestry Commission  
 Mississippi Delta and Its Economic Value, D. E. Lauderburn,  
 Extension Forester; Extension Bulletin No. 67.  
 Mississippi Forest Service, Black Locust, H. C. Mitchell, Assistant  
 State Forester.

## Chapter V

### FAUNA

#### Farm, Garden, Orchard Pest

The chief crop pest is the boll weevil, greatest enemy of cotton, the main cash crop of DeSoto County. However, the damage done by this pest depends largely upon the natural control supplied by cold winters and dry, hot summers; as well as birds, ants and parasites. It is also controlled by calcium arsenate dusted on the plants at night so that the dew will make the poison stick. Improvements have been made in poisoning equipment in the last few years, so that the weevil is under much better control than formerly. (1) Other enemies of cotton such as the pink bollworm, the cotton leafworm, or so-called "army-worm," are also exterminated by the same methods.

The square borer is very destructive. The larva transforms into small pupa, and when mature, becomes the dainty little blue swallow tailed butterfly so often seen in cotton fields. Each larva can destroy many cotton squares, but it is seldom necessary to take active measures against this pest.

The sucking bug, also called pumpkin bug and stink bug, attacks cotton squares and bolls, pumpkin and watermelon vines, doing considerable damage. These same plants are damaged by the blister beetle.

Corn and forage pests, including the rough-headed stalk beetle, do serious damage to corn and to sugarcane. This beetle, though variable in size, usually measures about a half inch in length; a stout, hardshelled, jet black insect. It seldom occurs in successive years, and did little damage in DeSoto County until 1936. Proper care and planting of old waste and pasture lands is the best method of control. The insect has four stages of life--the egg, the grub, the pupa and the adult--the latter being responsible for injury to growing corn.

The corn ear worm, also known as the cotton bollworm, although a common pest in DeSoto, has not done

(1) The Progressive Farmer, July 1936, page 20

sufficient damage to necessitate definite methods of control. It is large, brownish-green, striped, nearly two inches long when grown; dusting the silks with calcium arsenate is partially effective; the little damage done is doubtless due to the cannibalistic habits of the worm. Few live to become moths, for if one impedes the progress of another into an ear of corn, he is promptly eaten. This worm also does some damage to soybeans, and is the same pest that vegetable growers call the tomato fruit worm, and for which they find arsenate of lead effective.

The root or bud worm damages corn by working up through the root of the young plant and destroying the bud, causing the plant to wilt and die. As it is difficult to control this worm with poison, it is best to plant corn thick and let it grow about twelve inches high before thinning.

The cowpea weevil is causing considerable damage to the pea crops and causing the peas to be undeveloped. When peas, beans and corn are dry and stored for winter, weevils cause much destruction, hence the best method of control in dry seeds is a treatment with carbon disulphide. Air-slaked lime is also used to some extent, as is formaldehyde.

Among the garden and truck pests is the Mexican bean beetle, which usually attacks edible vegetables, such as snap, kidney, lima, pinto and navy beans. Larger than the lady bug, from yellow to coppery brown in color with small black dots on each wing, these beetles work so rapidly that unless poison is used promptly, the crop is lost. Magnesium Arsenate is a recommended spray, but any good stomach poison is effective.

The blister beetle, particularly destructive to tomatoes, beans, beets, potatoes, melons and cucumbers, does much of its damage by feeding on the petals of the bloom and eating the pistils and stamens. In their immature stage, these insects are beneficial, since they prey on other insects; adult beetles cause damage to crops; painful blisters are also caused by the sting. A Bordeaux mixture has been found to be an effective control.

The bean leaf beetle, very common, and doing considerable damage, is about a half inch long and varies from a reddish to yellowish color. It is

controlled by any good stomach poison.

Beets are damaged by the flea beetle, a small insect with enlarged hind legs, and jumps vigorously when disturbed. It eats small holes in the leaves and can be annihilated by spraying with a Bordeaux mixture.

Garden webworm, another generous feeder upon leaves of beets and a number of other plants, is found in webs on the leaves; it is a yellowish green and somewhat hairy. A spray of calcium arsenate is used for control.

Cabbage is affected by the cabbage worm, a velvety green insect which may be any size up to one and a fourth inches long. Its adult stage is the common white butterfly seen in gardens. Arsenate of lead is an effective poison.

Lice and aphids, also harmful to cabbage, as well as collards, mustard, turnips and other leafy vegetables, attack the back of the leaves, sucking the plant until the leaves curl, and the plant withers and dies. Arsenate is used for control, care being taken to reach the under side of the leaves. A nicotine mixture is also used effectively.

The cabbage looper, a pale green and delicate looking worm, eats the buds out of the plant. It may be destroyed by using a mixture of one part of calcium arsenate to four parts of hydrated lime.

The Harlequin cabbage bug, sometimes called "calico back," sucks the sap from the leaves so that they wilt, turn brown and die. Handpicking the adult bug, destroying the old cabbage and other related plants, will help materially in controlling this pest.

Striped and twelve spotted cucumber beetles attack cucumbers and cantaloupes. Plants are covered with screens to give protection from these insects.

The pickle worm bores into cantaloupes, cucumbers and squash, lays its eggs on buds, blooms, new leaves or stems; the young worms feed on these parts of the plants, as well as on the fruit.

Squash bug, a large flattened, oval, blackish-brown insect, damages cucumbers, squash and cantaloupes; it has done serious damage to corn crops in DeSoto County. A

spray of arsenate of lead is a good method of riddance.

The potato beetle causes much damage to the Irish potato crops unless controlled. Calcium arsenate and Paris green are the two most common poisons used; a former method was that of picking the larvae and beetles from the plants by hand and destroying them.

Tomato worm, a large green creeper with white stripes down the sides and a horn-like structure in the head, feeds largely upon the foliage of the plant. Spraying with a stomach poison will usually control this worm, but it is generally hand-picked.

Both the county and home demonstration agents have done much toward helping the farmer and gardener to control these insects and pests in DeSoto County, and each year more people are assisting in control methods.

Orchards, particularly apples and pears, are injured by a number of insects, but persistent spraying tends to check the loss of fruit. A spray of Oil of Emulsion and Lime Sulphur solution any time after foliage drops, except in very cold weather, is used for the control of red mite, blister mite, San Jose Scale and leaf roller; spraying when leaf buds are beginning to show green, insures control of these pests. If aphids are present, a small quantity of Nicotine Sulphate should be added to the spray. For codling moths, lesser apple worms, green fruit worms, bud moths and canker worms, a spray of apple Aritomic, in combination with arsenate of lead, is used. The same application is used for the apple maggot and the curculio. Several applications are necessary during a season.

Spraying during the dormant season is effective against the red mite, blister mite and leaf roller, harmful to the growth of peaches, plums and apricots. An oil emulsion spray is used to kill the pests in the egg stage. Any scale insect that might be present on the peach tree is destroyed with lime sulphur; the curculio, which punctures the fruit, thereby giving ideal entrance to fungus diseases, is sprayed at intervals with arsenate of lead.

A summertime menace to the peach tree is the peach borer, which, if not controlled, will cause the

tree to become weak and unproductive, eventually dying. The damage is done by the insect when it burrows around the bark just above the ground. A former method of extermination, (digging out with a pen knife), is obsolete, the most effective control being paradichlorobenzene. This poison is put in a ring about four inches from the trunk of the tree, when the fumes enter the burrows of the grub, thereby killing the borer.

#### Pests of Poultry, Livestock, Man

Mites and lice cause more damage to poultry than any other parasite.

Although there are at least seven species of lice occurring on domestic chickens, the two most important are the head and body lice. The former is most injurious to young chickens; the latter, most harmful to the adult. Four species of lice are found on the turkey. Young ducks, hatched by hens, suffer from head lice unless the hens are treated. There are three species restricted to ducks and geese, but they cause very little annoyance in the county.

The mite, active here the year around, is more abundant in summer. It feeds upon chickens, sometimes causing irritation, scaly leg, sore head, and finally, the fowl's death. Chickens and coops should be sprayed or dusted with insect powder. Red and gray mites generally infect the poultry house, and it must always be kept clean and sprayed to prevent spreading of mites; legs of the fowls are dipped in crude petroleum to kill scaly leg mite; fowls are dusted with insect powder to destroy other species.

The most annoying livestock pests in DeSoto County are the house fly, gnat, stock fly, and a pest known locally as wolves.

The horse fly, similar to the house fly, but much larger, is very annoying; it bites horses, mules or cows, often causing blood to run from the bitten place, and sometimes causes the horse to become unruly. No definite action is taken against this pest.

Gnats, particularly bad in the spring and fall, are perhaps the worst menace to livestock of DeSoto County. They appear in droves and attack horses, mules, and cows; sometimes causing deaths. These tiny insects bore through the hair and skin, sucking out blood and causing irritation. Smokes are raised in the pastures to help drive them off,

but the more progressive cattle owners use a spray; cattle are sometimes rubbed with sulphur and grease. Wolves get in the back of cows and rabbits during the summer, but never cause much damage.

The stockfly, which sucks around cows' and horses' eyes, causing irritation, is destroyed with fly spray.

Cattle-ticks are not numerous enough to alarm the farmers.

Sucking lice, which sometimes bother cows, are sprayed with a lice disinfectant. Some of the older farmers tie a turpentine string around the cows' horns, near the head, to rid them of lice.

Clothes moths, prime offenders among fabric pests, lay eggs on clothing that has been stored away from one season to another. These eggs develop into worms or larvae, which causes their destruction. Moth balls can be stored with the clothing to prevent these pests, and effective sprays are now on the market.

Among pests directly affecting man, is the Argentine and the small black ant, annoying both in the household and on the farm. They invade practically every part of ordinary dwellings and stores; eat cooked foods and a considerable percentage of the raw foods found in the average pantry; they have a marked preference for sugar, syrup, honey, jam, cake, candies, pies, fruits, bread and meats of all kinds; and refrigerators are readily invaded. An insect spray will get rid of them quickly.

The common house fly, man's greatest enemy because it carries so many germs and spreads disease, is being controlled through public school education, the influence of the county health officer and the home demonstration agent; people of the county are also becoming conscious of this menace. Fly sprays and well screened houses are effective.

The cockroach, a dreaded household pest, is best exterminated with insect powder.

Mosquitoes that carry malaria and yellow fever germs are not as numerous in this county now as they were several years ago. Campaigns for destroying their

breeding places have been waged by the health officer, and they are largely kept under control. A WPA project, now (1937), functioning in the county, working on the mosquito breeding places, is doing much good.

Fleas are becoming a real nuisance in DeSoto County, where they invade the house, the cow barn and horse lot. No effective control has been found, but spraying and insect powder are used extensively. Fleas are particularly numerous on dogs and cats, and are often brought into the home by these domestic animals. Some of the rural farmers, who scatter a plant called peneroyal about the house, claim that its scent drives fleas away.

Bed bug, a common pest, gain entrance into the house through clothing, adjoining houses, satchels or travelers, but more commonly through the laundry basket. It conceals itself by day, emerges from its hiding place at night, and sucks all the blood possible from a victim, then retires to its place of concealment. Its bite is poisonous to some individuals, and it is quite possible for it to transmit contagious diseases. Cleanliness is the best preventive; if the bugs have gained a hold, fumigation destroys them. Spraying with kerosene and gasolene cleans the beds of this pest.

#### Common Roadside and Field Insects

No honeybees are kept for commercial purposes in DeSoto County, but farmers have a few hives for their own honey supply. Wild honeybees, frequently found in Coldwater bottom and on the bluff, are often ruthlessly destroyed to get the honey. This bee is one of the principal agents in the fertilization of flowers, gardens and orchards, by transferring pollen as it goes from blossom to blossom in its quest for honey.

Bumble bees, also important factors in the fertilization of plants in the county, are common in every community.

There are two kinds of wasps in DeSoto County, the solitary, or those living alone, and the social, those living in communities; the former choose burrows in old log houses, old trees in forests and woodlands, and in clayey soils as their home.

Social wasps build nests of a paper-like substance, and live much like social bees; red wasps build in houses,

barns, and to some extent, in the woods, where wild fruit and berries are abundant; all wasps are avoided because of their painful sting, when disturbed. In some years, wasps cause damage to fruit and grape crops. Yellow jackets, an outdoor species of the social wasp, are largely responsible for this damage. Hornets, another outdoor type of wasp, are found near all creeks, lakes and ponds of the county; as are striders and giant water bugs. Stinkbugs and squash bugs are numbered among the pests infesting the fields and gardens here.

Mud-daubers, commonly known as dirt-daubers, are pests with which housewives have to combat in seldom-used rooms and attics, where they build their nests of mud, brought in small pellets from adjacent pools or creeks.

Of the Orthoptera family, the singing insects, crickets and katydids are the most conspicuous, especially at night. These, together with the grasshopper, are often used as fish bait. Less common members of the same type are the praying mantis, (commonly known as the devil horse), the walking stick, and the cockroach.

The most striking type of insect, the Lepidoptera, is well represented in our county. The Luna and Polyphemus moths are frequently found here, their brilliant coloring making them easily noticed. Promethea and Cecropia moths are also present. Numberless butterflies frequent the county, the most common kinds being the sulphur butterfly and the adult state of the cabbage worm, a small white butterfly.

Dragon flies and damsel flies, commonly known as "snake doctors," are a common sight to fishermen and other frequenters of the lakes, ponds and streams of the county. A superstitious belief is that a snake doctor alighting on the fishing pole indicates good luck.

The Coleoptera is, perhaps, the most commonly distributed type of insect in DeSoto County. On all bodies of water are found the water scavenger beetle, the whirligig beetle and the diving beetle. Everywhere, in summer are found the tiger beetle, the click beetle (snapping bug), the ladybug, and various garden beetles. At night, fireflies, or lightning bugs, as they are locally known, haunt the countryside, and are found in larger numbers in low sections of the county.

Older persons, who called them weather prophets, believe that fireflies flying high, indicate dry weather, while low flying means rain.

#### Spiders

Although several black widow spiders have been found in different sections of the county, they are not sufficiently numerous to cause alarm. The most common spiders here are the orb and cobweb spider. Others, a re-trap-door spider, (commonly known as the cellar spider), the funnel web spider, the red spider, the letter spider.

Ticks give very little trouble in this county, but when found on a dog or a cow, they are hand-picked and destroyed.

A mite, prevalent in this county, is the red bug, or "chigger," which attacks both chickens and human beings, although normally, it is a parasite upon reptiles. Widely distributed in fields, and readily picked up, they attach themselves to the skin, which results in intense irritation, sometimes causing a rise of temperature. The red bug that attacks so violently, is the first stage of a large red mite which, when mature, is entirely harmless.

#### Other Invertebrates

The earthworm, one of the most valuable invertebrates found here, not only furnish food for birds, snakes and toads, supplies the most commonly used fish bait. It also aids the farmer by stirring the soil frequently. It has been estimated that through the action of worms more than eighteen tons of earth may be carried to the surface on a single acre of land in a year.

Snails, found along all bodies of water and in moist places on land, often attack a garden and eat the leaves from the plants, although they cause little serious damage.

Mussels are found in the larger lakes and along Coldwater River. Although they are gathered and sold in some places, nobody gathers them in DeSoto County, probably because they are not found in sufficient numbers.

Crayfish, very common in creeks, ponds, lakes and rivers, are a menace to bottom fields, burrowing down into the soil during the wet season; they also damage ponds by burrowing through the levees and causing the water to seep through.

### Fish and Their Relatives

Very few pike are found here, as all the streams and lakes are too muddy, but gars are found in large numbers. Due to their voracious appetite, these fish devour large numbers of other fish, frogs, and sometimes, water snakes and water rats, and in this way are a menace to game fish.

Local fishing places are: Coldwater River, Horn Lake, (commonly called Lake View), Carlton Lake, Hub Lake, Scout Lake at Camp Currier, Dean's Pond, Old River (part of the old river bed lying just outside the Mississippi levee); sloughs lying along Coldwater and Mississippi Rivers, small streams that are tributaries of these rivers, and various private lakes and ponds that have been stocked with game fish. A number of fishermen in the county earn their living through the sale of the finny tribe.

Game fish—crappie, bass, sun perch and bream. Large-mouthed black bass, the most popular game fish of the county, have a struggle for existence, due to the fact that their breeding places are rapidly being destroyed. Levee engineers are continually draining the bar pits along the river where these fish breed, and unless some protective measure is taken immediately, the bass will become extinct here.

Hooks, trot lines and other devices used in the rivers yield a large number of cat fish; among them, the yellow, blue, channel and shovel bill; (served in many hotels and restaurants as tenderloin trout). Two members of the sucker family, buffalo and drum, are common, and often monopolize the rural markets. German carp, a fish that has been introduced into this country, is rapidly increasing, causing more damage to other fish than any other single agent found in our streams. It is not particularly good for table use, either. Eels are found in smaller numbers.

Peepers, wood frogs, leopards, or meadow frogs, green frogs, and bullfrogs are of great economic value, as they destroy numberless insects each season. Regardless of this, frog hunting is a popular sport, and a great number of bullfrogs are sacrificed each spring, their legs being edible. Toads and tree toads are also common, practically every garden and lawn having its wise looking old toad searching for insects.

Turtles often seen in the county, and erroneously called terrapins, frequent fields and woods. Although they help destroy insects, most farmers kill them because of the damage they do to melons and cantaloupes.

All fishermen are familiar with the snapping turtle, the soft-shelled and the mud turtle, often found on their fish hooks or in fish nets. The value of turtles as food is not generally recognized in this county.

The most common lizard is the five-lined skink, known here as the red-head and scorpion, blue-tailed skink and fence swift. Many residents, especially negroes, fear these harmless creatures, thinking they are poisonous. There is also a type called the spring lizard.

One of the most poisonous types of reptiles is the rattlesnake, readily distinguished by the rattles on its tail, rarely attacks a human unless molested or surprised. Termed the "gentleman" of snakes, it does not strike before warning the victim by rattling. It does not coil to strike, nor can it leap.

The cottonmouth, or water moccasin, olive brown, with 20 or 30 dark crossbands, and purplish-black head, gets its name from its habit of opening its mouth very wide before striking, showing the white inside. This snake is probably the most poisonous in the United States, and, like the copperhead, gives birth to living young, whose poison is very virulent from the beginning. This snake is in nearly every lake and stream of the county.

The copperhead, distinguished by its coppery color, is likewise poisonous, but not unusually aggressive unless disturbed, is found principally in the bottom sections.

Non-poisonous snakes are: the spreading adder, the king, the black, the blue racer, the garter, chicken snake, the water and grass snake.

The spreading adder, usually found in the hills or fields, is said to be harmless, but its head will spread several inches when disturbed. Some are black with tiny white specks; others, red with similar specks.

King snakes are useful because they destroy great numbers of rattlesnakes. Some are perfectly docile, while others bite viciously, though harmlessly.



The black snake, usually black above, black to gray or yellowish beneath, with smooth scales in 15 or 17 rows, is most frequently seen in trees or bushes through whose tops it can travel very swiftly. The striped chicken snake and the corn snake, uniform in color, both of the south, are close relatives of the black snake.

Blue racer, so named because of its swift movement and its habit of chasing those who disturb him, is not poisonous. One type of black racer has the same characteristics as the blue racer.

The garter snake, small and slender, about two and a half feet long, is greenish, with a variety of bands or stripes; it lives on the ground essentially, feeding to a great extent on earth worms, toads and frogs.

Water snakes live in or near water; they feed principally upon fish, but also eat toads and frogs. Black or brown, and striped longitudinally or with transverse bars, the water snake is perfectly harmless, and should not be confused with the cottonmouth moccasin.

The green, known in this locality as the grass snake, is green in color and 12 or 16 inches long; it is the gentlest and among the most useful of reptiles, since it feeds largely upon insects.

#### Fowls

The wood or summer duck, the only native one of DeSoto County, is the only one that nests in trees; it is found in low, wet places, around Coldwater Bottom, Lake View and the Mississippi levee. This duck was in danger of extinction until the Government passed laws for its protection; this species has multiplied during the last few years.

Ducks that winter in this county, but that rarely ever nest here, are the mallard, (the wild duck of the world) pintail, scaup, ringneck, black mallard, blue wing teal and green winged teal. A few others--the canvas back, the shoveler, the golden eye, and the fish--merely stop to rest during their flights to and from the north.

The snipe, another game bird, highly prized in the county, is found in the marshy localities, but is

very scarce. Similar in appearance to a crane, except in size, it is a little larger than a jay bird, with a long bill and long legs, brownish in color. It migrates and passes the winter in flocks, as do other members of its family. Since it makes its nest on the ground, the development of land for agricultural purposes has restricted its breeding places, which is probably one of the causes of the decrease in numbers. The snipe, entitled to protection not only because of its food value, but because of its usefulness, destroys many harmful insects, including grasshoppers, army worms, cut worms, cabbage worms, boll weevils, horseflies and mosquitoes.

Doves, classed as game birds by the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission, may be killed between September 21 and October 5, and from November 20 to January 31, it being permissible to kill as many as 20 in one day. These birds stay in North Mississippi the year round, however, the following may be explanatory:

"Apparently because of the strong and swift flight of the mourning dove, it was for many years considered a 'game' bird in several states, especially in the South. Under the Federal Migratory Bird Law of 1913, though it was classed as a migratory bird, and in that character was given the protection to which it is entitled."

Among the most useful birds, the dove feeds extensively upon weed seeds, but also eats insects, particularly grasshoppers.

The quail, partridge, or bob-white, a swift-flying game bird, and one of the best loved of North America, is the friend of man, destroying pernicious insects. Quail are not so plentiful in DeSoto County as they once were, despite the protective game laws.

There are still a small number of wild turkeys, although they have greatly diminished since the clearing of the forests. Found along the bluff and in Coldwater bottom, they are usually hunted by means of a turkey caller, a device designed to imitate the call of the female turkey.

The Canada goose, a large, slate-colored fowl, weighing 12 or 13 pounds, that winters in this county, is fast becoming extinct. Snow and blue geese winter in this county occasionally, usually stopping along the river on trips to and from the South, for short resting periods only.

### Song Birds and Other Common Birds

One of the most beautiful song birds of Desoto County is the mockingbird, with brownish-gray upper parts, white and gray underneath, a bill shorter than the head, long and rounded wings, and a tail rounded and longer than the wing, the feathers moderately broad with rounded tips. It excels all other birds in reproducing songs.

The catbird, a member of the mockingbird family, is common, and ranks third among all birds, as a singer. Its diet consists of grasshoppers, spiders, ants, beetles and caterpillars.

The brown thrasher, is found throughout the county, except in swampy localities; it ranks second in the Mimic Thrush Trio, of which the mocking bird is the first and the catbird third. Brown, with under parts buffy, with dark streaks, the name "thrasher" probably was given because of the vigorous twitching of his tail when angry or nervous, or when wishing to emphasize his song.

The robin, distinguished by its red breast, black head and its slate-gray back, is widely distributed and probably the best known in America; it lives in Desoto County the year round.

The bluebird, whose soft warble, beautiful blue coat and gentle manner is one of our most welcome heralds of spring; it also shows a decided fondness for human society. Its home is usually in hollow fence posts or hollow trees in orchards. Its presence is encouraged by the farmer, since it is the most noted insect-catcher.

The woodpecker, black and white, except for its red head, is a familiar bird which nests in fence posts, dead trees or telephone poles. Accused of eating fresh fruit, killing young poultry and destroying other farm products, these destructive habits are probably offset by its elimination of harmful insects.

The yellow-bellied sapsucker, another member of the woodpecker family, is often seen and frequently does serious damage to trees.

English sparrows are perhaps the most numerous of all birds in DeSoto County. Introduced into the

United States from Europe in 1880, this bird is now found throughout the country. Very hardy, it is a persistent enemy of other birds, especially those which frequent the neighborhood of houses. It is doubtful whether sparrows do any good at all, since they are so destructive to wheat, fruit, cultivated trees, shrubs and vines. Of filthy habits, they often do serious damage to property by persistently nesting and roosting about the gables and eaves of houses, rain spouts, water tanks, etc. They increase at an enormously rapid rate and also reduce the number of many of our most helpful birds by destroying their young and usurping their nesting places.

Another prolific bird is the well-known blue jay, with his familiar cry of "thief, thief," which can be heard practically any day. Although handsome, the jay is known to be a persistent and merciless nest-robber, often devouring eggs and the young of smaller birds. After his family responsibilities are discharged, and there are no nests to be robbed, he becomes one of the noisiest and most obstreperous of birds.

The cardinal--often called the redbird--is possibly the most beautiful and spirited bird in DeSoto County, with his brilliant flash of red darting from one tree to another along the roadside, and his joyous song of "cheer, cheer, cheer." He feeds on cotton worms, scale insects, corn ear worm, boll weevil, and many other pests, as well as many harmful weed seeds, making him an asset to the farmer.

The little brown house wren is perhaps the best beloved bird of the county, with his lively little song and friendly habits which endear him to every one. His favorite nesting places are old cans, flowerpots, or other nooks and crannies near houses. His diet consists chiefly of grasshoppers, beetles, caterpillars, bugs and spiders.

The whippoorwill, useful and entirely harmless, is very shy, and members of his species are not as numerous as his usefulness warrants. Primarily a night bird, his food consists of insects that fly by night, especially large-bodied moths and May beetles.

The ruby-throated humming bird, the smallest of all in the county, often inhabits flower gardens and window boxes, feeding on the nectar from flowers. Although of no particular value to farmers, it helps to fertilize seeds by carrying pollen in its search for nectar.

A persistent feeder upon insects is the Baltimore oriole, a bird that is as useful as it is attractive. There are very few in DeSoto County.

The meadow lark, found in smaller numbers, is a bird of the open country, and even nests in the grass on the ground. It feeds almost entirely upon insects, grass, weed seeds, and is an active enemy of the boll weevil, the grasshopper, the cut worm, the army worm and the spider.

#### Birds of Prey

A common sight is that of the vultures--commonly called buzzards--in flight. The species found in DeSoto County are the turkey and black vulture, the latter predominating. They are valuable in the disposal of carrion; they also eat snakes, toads, probably rats and mice, and occasionally young birds, but do not attack poultry and game birds. Because of their service to man, few are molested.

The sharp-shinned hawk, locally known as sparrow hawk or blue darter, and Cooper's hawk--the familiar chicken hawk--two types most common to DeSoto County, are very similar in habits and diet, the main difference being in size. Since they prey on all birds, chicken raising is difficult in most localities, so constant war is waged against these birds of prey.

The search owl, which feeds more extensively upon insects than any of the other owls found here, also catches many mice, frogs, crawfish, toads, lizards and fish. Most of the birds killed by the screech owl are destroyed either during the breeding season, when it has difficulty in feeding its young, or in severe winter weather.

Barred owls, which frequent the more wooded sections of the county, known locally as the hoot owls, are a familiar sight to campers along the rivers and lakes. They feed, to a large extent, upon mice, but also eat frogs, lizards, crawfish, spiders and various insects. Occasionally, one catches a chicken or small bird, but the good he does outweighs the harm.

Barn owls, perhaps the most beautiful as well as beneficial in the county, are found in small numbers. Always hungry, they will eat their own weight in food, which consists of mice, rats and other ground creatures.

Great horned owls--sometimes confused with hoot owls--once they have acquired a taste for poultry, make systematic raids on chicken, guinea or turkey flocks, often becoming very fastidious and eating only the brains of their prey. These birds have been known to sit on the roost pole with the chickens, carrying away the one chosen when they quit this haunt.

The crow, probably best known of the bird pests, kills little chickens, robs birds' nests of both eggs and the young, and eats numbers of toads, frogs, turtles, crawfish, snails and insects. His mischief is done in the spring, when he ravages the corn fields of seed corn and young shoots, but confines himself mostly to wild fruits and berries. He should be given credit, however, for his usefulness in destroying insects.

#### Water Fowls and Shore Birds

Great blue herons, known here as blue cranes, and found in small numbers along the rivers and lakes, sometime venture into the hills and fish in ponds and streams that are getting low. Although they are not known to nest in the county, nests have been found across the Mississippi River on the Arkansas side. They usually feed on fish, hence stay close to water; but occasionally when they go into the hills, they feed on field mice, ground squirrels and other small rodents.

Egrets, also known as cranes, found along the Mississippi River, frequent other marshy places in the county, to some extent, occasionally visiting a pond or creek in the hills. Due to their beautiful plumage, they are frequently killed during the breeding season, so that they are fast becoming extinct.

A few bitterns have been seen in the county.

Another bird, frequently found in freshly plowed fields or along the edges of ponds, is the kildeer or "kil-dee," a true plover, and a member of the shore-bird family. Its fondness for freshly plowed fields, where it feeds voraciously on grubs, worms and bugs, is one of its most outstanding characteristics. Its diet is known to include mosquitoes, grasshoppers, boll weevils, horse flies, crawfishes, and many other harmful forms of animal life.

### Mammals

The opossum, about the size of a large cat, covered with thick grayish-white hair, has a soot similar to that of a pig, and a long, hairless tail, which it uses to cling to branches of trees. Possum hunting is one of the favorite sports in this County in the fall, as its fur is marketed. Eastern mole, a queer little animal, is one of the farmer's best friends, feeding upon cutworms and other insects injurious to crops. It is likewise injurious in its frequent destruction of young plants and flowers which it uproots as it tunnels its way along underground. These tunnels, often the beginning of gulleys, cause land to erode. The shrew, closely related to the mole, and also the farmer's friend in its destruction of insects and worms, is seldom seen in DeSoto County.

The bat, the only mammal that really flies, a dull grayish-brown, with blackish flying membranes about three and a half inches long, is one of the species native to DeSoto County. Occasionally, the red bat, much the same size of the brown, is found here.

Although very rare, occasional rumors report bear tracks in Coldwater River bottom.

Hounds, bird dogs, rat terriers, collies and bull dogs are perhaps the most common canine types of DeSoto. The number of 'wild' dogs, living mostly in the bottoms and wooded sections of the county, are those that have been lost or strayed from home and have taken up wild habits.

Foxes have become more plentiful during the last few years, since numbers of red fox were imported and turned loose in the fields and woods of the county. The fox eats ground-nesting birds and their eggs, kills reptiles, insects and mice. Although it has a bad name among farmers because it sometimes carries away chickens, its good easily offsets its bad habits.

The raccoon, or coon, very common in this county, usually found along wooded shores of lakes, on streams, is hunted during the open season, as its fur is marketed. An expert tree-climber, the coon usually makes its home in hollow trees; it hibernates during the severest part of winter, appearing early in spring. Its short, thick-

set body and long legs are covered with long, thick brownish-gray fur, and its grayish white tail is definitely marked with rings of dark brown or black.

The weasel, very scarce, and known as the killer among animals, is perhaps the only one in this county that continues to kill wantonly long after it has eaten its fill. Its elongated body of about sixteen inches, similar to that of a snake, enables it to enter the nest or den of almost any animal. Brownish above and white or yellowish below in summer, many turn pure white except for the tip of the tail, in winter. When white, this fur is in demand and brings a high price.

The mink, closely related to the weasel, is much more prolific in this locality. Its body, although long and slender like that of the weasel, is much larger, and its long neck, broad, low head, short ears and piggish snout, give it a pugnacious expression. A restless, active creature, nocturnal in its habits, its favorite haunts are along the shores and streams or in heavy bottomland forests. On shore, it eats mice, rats, birds, turtles and birds eggs. In water, it catches fish, crawfish, mussels, frogs and snakes. It will sometimes raid the chicken house, but is usually content with only one fowl at a time. The fur of the mink is very valuable,

The bobcat, found in the dense woods of Coldwater bottom and the bluff, is seldom seen, however; possibly because it is very cautious and alert. Reddish-brown, lightly spotted and streaked with black, with white underparts, and slightly smaller than the Canada lynx, the bobcat never attacks man, though it is very vicious if molested. It is destructive to quail, grouse and other game birds which nest on the ground.

The panther, like the bear, is very rare in DeSoto County, although rumors occasionally report one in the dense woods.

Rats and mice are numerous; field and house mice, being very prolific, the house mouse multiplies very rapidly; the rat lives in dwelling houses, barns, stores, ships and underground passages, and increases with amazing rapidity. It also destroys crops, kills young chickens, turkeys and other fowls, and carries disease from place to place. Bubonic Plague is known to have been spread to more than fifty countries by fleas on rats; scarlet fever, typhoid and other diseases are believed to be spread by this rodent also.

The muskrat, found along river bottoms, does not hibernate, but in winter it swims under ice in search of food; works and hunts food mostly at night, and eats roots and stems of plants, fresh water mussels, fruits, fish, insects and worms. It is found along the river bottoms of the county, and its fur is valuable.

The cottontail rabbit, is common in DeSoto County; in the lower sections, or swamps jack rabbit is hunted throughout the year. Sticks are used at all times, but guns during the open season.

The grey squirrel, very agile and graceful, has a brownish or rusty tinge, and lives either in hollows of trees or in tree tops, in nests of sticks and leaves. The fox squirrel, larger than the gray, of a rusty color barks much like a fox. Both gray and fox squirrels are favorite game animals. The flying squirrel, not prolific in this locality, cannot really fly, but glides through the air for long distances; it feeds on seeds, grains, fruits, insects, eggs and young birds; easily tamed, it makes an interesting pet.

#### Hoofed Animals

Pigs, numerous in this county, are valued for both meat and lard. Some wild hogs are found in the bottoms and wooded sections, where they live on nuts and vegetation.

Deer are occasionally seen in the woods of Cold-water Bottom and in the lower section, near the Tunica County Line.

Cattle outnumber any other domestic animal in the county, dairying being one of the leading industries; goats, raised principally for their meat, sometimes become pets.

Many fine saddle horses are in the county, but farmers depend upon the mule for plantation work.

#### References

- The Progressive Farmer, July, 1936, page 20  
 The Country Gentleman, April, 1936, "Weather Stirs the Pests,"  
 By Harry O'Brien, page 15  
 The Progressive Farmer, October, 1935, page 20  
 The Progressive Farmer, May, 1935, page 27  
 The Progressive Farmer, November, 1935, page 30  
 Farmers Bulletin No. 875, The Rough-Headed Corn Stalk Beetle  
 in the Southern States and ITS Control  
 Farmers Bulletin No. 1624, the Mexican Bean Beetle in the  
 East and its Control  
 Farmers Bulletin No. 1329, The Boll Weevil Problem  
 Farmers Bulletin No. 801, Mites and Lice on Poultry  
 Farmers Bulletin No. 754, The Bed Bug  
 Farmers Bulletin No. 1101, The Argentine Ant as a Household  
 Pest  
 Farmers Bulletin No. 1652, Diseases and Parasites of Poultry  
 Farmers Bulletin No. 1353, Clothes Moths and Their Control  
 G. C. Mingee, County Agent, Hernando, Mississippi  
 Paul Brown, Assistant County Agent, Hernando, Mississippi  
 Miss Gladys Delk, Home Demonstration Agent, Hernando, Mississippi  
 A. A. Scott, farmer, Love, Mississippi  
 Z. H. Wheeler, farmer and orchard grower, Love, Mississippi  
 The Classroom Teacher, Volume 9, The Classroom Teacher Inc.,  
 Chicago, Illinois  
 Our Wonder World, Vol. 3, The Nature Book; Geo. L. Shuman & Co.,  
 Chicago and Boston  
 Birds of America, Editor-in-Chief, T. Gilber Pearson; The  
 Garden City Pub. Co., Garden City, New York  
 The Classroom Teacher, Vol. 9, The Classroom Teacher, Inc.,  
 Chicago, Page 350  
 Birds of America, T. Gilbert Pearson, Editor-in-Chief, Garden  
 City Pub. Co., Inc., Garden City, N. Y., Page 48  
 The Press-Scimitar, Memphis, Tennessee, June 24, 1936  
 Sid Campbell, Sheriff, Hernando, Mississippi  
 J. W. Leigh, Deputy Sheriff, Hernando, Mississippi  
 Joyner Wheeler, former county game warden, Hernando, Mississippi  
 John Knox, District Game Warden, Hernando, Mississippi

## Chapter VI

## INDIANS

Major and Minor Tribes

The Major Indian tribe which inhabited DeSoto County was the Chickasaw, and this splendid clan is worthy of the praise given them in the following words of Albert James Pickett:

"The Chickasaws have never been conquered. They could not be defeated by DeSoto with his Spanish army in 1541; by Bienville with his French army and Southern Indians, in 1736; by D' Artaguette with his French army and northern Indians; by the Marquis De Vaudreuil with his French troops and Choctaws, in 1752; nor by the Creeks, Cherokees, Kickapoos, Shawnees, nor Choctaws, who continually waged war against them. No, they were bravest of the brave; and even when they had migrated to the territory of Arkansas not many years ago, they soon subdued some tribes who attacked them in that quarter."

Customs and Characteristics

Many writers have expressed surprise at the wonderful achievements of the Chickasaws in their contests for supremacy with other Indian tribes of larger numbers, and with the French at many different times. Their success may have been due, in great measure, to the fact that they put into practice the aphorism, "in unity there is strength."

While the primitive Chickasaws were deeply religious people, we have seen that probably they were less superstitious than any other tribe of Indians. When they went to battle, it was with that religious fervor and zeal which often counts for so much in winning a war.

Bartram says: "They are honest, liberal and hospitable to strangers; considerate, loving and affectionate to their wives and relations, and fond of their children; frugal, temperate, persevering, charitable and forbearing. It might be observed that the moral character of the Chickasaw women was above reproach and they were regarded highly by the

men. It was their purpose to keep the Chickasaw blood 100% pure."

James H. Malone says: "The Chickasaws are very warlike; they are fierce, and have a high opinion of themselves. They seem to be the remains of a populous nation whose warlike disposition prompted them to invade several nations, which they have indeed destroyed, but not without diminishing their own numbers by those expeditions.

"What induces me to believe that this nation was formerly very considerable, is that the nations who border upon them, and whom I have just mentioned, speak the Chickasaw language, though somewhat corrupted, and those who speak it best, value themselves upon it."

#### Origin of the Two Tribes

H. B. Cushman, in his "History of the Choctaw, Chickasaws, and Natchez Indians" says:

"That in 1820 aged Choctaws related to the missionaries that their ancestors, in a remote period, lived far to the West and moved to the East because they were oppressed by a more powerful people.

"The nation started forth, after much deliberation and discussion, under the leadership of two brothers, Chacta and Chickasa, both equally renowned for their bravery and wisdom. The tribe was guided in its wanderings by a pole which they erected each night at their camp, and which was seen leaning to the east each morning by the wandering Indians, until the Mississippi River was reached.

"Again they set up the pole; once more, it pointed eastward. Ever faithful to their belief, the wanderers constructed canoes and rafts, by which, in a few weeks, they were able to cross the river. They continued their pilgrimage until Nanih Waiya was reached; here the pole remained upright and here they erected a large mound."

There are several versions as to the manner in which the Chickasaws reached their home in what is now North Mississippi. All agree, however, that the Chickasaws belonged to the Muskhogean family of Indians, the name being variably spelled as Muscogee, Muskogee,

Muskhegies, Muscogulges, etc. History seems to point to Mexico as the former home of the Muskhogean.

James Adair has written: "The Chickasaws and the Choctaws were the descendants of a people called Chickamacams, who were the first inhabitants of the Mexican empire, and at an ancient period wandered eastward and crossed the Mississippi River with 10,000 warriors."

James H. Malone sums up facts concerning their origin in these words: "I think it may be safely concluded that the Chickasaws, Choctaws, and in fact the entire Muskhogean family, in remote times, came to the country now comprising the Gulf States, and reaching the Atlantic Ocean, from the far west; and, in all probability, from what is now the Mexican Republic, and more remotely from Asia."

#### Marriage Customs

"The ancient manner of Chickasaw courtship was not very taxing upon the sensitiveness of the bashful, prospective groom; when he wished to make known to any young lady of his tribe the emotions of his heart in regard to her, he had but to send a small bundle of clothing carefully tied up in a large cotton handkerchief (similar to a medium-sized table cloth), by his mother or sister, to the girl he desired to make his wife. This token of love was immediately possessed by the mother of the bride and kept for a few days before proffering it to her daughter; if accepted when presented, it was a bona fide acknowledgment on her part of her willingness to accept him as her husband; if otherwise, the disappointed and disconsolate swain found consolation in the fact that he had the privilege of presenting another bundle of clothes wrapped in similar manner, to some other forest beauty. When he had found favor, the elated lover painted his face in conformity to the latest and most approved style, donned his best suit, and with fluttering heart, sought the home of his betrothed. She met him a few rods from the door, and proudly and heroically escorted him into the house where they, themselves, in the presence of friends and relatives, performed the marriage ceremony. The man presented the woman with a ham of venison or a part of some other edible animal of the chase; she, at the same time, presented him with an ear of corn or sack of potatoes, all of which betokened that the man would provide the household with meat and the woman would supply the bread. Thus, they were made man and wife."

### Mounds, Location and Present Condition

The largest mound in DeSoto County, five miles northwest of Walls, is the one on which the home of Dick Cheatham is built. It is approximately 7 feet high with a gradual slope toward the road; three others are located along the levee, several miles west of the above mentioned one; one of these is about 20 feet in diameter and 12 feet high, and presents the appearance of having been excavated. It is 100 yards from a negro church, on the Howard plantation, and at its base is a negro graveyard. About one-fourth mile from this mound are two others, 18 and 15 feet high; base of about 14 feet; there are others elsewhere, varying size from 5 to 7 feet.

Mrs. Addie Brown of Eudora, on November 2, 1935, related the following facts on Indian mounds and relics of DeSoto County:

"In 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Brown moved to Blyth, which is now known as Lake Cormorant, (the name having been changed in 1905 in honor of the lake), a quarter of a mile northeast of the town.

"Mrs. Brown said that about one mile north of Lake Cormorant, the Y. & M. V. Railroad cut through a large Indian mound, and in 1905, Mr. Brown, with Dr. Brooks of Memphis, made excavations into it. Among their finds were several small dolls, varying in size from three to five inches, seemingly made of red clay, with distinct carved features. There were, also, a number of broken pieces of Indian ware, and one unbroken pot, molded of clay and carved in flowers. This pot would hold about one quart. Quite a number of arrow-heads and fragments of skeletons were found, and one tomahawk, which was made of bronze-colored flint; Mrs. Brown sold this tomahawk to a boy in Memphis who was collecting Indian relics. She still has an assortment of arrow-heads. Dr. Brooks carried the other things to Memphis."

Just above the place where the railroad cut the mound, the lake divides; one branch goes out toward the Bass plantation and is known as Norfolk, for which Norfolk Landing, on the Mississippi River, takes its name. The other branch goes to the east, and near it another Indian mound was found. Mr. Brown and Mr. Henley dug about 15 feet into it, but all they found were human skeletons and square iron nails.

Four miles west of the village of Walls and in sight of the levee is a large cemetery from which much pottery and artifacts have been taken. Many bones, flakes, potsherd, skulls and bones have been found one and one-half feet beneath the surface.

Five miles south of Walls and one mile north-east of Lake Cormorant are some five or six mounds from which pottery and pipes have been found.

When the Electric light-pole was set at the corner of O'Dell Sander's store the men had only dug a short distance when they begun to bring out potsherds, bones, and pipes.

John Crawford, a Cherokee Indian, had an exhibition of Indian relics at the court house June 23, 1904. These relics were found in an Indian mound near Lake Cormorant. Crowfoot, who came from Tallequah, Indian Territory, spent several months excavating these relics and most of them he sent to Smithsonian Institute at Washington.

These curiosities consisted chiefly of pots, vases, bowls, tomahawks, and arrow heads. The relics were taken from the Indian graveyard, and Crowfoot claimed that he had a chart on which this graveyard was marked. By the aid of this chart he found the graves of the Indians, and, using a probe, he located the skeleton of an Indian. Digging into the ground he found the relics around the head of the skeleton, placed there according to the Indian custom of burying all valuables with the body of the person who owned them during life.

Nearly all of the skeletons dug up are in a good state of preservation. (1)

### Mussacunna - and "Legend of the Singing Winds"

A most interesting legend is woven around the powerful and influential Indian Chief, Mussacunna, of the tribe of the Chickasaws in the days of long ago. Although he has passed on to his "Happy Hunting Ground," the beautiful creek which bears his name murmurs and ripples along its banks as of old and sings a requem to the soul of this departed warrior. The legend, and facts as given by Mrs. R. P. Cook of Hernando are as follows:

Mussacunna was considered rich in worldly possessions and great was his name as a hunter and warrior. His domain was in DeSoto County and today in the records on file at the

(1) The Times-Promote, June 24, 1904



### Mounds, Location and Present Condition

The largest mound in DeSoto County, five miles northwest of Walls, is the one on which the home of Dick Cheatham is built. It is approximately 7 feet high with a gradual slope toward the road; three others are located along the levee, several miles west of the above mentioned one; one of these is about 20 feet in diameter and 12 feet high, and presents the appearance of having been excavated. It is 100 yards from a negro church, on the Howard plantation, and at its base is a negro graveyard. About one-fourth mile from this mound are two others, 18 and 15 feet high; base of about 14 feet; there are others elsewhere, varying size from 5 to 7 feet.

Mrs. Addie Brown of Eudora, on November 2, 1935, related the following facts on Indian mounds and relics of DeSoto County:

"In 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Brown moved to Blyth, which is now known as Lake Cormorant, (the name having been changed in 1905 in honor of the lake), a quarter of a mile northeast of the town.

"Mrs. Brown said that about one mile north of Lake Cormorant, the Y. & M. V. Railroad cut through a large Indian mound, and in 1905, Mr. Brown, with Dr. Brooks of Memphis, made excavations into it. Among their finds were several small dolls, varying in size from three to five inches, seemingly made of red clay, with distinct carved features. There were, also, a number of broken pieces of Indian ware, and one unbroken pot, molded of clay and carved in flowers. This pot would hold about one quart. Quite a number of arrow-heads and fragments of skeletons were found, and one tomahawk, which was made of bronze-colored flint; Mrs. Brown sold this tomahawk to a boy in Memphis who was collecting Indian relics. She still has an assortment of arrow-heads. Dr. Brooks carried the other things to Memphis."

Just above the place where the railroad cut the mound, the lake divides; one branch goes out toward the Bass plantation and is known as Norfolk, for which Norfolk Landing, on the Mississippi River, takes its name. The other branch goes to the east, and near it another Indian mound was found. Mr. Brown and Mr. Henley dug about 15 feet into it, but all they found were human skeletons and square iron nails.

Four miles west of the village of Walls and in sight of the levee is a large cemetery from which much pottery and artifacts have been taken. Many bones, flakes, potsherd, skulls and bones have been found one and one-half feet beneath the surface.

Five miles south of Walls and one mile north-east of Lake Cormorant are some five or six mounds from which pottery and pipes have been found.

When the Electric light-pole was set at the corner of O'Dell Sander's store the men had only dug a short distance when they begun to bring out potsherds, bones, and pipes.

John Crawford, a Cherokee Indian, had an exhibition of Indian relics at the court house June 23, 1904. These relics were found in an Indian mound near Lake Cormorant. Crowfoot, who came from Tallequah, Indian Territory, spent several months excavating these relics and most of them he sent to Smithsonian Institute at Washington.

These curiosities consisted chiefly of pots, vases, bowls, tomahawks, and arrow heads. The relics were taken from the Indian graveyard, and Crowfoot claimed that he had a chart on which this graveyard was marked. By the aid of this chart he found the graves of the Indians, and, using a probe, he located the skeleton of an Indian. Digging into the ground he found the relics around the head of the skeleton, placed there according to the Indian custom of burying all valuables with the body of the person who owned them during life.

Nearly all of the skeletons dug up are in a good state of preservation. (1)

### Mussacunna - and "Legend of the Singing Winds"

A most interesting legend is woven around the powerful and influential Indian Chief, Mussacunna, of the tribe of the Chickasaws in the days of long ago. Although he has passed on to his "Happy Hunting Ground," the beautiful creek which bears his name murmurs and ripples along its banks as of old and sings a requiem to the soul of this departed warrior. The legend, and facts as given by Mrs. R. P. Cook of Hernando are as follows:

Mussacunna was considered rich in worldly possessions and great was his name as a hunter and warrior. His domain was in DeSoto County and today in the records on file at the

(1) The Times-Promote, June 24, 1904

court house in Hernando are many transfers of land made by him to the earliest white settlers.

"Mussacunna Creek that runs southwest from near Hernando and into Coldwater River was named after the chief. On a fertile piece of land adjoining this creek about three miles southwest of Hernando Mussacunna raised his best Indian corn and the spot is well known to citizens near here today as Mussacunna's corn land.

"Mussacunna was descended from a long line of famous red men and there is no doubt that he was a giant among the other Indians. Records of his handwriting and business deals shows him to have been a well educated man. He owned thousands of acres of rich land between Hernando and Coldwater River and ruled his tribe with an iron hand.

"At one time there was a postoffice south of here called Mussacunna.

"With the coming of the white man, Mussacunna saw the beginning of the end for the Chickasaw nation and the setting sun for the red man. No more tribal feasts were held and the tom-toms beat no more.

"With his business ability he traded and bargained with the 'pale face.' He disposed of most of his original tract of land and settled down on a small homestead to await the summons to the happy hunting ground. There he died and was buried near the banks of the stream that bears his name.

"The Indian name, Mussacunna, is said to mean 'singing winds.' On still summer nights the singing winds that sway the branches of the cypress and willows along the banks of Mussacunna and possibly his ghost returns from his happy hunting grounds to roam once more over his possessions of long ago."

#### References

- Bertram, William "Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida."  
 Cushman, H. B. "History of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Natchez Indians."  
 Malone, James H. "The Chickasaw Nation."  
 Pickett, Albert James, "History of Alabama and Incidentally of Georgia and Mississippi."  
 Mrs. Mae Westerman, Hernando, Mississippi.  
 Mrs. Addie Brown, Eudora, Mississippi.  
 The Times Promoter, June 24, 1904.

## Chapter VII

## ANTE-BELLUM DAYS

-----

Although comparatively little has been written of the "New World Culture" and the concensus of opinion seems to be that the greatest and richest history and culture belong to the Old World, there are, nevertheless, many who realize that America, too, has her traditions. There is a growing interest today, despite the industrialism of the age, in discovering and preserving the rich culture and background of our country. There is no section in any country of the world that can excel the South in local color, rich culture, and inspiring traditions.

Nothing gives the cultural background of DeSoto County more perfectly than its Old Homes.

Old Home of Colonel Thomas W. White

The beautiful old southern home of Mrs. Mildred Farrington, Hernando, dates back to the glamorous pre-war days of our county. This home is two and a half blocks due east from the northeast corner of the courthouse in Hernando, on the street which was formerly called "Lawyer's Row." It was the home of the late Colonel Thomas W. White, father of Mrs. Mildred Farrington and Miss Nellie White, who now live in the home.

Completed in 1860, this home has remained practically unchanged throughout the years. The garden, part of which was laid off before the War between the States, likewise retains its charming arrangement, and the maze of box-wood and the magnolia trees, which shade the spacious veranda, make a beautiful setting for the old home.

Before this home was built, the White family occupied a cottage which stood on the lawn of the present home. With the completion of this house, the cottage was moved to the back of the house and was used as servants' quarters, part of which still stands.

Several years after the war, Colonel White engaged M. Lebeque, head of French Gardens of Memphis, to lay off

the remaining portion of his lawn which had not been designed. This was laid off in the same style as the front part of the lawn which had belonged to the cottage, their former home.

Delicate hand-wrought iron balustrades adorn the front veranda and the large balcony above. Adjoining the wide hall, which extends from the front to the back porch, are twin parlors and a library. In the library, which was used by Colonel White as a writing room and study, there hangs a large picture of Robert E. Lee. On the shelves of this library are many valuable books, one of which is "The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy," by Jefferson Davis. This book is autographed by Mr. Davis, who was a close friend of Colonel White's, and who had been a visitor in the home several times.

In the twin parlors, which are separated by massive folding doors, hang several large portraits of the mother and father of Colonel Felix LaBauve, a friend of Colonel White's. These were painted in France and brought to America by Felix LaBauve in 1816. In the portrait, LaBauve's father is wearing the Cross of the Legion of Honor, with which he was decorated by Napoleon.

In each of these rooms is a massive mantel of marble, brought from Italy. On the wall nearest the fireplace in each room is a quaint white China knob, known as a slave-pull. As its name implies, this device was used to call the servants. The house abounds in antiques of various kinds, among which is a large folding desk, with book-case above.

The woodwork for the home was bought by Colonel White in Cincinnati and was brought to Memphis by boat. The railing to the large circular stairway was made in one of the carpentry shops on the place, from a large mahogany log. The walls are plastered, and were frescoed by a northern artist. After the declaration of the War between the States, this artist left for the North. The home was completed in 1860, and Colonel White enlisted in the war the same year. He was First Lieutenant of "The Irrepressibles" under Captain James R. Chalmers.

Many distinguished men have been visitors in this home. L.Q.C. Lamar was entertained here on several occasions; Felix LaBauve was a frequent visitor, taking



ENTRANCE TO OLD HOME OF  
COLONEL THOMAS W. WHITE  
HERNANDO

dinner there every Sunday for several years. Jefferson Davis was another of its distinguished guests.

Mrs. Farrington tells of the part this home played in the War between the States. It was completed the first year of the war, and in it Northern and Southern officers often met to arrange for transfer of prisoners. She recalled witnessing, from the front porch of her home, the burning of the courthouse by the Northern forces during the war. (1)

#### The Old Ellis Home

An interesting place in Eudora is the old home in which John Ellis now lives. Mrs. Nannie White related a bit of history connected with this home, built by her father, Duke Ellis, in the early fifties.

In 1850, Duke Ellis, with his family, moved to this place, three miles north of the present town of Eudora, from North Carolina, making the trip in covered wagons. It took three months to make the trip, bringing with him all his house-hold equipment, stock, and slaves. Mrs. White remembers hearing older members of the family relating an incident that occurred while they were crossing the mountains. The children of the party reached their hands up into the clouds, frightening the old negroes, as they realized how near to them the clouds were.

Mr. Ellis homesteaded this place where the house now stands, but at that time there was nothing except rattan vines, large trees, and blue cane. With the help of his slaves, a small log cabin was built to temporarily house his family until he could erect a larger house. They immediately went to work clearing the land and hewing logs to build the dwelling, which consisted of six rooms, four on the ground floor and two above; a large hall, front porch, and small back porch completing the building.

Soon after completion of his home, Mr. Ellis enlisted in the Confederate Army, the War between the States having just begun; during his service, he was stricken with pneumonia and died, leaving his wife, six daughters, and three sons. Betty Ellis, later a Mrs. Doggett, accompanied by her youngest brother, John Ellis, made regular trips to Memphis in a wagon to secure supplies for her own family and the community. As it took her a week to make the trip, she carried a box of food

---

(1) Mrs. Mildred Farrington, Hernando, Miss.

to last her until she returned. Her friendly disposition gained her the friendship of the guards, who allowed her to pass through the blockade. Betty was only twenty-one years old, and John was ten, but they never hesitated to brave the perils of such a trip.

With a few repairs having been made, this old home still stands as a tribute to love and bravery. The traditional welcome is still extended by Mr. and Mrs. John Ellis, and their son, Tom Dean Ellis, to all who pass this way. (1)

#### Colonial Home Located on Old Plank Road

Another beautiful home of DeSoto County is that of Mrs. W. A. Powell, located on old Highway #51, two miles east of Nesbitt.

This home has an interesting background, as it was built in 1846 for an inn, being located on the "Old Plank Road" from Hernando to Memphis. This road in the early 1840's was a toll road and there was a great deal of travel along this way. Hauling was done by horses and oxen; many carriages, horses, and buggies, also passed along this road. There was a stage coach line to Memphis along this route, and this inn was a popular stopping place.

Mrs. Powell gave the following information concerning the early ownership of her home:

The original owner of the land on which this house is located was J. Yockinah, an Indian. In 1836, he sold the land to Nancy Cain Danner; she, in turn, sold it to Colmon Ruffin in 1837. On December 23, 1845, Dr. A. D. McNeese bought the land from Colmon Ruffin, and in 1846 built the present home of Mrs. Powell for an inn.

After the War between the States, in 1868, Dr. N. Winingham purchased this home from Dr. McNeese, the deed being filed January 1, 1869. In 1904, Dr. Winingham transferred the title of the property to his daughter, Nannie W. Powell, the present owner.

Dr. McNeese and his wife came from Georgia, bought this property in 1845, and built a log cabin near a spring just west of where Mrs. Powell's home now stands. A sawmill was installed nearby, and most of the timber for the inn was sawed and hewn right at the site of the building.

(1) Mr. and Mrs. John Ellis, Eudora, Miss.

This attractive home, of the early American colonial architecture, has changed very little in appearance since it was built. It has not been remodeled, and has always been painted white, with green shutters. It stands on a sloping hillside and the tall trees and shrubs of its grassy lawn make a perfect setting for its stately beauty. One of the most arresting features of the house is the beautiful winding stairway which extends to the third floor. The home has two stories and two attics in the front, and three stories in the back. The woodwork, which was hewn on the place, is of unusual design. The window and door facings taper upward.

Last year, (1936) when carpenters made a few repairs on the home, they examined the timbers and the hand-hewn poplar rafters and told Mrs. Powell that the house was good for another ninety or hundred years.

The new paved Highway # 51 goes through the land, and the house is to the left going south, at the intersection of the Nesbitt road and Highway # 51. It is an interesting landmark which has stood well the ravages of war and time, and has been loved and cared for by its owners for all these years. It has been the scene of romances, marriages, births, and deaths, and still stands a silent tribute to a past and beautiful era of Southern history. (1)

#### John W. Nichols Home

In 1841 James River Nichols moved to DeSoto County, making the trip from Alabama to this county in covered wagons, bringing with him many slaves. He chose for the place to build his home a wilderness, which is now the town of Eudora. With his slaves he cleared up the piece of land he bought from Henry Johnson; and from the large poplar logs he cut out of his wilderness, he built the house, which is now known as the Harrel House. Mr. Nichols built first only two large log rooms, connecting these two by split planks laid from one door to another. Later, this was enclosed and made into a hall between the rooms, and another half-story was added above. Finally, two ell-rooms were added to the north side of the house. The slaves' quarters were built at the back of the house.

John W. Nichols, one of DeSoto County's four living Confederate Veterans, who is ninety-one years old, told of one of the old slaves, Lewis Nichols, and his method of entertaining the Nichols children. He

(1) Mrs. W. A. Powell, Nesbitt, Miss.

said they all enjoyed going to old Lewis' cabin, and having him sing some of the old spirituals, tell them stories of "Brer Rabbit and the Fox" and other Uncle Remus stories which had not, at that date, been put in book form. There lives near Eudora, now a negro, Jim Nichols, who is a grandson of this old slave.

Mr. Nichols moved from this location to Dixie, which had become a small town. Here he built a very large log house, in which General Bedford Forrest, his mother and brother, Bill Forrest, were entertained; also General Grant was a guest there. The first old home was sold to a man named Mr. Harrel, who moved there from the Delta and was the founder of Eudora. In the meantime the road had been changed, placing the house about one hundred and fifty yards from the road. This road is now known as Mississippi Highway No. 3, and there is a beautiful cedar and pecan drive leading from it to the front gate of the yard. This driveway was made by Mr. Harrell. In the yard is a beautiful old magnolia tree which was planted by Mrs. Harrell. There are some tremendously large oaks around this house, which are said to be over one hundred years old. To the west of the house, is one of the old fashioned jug-mouthed cisterns. Mrs. Jennie Dean has a three-piece bed-room suite, Chippendale style, which belonged to Mrs. Harrel. This suite of furniture is one hundred and two years old and came from England, where Mrs. Harrel was born. The Chippendale bedstead is valued at five hundred dollars. (1)

#### The Old Raines Home

The beautiful old colonial home in which J. R. McCall now lives, carries one back to pre-war days, when there were only a few homes in our county. Facts concerning this old home were given by Mrs. Sarah Jones as follows:

"The house is located one and one-half miles from Hernando, on the Holly Springs road. It was built by Dr. Sam Raines, who came to this county from Virginia with the old Virginia settlers, who first settled in the northern section of the county. As the county began to grow, these settlers moved to different localities, and it was at this present site that Dr. Raines located, a contractor from South Carolina being engaged for building the house. He came to DeSoto County, bringing with his working force and material for the construction of three homes in the county, one of which has been mentioned. The others were the homes of Joe Boone, and a Mr. Oliver, both of which have been destroyed by fire.

(1) Mrs. S. B. Dean, Eudora, Miss.

"The Raines Home is a beautiful old two-story structure, with two galleries and the large round colonial columns so often used on this type of house. There are three bed rooms, a large enclosed hall, a parlor on the first floor, and a beautiful hand-built circular stairway which leads up from the hall to the second floor. On this floor are three bedrooms and a parlor. The kitchen and dining room are at the back of the house on the first floor. Large brick chimneys at each end of the house are used for heating purposes, and the big old windows, from floor to ceiling, afford plenty of light and ventilation.

"Occupying this home after Dr. Raines, were Anderson Whitley and his family; the place now belongs to Mr. McCall. After all these years, it is in need of few repairs, but still retains its aristocratic dignity." (1)

#### Home of Colonel Felix LaBauve

The old home built and occupied by Colonel Felix LaBauve is located in the southwestern part of Hernando, on old Highway No. 51, near the LaBauve monument. Everywhere is evidenced his love for the beautiful things of life, and is portrayed in the arrangement of the boxwood, shrubbery, and giant old oak trees.

This home is a two-story frame building, with four windows in front and two at each end of the house. These windows are covered with wooden shutters, so popular in pre-war days. On entering the house, you come into an enclosed hall, to the right of which is the old time parlor, with its large inviting open fireplace and hand-built mantel; to the left, is the guest bed room. Typical of all the antebellum homes, the kitchen and dining room were apart from the rear of the house, and there was a step-down of about a foot to enter this department. This part was connected with the house after the death of Felix LaBauve, and there have also been other repairs made, including the addition of another bed room and a dormer. A straight stairway leads up from the hall to a landing above, which has openings into three bed rooms on this floor.

Around the front gallery are hand-carved ballusters about two feet in height, and eight large columns support the roof. A smaller gallery is connected with the rooms above, with balusters surrounding it. The lower gallery is trimmed with a hand-carved cornice.

(1) Mrs. Sarah Jones, Hernando, Miss.

This quaint and lovely old place is a fitting reminder of the beloved old Frenchman, who will continue to hold a place in the hearts of DeSoto Countians.

Mrs. E. J. Bell, the present owner of the house, has succeeded in keeping the old atmosphere of the home, although she has done some repair work on it recently. (1)

#### Home of Mrs. Banks has Rich Romantic History

The home of Mrs. George Banks, a short distance down the street from the courthouse in Hernando, though only about thirty years old, is lovely and modern, and still breathes the air of its rich, romantic background, as luxurious old Southern charm pervades the whole surroundings of the place. Built in typical Southern colonial style, this home follows, in general, the plan of the original home which stood on this spot - the Old Orne Place. The Orne Home was built by Captain Edward Orne, one time sea captain of Salem, Massachusetts, who came to DeSoto County before 1838 as an executive of the Government in regard to lands purchased from the Indians. The earliest record of any negotiations of Captain Orne which can be found in the courthouse now, is the transfer of the present site of the Banks Home from Edward Orne in 1838, and the transfer of the same back to Edward Orne in 1839.

Captain Orne is said to have been a public-spirited citizen of the county, having given a large tract of land to the town of Hernando. It is not known whether this land included the present Hernando courtyard, or whether it was sold and its proceeds used to purchase land for the courthouse lot.

This old Orne Home was closely bound up with the history of DeSoto County, as it was from the east veranda of this old home that many political speeches were delivered directly after the War between the States, and a riot was started in 1876 during a political gathering on the lawn of this place. A shot was fired during a speech and several persons were killed in the ensuing riot.

The first floor of the home of Mrs. Banks follows the plan of the old Orne Home very closely, though most of the house is entirely new. (2)

- (1) Mrs. E. J. Bell, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. George Banks, Hernando, Miss.

#### The Dock Wilson Place and Antiques

About five miles northwest of Pleasant Hill is the old Dock Wilson Place. The log house is still standing, though it is in need of repair, is used for a tenant house now. Mr. Wilson was the grandfather of Mrs. D. W. Bridgforth, of Pleasant Hill, and at one time was a wealthy landowner of DeSoto County.

Mrs. D. W. Bridgforth has many antiques in her possession. Perhaps the most unusual and most beautiful one is the bed-spread woven from the wool of sheep on the farm of her great-grandfather, Mr. Wilson, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and dyed with poke-berry juice from berries picked by Mrs. Bridgforth's mother, Mrs. P. M. Black. Mrs. Bridgforth also has a silver butter stand which belonged to her great-grandmother, Mrs. Young; a silver wine stand, 150 years old, and a Bible 70 years old. The latter was a wedding present from her mother. Mrs. Bridgforth had at her home a coffee jacket which was made by her aunt, Mrs. Boyce, at the age of fifteen years. It is of beautiful red silk, heavily embroidered in white.

Mrs. Betty Bridgforth, Pleasant Hill, has a quilt, known as the Buchanan pattern, made by Mrs. J. W. Chamberlin, the mother of Mrs. Bridgforth. It is beautiful, even though it is over 100 years old; the colors are quite vivid, as the quilt does not appear so old. (1)

#### Major Nesbit's Old Home

In a quiet, secluded spot on a section of land known as "26," the old home built by Major Thomas Nesbit in 1860 was somewhat a country seat, giving name of the town of Nesbit. Major Nesbit paid for this section of land three times because of litigation with minor heirs.

The material for this building was furnished and sawed at Major Nesbit's own sawmill, located in the lowlands of his place, and one thousand dollars was paid to his carpenter for the erection of the building. The plan of the house included double parlors, servant's quarters in the rear, a handsome stairway, and a hall floor painted in designs of stars, as were many other houses of the period. Around the yard were cypress pickets, and upon the gate posts were placed two large cannon balls from

- (1) Mrs. M. G. Robinson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.



Shiloh, which are still standing on the original posts. Here lived the Nesbit family, one of whom was State Senator William T. Nesbit, until the death of Major Nesbit, when the estate was divided. One of Major Nesbit's descendants, Dr. William Bruce Maxwell, at present eighty-four years of age, has his residence on a part of that land.

In 1881 the Nesbit Home was sold to Thomas Oliver Bridgforth for his wife, Mrs. Carolyn Murrah Bridgforth. The Bridgorths left their plantation home near Plum Point and moved to Nesbit to educate their children. In 1889 the house was burned, and the Bridgforth family moved to Athens, Alabama, later moving back to Mississippi. D. E. Wilson, who married Miss Maria Bridgforth, rebuilt the home on the original spot, which he has maintained for over forty years. (1)

#### Story of Old Buchanan Home

The home of T. L. Earnheart, of Eudora, was formerly the home of Dr. Buchanan, the father of Arthur Buchanan, one time Judge of DeSoto County. In 1850, Dr. Buchanan settled at this location, buying the land from an Indian. Steve Buchanan, one of his slaves, helped him to plan this house and did most of the building. The house built was a four-room, two-story, hewn log house, with shutters for windows. The parlor, dining room, and kitchen were on the ground floor, with sleeping quarters above.

In 1888 Dr. Buchanan, with his family, moved to Hernando in order that Arthur could practice law. He sold this place to Jake Burrus, who later, divided the place between two of his sons, Will and Tom. Tom bought Will's part, and he, with his sister, Mrs. Kelso, moved into this house.

In 1896 the house caught fire, burning for three days and two nights, before the blaze was located. On the third day, Mr. Burrus discovered that one of the elm sleepers under the room used for a smoke house was burning, but had not gained enough headway to set the old floor on fire.

Tom Burrus sold the place to Mr. Earnheart, who recently had it remodeled. (2)

#### Historic Air of Old Home Still Pervades

One mile west of Eudora, on Highway # 3, stands an old log house that was built about 90 years ago by the

(1) Mrs. W. A. Powell, Nesbitt, Miss.

(2) T. L. Earnheart, Eudora, Miss.

slaves of Dr. Miller, who owned the place at that time. It is a four-room house with an open hall, long front porch, and small back porch. Not many years ago the house was weather-boarded and ceiled, but the historic air of the place was not destroyed.

During the War between the States a Mr. McElroy lived there, and it was the scene of several raids by Yankee soldiers; on one occasion the soldiers cut holes in the quilts, carrying them away on their horses, and beat the feathers from the beds around the old cedar trees which are still standing in the yard.

Soon after the war, Will McClanahan, formerly of Georgia, purchased the place, and a pine tree which he brought with him and planted in the front yard, is now very large and in good condition. McClanahan operated an old horse gin near his home for a number of years, considering two bales of cotton a good day's work.

Jake Burrus bought the place from McClanahan, and cut fence rails from chestnut trees which had been brought from Georgia and planted by McClanahan, and fenced in the entire place. This home, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Livingston of Eudora, and occupied by Jim Sing, is still known as the old Burrus place. (1)

#### The Clint White Place

The first house on what is now known as the Clint White Place was built by Henry L. Johnson, a Revolutionary War veteran, who came to DeSoto County from Raleigh, North Carolina. Johnson bought the place from an Indian, Tubby-Hoo, who was paid cash for it. Several years after he built the house, Johnson was bitten by a rattlesnake and died.

In 1865, Amanda Johnson Jones married Clint White, and they built the house which now stands near this location; negroes moved into the original one-room log house.

At one time, White had fifteen acres in apples, peaches, pears, and apricots. He marketed much of this fruit in the Delta, carrying it there by wagon loads; he also operated a cider mill near his home. His six boys and three girls worked in the mill, the heavy work being carried on by negroes. The cider and vinegar made

(1) Tom Burrus, Eudora, Miss.

here were marketed locally and in Memphis; pulp from the mill was fed to the stock, of which Mr. White raised large numbers. (1)

#### Descendants of Pioneer Family Still Live on Old Home

Standing in a large oak grove just off Highway #51, about two miles north of Hernando, is the home of Robert Gale. This is a one-story log-house, which, Mr. Gale states was built many years before the War between the States by Major A. M. McKay. The logs for the house were cut on the place nearby, and spaces between the logs were filled in with short strips or chips, and these were then covered with plaster or mortar. The doors of the house are hand-made and originally belonged to the old Tate Home, which once stood just over the hill from Gale's place. This is an attractive old place, and the house is in good repair.

John Gale, father of Robert Gale, present owner of the home, came to DeSoto County in 1854, indirectly from Ireland, being the first section foreman of the Mississippi and Tennessee Railroad. John Gale purchased this home soon after his arrival in DeSoto County, and it has remained in the Gale family ever since. (2)

#### Four Generations Live in Old Home

The beautiful old home of Mrs. J. J. Miller and her daughter, Mrs. Eugene Clark, may be seen from Highway # 78 at Miller, five miles southeast of Olive Branch. This typical old southern home of colonial style is a stately and beautiful part of DeSoto County and speaks of the romance and glory of earlier days.

Col. William L. Miller, grandfather of Mrs. Clark, came to this county from Fayetteville, North Carolina, many years before the War between the States, and bought the land on which the present home is located and built a log cabin, in which he lived for several years. He installed a saw mill nearby, at which he sawed all the lumber for the building of his new home, which Mrs. Miller states, is over ninety years old. It is put together with wooden pegs instead of nails and is very securely built, having three stories and very high ceilings. Many antiques are in the home, one of which is a beautiful old bed with canopy. The front walk is lined on either side with valuable box wood shrubs.

At present there are four generations living in this home. (3)

- 
- (1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.
  - (2) Mrs. Robert Gale, Hernando, Miss.
  - (3) Mrs. J.J. Miller, Miller, Miss.

#### Antebellum Home Near State Line

Standing in a large grove at Plum Point, just over the Tennessee-Mississippi State line in Mississippi, about eight miles northwest of Pleasant Hill, is another antebellum home, known as the Finley Holmes Home.

It is a two-story log house, built many years before the War between the States by the slaves of Francis Holmes, grandfather of the late Finley V. Holmes, who resided there until his death a few weeks ago. It is weather-boarded with lumber cut by hand for the purpose of building the house.

This beautiful old home is on the spot where Finley Holmes settled when he came to DeSoto County in 1836. He built a log cabin at first, which was replaced by the present building by his son, Francis Holmes. This property has never been out of the possession of the Holmes family, and here have been reared three generations to honor the name. (1)

#### Emerson Colonial Home

The Southern colonial home of C. E. Emerson was built before the War between the States by Major A. M. McKay, but after he built the Robert Gale Home north of Hernando.

This home passed from Major McKay's hands to his daughter, Mrs. Van Fleet, of Memphis, and it was later owned by J. M. Dockery, who sold it to C. E. Emerson, the present owner, in 1918; it was then remodeled, and is today one of Hernando's prettiest old homes. (2)

#### Boyhood Home of Famous Poet, Walter Malone

The beautiful old southern home of the late Dr. Franklin Jefferson Malone, surgeon in the Mexican War, and father of Walter Malone, famous poet, still stands on the State Line Road, four miles from Capleville, Tennessee.

The beauty of this home is enhanced by the trees which surround it, shading its spacious veranda and balcony above, making the place a very inviting one in the summer.

- 
- (1) Mrs. F. G. Holmes, Hernando, Miss.
  - (2) Mrs. C. E. Emerson, Hernando, Miss.

The home has changed little in outward appearance since its earliest days. The kitchen, which once stood apart from the house, has in recent years been built onto the house; a partition has also been put in the house, creating a hall which did not exist originally. As first built, the two-story frame home had three large rooms downstairs and two upstairs. In the room to the right of the hall as you enter the house, are books and many other things which belonged to Walter Malone. Among these articles is a copy of his poem, "Opportunity," in his own handwriting.

Dr. Franklin Jefferson Malone came to this country in 1860 from Athens, Alabama, and bought this home from Mr. Austen, who had built it a good many years before - about 1840. Here the poet, Walter Malone, was born, and in a room upstairs he composed much of his early poetry.

This home is still in possession of the Malone family, and is occupied during this summer by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lane, relatives of Mrs. F. M. Malone. The house is in good repair and has been painted recently. It is loved and revered by the Malone family, and is kept as nearly as possible as it was in its early days. (1)

#### Home of Editor and Publisher

The home which once belonged to W. S. Slade, former editor and publisher of the DeSoto County paper, stands in the northwestern part of Hernando, but is now owned by Mrs. Fanny Dixon, of Como.

Only two rooms of the old hewn-log house remain, and join in an ell. When repair work was done on the house since the war, these logs were weather-boarded outside and ceiled inside, and an ell-shaped porch added. This is a small home, built low on the ground, with windows not nearly so large as those found in most antebellum homes, and covered with wooden shutters.

The chief attraction of this old place is its beautiful shaded lawn, on which stand an elm and cherry tree almost as old as the house upon which their shadows fall. (2)

- 
- (1) Dr. F. M. Malone, Capleville, Tennessee  
 (2) Mrs. Fannie Dixon, Como, Miss.

#### Woods Home, Where General Forrest Boarded

The home of W. F. Woods, near the depot in Hernando, is an old log house, one-story high, that has been weather-boarded. The date of its erection, or who built it, is not known, but an old chimney torn down a few years ago bore the date of 1842. Double-doors were put in the house last year, and Mr. Wood stated that the carpenter was compelled to sharpen his saw three times before he succeeded in severing the logs. At one point the roof is double, and here the hand-made shingles are as solid as when they were first put on.

W. F. Wood, the present occupant of the house, purchased the place from S. P. Hurt in 1904, who in turn had purchased it from Mrs. O. E. Johnson in 1897. General Forrest boarded here previous to the time that he married and owned his home in Hernando. (1)

#### Old Home Became Hospital During Yellow Fever Epidemic

The home of Dr. A. L. Emerson, in Hernando, another antebellum one - redolent with memories of earlier days - was built in 1841 by Dr. Henry Dockery and was afterwards owned by Dr. R. E. Bullington, who sold it to N. M. Whitley, father of Mrs. A. L. Emerson. The yard, planned by Mrs. Whitley, is laid off with a design of box wood, and many shrubs surround the house.

The front of the house is two stories high, while the back is only one-story. The rooms are large, the ceilings are high, and the window-facings and stairway are of solid walnut. This is a typical old Southern home, retaining the characteristic air of hospitality and quiet charm for which it has always been known.

During the yellow fever epidemic in Hernando in 1878, this home was turned into a hospital for the suffering. (2)

#### Blocker Home - Over One Hundred Years Old

The Blocker Home at Olive Branch was built in 1854 by Milton Blocker, who was among the first settlers in the county. The home, now weather-boarded and made larger, was originally a log house.

- 
- (1) W. F. Wood, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) G. E. Emerson, Hernando, Miss.

The Blocker family has continued to own the house and land surrounding it since it was purchased from a Chickasaw Indian in 1833. It is now the home of Milton and Brooks Blocker, grandsons of Milton Blocker, who first settled the land and who gave lots for the establishment of the cemetery at Olive Branch, and for the Methodist and Baptist Churches.

This one-story white house has a large porch across the entire front, supported by white columns, and is located on a large hill across the street from the grammar school at Olive Branch. (1)

#### Old Place Where Famous Watermelons are Grown

Standing in a large oak grove southwest of Byhalia, in the midst of acres of farmland, is the beautiful old Southern home of Albert Myers, former member of the Mississippi Legislature. This large two-story white house was built in 1856-57 by Absolem Myers, grandfather of Albert Myers; Absolem Myers, who had six sons in the War between the States, came from Waynesboro, North Carolina, and settled in Marshall County, where he lived for one year before coming to DeSoto, and building the Myers Home. This home now has the same roof that was put on it when it was first built, and the whole house, with the exception of the rounds in the stairway, was built from lumber cut on the place. It is on this place that the Myers watermelons, famous throughout this section, are grown. (2)

#### Home Was Once the Hernando Academy

The old home of the late Judge A. M. Mosley, of Hernando, now known as the Gwin or Old Mosley Place, is a large two-story frame building, typically Old Southern in style. It was in this home, that Mrs. A. M. Mosley taught a private school for years, and Miss Nellie White, daughter of the late Colonel T. A. White, states that this house was originally the Hernando Academy, which is said to have been the first school of the Chickasaw Cession, and that a corner stone, inscribed with the words, "The Hernando Academy," was once a part of the house. This stone has been stolen, however, as well as many valuable flowers and shrubs from the lawn of the place.

The place is now owned by Mrs. George Banks, who remodeled it about nine years ago and had an antique shop

- (1) Milton Blocker, Olive Branch, Miss.  
(2) Albert Myers, Byhalia, Miss.

located there for a year or two. It is now the home of Mrs. Fletcher Lamar; is attractive and spacious, having four large rooms downstairs and a large hall; the upstairs is very similar in plan. The large stairway can be seen from the front door. (1)

#### Three Generations Have Lived in Walker Home

The home of Miss Mary Walker, located three and one-half miles southeast of Horn Lake, is another pioneer home of DeSoto County. It was originally a four-room log-house of one and one-half stories, and built by Mr. Shannon, a nephew of Mrs. Jewel Walker, who, with her family of children, came to this county from Franklin, Tennessee, in 1844. Mrs. Jewel Walker, grandmother of Professor Sam Walker and Miss Mary Walker, who now live there, first settled at the present site and lived in a log cabin, which still stands a few yards from the present house.

The logs for the house were cut from trees on the place and hewn by the slaves; bricks for the chimney were made on the place also, and are still in use, as are the solid and sound logs.

The house stood as it was first built until 1929, when it was remodeled, and three porches added. At first, there was only one window to a side, but now there are two to a side, and one at the side of each chimney.

Three generations of the Walker family have lived in this house and the third and fourth generations spend the summers there. This homey old place, with its old-fashioned flower garden, makes a lovely picture against the background of oak trees. (2)

#### Davis Home Has Sheltered Three Generations

The home of Mrs. Hector Davis, located about two and one-half miles east of Highway #51, on the Goodman Road, dates back about one hundred years. It was built by Beverly Davis, grandfather of the late Hector Davis, in the days when the Indians were leaving DeSoto County. It being originally a log-house, it is now weather-boarded, plastered, double-ceiled, and double-floored, with a concrete foundation. The old logs are still in the walls.

- (1) Miss Nellie White, Hernando, Miss.  
(2) Miss Mary Walker, Horn Lane, Miss.

In front of the house stand several beautiful maple trees which were brought from the North and planted by Mrs. Beverly Davis; they are now fully one hundred feet in height. The old cistern on the place, now holding about fifteen hundred barrels of water, is dug straight down in the ground, and is still in use.

Three generations of the Davis family have lived in this house, Beverly, John Hector, and John Hector, II. (1)

#### Flynn Home - Formerly Yellow Fever Hospital

Mrs. P. B. Marshall, Hernando, states that during the yellow fever epidemic, Senator Harris built a hospital in Hernando, but after the epidemic, the house was sold to a Mr. Lockheart and made into a residence. The place was later sold to R. L. Redding, and then to T. P. Flynn, who now owns it. This house is located on East Commerce, two and one-half blocks from the square. (2)

#### The Old Botts Place and Antiques

Many old places well-known by the old-timers of DeSoto County have been torn away or destroyed by fire in recent years.

One of these was the "Old Botts Place," near Olive Branch. It was one of the prettiest homes of the county and one of the oldest landmarks. The house had three stories, and was a typical old Southern home, with colonial columns supporting the front veranda.

Mrs. M. H. White gives a romantic story of the early occupants of this antebellum home of approximately 25 rooms in its three stories, with a concrete basement, and spacious ball-room with hardwood floors. She states that the home was built by an Englishman, Mr. Wood, many years before the War between the States, and that she had seen the naturalization papers of Wood, which her husband found in the old home. The papers were taken out in Memphis, but Mrs. White does not remember the date they bore. The architect who built the home was Mr. Botts, who married Mrs. Wood after the death of her husband. At present the place is sadly in need of repair. (3)

#### Home of Methodist Circuit Rider

The old log house of Rev. German Baker, a Methodist circuit rider, located southwest of Pleasant Hill, was

- 
- (1) Mrs. Hector Davis, Hernando, Miss.
  - (2) Miss Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.
  - (3) Mrs. H. M. White, Eudora, Miss.



OLD FLYNN HOME USED AS HOSPITAL  
DURING THE YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC 1878.

erected in 1836 by his slaves, whom he brought here from North Carolina. The logs for this house were cut from the woods on the place; the brick were made from native clay, and the mortar was made from sand taken out of Baker's Spring. Not a nail went into the construction of the house, and the building consists of four rooms and a hallway. The kitchen was built in the back yard, apart from the house. In the hall some members of the family had regular places to sit, causing marks to be worn into the floor and wall by constant use.

Perhaps for the past fifty years, negroes have occupied this house, consequently it is in a very delapidated state. (1)

#### Old Homes at Pleasant Hill

The old Thomas Gray Place, two miles west of Pleasant Hill, though not standing today, was once a very beautiful southern home. It was one-story, with a large veranda supported by white Corinthian columns. The rooms were large, and the house was made on a Swiss plan, being wider toward the back and giving most of the rooms a front exposure. In front of the large lawn was a long row of beautiful lombardy poplars. Thomas Gray came here from North Carolina in 1838, buying three sections of land from the Boston Land Company. Part of the house was erected the year after his arrival, but the front part was not completed until 1847 by architects Shubert and Perry.

-----

Another old place of Pleasant Hill was the Thomas Maxwell Home, which was a log house, located near the present home of Thomas and Emma Johnson.

-----

The home of Stephen D. Johnston, between Pleasant Hill and Hernando, was built in 1836, and part of it still stands. It was a one and-a-half-story frame building, and Stephen D. was the grandfather of Grady Johnston, of Hernando, Attorney at Law.

---

(1) Mrs. G. M. Robinson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.

Robert Wilkinson's Place was an eight or nine room southern colonial home, built on the present site of Coleman Anderson's home, about four miles from Hernando, on the Pleasant Hill Road.

-----

Captain Tom Maxwell's Place was an old frame house located across the road from the Thomas Gray Place. It no longer stands. (1)

#### Old Homes Near Olive Branch

The log house of Atabelepa Stuart, built in the latter thirties, stood just behind the present home of Dr. H. A. Stuart, of Olive Branch, grandson of Atabelepa Stuart. During the War between the States, Yankees pitched camp at this location. (2)

-----

The old log house at Sam Watson, located near the present site of T. H. Norvell's home at Olive Branch, was where Watson wrote several books on spiritualism. This home burned a number of years ago. (3)

-----

The old Swearington Place, near Mineral Wells, is one of the oldest homes in that community. It is a two-story log house with a balcony upstairs and a front porch downstairs.

-----

The home of Miss Joe Perry of Olive Branch is built on the site of the old home of Major John G. Clemens and his wife, Charity. The original house burned after the War between the States, and the present one was built. Near the house are buried Mr. and Mrs. Clemens and their daughter, Eliza Rozelle. (4)

-----

Another old house at Olive Branch, known as the Jake Joyner Place, no longer stands, but M. E. Woodson is present owner of the site.

- 
- (1) Mrs. M. G. Robinson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
 (2) Dr. H. A. Stuart, Olive Branch, Miss.  
 (3) T. H. Norvell, Olive Branch, Miss.  
 (4) Miss Joe Perry, Olive Branch, Miss.

About three miles southwest of Olive Branch is the John Lindsay Place, now owned by Bill Griffie.

#### Old Homes Near Love

Although the community of Love was very small until after the war, and consequently has few antebellum homes, there are a number of places that have become landmarks. One of the oldest of these is the McNich Place, located about one mile from Coldwater River on Highway #51. Settled before the war, the house is of more modern construction, however, it dates back further than most of the houses near it; it is constructed in typical Southern style with a dividing hall, and long porch in front. The basement under the frame house consists of two rooms, equipped with fire places and formerly used partly as living quarters. Negroes now live in the house, which is owned by John Miller. Another old house on this place is a frame building on the railroad, directly east of the other house. This is also occupied by negroes.

-----

The Dennis Place, two miles north of Love, on the old Belmont Road, is owned by Sam Belfour, negro. The house is a frame building which shows the mark of age, but is in very good repair. The date of its construction is now known.

-----

The old log home of Jim Dalehite, early citizen of Love, and founder of the Dalehite school, still stands in part. The remaining three rooms are occupied by negroes. The place is owned by B. G. Gason.

-----

The Tom Clifton Place, one-half mile west of Love, is owned by Z. H. Wheeler, and the old frame house is in good repair. The four rooms and hall have very high ceilings; two rooms and the hall are plastered.

-----

The lovely old frame house that was the home of Dr. W. K. Love, at Love Station, was located on a high hill overlooking the little village which was named in

honor of Dr. Love. The home burned about ten years ago and has been replaced with a small frame house. This hill is the present location of the Mississippi Training Kennels, noted for the training of bird dogs. (1)

-----

The old Solomon Home, occupied by Grif Solomon, was one of the first houses built in the Beach Grove neighborhood, which was settled soon after the war. The house is a two-story frame building in good repair, overlooking the old Panola road, just on the edge of Cold-water bottom.

#### Cockrum Old Homes

The old Jones Place, across the road from the present home of Dugad Elder, of Cockrum, is still marked by the antebellum home which has survived the ravages of time. It is a frame house and has changed much in appearance since it was built.

-----

Another old home of historic importance in the Cockrum neighborhood is the old Jephtha Langston Home, located across the street from the present home of Vernon Langston. This frame house is in poor condition, but is still occupied.

-----

The old Miller Place, one and one-half miles from Cockrum, is now owned by W. F. Sage, but the historic old house no longer stands. Here Dr. Kirby studied medicine under Dr. Miller, owner of the home in 1854.

-----

The double-log, weather-boarded home, known as the old Carter Place, still stands one mile from the Cockrum Church. Jeff Carter, whose father owned the above place, built his home one-half mile distant. Both homes were constructed before the war, and still stand.

-----

An old log house near Cockrum, now occupied by negroes, was built by the father of John McNeely several years before the war.

(1) Miss Lula Scott, Love, Miss.  
Percy Scott, Love, Miss.

Two and one-half miles from Cockrum the house built by Ransom Lee before the war is still standing. Originally a log house, it was later weather-boarded and ceiled.

-----

The John Stevens Place, one mile from Cockrum, is an old landmark.

-----

At the present site of the Cockrum school house once stood a hotel built by W. F. Cockrum, pioneer settler for whom the town was named.

-----

Part of the home of Jimmie Martin, which was built before the War between the States, still stands one and one-half miles west of Cockrum.

-----

The Davy Dean Place, two and one-fourth miles south of Cockrum, has been remodeled, and is now the home of Vernon Greer.

-----

Another antebellum home was located one mile south of Cockrum, where the present home of Pete Goins now stands. It was the home of Alex Stephens.

-----

The O'Neill Place, part of which now stands, is another old landmark of Cockrum community.

-----

The home of Edgar Smothers, which burned several years ago, was built before the war, and occupied by Hiram Drane soon after its construction.



The Colonel Allen Place, two and one-half miles from Cockrum, was burned several years ago.

-----

The Will Jackson Place, a double-log house, is still standing.

-----

The Major Pounders Place, two and one-half miles from Cockrum, on the Hernando Road, burned some time ago. He was one of the first settlers of the Cockrum community. (1)

-----

The home of Lynn Burford, near Mineral Wells, is a log house. Burford was one of the richest men of DeSoto County; it is said that he owned so many slaves that he did not know all of them, and that he made a great deal of money during the War between the States by slipping the blockade and selling his cotton to the Yankees in Memphis at a dollar a pound. (2)

#### Other Old Homes

The old James Oliver Place, which has recently been repaired, is a two-story log house, nearly one hundred years old. It is located directly west of the Springdale Cemetery, a few miles from Hernando. Negroes have been living in the house for several years.

-----

Another old place which is in bad condition today is the old Daniel Boone Place. It is a six-room log cottage, one and one-half miles from Hernando, on the Holly Springs Road.

-----

The Joe Boone Place was located where the home of Dr. Williams of Hernando, now stands.

- 
- (1) Corell Clayton, Cockrum, Miss.  
 (2) Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.



RUINS OF OLD CHEATHAM HOME  
 FORMERLY ONE OF THE ANTE-BELLUM HOMES  
 OF THE COUNTY

The old log house built by T. B. Jones, grandfather of Fulton Jones, located four and one-half miles west of Hernando, is still standing in part. It is now on land owned by C. P. Dockery. T. B. Jones came to this county from North Carolina in 1838, and settled at this place.

-----

One and one-half miles north of Fairview Negro Church, on the Ingrams Mill - Miller Road, is the old Nesbit home, built by Tommie Nesbit.

-----

To the south of this, near Macedonia Church, is the old Cathey Home, formerly known as the Maines' Place. Further east, at what is known as Smoky Hollow, is the old Julius Joyner Place. Only one room is standing of this old log house.

-----

In the same neighborhood, nearer Watson Precinct, is the home of the late J. H. Simpson, who was a well known and able member of the Mississippi Legislature for years. He is remembered for his public speeches and contributions to the county paper. The house is a two-story frame building of southern colonial style. It was owned and built by Mr. Wood, an Englishman, many years prior to the War between the States, but it burned in the summer of 1936.

-----

About one mile east of the home of Robert Gale, of Hernando, is the old Simpson Tate Place. The home was built before the war, and was torn down years afterward. (1)

-----

The site of the log house of Stephen Flynn, one of the earliest settlers of the Olive Branch neighborhood, is about three miles southeast of Olive Branch on Highway 78. Before the war, a plank road connecting Holly Springs with Memphis, lay in front of the house. Stephen Flynn came to DeSoto County with his brother-in-law, Milton Blocker, from Alabama, and they bought land in 1833 from

---

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.

the Indians. They built homes on adjoining land before sending for their families. The Flynn Place is now owned by Preston Sloane, great-grandson of Stephen Flynn. (1)

-----

Along the State Line Road, on the edge of DeSoto County, were two old places once well-known, though the houses no longer stand. One of these was the Bonner Place, located on the corner of the State Line and Pleasant Hill Roads. It was a beautiful two-story white house. Near this home were two blacksmith shops, at which men of the neighborhood gathered to discuss politics and to read the paper which came weekly. One mile west of the Finley Holmes Place, on the State Line Road, was the Hildebrande Home. Both this and the Bonner Place burned a few years after the War between the States.

-----

On the Pleasant Hill Road, one mile past the state line, was the old Taylor Home, a very large one-story house. East of this, on the left side of the road, was the Yerby Rozelle Place. Solomon Rozelle, father of Yerby, was on the county school board, and it was in his honor that the Rozelle School of Memphis, was named.

-----

The home of Dr. Robert Smith, known as the Old Smith Place, an antebellum log house, is now the home of Mrs. Nora Spears, of Ingrams Mill. The house has been remodeled during recent years.

-----

On the hill south of Hernando jail stands the old home of Judge West, which was once called "Bohemia." The place was famous for its beautiful flowers, but the house is now owned by Robert Thompson, negro.

-----

The large one-story house setting back from the road in a large grove, about one mile north of Love, on Highway 51, is the old Major Dockery Place. Negroes now live in the house.

(1) Milton Blocker, Olive Branch, Miss.

The old Stokes Place, a few miles east of the home of Mrs. W. A. Powell, of Nesbitt, is another antebellum log house, which still stands.

-----

The home of Mrs. Annie Lambeth in the town of Hernando, is a colonial cottage which was originally a log house. It was built many years before the War between the States by Mr. Fort, and is known as the old Rice Place. The house was remodeled by Mrs. Mollie Rice, who had two rooms and other small additions made. Its shady yard is laid off in boxwood designs on either side of its brick walk. (1)

#### Cutting a Road Through the Wilderness

Mrs. J. B. Riley, Eudora, relates that the first negroes - about 75 families - were brought into the southern part of the county by Dr. Dockery and Tom Atkins from North and South Carolina. These men stopped at what is now Mooretown and it took the negroes five days to cut a road through the wilderness of trees and blue cane to Cub Lake, a distance of nine miles. It was here that the first saw mill was built in 1863 - The Pratt Sawmill - and was run by water. The lumber was floated down Cub Lake slough to Vicksburg, where it was marketed. Once a year the lumber was rafted and floated. (2)

#### Hernando Citizen has Prized Relics

John Lauderdale says that he has a collection of relics in his home near Hernando that belonged to his grandmother. These include a piece of a dress of Martha Washington's, a lock of Andrew Jackson's hair, a cap and collar worn by the mother of James K. Polk, and a vest worn by the "Tennessee Giant" - a man, who Mr. Lauderdale says, was over seven feet tall, and at the time of his death weighed over a thousand pounds. (3)

#### Old Mahogany Antiques

Mrs. W. D. Gooch, of Hernando, has the following antiques in her home: Two solid mahogany love seats and divan, brought from Georgia in a covered wagon in 1837; one highboy and a sideboard, both mahogany, brought from Cincinnati on a flatboat before there was ever a warehouse

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) Ibid.  
 (3) John Lauderdale, Hernando, Miss.

in Memphis; a set of china that belonged to Wm. White and wife, of Georgia, in 1818, which has been handed down through generations to the present day without a piece being broken; two Dresden china vases, dating to 1839; a quilt made in Georgia in 1798 (double Irish chain); a hat trunk which belonged to her grandmother, Sarah Ann White, and brought from Georgia in 1839 with her trousseau; a silver chain brought from Leicestershire, England, by Colonel T. W. White, and given to his sister, Sarah White Oliver, in 1882, said by the English shopkeeper to be 200 years old at that time; a bed coverlet made in Brazil in 1860, of dark brown linen and silk; an old music box, playing ten tunes, that belonged to Captain A. Dockery in 1880. (1)

Collection of Old Documents, Antiques, and Relics by Mrs. Dockery

Mrs. C. P. Dockery, of Club Lake, has one of the most interesting collection of old letters, diaries and documents in DeSoto County.

She has a leather chest which belonged to Mrs. David T. Oliver; it is about one foot long, eight inches high, and six inches wide, and covered in dark brown leather, and tacked with brass top brads. It is stuffed with valuable papers once belonging to Captain Oliver. One of the most interesting articles in this chest was a reply to a wedding invitation announcing the wedding of Miss Sally Fraiser to Captain David T. Oliver. It was headed Strong Point, and dated November 10, 1857. Among the collection is a small book containing a diary kept by David T. Oliver, Captain of Company F 22nd Mississippi Regiment. This contained a full account of the seige of Vicksburg, describing the battle day by day; it also gives the names of some of the other members of his company. (2)

There was a letter from W. H. Hancock to Mrs. Oliver telling her of the death of her husband, Captain Oliver, and began with the heading, "In line of battle, near Nashville;" it told Mrs. Oliver that her husband had been killed while in battle, that the soldiers advanced, but had to retreat. The body of Captain Oliver had been in the hands of the enemy for several hours, and when it was found, all his possessions had been taken; these included his sword, watch, pocket knife, and pocket-book, which had been searched and all

(1) Mrs. W. D. Gooch, Hernando, Miss.

(2) Mrs. C. P. Dockery, Club Lake, Miss.

money and valuable papers removed. He told Mrs. Oliver there was nothing he could send her for a souvenir, but that he had cut a lock of hair from the Captain's head, and was sending it to her in three different letters to be sure she would get one of them. He told her where the captain was buried, and made the place very clear because he thought she might want his body brought home after the war was over. He said he had secured a very beautiful cedar casket to bury him in. The letter ended with these words: "The Captain fell in twenty feet of the enemy's breast works, and many of his brave company were wounded in and on the works of the enemy. W. H. Hancock." (1)

After the war, Mrs. Oliver removed the body from the cemetery near Nashville to the burial lot at the old Oliver Homestead near Hernando.

This letter was sent to Mrs. Oliver by a soldier, and as there were no envelopes during the war, all the letters received from her husband were made by cutting the paper to be folded to make an envelope. The letters were written on these, folded, sealed with gum, and sent by a soldier to whom they were addressed.

There was a copy from an old order from the Board of Police, which is now the Board of Supervisors:

"THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DESOTO COUNTY

"At a meeting of the Board of County Police, held in and for said County at the Courthouse in Hernando on the 29th day of May, A. D. 1860.

"It was ordered by the Board that D. T. Oliver be, and he is hereby appointed, overseer of the Commerce Road from this date and work from the corporation line of Hernando to Hurricane Bridge, with the following hands, to-wit:

"His own hands (slaves); Jim Dockery's hands (slaves); S. Oliver's hands (slaves); F. B. White's hands (slaves); J. D. Whitley's hands (slaves); J. S. Oliver's hands (slaves).

"Issued the 9th day of June, A. D. 1860.

"Signed: R. R. West, Clerk

(1) From a letter to Mrs. Oliver from W. H. Hancock, Hernando, Miss.

"31st Article --- Road Laws Revised Code  
Return this the first Monday in February, 1861.

"Signed: R. R. West, Clerk

O. K. " (1)

Mrs. Dockery has a telegram that was sent by David T. Oliver to Captain J.W. Fraiser, in 1863. The message was sent by telegraph from West Point via Mobile to Fraiserville, S. C. :

"Captain J. W. Fraiser,  
Fraiserville, South Carolina

"Send two wagons to Augusta for my negroes - they will be there Tuesday or Wednesday night.

"Signed: David T. Oliver" (2)

Mrs. C. P. Dockery has a wool spread that was hand-woven in 1853 by the slaves of Colonel Shelton White, of Cherry Creek. The wool used in this spread was cut from sheep raised by Colonel White, and the dyes were made from poke-berries and other plants grown on the White Plantation.

A thirty-six piece china set, bought in 1853 at New Orleans, Louisiana, by Colonel Shelton White, grandfather of Mrs. C. P. Dockery is now in her possession. It is white with pink border, hand-painted baby pink, and blue roses touched off in gilt. This set consists of dinner plates, salad plates, two cake plates, large tea pot, cream pitcher, and sugar bowl.

Mrs. C. P. Dockery has a white China fruit bowl on pedestal; a cut glass fruit stand on a pedestal that is scalloped around the top; also two cut glass wine decanters that match the cut glass fruit stand.

#### Antique Shop

Mrs. George Banks and her daughters, Miss Minor Banks and Mrs. Mildred Banks Morrow, opened an antique shop in the old Morgan Building on Center Street, Hernando, in August, 1928. They accumulated quite a lot of furniture made back in the days of our grandfathers, great-grandfathers, and earlier times. Most of this came from Virginia and North Carolina, where it was purchased from the owners. This collection consisted of old beds, highboys,

(1) Board of County Police Record, May, 1860

(2) Telegram sent by David T. Oliver in 1863.

as the chest of drawers is called, sofas, and crockery ware of other days. In the manufacture of this furniture various woods were employed and at the time the articles were made only select woods were used in making the furniture. Those mostly employed by the cabinet-maker and other wood-workers were walnut, cherry, maple, and yellow poplar. The Morgan Building was used for the shop while the old Gwyn Place was being repaired and fitted up. Minor's Antique Shop opened at the Gwyn Place, December 6, 1928.

#### Rare Antiques in Brigance Home

In the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brigance, of Oak Grove, are found a number of rare antiques. An extension table, hand-made and 120 years old, is now being used by the fourth generation. It first belonged to Melvin Brigance, next to Jeff Brigance, then to Joe Brigance, and now to Mrs. McClain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brigance. It is of solid walnut, with a twenty-foot extension. Also found in this home is a mahogany table belonging to Mrs. George Nail, drop-leaf on a pedestal, that is over 110 years old.

A most unusual antique is a beautiful home-made high chair which was made by one of the shop men of G. W. Nail. This chair was used by all the children of G. W. Nail, Sr., the seven children of G. W. Nail, Jr., the five children of Mrs. George Nail, and the Brigance children. This chair is made of hickory, put together with pegs, and has a split hickory bottom. They also have a bedside table about 90 years old; it is hand-made and put together with wooden pegs.

#### Mrs. S. B. Dean Has Interesting Antique Collection

Mrs. S. B. Dean, Eudora, has a valuable collection of antiques. Among these is a Cathedral bed, Anderson make, that was formerly owned by William Byrd Bridgforth, father of Mrs. S. B. Dean, and is over 100 years old. It is made of walnut, trimmed in panels of grafted wood of curly maple and walnut.

A Crusade pin, a very pretty piece of old gold jewelry, was purchased by Mrs. Dean from an antique dealer, therefore, the history of it is not known. She also has a

shell pin with pearl settings which was purchased from C. L. Byrd, jeweler in Memphis. She has two silver table-spoons and one mustard spoon, owned by Mrs. T. O. Bridgforth in 1857; also a walnut antique chair, fiddle back, and two colonial picture frames, one mahogany and one ebony trimmed, that belonged to J. W. Chamberlain.

She owns a side board, Caucasian walnut, that belonged to T. J. Dean; it is trimmed with wood, imitation of sea shells, grape and leaves design, with a background of birdshot wood.

A colonial clock made by Wm. L. Gilbert and Company, of Winchester, Connecticut, was purchased by Mrs. Dean from a slave that was in the Bridgforth family. She has in her possession a sampler embroidered by Mrs. Hardy Dean, worked in the red rose design, and bearing the words, "Sweet rest in Heaven." She also has a white cotton bed-spread made of spun thread and woven by Mrs. David Robinson, who was the great grandmother of Mrs. Dean; and a quilt, "Queen Victoria's Crown," pieced by Mrs. Robertson. Both spread and quilt are over 100 years old, but are in a very good state of preservation. Mrs. Dean also has a beautiful old woven blanket, in mingled colors of white, pink, red, blue, and black. The black was colored with poke-berries, the blue was colored with indigo dye made from a home-grown indigo, the black was from wool of black sheep, and the white and red was combined to make the pink. This spread is approximately 120 years old and was made by the mother of Mrs. J. W. Chamberlain, who was a Stewart, and a descendant from the Carruthers family, who was from Elbert County, Georgia.

Mrs. Dean has a picture in an amber frame, of Mrs. T. O. Bridgforth in Queen Victoria costume; her hair is parted in the center, and hangs in curls, with a tucking comb worn at the back. She also has a hand-drawn picture of the old Marshall Institute located in Marshall County, drawn by Caroline Gray, grandmother of Mrs. Dean.

Mrs. Dean has a colonial mirror, a gate-leg table, and a hand-painted dresser set of early American frosted glass, with tulip design. The two pieces of this set, powder and toilet water containers, belonged to Mrs. J. W. Chamberlain.

A permit for leave of absence to Private John Chamberlain, given by R. E. McCarthy, first lieutenant,

commanding Company K, 9th Mississippi Regiment, is a prized possession of Mrs. Dean's. This was issued during the war

Two bronze urns, given to Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Dean as a bridal present by J. J. Huddleston, are highly valued. These urns are from Philadelphia. (1)

#### Story of the "Elizabeth Box"

Mrs. Percy Howard, Walls, has the following antiques in her home: Two fiddle-back chairs; two poster beds, the Early American graduated spool type with tester; a Jackson Press; a Middle Tennessee sugar chest; her great-grandmother's sewing table, and bedside table, and an old secretary.

Mrs. Howard also has a small jewelry box, known in her family as the "Elizabeth Box." The story which Mrs. Howard tells concerning this box is very interesting. During the War between the States the girls of her grandmother's family took turns at wearing the family jewelry in a reticule at their waist. On a day when it was her grandmother's turn to wear the jewels, she placed them under her pillow while taking a nap. She was awakened by the approach of Yankee soldiers, and in the ensuing confusion, forgot the jewels. The Yankees, in searching the house, found the reticule and carried it away with them. All that was left to the family was this small box, which formerly contained a cameo, and which was not considered valuable enough to put with the other jewels. This box has been handed down from time to time to each Elizabeth in the family. Mrs. Howard also has a coral bracelet which was worn all during the war by her grandfather, who forgot to return it to her grandmother, his betrothed, before he left for the army.

#### Antiques Owned by Mrs. Marshall

Mrs. P. B. Marshall, Hernando, has the following antiques in her home: The first bed bought by her father and mother after their marriage, seventy-six years old; a table (sewing table) made by her uncle from walnut, eighty years old; a loveseat, seventy years old; a desk made by her father before his marriage, eighty years old; a secretary of her grandfather's over 100 years old; some china belonging to her grandmother, about 100 years old; a pistol used by her father during the War between the States; a Bible that belonged to her grandmother, 125 years old; two letters

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.

written with a goose quill, one 100, and one, 108 years old; a school paper printed at Pleasant Hill with a wooden press in the college once located there, sixty-two years old. She also says that her sister, Mrs. J. D. Fogg, Hernando, has a spool bed which belonged to her grandmother. (1)

Antiques and Relics Owned by Individuals

Mrs. A. P. Meriwether, Hernando, has in her possession the squirrel gun brought to DeSoto from East Tennessee by Jordan Payne, who, his descendants claim, was the first white settler to come to the county. Mr. Payne settled near what is now Cockrum and reared a large family. A Payne child was the first white child to be born in this county, but it died in infancy, and is buried in a wooded spot near Cockrum.

Mrs. Tom Craig, Hernando, has an old dress which belonged to her mother, Mrs. Mabry. It is hand-made and 123 years old. The dress has been exhibited in the Fair at Jackson, at Crockett, Arkansas, and at Senatobia.

Miss Mamie Jones, Hernando, has a hand-embroidered sampler which her mother, Mrs. Jones, made when she was nine years of age. It is now 108 years old.

Herbert McIngvale, Hernando, has one of the first model Colt's ever made. This pistol has to be cocked each time it is shot; he also has a Colt's pistol which formerly belonged to Robert Dalton, notorious outlaws of the West.

Miss Mamie Nichols has an Old Testament that belonged to her great-grandmother, Mrs. Tilter, who came to this country with old Virginia settlers. This Testament was published in 1856 by a company in New York. She also has a letter that was written July 3, 1856, by Dr. William N. Rainer, of Gainesville, Georgia, to Mrs. Tilter, who was a close relative of his. Miss Nichols also has a beautiful old writing desk which belonged to Mr. Nichol's mother; it is at least 110 years old.

(1) Miss Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

Mrs. J. W. Flynn, of Horn Lake, has an iron that belonged to her grandmother, that is 114 years old. She also has a clock 100 years old, and a child's dress that has been worn by each of her eleven children.

J. H. Malone, Hernando, has a Bible ninety-eight years old which belonged to his great-grandmother, Joseph Malone.

Miss Hazle Marshall, Hernando, has a hickory walking cane that was once her grandfather's; it was made from a hickory limb with knots spelling his full name, and the handle was made from a part of deer's horn, which he killed. It was owned by Miss Marshall's grandfather, F. W. Baker. She also has a shovel and tongs made from iron by blacksmiths Tarver and Robinson, of Pleasant Hill, for her grandfather, F.W. Baker. They are about 75 years old. Mr. Robinson was her great-grandfather.

Mrs. Bessie Womack, Walls, has in her possession the following antiques: A powder horn that was used by her great-great uncle, Sam Trantem, at the Battle of Shiloh; a lamp which was brought from Virginia over one hundred years ago by her great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Mary Morgan Irby.

Mrs. Ethel Smith Cook has a sewing box ninety years old that belonged to her great-grandmother, Mrs. Dalitha Collins Monroe.

Mrs. Winston Smith has in her home a portrait painted by a Belgian artist who was touring this country about eighty years ago. It is a picture of Mr. Smith's aunt, as a little girl.

Mrs. Louelle Clifton has in her home at Hernando a clock which was brought from the old John Gaston home

in Memphis. This is a valuable antique. Mrs. Clifton has several beautiful suites of furniture that she considers antique.

-----

Mrs. Sidney Garrett, of Eudora, has a beautiful old Colonial type love-seat and two wing-back chairs which belonged to her great-grandmother, Mrs. Dean, who was also an early settler of DeSoto County.

-----

Mrs. W. E. Yancey has two brass candle sticks which are one hundred and fifty years old, and have been handed down from generation to generation in the Yancey family. She also has a "grandfather clock," which belonged to her great-grandfather, who brought it from Missouri; and among her treasures is a quilt one hundred years old.

-----

Mrs. Ethel Gore Darden, Hernando, has in her home a walnut dresser and bed, hand-carved and hand-made, which are over a hundred years old.

-----

Mrs. J. T. Livingston, Eudora, has a beautiful five-piece living room suite which she bought from the old Frangiola Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, about thirty years ago. It is cherry wood, ornamented with carved lion heads, and upholstered in black leather. This furniture was brought from England to the Frangiola Hotel.

-----

Mrs. Carrie Gill has among other antiques a Queen Anne chair and a love-seat. She has been a collector of antiques for several years.

-----

John Jackson, Hernando, has a flint-rock gun of his great-grandfather's, Joseph Morgan. This gun was about 125 years old when it was changed into a cap gun, and Jackson says that it is now between 150 and 200 years old. It is in the hands of the fifth generation of the family.

Mrs. Herman Strickland, Hernando, tells us that she has a loom which formerly belonged to her grandmother, now between seventy-five and one hundred years old. (1)

Mrs. Dave Dockery, Oak Grove, has a rare old button bed, called a "Jenny Lind." It was given to the Dockery family by the mother of Dave Dockery, who was Nancy Laverett.

#### References

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Banks, Mrs. George       | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Bell, Mrs. E. J.         | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Blocker, Brooks          | Olive Branch, Miss.  |
| Blocker, Milton          | Olive Branch, Miss.  |
| Boggan, Mrs. Jim         | Eudora, Miss.        |
| Burrus, Tom              | Eudora, Miss.        |
| Clayton, Carrell         | Cockrum, Miss.       |
| Davis, Mrs. Hector       | Horn Lake, Miss.     |
| Dean, Mrs. S. B.         | Eudora, Miss.        |
| Dickson, Mrs. Jake       | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Dixon, Mrs. Fannie       | Como, Miss.          |
| Dockery, Mrs. C. P.      | Club Lake, Miss.     |
| Earnheart, T. L.         | Eudora, Miss.        |
| Ellis, Mrs. John         | Eudora, Miss.        |
| Emerson, Mrs. A. L.      | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Emerson, G. E.           | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Emerson, C. E.           | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Farrington, Mrs. Mildred | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Gale, Robert             | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Gooch, Mrs. W. D.        | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Haraway, Mrs. Julia      | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Holmes, F. G.            | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Jones, Fulton            | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Jones, Mrs. Sarah        | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Lambeth, Mrs. Annie      | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Lauderdale, John         | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Malone, Dr. F. M.        | Capleville, Tenn.    |
| Marshall, Miss Hazle     | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Miller, Mrs. J. J.       | Miller, Miss.        |
| Myers, Albert            | Byhalia, Miss.       |
| Norvell, Mrs. T. H.      | Olive Branch, Miss.  |
| Perry, Miss Joe          | Olive Branch, Miss.  |
| Powell, Mrs. W. A.       | Nesbitt, Miss.       |
| Robinson, Mrs. M. G.     | Pleasant Hill, Miss. |
| Scott, Miss Lula         | Love, Miss.          |
| Scott, Percy             | Love, Miss.          |
| Stuart, Dr. H. A.        | Olive Branch, Miss.  |



Walker, Miss Mary  
 White, Mrs. M. H.  
 White, Miss Nellie  
 White, W. W.  
 Wood, W. F.

Horn Lake, Miss.  
 Eudora, Miss.  
 Hernando, Miss.  
 Eudora, Miss.  
 Hernando, Miss.

#### Bibliography

Hancock, W. H.

Letter to Mrs. Oliver, 1860's  
 Board of County Police Record,  
 May, 1860.

### Chapter VIII

#### WARS

#### REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The only available information associated with the county regarding the Revolutionary War was gained through interviews with three citizens, as follows:

Mrs. Ella Wilkins, Olive Branch, told of John Wilkins Jefferies, a member of her husband's family, who was a soldier in this war. According to an old newspaper clipping in her Bible, Jefferies engaged in his country's service at an early age, and fought under the command of his father, Nathaniel Jefferies, in many of the regular battles and skirmishes which distinguished the revolutionary struggle in the southern states. Jefferies died January 29, 1854, at the age of 91. (1)

Mrs. W. D. Gooch, Hernando, told of her ancestor, Dionysius Oliver, who fought at the Battle of King's Mountain and at Kettle Creek. He was born in Virginia in 1735, and died in 1808. (2)

Robert C. Irwin, ancestor of Mrs. Willie Abbey Howard, was a general in the Revolutionary War, and one of the first to sign the Declaration of Independence. General Irwin was a native of Georgia. (3)

#### MEXICAN WAR

The Mexican War did not affect the people of DeSoto County to any great extent, as the entire state was called upon for only two regiments, so very few enlisted from this county.

Nathan Bedford Forrest, DeSoto's most outstanding citizens at one time, and one of the South's most brilliant generals, went to Texas in 1841 to engage in the fight with Mexico for Texas independence, which was the beginning of the War with Mexico. After many hardships through

- 
- (1) Mrs. Ella Wilkins, Olive Branch, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. W. D. Gooch, Hernando, Miss.  
 (3) Mrs. Willie Abbey Howard, Walls, Miss.

this experience, young Forrest returned to the farm and became a dealer in horses and cattle. (1)

The first records found of the First Mississippi Regiment date back to the Mexican War, during which Louisiana and Texas were asked for eight volunteer regiments. Without authority from the War Department, General E. F. Gaines included in his requisition for troops two regiments from Mississippi. This action was repudiated, but only after many Mississippians had joined Gaines' army. These men suffered many hardships, since no provision had been made for them by the government; however, typical of the spirit of Mississippians, these men responded when the government called for troops. The first in the state to enlist joined Louisiana regiments, most of whom came from Natchez.

Under a congressional act of May 3, 1846, Mississippi's quota of soldiers was fixed at one regiment; under Colonel Jefferson Davis, it sailed July 26, 1846, and engaged in the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista, where it became distinguished, and given high tribute by General Taylor.

The second Mississippi regiment, formed in response to the second requisition from President Polk, was organized on November 27, 1846, two months after the Battle of Monterey. Though this regiment was not renowned on the field of battle, it is no less honored, for many of its men died of sickness while on guard duty on the Mexican coast. (2)

Mrs. Anne Maples, Olive Branch, has in her possession an article on the life of Walter Malone, DeSoto County poet and judge, which was published in the Memphis Commercial Appeal of recent date. In this article, Franklin Jefferson Malone, father of Walter Malone, is mentioned as a surgeon in the Mexican War. (3)

Mrs. W. D. Gooch, Hernando, states that her grandfather, James Shelton Oliver, who came to DeSoto County in 1837 from Elbert County, Georgia, was a lieutenant-colonel in the Mexican War, and on his return home in a flat-car after the war, a cinder flew into his eye, causing the loss of sight in that eye. After about four years of suffering, Mr. Oliver studied medicine and became one of the leading physicians in DeSoto County - from 1870 to 1882. (4)

- (1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) Mississippi Heart of the South, Vol. I, pp 656, 658  
 (3) Mrs. Anne Maples, Olive Branch, Miss.  
 (4) Mrs. W. D. Gooch, Hernando, Miss.

In the record of Judge Samuel Powell of the War between the States we find this reference to the Mexican War:

"At the breaking out of the Mexican War he was made captain of Company D, 5th Tennessee Regiment, which he commanded until the war ended." (1)

#### WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

Due to its proximity to Memphis and to the Mississippi River, DeSoto County was in direct line of march for both the Federal and Confederate forces. Although no main battles were fought within its bounds, the county was subjected to continual skirmishing. Many residents fled with their possessions to prevent losing everything to the frequent raiding parties coming out of Memphis.

Sim White, of Eudora, stated that there was a skirmish at the foot of the Harness Hill, southeast of the corporate limits of Hernando.

The home of Caney White, Sim White's father, was located near the foot of this hill, and Mr. White stated that his mother and father saw the skirmish from the window of their home.

During the summer of 1863, the Yankees had taken the town of Hernando, and pickets were placed in the yard of White's home and around the town to keep southern soldiers out. On the hill opposite Harness Hill was a squadron of General Forrest's men, and one morning they opened fire upon the enemy. The Yankees charged upon them and soon they were engaged in a fierce battle. The southern soldiers retreated; several were wounded and five were taken prisoners and carried to Memphis. (2)

In September, 1864, General Forrest and his troops passed through Hernando, traveling the "Old Plank Road" into Memphis. It was at this time that General Bedford Forrest made his famous raid on Memphis, which at that time, was occupied by five Federal generals and their forces.

General Forrest and his army encamped for supper one and one-half miles from Horn Lake, on the "Old Plank Road," in the wood-lot near the Hollowell Home. After

- (1) Judge Samuel Powell, Record  
 (2) Sam White, Eudora, Miss.

supper the army advanced toward Memphis; his arrival that night was a complete surprise to the enemy. Forrest struck down pickets on the outskirts of town, advanced to Yankee headquarters at the Gayoso Hotel, and made a spectacular entrance into the hotel on horseback. The general had been warned by that time and had fled to a hiding place in the city. Losses reported by General C. C. Washburn, Federal general, in his report of the raid, were as follows: "Officers and men, 196, not including 500 prisoners; 100 day men, as well as citizens, many of whom belonged to the militia." (1)

On the way back from Memphis, Forrest and his army again stopped at Hollowell's wagon yard, where Mrs. Hollowell served them breakfast and ministered to the wounded.

On April 9, 1863, another skirmish took place near Pleasant Hill. General Richard Taylor came up with the Union army, strongly posted at Pleasant Hill; Confederates attacked, but were only partially successful. The Federals' left repulsed them, but at the close of the day they held part of the Federal center and right, and that night General Banks, the Union commander, continued his retreat. (2)

W. J. Lee, of Nesbitt, told of skirmishes near Horn Lake and Coldwater River bottoms. He stated that his father, R. G. Lee, belonged to the "Blythe Battalion" but was not in any of the main battles. However, he was in several skirmishes which were fought in the vicinity of what is now Horn Lake. One incident he remembered hearing his father tell was of how they were watching for the Yankees when twelve or more came over the hill. Some of the battalion said shoot, while others said not; but shots were fired and one Yankee was killed. He fell from his horse into Horn Lake Creek. (3)

#### Fighting Units From County

Walter White, of Eudora, told of the "Blythe Battalion" which was organized by General Green Blythe, of near Horn Lake. It was composed of a large company of DeSoto County men, though they were never in any of the main battles but did much in promoting the cause.

J. R. Chalmers was elected captain of the Hernando company, known as the Invincibles, the first company to

- (1) Mathes J. Harvey, General Forrest. (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1902), pg. 274  
 (2) Story of Confederate States, Joseph T. Derry, pg. 297  
 (3) W. J. Lea, Nesbitt, Miss.

to leave the county for the war. They were ordered to Pensacola, Florida, and there, with nine other companies, were united with the Ninth Mississippi Regiment, of which Chalmers was elected colonel.

After serving twelve months, which was their time of enlistment, they re-enlisted for the war, and Chalmers was made colonel of the regiment for the second time. Later, he was appointed brigadier-general and served with the army of Tennessee until 1864, when he was appointed major-general to command cavalry and was given the department of North Mississippi, remaining in charge there until General Forrest was given command with a larger force. (1)

#### First Mississippi Regiment

During the War between the States there was a great increase in the number of regiments. It is during this war that we find the first record of DeSoto County citizens being members of the First Mississippi Regiment. The following are buried in the Hernando Cemetery: I. N. Morrow, Ed Rutland, Amos Johnson, W. T. Sanders, and James Whalen. T. C. Duncan, of Cockrum, was a member of this regiment.

#### Record of Individuals

A volume entitled "Confederate Roster" in the Chancery Clerk's office at Hernando, contains records of many of the veterans of the War between the States, among which are the following:

One of the South's most outstanding citizens was General Nathan Bedford Forrest, of DeSoto County, whose career in the War between the States was among the most brilliant of the period. He was a son of William Forrest, a blacksmith, and was born in Bedford, now Marshall County, in middle Tennessee. In 1834, William Forrest, following the tide of emigration seeking cheaper lands, moved to Tippah County. After many years of simple farm life, in which he shared in making the family living, young Bedford Forrest went, in 1841, to Texas to engage in the fight with Mexico for Texas independence. After the many hardships of this experience, he returned to the farm and became a dealer in horses and cattle. In 1842, an uncle, Jonathan Forrest, offered him an interest in a livery stable in Hernando, then a frontier town. In 1845 he married

- (1) Walter White, Eudora, Miss.

Mary Ann Montgomery, of Hernando. Forrest became a prosperous business man in Hernando and then engaged in slave-trading in Memphis, where he became distinguished for his humane treatment of slaves.

At the outbreak of the War between the States, Forrest enlisted as a private in the Sixth Tennessee Battalion and afterwards belonged to the Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, of which he became commander. On July 10, a dispatch reached Forrest, calling him to Memphis, where he was given authority to raise a regiment for provisional government at Montgomery, Alabama. He called for volunteers, and bought with his own means 500 Colt revolvers, saddles, and other equipment for his men.

Forrest participated in many battles, among them were Fort Donelson, Battle of Shiloh, Brice's Cross Road, Dover, and Thompson's Station.

Characteristic of Forrest was his decision not to surrender during the campaign in Kentucky, when the decision to do so had been made by Generals Floyd, Pillow, and Buckner. Thinking they had no chance of escape from the Federals, who greatly outnumbered them, these generals ordered Forrest to surrender with them, but he refused, and finally led his army, with those of the other generals, to safety by a route which they thought impassable. Perhaps the most often discussed exploit of General N. B. Forrest was his surprise attack on Memphis, in September, 1864.

G. W. Conley enlisted at Huntsville, Alabama, in Company K, 4th Alabama Cavalry, under Captain F. D. C. Kelly, and fought in the Battle at Fort Donelson. His company was at Fort Donelson five days; going from there to Nashville, Tennessee, February 18, 1862; from there to Corinth, April 6, 1862, being in several skirmishes in and around Farmington. At the Battle of Farmington, General Forrest was badly wounded; Conley was then sent as an escort with General Forrest to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Union City, and Thompson Station, Tennessee. It was at the Battle of Thompson's Station that he was wounded, but was still in service when Forrest's Corps surrendered at Gainesville, Alabama, in May, 1865.

J. M. Crawford enlisted in Company D, 2nd Arkansas Cavalry Regiment in the Trans-Mississippi Department, August, 1863, at Camden, Arkansas, at the age of eighteen, under Colonel W. F. Seemons of Monticello, Arkansas.

Mr. Bozeman joined the army in 1863, enlisted with the 12th Mississippi Regiment under Captain Charley Heater.

Edmon E. Eason enlisted in July, 1864, in Company K, commanded by Captain W. A. Raines. The company belonged to the 18th Mississippi Regiment, commanded by Colonel A. H. Chalmers, Starkes Brigade, General J. R. Chalmers Division, Forrest Corps. Eason was in all the campaigns in West Tennessee, and Hoods Campaign in Nashville. He was in the Selma Campaign and was in Forrest's surrender at Gainesville, Alabama, May 9, 1865.

James M. Dockery was major of the 33rd North Carolina Infantry during the war.

W. L. Glenn enlisted at Centerville, Virginia, August 21, 1861, in Captain J. P. Giles' Company D, 5th South Carolina Infantry, Jenkin's Brigade, Anderson's Division, Longstreet's Corps, A. N. V. He was in the following engagements: Fort Magruder, Williamsburg, Virginia, May 5, 1862; Seven Pines, May 31, 1862; three of the seven days fight around Richmond; second battle of Bull Run, August 29, 1862; Sharpsburg, Maryland, September 29, 1862; wounded in the left knee by fragment of a shell; Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 13-14, 1862, on reserve force; first Battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1863; June 28 to July 5, Capital Guards repulsed Dahlgreen and Dix, killed Dahlgreen and captured most of his forces; second Battle of Gaines' Mill or Cold Harbor, May 21-22, 1864; the lines of the two armies were reversed to what they were on the former engagement, the Confederates holding the old Union entrenchments. The Confederates killed and wounded more Yankees at this battle than Lee had men engaged; the second day the Union army refused to charge when ordered.

The Siege of Richmond and Petersburg began June, 1864, at Fort Stedman; Confederates were successful in defeating the Yankee troops, (75,000 men) under "Breast" Butler and Dix, in two days with 10,000 men; Glenn had his cartridge-box shot off his right hip, dislocating his hip; his left coat-skirt shot off, minie ball grazed his right side at the same time.

General Lee complimented General Anderson by saying: "General, I believe the men in your division will carry and hold anything put against them." The surrender at Appomattox was in April, 1865. They were within fifty feet of General Lee when he ordered Grimes' North Carolinians to cease firing, these firing the last shots. Whole regiments broke ranks,

asking General Lee, "Is it possible we are to be surrendered?" With tears streaming from his face, he replied, "Yes, my brave men, the odds are too great against us; it is useless to sacrifice any more of your lives. I have done the best I could for you and our cause; your country needs you; go home and make as good citizens as you have soldiers."

Lee surrendered 9,755 infantrymen; all branches, including artillery, cavalry, etc., 22,600.

J. M. Gray enlisted in Company E, 9th Mississippi Regiment, at the age of nineteen, but was mustered out at Knoxville, Tennessee, after serving one year; he joined Captain Edd Porter's Partisan Rangers, which later was Company C, Ballentine's (Cavalry) Regiment, and was wounded at Morning Sun (Shelby County, Tennessee), June 30th, 1862.

J. P. Janney enlisted in Company C, Blythe Battalion Mississippi Cavalry, then was transferred February 14, 1865, to Company B, Captain Yates' Battery, Palmer's Battalion, Stewart's Corps, Mississippi Artillery.

Francis Holmes enlisted in Company I, 29th Mississippi Regiment, March, 1862, as a private under Walthall's Brigade. Holmes was engaged in the battles of Farmington and Murfreesboro, being wounded at the Battle of Murfreesboro. After returning to his post of duty, he was elected lieutenant and was with the company at the Battle of Chickamauga, where twenty or more were disabled. Holmes' next battle was at Look Out Mountain, where he was wounded, captured, and sent to a Federal hospital; first at Tullahoma, thence to Nashville, afterwards to prison at "Camp Chase," Columbus, Ohio; thence to Fort Delaware, where he was confined until the close of the war. Holmes was promoted to captain during his imprisonment by the adjutant-general of his brigade.

J. C. Langston enlisted in Company H, 19th Mississippi Battalion under Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Duff in 1863. This battalion was part of McCollough Brigade, Chalmer's Division, Forrest Cavalry Corps, and was commanded by Captain Tom J. Morris. After the Battle of Brice's Cross Road, this battalion, with other companies, formed the 8th Mississippi Regiment, and in August, 1864, this company, with Willis' Texas Battalion, was sent to the Gulf Coast to face the Federal troops that threatened Mobile, Alabama, and remained there until 1865.

Julius M. Joyner enlisted August 25, 1862, in Company E, 34th Mississippi Regiment, Army of Tennessee, and was with this company until the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864, when he was wounded, being shot through the left lung and arm. He was sent to prison at "Camp Chase," Columbus, Ohio, where he remained until June 14, 1865.

A. M. Lauderdale enlisted at the age of seventeen in the Confederate army, in 1864 in Captain Roger's Company, Colonel Kelly's Regiment, called Bedford Forrest's Old Regiment.

Donald McKenzie enlisted at Hernando, March 27, 1861, in the first company raised in the county, known as the "Irrepressibles," later known as Company K, Ninth Mississippi Regiment, in Gladden's Brigade, an Infantry Company under James R. Chalmers, captain; T. W. White, 1st lieutenant. McKenzie was with the army until after the Battle of Murfreesboro, where he was in command of a company, and received two wounds that disabled him from further service. He was taken prisoner when the Federals captured Murfreesboro, and was moved to Fortress Monroe, where he was kept a few months, then paroled. (1)

W. H. Burton enlisted June 24, 1861, at Union City, Tennessee in Company D, 44th Mississippi Infantry, under Colonel A. K. Blythe, and was sent to New Madrid, Missouri, then to Columbus, Kentucky, thence to Corinth. Burton was in the Ambulance Corps at the Battle of Shiloh, also fought in the Battle of Murfreesboro. On January 3, 1863, he was given his honorable discharge.

Felix Walker Baker enlisted in the spring of 1862 at Hernando, in the Flag Company, 42nd Mississippi Regiment, under Colonel Hugh R. Miller, of Pontotoc; General Joe Davis, brigade commander; Division commander, General Heath; corps commander, General A. P. Hill of Robert E. Lee's army, and Captain Pat Smith. Baker was sent to Richmond, Virginia, in a company composed of 125 men, and served in Virginia and North Carolina until the invasion of Pennsylvania at the Battle of Gettysburg. On the third day, Baker was severely wounded in the right hip, disqualifying him for future service during the war. He was the only survivor of the 125 men who went out with this company.

Only four Confederate veterans are now living (1936) in DeSoto County: A. M. Lauderdale, Hernando; J. W. Nichols, Eudora; Bozeman, Walls; J. P. Janney, Oak Grove.

(1) Confederate Roster, Chancery Clerk's Office, Hernando, Miss.

War Reminiscences by "Old Hughey"

In the Times-Promoter of 1920 were the following letters from S. A. (Old) Hughey, a Confederate veteran:

"Fifty-six years ago I was a prisoner of war, suffering with hunger and cold. I was taken, with hundreds of others, to Rock Island, Illinois, where it was so cold that the Mississippi River froze over hard enough for wagons to cross over the ice. There I was without a blanket, the 'Yanks' had taken it from me. I had no where to lie down except on an old bunk with a plank bottom; no clothes but a little gray jacket and a thin shirt to keep by body warm, and all the sleep I got was while sitting around a crowded stove. Each barrack had 120 men and two stoves in it; that was sixty men to a stove day and night, how could a man sleep much? I suffered, I thought, my share, and it was every man for himself. So I decided I must do something or freeze to death. After a time, some new prisoners were sent in and I slipped in among them and stole some poor soldier's blanket; went back to my quarters, rolled up in it and went to sleep, forgetting the other fellow. Boys, when you go to war, you must take care of yourself. I think that blanket saved my life.

Old Hughey" (1)

"Fifty-seven years ago today, September 19, 1863, about two o'clock the Battle of Chickamauga began. It was on Friday evening; Saturday and Sunday following, was who should win and who should not? Both sides charged and recharged and the ground on which the soldiers fought was almost covered with dead and wounded. After dark on Sunday evening the 'Yankees' gave way and fell back into Chattanooga in confusion. The Confederates held the battlefield; Snodgrass Hill is where the 'Yankees' made their last stand, and there is where General Little was killed. He was a 'Yankee' general, and right there is where our own Captain Cooper, of Cockrum, showed what a man he was. When General Little was killed some of the boys wanted his boots. Captain Cooper said, 'No, we want to turn him over to the "Yankees" just like we killed him; it would be a disgrace to the South to rob his dead body of even a button from his clothing.'

Old Hughey" (2)

- 
- (1) Times-Promoter, January 15, 1920  
 (2) Times-Promoter, September 23, 1920

Interviews

John W. Nichols, one of the three surviving Confederate veterans, enlisted for service August 3, 1861, at the age of sixteen, and was in the Confederate army four years; three years were spent in the 22nd Mississippi Infantry, later being transferred to cavalry service in General Forrest's old Regiment commanded by Colonel D. C. Kelly. The command, under General Forrest, surrendered at Gainesville, Alabama, in May, 1865. Nichols stated that he knew General Forrest and his mother quite well, as they often visited in his home. (1)

Miss Frances Lester, of Eudora, tells of her father, William Thomas Lester, enlisting for service in April, 1861, with the 38th Virginia Regiment under Commander Edmond and Captain John Wood, serving only one and one-half years, when he was given his discharge on account of illness. In 1862, Lester re-enlisted with Graham's Battery, Petersburg Artillery, and was in active service at the time of the surrender at Appomattox. (2)

J. C. White, grandfather of Walter White, now living in the county, was in the Company of Invincibles, one of the first to leave DeSoto County, and later served under General Forrest. Tom G. (Christmas Giff) White, his father, was with the Ninth Mississippi Regiment, which was one division of General Forrest's Corps. Frank White, an uncle, was killed in the Battle of Bull Run, another, John White, was wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg; a third uncle, Billy White, saw active service, but was not wounded. (3)

Mrs. Walter White told an interesting story about her father, Lieutenant Asa Doggett; "He was standing on a stump in the middle of the battlefield at Shiloh, giving orders to his soldiers, when he was severely wounded. He fell, commanding his army to advance." (4)

Mrs. Sudie Nelms Dye gave a record of her father's service in the Confederate army: Eben Nelms, 1st lieutenant, Ninth Mississippi Infantry, Captain John U. Foster's Company, known as "Old Company E" (Horn Lake Volunteers), First Regiment, 4th Brigade, Mississippi Volunteers, joined February 19, 1861, and was mustered in February 26, 1861, by J. R. Chalmers, for twelve months. He was promoted to captain, June 6, 1861, and was honorably discharged on account of physical disabilities December 20, 1861.

(This information was gained from Washington Records) (5)

- 
- (1) John W. Nichols  
 (2) Miss Frances Lester, Eudora, Miss.  
 (3) Walter White, Eudora, Miss.  
 (4) Mrs. Walter White, Eudora, Miss.  
 (5) Mrs. Sudie Nelms Dye, Eudora, Miss.

Paul Bowdre, of Hernando, gives the following information about his grandfather, Major A. R. Bowdre: "Major Albert Reese Bowdre organized one of the first companies to leave DeSoto County, and was made captain. They were ordered to Pensacola, Florida, where the 9th Mississippi Regiment was formed, and Captain Bowdre promoted to major. He was a gallant and brave officer and was in many of the principal battles fought during the war." (1)

Mrs. Benoit, of Benoit, gives the following war record of her father, L. L. Jones, who was captain of Company D in the First Mississippi Regiment. General Walthall was Captain Jones' general throughout the entire war. Captain Jones was under Brag, Albert Sidney Johnston, and Joe Johnston in different battles, and was with General Forrest when he made his raid on Memphis. He was surrendered at Greensboro, North Carolina, the day after Lee surrendered to Grant. Captain Jones was a prisoner of Johnston's Island for eleven months. (2)

J. P. Janney, 89 years of age, and one of the four remaining Confederate veterans of DeSoto County (1937), gave an interview at his home in the Oak Grove community.

He stated that it was difficult to get even the barest necessities; they had only what was dug out of the ground or made at home. He said he could close his eyes and see very clearly his mother's spinning wheel and hear its buzzing as it ran far into the night; he could see her sitting up late at night knitting socks, stockings, and gloves. There were a few blockade runners, he said, who would go to Memphis and bring things back into the county, but these things were very expensive. Janney remembers the Yankees stealing meat, horses, cows, and chickens as they went through the county. Once a large number went to his father's barn, took out all the corn, carried away what they wanted, fed some to the horses, and scattered the remainder over the barnyard; the children were sent to pick up the scattered ears, but they made sure no Yankees remained before they went into the barnyard. The Yankees had control of most of the factories in the country, and the South could not get enough uniforms for its army. Some uniforms were furnished at the beginning of the war, but when those wore out, any kind of clothing that could be found was worn. As a rule, clothing was sent from home to the boys and men who were fighting. Homespun and hand-made uniforms were also sent to soldiers. (3)

- (1) Paul Bowdre, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. Benoit, Benoit, Miss.  
 (3) J. P. Janney, Oak Grove, Miss.

The following old newspaper clipping, written by S. W. Benson, Captain of Company F, 17th Mississippi Regiment, gives something of the record of Captain R. H. Cooper: In May, 1861, a company of soldiers was organized at Cockrum, which R. H. Cooper joined. With nine other companies it was ordered to Corinth, and helped to form the 17th Mississippi Regiment. Honorable W. S. Featherstone was elected colonel, and the regiment was ordered to Virginia in June, and was in the first Battle of Manassas, June 21, 1861. R. H. Cooper was elected first lieutenant and afterwards promoted to captain of his company. He fought in every battle of his regiment up to the Battle of Perryville, when he received a severe wound in the leg and was never able to re-join his company. He did not complain of any duty placed upon him and was an ideal soldier and officer. (1)

Major T. C. Dockery entered the army in the spring of 1861 as 1st lieutenant of Company F, 22nd Mississippi Infantry; in a short time, he was made captain, then promoted to major. He was in all the principal battles fought by the army of Tennessee, and was seriously wounded in the Battle of Shiloh, losing four inches of bone of the left arm. (2)

#### Honor for Young Private

The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tennessee, 1897, contained the following:

"John T. Malone, who lives in DeSoto County, is the proud possessor of a copy of a certain order made by General Walthall on May 2, 1864. Mr. Malone went into the army when a boy of sixteen years of age, serving first as a private, and later as a lieutenant. On May 2, 1864, General Walthall, having noticed the soldierly bearing and conduct of the boy soldier on many occasions before, made the following order:

" 'Headquarters Walthall's Brigade  
 Near Dalton, Georgia, May 2, 1864.

"Colonel: The brigadier-general commanding desires me to call your attention to the soldierly conduct of Private John Malone, Company I, Twenty-ninth Mississippi Regiment, as noticed by him on several occasions. His prompt and ready discharge of duty entitles him to the favor of his commanding officers; and as a mark of their appreciation, it is directed by the brigadier-general commanding that he be excused from all guard and other camp duty for the space of one month. It is hoped that the example of

- (1) Roster of Confederate Veterans, Hernando, Miss., pg. 91  
 (2) Ibid, pg. 106

Private Malone may excite a generous emulation in his companions, and that by their efforts they may merit distinctive indulgence which, in this case, is so eminently due and freely accorded.

"I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. T. Sykes, A.A.G.

"To Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Johnson, Commanding Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, and Thirty-fourth Mississippi Regiments." (1)

"Mr. Malone lost this order very shortly thereafter, and although it was very dear to him, he supposed that he would never be able to see even a copy of it; but recently a gentleman in conversation with General Walthall recalled to him this incident, saying that probably the general had forgotten it long ago, but strange to say, the general replied that he had the original order book, and that he had read the same order in it only a few days before, after a lapse of thirty-one years.

"This order book was lost by General Walthall and was carried by unknown parties from place until it finally got into the hands of a little girl who used it as a scrapbook. Her father told General Walthall of this fact, and on the general's request, the scrapbook was sent to him. With a great deal of difficulty the scraps were removed from every page of the book, and now it remains much mutilated, but at the same time quite legible, with only one or two pages missing. General Walthall prizes the book beyond expression, and has recently sent a certified copy of the order in question to Mr. Malone, who will have it framed.

"The most curious coincidence about the matter is, that after the lapse of thirty-one years, this matter was brought to General Walthall's attention, and just a few days after he had seen the order for the first time in all the intervening period." (2)

In 1861, when war was declared between the states, Judge Samuel Powell was chosen colonel of 29th Tennessee Regiment, and took part in the following engagements: Wild Cat, Kentucky, and at Mill Springs, or Fishing Creek, Kentucky. He commanded Walker's Brigade, General Patton Anderson's Division at Perryville, Kentucky, in

(1) Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tenn., 1897

(2) Ibid.

October, 1862, being dangerously wounded at Battle of Fishing Creek. Recovering from his wounds, he took charge of his regiment and served with distinction until close of the war. He organized DeSoto Camp U.V.C. No. 220, and was elected first commander, serving six years." (1)

Colonel J. G. McGowen

The following is the story of the life of J. G. McGowen, as given by his son, Judge J. H. McGowen, Jackson, Mississippi:

"My father, commonly known in DeSoto County as Captain Jim McGowen, volunteered at the age of nineteen as a Confederate soldier. He was mustered into service as a member of Company E, Horn Lake Volunteers, which was mustered into service at Horn Lake on February 26, 1861. This company was a unit in the 9th Regiment of Mississippi Infantry, C.S.A. On its reorganization the company became a part of the 10th Regiment of Mississippi Infantry, C.S.A.

"He was corporal, sergeant, and first lieutenant of his company, and at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, was its commanding officer, hence the title of captain. At this battle he was seriously wounded, and as he lay helpless on the breastworks a negro Federal soldier advanced to pierce him with a bayonet; whereupon he raised upon his elbow and said to the negro, 'Stand back and let a white Yankee stick me.' This incident was witnessed and repeated to the family by J. B. (Pleas) Barbee, of a prominent family in the history of DeSoto County.

"A faithful negro servant of the Deans (Green Dean Polk) found him alive on the battlefield, ministered unto him, got him to Corinth, and finally home.

"With Lieutenant Joseph Dean he was mentioned on several occasions in the dispatches of bravery; Lieutenant Dean was killed at Franklin.

"In his report of the Battle of Franklin, Lieutenant-Colonel James Barr, of the Tenth Regiment, said: 'I take great pleasure in mentioning for conspicuous bravery, Lieutenant J. G. McGowen.'" (2)

Soon after the close of the war, Captain McGowen was married to Mary Ellen Dean, sister of his comrade in arms, Lieutenant Joseph Dean, and to this union there were born three children, Cynthia Ellen, who died in infancy; James

(1) Roster of Confederate Veterans, Hernando, Miss.

(2) Judge J. H. McGowen, Jackson, Miss.



Greer, and Joseph Hardy. His wife died June, 1915; the two sons still live, claiming and loving DeSoto County as their home.

Captain McGowen, though sorely wounded, took an active part in the days of Reconstruction; he died in March, 1877, and is buried in the Dean family cemetery west of Nesbitt. His son, J. G. McGowen, now owns the beautiful silk flag of Company E.

#### Home Conditions During War

The War between the States was a terrific blow to the South. Not only did the South suffer the ravage of war on its own soil, with insufficient food and clothing, but it had to adjust itself at this trying time to a complete change in social order, occasioned by the abolition of slavery.

The bravery of the South during the war was not confined to battlefields alone; women and children back home often suffered many hardships; they saw their homes robbed of food, clothing, silverware, china, and other treasured articles; they were forced to do hard labor; and many suffered from hunger. The slaves, left at home to take care of the plantations, often deserted their white folk to taste the freedom of which they were hearing, and sometimes turned to pillaging the farms upon which they had lived. However, in most instances, they remained at home, faithful to their beloved "Marsters" and "Missus."

Mrs. Willie Abby Howard, of Walls, tells of an incident which occurred during the war (typical of happenings of that time) to her grandmother's family: The girls of the family took turns at wearing family valuables in order to save them from the northern soldiers, who might stop at their home. Everyone felt a great dread of the Yankees, and one day they really came. Mrs. Howard's grandmother, then a young girl of about sixteen, had in her possession the family valuables, and had placed them under the pillow while taking a nap. In the excitement which followed the arrival of the northern soldiers, she forgot to get the reticule of jewelry from under her pillow, and after the departure of the soldiers with their loot, the young girl ran after them and demanded that they return them. She succeeded in recovering the silverware but did not get the other valuables. (1)

(1) Mrs. Willie Abby Howard, Walls, Miss.

Another tells that during and after the war there was a shortage of salt. Smokehouse dirt was put into barrels by many families, and water poured over it, allowing it to drip for two or three days. These drippings were boiled down for salt, and in this way, the shortage of salt was alleviated to a small degree. (1)

Meat was preserved during the war and soon afterwards by covering with a preparation of ashes. The meat was hung with bear-grass, a very strong vine common in the county, or with white oak splints, as wire was very scarce.

Mrs. Bennett related an incident which happened to her mother during the War between the States. She had preserved all her meat with ashes while the negroes' meat which hung in the smokehouse with hers, was not preserved. The Yankees visited the smokehouse and took only the meat not preserved in ashes, because they thought the other had been treated with poison for their benefit. Mrs. Bennett's mother plead with the Yankees to spare the darkies' meat and take hers instead, but they did not as they were still afraid of the ash-treated meat. (2)

#### Stories of Raids upon Homes

"It was early in the morning, we were seated at the breakfast table. Suddenly, our attention was arrested by a negro boy who emerged from the tall corn in the field just across the road. Climbing upon the fence excited and exhausted by his run and hardly able to make himself understood (besides he stuttered badly), he shouted at the top of his voice, 'The Yank-Yank-Yankees are in-in-the-the bottoms.' We finally got from him that a raid of Yankee cavalry had just come to the Walls Place, about a mile away from our home, and the foreman, Prince, his father, had sent him to tell us to look out for them. After giving his message in his broken fashion, the boy slipped back in the corn and disappeared. My father was skeptical, but my mother, with her usual prudence, said we could take no chances; and she told me to get a horse, go over to Wall's and verify the report. I quickly mounted a little mare-back; leaving the road, I circled through the woods and reached Wall's all-right. There was no doubt about it, the road was full of horse tracks; the negroes were excited and dodging about as if trying to hide. Prince came to the gate and gave me the story.

(1) Mrs. J. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.

(2) Mrs. Mary Bennett, Love, Miss.

"About sunrise, a troop of Yankee cavalry rode up to the plantation. Prince said there were about 1,000, but 900 of that number were in his imagination; they were 100 strong. They told Prince they were looking for a man named Bynum, and asked him the shortest road to the Mississippi River. Now the shortest road was the one by our place, a distance of six miles; Prince knew we were not expecting a visit from the Yankees and if they came by our place they would catch us unprepared, so he told them the road to the left was the road they wanted, which was twice the distance of the road by our place; but they believed Prince, and collecting all the mules on the place, they left. They did not get far with the mules, for the road through the cane was barely wide enough for two to ride a-breast. They turned the mules loose and they wandered back to their master's crib."

"After my few minutes talk with Prince, I left for home, and if ever a fleet horse was put to the top speed, mine was that one. Once at home, all the stock were driven away into the swamp, horses were hitched in the canebrake, and valuables about the house were taken into the woods. The little food supply we had was hurriedly carried to the canebrakes. There were a good many valuables in the home, for jewelry and silverware of friends living on the hills had been brought to our retired place for safe keeping. One item was \$30,000 in gold which my father kept for its owner all through the war, returning it after the war, just as he received it. In a short time, everything that the Yankees might take, was hidden away, and things were in order for their reception.

"The morning wore away in watching for the coming of the Yankees; about noon, some of the cows and pigs came out of the woods, but we hurriedly drove them back into the jungles. There were two ways by which the raiders might return to the hills; one would bring them by our house, the other would take them along by Horn Lake. We concluded, after a time, that they must have gone by the lake, so my mother prepared dinner and just as we had finished eating, someone said, 'Listen,' I rushed out into the front yard, and sure enough, yonder they came in a lively trot. They did not break ranks, but filled the lane, the head of the column halting at the front gate. The commander performed an acrobatic feat that puzzled me then, and still I don't see how he could do it; he leaped straight out of his saddle over the front gate, and went up the walk toward the house. My father met him, and the visitors asked if he knew where he could find Dr. Bynum. It was fortunate he put it that way, for my father could answer truly that he did not know where Dr. Bynum was.

"As a fact, Dr. Bynum was at that very minute hidden in the cane a few hundred yards away watching from a distance. The officer told my father they had heard Dr. Bynum was at the head of a band of guerillas and they were after him. They came by his home and were told he had gone to the swamps.

"This report was utterly false; Dr. Bynum was one of the two doctors left in our part of the county, and he had gone into the swamp that day to see a sick negro. Passed our house that morning he learned that a Yankee raid was after him, and 'took to the timber.'

"While that was going on with my father, I was having a talk with the soldiers at the gate. There was a well of water in the front yard, and some of the soldiers said, 'Little boy, can we get a drink of water?' I drew a bucket of water, took it to the fence, and using a big gourd, gave several of them a drink. I asked them what news they had. 'We captured Vicksburg yesterday' one of them said. I laughed and said, 'I know that ain't so. You can't take Vicksburg.' They laughed in return.

"Up to this time, the soldiers had been polite, but one rude warrior spurred his horse up to the gate where I was handing out water, and said, 'Here, you little rebel, give me a drink.' I instantly poured the water from the bucket on the ground, threw the gourd into the well, and said, 'Get water yourself.' The soldiers roared, and said, 'Hurrah for this little rebel!' With this, the officer remounted, and away they went. They were not there more than ten minutes, and that was the only time during the entire war that they ventured into the dense jungle of the Delta.

"While this was taking place outside, there were two little darkies in the kitchen who were scared out of their skins, and fearing to go out the door they climbed up the chimney, slid down outside and took to the timber like frightened monkeys. After the Yankees left we called and hunted for them everywhere, but they were gone. My mother was much distressed, for the little negroes were orphans; when their mother was dying, she said, 'Ask Miss Amanda to bring up my chillun right.' This incident gave rise to the propaganda of Boston about the way the poor slaves were treated by their cruel masters in the South, and brought to literature, Mrs. Stowe's lurid novel, 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.'

"About dusk the little negroes came out of the weeds near the barn and slipped back to the house. The northern visitors got little loot at our place, thanks to the fidelity of Prince, the colored foreman on Wall's Plantation, and in a few days everything was moving as usual. The valuables were kept concealed in the cane-brake until the war ended." (1)

Nearly forty years after this, Dr. Steel was living in Nashville, pastor of McKendres Church. He was invited to meet a friend of another pastor at the Maxwell Hotel, who proved to be a Union veteran who had fought through the War between the States. On the subject of the war, Dr. Steel asked him if he was ever real scared during the war. He said, "Yes, Mr. Steel, more than once. I was in a number of battles, but I think the time I had the biggest scare was on a raid we made into the wild country south of Memphis which they called 'The Swamp,' but which I understand is now called 'The Delta.'

"We understood there was a man at the head of a band of guerillas in the swamp, and had orders to find him, and capture or disperse the band. We had about 100 men. We left the hills early in the morning, rode through an open woods and came to a large farm; much of the clearing was land with deadened trees still standing. The negroes seemed greatly frightened and most of them fled to the woods, but the one who seemed to be in charge gave us false directions, as we found out later. When we came out, we stopped at that place and hunted for that negro. We were going to hang him and leave a note pinned on him, 'This will happen to all who tell us lies,' but he was nowhere to be found.

"We found a good lot of mules there and tried to take them for we needed them, but we had to turn them loose. We rode for miles and miles through a jungle of cane so dense that you could only see a few yards into the thicket; my heart was in my mouth a thousand times that day, because if the guerillas had been there we could have made little resistance. We found nothing to eat on the whole trip, as we passed only a few plantations and they were bare of nearly everything; but as we approached the hills on the return we came to a double-log cabin, where we stopped a few minutes. I saw a turkey in the yard, captured it, and invited the commander to take supper with us. When we reached the hills and dressed the turkey, we found nothing but feathers, bones, and lice.

(1) Creole Gumbo, by Dr. S. A. Steel, found in the scrap-book of Mrs. Willie A. Howard.

"I remembered the place because of a little boy who resented being called 'a little rebel' by one of our men. When he finished his narrative, Dr. Steel said, 'Major, I am the little boy.' He looked surprised and said, 'Well, well! is it possible?' 'Yes,' said Dr. Steel, 'and I saw you when you picked up the turkey. It was my mother's setting turkey, and if she finds out you are the man who stole her turkey, she will bring a bill for you to settle that will stagger you. She will charge you for all the little turkeys that might have come from that day to this.'"

(For Roster of enlisted men, see Addenda)

#### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

The following is a list of DeSoto County citizens who took part in the Spanish-American War:

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Bobbitt, O. C.       | Hanserd, Redus   |
| Bridgforth, Edgar E. | Harrison, George |
| Campbell, John W.    | Hughey, Raymond  |
| Craig, Dave          | Hughey, Britt    |
| Gallagher, James     | Horn, William H. |
| Halbert, W. R.       | Stewart, Charley |

Mrs. Era Yates, Alphaba, gave the information that William H. Horn enlisted at the beginning of the Spanish-American War, and was in all battles. He was wounded in the left arm, and has never regained its use, and is drawing a pension because of this injury. (1)

Mrs. O. C. Bobbitt, Hernando, widow of O. C. Bobbitt, states that she is drawing a pension, but was unable to give anything of Bobbitt's war record, except that he saw much active service, as all his papers were burned a few years ago. (2)

Britt Hughey, of Walls, states that he and his brother, Raymond Hughey, joined the army in 1902, and were sent immediately to the Philippine Islands, but saw no active service. Hughey also told of W. R. Halbert being stationed in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. (3)

James Gallagher, a resident of the county, joined the army at the beginning of the Spanish-American War and served throughout its duration. (4)

(1) Mrs. Ear Yates, Alphaba, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. O. C. Bobbitt, Hernando, Miss.  
 (3) Britt Hughey, Walls, Miss.  
 (4) James Gallagher, Hernando, Miss.

The First Mississippi Regiment, a volunteer infantry of ten companies, left for the U.S. Army Camp in May, 1898. This regiment, as well as the second, third, and fifth, did not reach the scene of battle.

#### WORLD WAR

Mississippi's contribution to the nation's fighting forces during the World War is indelibly recorded in army, navy, and marine files for remembrance on Armistice Days as they come and go.

The record shows that: 440 Mississippi soldiers and marines died overseas; nine Mississippi army officers and 280 enlisted men were killed in action or died of wounds; 1,048 Mississippi soldiers were wounded, but survived; 56,698 Mississippians served in the army, 558 in the marines, 4,791 in the navy; and 91 Mississippi women served as nurses. (1)

The year before the United States entered the World War, Mississippi had a regiment of soldiers in service on the Mexican border. This regiment, known as the First Mississippi, was mustered out on March 18, 1917, and was called into Federal service September 29, 1917. Troops from this regiment were sent over the state to guard jails, bridges, telegraph, and telephone centers. In October, 1917, this National Guard Regiment received orders from Washington and became known as the 155th Infantry of the United States Army, under Colonel Dabney. In April, 1918, Colonel Dabney was relieved by Colonel Hoskins; later, Lieutenant-Colonel Ross was assigned to this regiment.

DeSoto County did not have a National Guard Company but did have men who volunteered for service on the Mexican border in 1916-17.

In the Times-Promoter of June 7, 1917, the following information is found: A total of 2,096 males registered in DeSoto County in June, 1917. Of these, 510 were white; 1,583 were negroes, and three were aliens (white). (2) In the same paper of August 16, 1917, it is stated that in the first call for men 238 were taken from DeSoto County, and in order to get the required number, 476 were examined. (3)

- (1) Daily News, October 9, 1937  
 (2) Times Promoter, June 17, 1917  
 (3) Times Promoter, August 16, 1917

#### Individual Records

Private James Massey, formerly of Hernando, saw battle service in the Argonne region in the great offensive of the American Army that smashed the Kremhilde line and sent the Boches scurrying down the Meuse River during the closing days of the World War. Several times he found himself in the range of German fire, but came through each time without a scratch.

Jeff Dickson, of Horn Lake, served in the United States Navy on a transport as one of the firemen, and made three trips to France.

Private Joe Lee was with the Medical Corps Division of the United States Army stationed in a northern camp.

Private Fuller McGowen, of Lynchburg neighborhood, was in the U. S. Marine Corps, and was in the midst of the fight for eleven days before the signing of the Armistice.

Robbie Watson, of Pleasant Hill, was a private in Company D, 137th Infantry, in the 35th Division under General Pershing and Captain Todd.

Clifford Grimes Payne enlisted for service in Company I, C.A.C. at Forst Crockett, Galveston, Texas. The first of October, 1918, he was sent to Officers Coast Artillery School at Fort Monroe, Virginia, where he was stationed at the time of his death, October 11, 1918.

Oscar Hanna, corporal in Company D, 4th Infantry, took part in the following battles; Champagne 7/15/18; Aisne-Marne 7/18/18 to 7/28/18; St. Mihiel 9/12/18 to 9/16/18; Argonne-Meuse 9/29/18 to 9/27/18.

Walter Harris, wagoner of Infantry Unassigned Company M, 38th Infantry, saw service in the following battles: Aisne-Marne 7/18/18 to 7/27/18; Vesle Sector 8/4/18, and St. Mihiel 9/12/18 to 9/14/18.

E. L. McIntosh, private in First Class M.D. Unassigned, was in battle from June 12, 1918, to April 30, 1919. He came out of service without a scratch, and was discharged from service in November, 1919.

Roy M. Harris, private in Company G, 360th Infantry, fought in the following battles: St. Mihiel 9/15/18 and Argonne-Meuse 10/17/18. He was gassed November 10, 1918, and received his discharge November 30, 1918.

C. M. Spencer, of Eudora, corporal in Company C, 119th Infantry, gave us the following list of battles in which he took part: Ypres, 7/27 to 8/2/18; Ypres, 8/21/18 to 8/26/18; Looz megule, 8/31 to 9/2/18; Bellicourt, 9/27/18 to 10/1/18; Busigny, 10/9/18; St. Soujlet 10/10/18; Ribeanville 10/20/18. Spencer was wounded in action August 31, 1918, and received his discharge in April, 1919.

Dr. E. Leroy Wilkins, formerly of Olive Branch, was in Tennessee at the outbreak of the war, and became a member of the Medical Reserve Corps with rank of lieutenant.

Dr. Hal Johnson volunteered as an army surgeon, was commissioned lieutenant, and stationed at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Lieutenant S. P. Robinson served two and one-half years in Honolulu, Hawaii, and was later stationed at Camp Johnson, Florida. After returning to the United States, he was commissioned second lieutenant O.M.C.N.A., and ordered to report at Newport News, Virginia, for service.

John Flowers, of Olive Branch, belonged to the Fourth Louisiana Brigade, which was composed of the Fifth Regiment of Marines, under Colonel Wendell C. Nevill, and the Six Machine Gun Battalion, under command of Major Ed W. Cole. Flowers, with the marines, was thrown into full battle on the front violently attacked by the Germans. With the French troops they broke down their fierce attack, and were known as a unit of the first order. At Chateau-Thierry, on June 11, 1918, Flowers and his entire company were killed.

Walter Joyner Wheeler, corporal in Company D, 116th Infantry, took part in the following battles: Hontel-Alsoer, 7/25/18 to 9/23/18; Malbrouck Hill 10/8/18; Mollr-veer Farm, 10/10/18; Grand Montazar, 10/16/18, and Capture of Etraye Ridge 10/23/18. Wheeler was discharged from service November 30, 1918. (1)

Lieutenant Roderick Dhu Coe, of Nesbitt, joined the army in the early summer of 1916 and saw service on the Mexican border with the 155th Infantry before going overseas. At the outbreak of the World War, he entered the officers training camp at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, where he was commissioned as lieutenant. He served as instructor at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, before going to France in September, 1918. On April 3, 1919,

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Historian, Historical Research Project, Hernando, Miss.

Lieutenant Coe was killed at Treves, Germany, in an airplane crash. At the time of his death, he was a member of the 166th Aero Squadron. (1)

Mack L. Dees, of Eudora, among the first boys to leave DeSoto to enter the World War, left for camp on September 4, 1917, was made corporal in the 323rd Infantry. He was at Camp Pike for three months; from there, went to Columbia, South Carolina, thence to New York, and sailing from there to France. Dees was in the main battles and saw row after row of men mowed down with machine guns. He took part in the following battles: St. Die (Vosges) Sector 10/4/18 to 10/16/18; Sommidieu (Verdun) Sector 11/5/18 to 11/9/18; Meuse Argonne offensive 11/9/18 to 11/11/18; and came through the war without a wound. His character on his discharge was marked "excellent." (2)

In the Times-Promoter, January 9, 1919, there was an account of the death of two of DeSoto County's boys, as follows:

"Another brave boy from DeSoto County has given his life in defense of his country, home, and county. News came Tuesday that Walker Gaines, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Gaines, of near Love, had been killed in action in France, before the cessation of hostilities. This is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Gaines to die in the battlefield, a younger son, Moorehead, having been gassed and wounded so severely last summer that he expired a short time afterwards. Both are not resting in France with the unreturning brave." (3)

"Tom Laughter, of Brights, a private, was in active service in France when he was wounded in the ankle and arm.

Private Marcus McCall was in the third line of defense when the Armistice was signed; McCall was near enough front for the 155-millimeter shells to come over occasionally on an unwelcome visit.

Private Charles Wilkerson saw several weeks of active service on the battle front with the famous 50th, or "Old Hickory" Division, that helped to smash the Hindenburg Line. He saw service near Ypres, Kemmel Hill, and in St. Quentin neighborhood.

(1) Miles Barbee, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) Mack L. Dees, Eudora, Miss.  
 (3) Times-Promoter, January 9, 1919.

### World War Nurses

DeSoto County had three graduate nurses to enlist for service as regular army nurses in the "orld War: Miss Frances Lester, Eudora; Miss Elizabeth Dabney, Hernando; Miss Annie E. Logan, Hernando.

Miss Lester enlisted November 6, 1917, and was first to be assigned to a post of duty on Ellis Island; January 8, 1918, she was sent to France, where she was stationed at Hospital No. 15, Chaumont, until she received her discharge February 28, 1919.

Miss Elizabeth Dabney served part of her enlistment in France, but died within a few years after receiving her discharge.

Miss Logan was assigned to service, October 25, 1918, at Wilbur Wright Field, Fairfield, Ohio, and went from there to Fort McHenry, Maryland General Hospital, and remained until May 19, 1920, when she received her discharge. (1)

### Citations and Medals

Herman C. Craven volunteered for service in the United States Army, was placed in Company L, 2nd Tennessee Infantry, 30th Division, July 12, 1917, and sailed overseas May 12, 1918. While serving as messenger under Major W. A. Graham in Second Battalion Headquarters, 120th Infantry, 30th Division, Craven was cited for heroism in action near Premont, France, October 9, 1918. He received the citation for volunteering to ride a bicycle between the firing lines of "No Man's Land" to deliver a message to some of the lost troops that were advancing into some German machine gun nests. (2)

Shortly after, Private Walter Samuel Stewart, of Popular Corner, enlisted, he was sent to France, where he soon saw service in the trenches. His captain having been wounded and left on the field in "No Man's Land," volunteers were called to go out and rescue him. Although knowing that it meant almost certain death, young Stewart volunteered at once. He had barely gotten out of the trench when he was severely wounded by an exploding shell. This act of courage wrote young Stewart's name in big letters across the waters as a brave boy. The Literary Digest and Colliers Weekly, as well as other publications in the United States, mentioned his aft as one of the most out-

- (1) Miss Frances Lester, Eudora, Miss.  
 (2) Times-Promoter, July 15, 1920.

standing instances of heroism. (1)

Walter Harris, of Oak Grove, who was with the 38th Infantry, was in four of the main battles, and received a bronze lapel button and a victory medal with four battle clasps for his bravery during the time he served on the front. (2)

Captain T. J. O'Donnell has received from the War Department at Washington copies of citations for bravery in action and valuable military service of the French Commander-in-Chief of the Marne army - Petain - of the Sixth Marine Regiment and the Fourth Brigade, Second Division. In all of the actions Johnny O'Donnell took an honorable part and bore himself like a true soldier. The battles mentioned were in the Bellieu Wood region, where the American troops stopped the Prussian advance on Paris.

In addition to honors already received, Johnny O'Donnell has been authorized by the French government to wear the four-eagere of the colors of the French Cross of War. This decoration is in the form of a silken strap of plaited strands, and is a badge of heroism that is highly prized. (3)

"Private Leriell Counts, the first Hernando boy to return home who had served with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, spent Christmas with his parents. Counts received from the War Department a citation in the form of a scroll, with a figure representing Columbia, sword in hand, conferring the order of knighthood upon a kneeling soldier. These words appear on the scroll: 'Columbia gives to her son the accolade of the new chivalry of humanity!' It also contains the words: 'W. L. Counts, Company K, 23rd Infantry. Served with honor in the World War and was wounded in action.' The first quotation appears at the top; the second at the bottom of the scroll. This is a fitting tribute to Count's service, and something to be cherished with pride." (4)

C. W. Glenn, of Love, assigned to the 17th Company, 5th Marines, was on the front for four days when his company was relieved by the "Doughboys." Glenn had three medals given him, two of which are victory medals, one from the regular army, another from the marines; the third medal is inscribed on the back with the words, "Fidelity and Obedience." (5)

- (1) Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) Walter S. Harris, Hernando, Miss.  
 (3) The Times-Promoter, November 11, 1920  
 (4) Times Promoter, September 25, 1920  
 (5) C. W. Glenn, Love, Miss.

H. D. Greer, of Cockrum, spent twenty-two months in foreign service during the World War. In Europe he was with the 2nd Division, 23rd Regiment, Company G, where he was engaged in taking the wounded from the battlefields. After the war he was presented with a citation medal. (1)

The first boy to enlist in the service of the United States from the county upon the outbreak of the war was B. B. Gooch, of Olive Branch. Early in 1918 news reached his family that Gooch and a companion had killed twenty-seven Germans with a machine gun and they they had been recommended for the coveted cross of honor. However, Gooch was killed in service some weeks later. The account of his death in the county publication follows:

"Bernard Boydston Gooch was born in Water Valley, September 22, 1897, and came to Olive Branch in January, 1916. On April 14, 1917, he volunteered in the regular army, after having been refused for enlistment by the navy. He was assigned to Company D, 18th Infantry, U. S. Regulars, saw service on the Mexican border for six weeks, and was sent over with the first expeditionary forces, landing in France, June 26, 1917. Early this year he was made a corporal in a Machine Gun Company. In April he was cited for bravery in action and received the French Croix de Guerre (cross of war). In May he distinguished himself for courage in killing a number of the enemy, and was in the American victory at Cantigny and met death at the head of his squad on the field of Soissons some time between July 11 and August 2, 1917. His lieutenant, George H. Flech, in a letter to the family says: 'Corporal Gooch was always a cheerful and good-natured lad, and was a man to be relied upon. He was well liked by his officers and men of his company. He was with me at Cantigny, and during the raid by the enemy his courage and coolness never failed him. Before that he had been cited for bravery, and in every respect he was a soldier. In the last engagement, which was one of the biggest battles the world has ever seen, Corporal Gooch was in command of his squad when he was killed. We were going forward when we ran into machine gun fire, and Corporal Gooch was killed by a bullet through his head. He died instantly and did not suffer. He died leading his squad.'

"It is believed he was buried on the field which was near Soissons, where the heaviest of the fighting has taken place." (2)

(1) H. D. Greer, Cockrum, Miss.

(2) Times-Promoter, September 19, 1918

A. Y. Silvey, Olive Branch, gave the following record of his son, Elmer Sivley: "He saw overseas service and on April 15, 1921, applied for a victory medal. He died on April 23, 1922, of influenza." (1)

Hartwell D. Greer, Cockrum, spent twenty-two months in foreign service during the war. In Europe he was with the 2nd Division, 23rd Regiment, Company G. He was in active service in the following battles: St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, defensive sector. Greer said that he was engaged to take the wounded off the battle fields for a long period, and has a medal which was presented to him after the war. (2)

#### Letters From the Front

In the Times-Promoter of May 15, 1919, is found the following letter to E. B. Coe from Lieutenant William H. Leininger:

"Dear Mr. Coe:

"Soon after the signing of the Armistice, the 166th Aero Squadron was ordered to advance with the American Army of Occupation. They took over an old German field at Joppercourt, France, from where they received orders to proceed on into Germany. Since then they have been occupying an airdrome taken from the Germans near the city of Treves, or Trier, Germany. Lieutenant Coe joined the squadron in February and had always been an active and enthusiastic observer. The squadron has been practicing bombing and doing photographic work since their arrival in Germany, and has proved itself a most efficient organization. Not a little of the squadron's success is due to the efforts of Lieutenant Coe, who, by his excellent example and devotion to the squadron, spurred others on their efforts.

"While piloting a Liberty plane in a bombing formation of eight over the German village, Sweich, Lieutenant Volk's plane collided with the plane piloted by Lieutenant Nichols. Their controls being severed they were forced to land 'out of control,' causing the death of Lieutenant Volk, Nichols, and Private Salerno, and badly injuring Sergeant Carson. In the collision, the leader's rudder was torn away, but he crashed his plane without injury to himself.

"When Lieutenant Morris, who was piloting the machine behind Lieutenant Volk, saw the collision, he immediately spiraled down to where the machines had crashed, and attempted a landing with the object of rushing aid to the

(1) A. Y. Sivley, Olive Branch, Miss.

(2) H. D. Greer, Cockrum, Miss.

fallen planes. His controls refused to function while over the Moselle River, forcing him to land in the river. He pulled his observer, Lieutenant Coe, on the floating plane, which soon hit a bridge and capsized, throwing both into the river. Lieutenant Morris was saved but Lieutenant Coe's body has not been recovered as yet, but every effort is being made to recover same. The accident was of course, unfortunate, but to my mind was unavoidable. Blame cannot be placed upon anyone of them for complying with orders. While I had only been commander of the squadron for five days, I feel responsible for the occurrence and am doing all in my power to make the 'Fortunes of War' as bearable as possible to their loved ones. I need not emphasize that you lost an excellent son, one who was loved by all who came in contact with him. We loved him as a brother and considered him as such. Your grief is terrible I know, but be consoled by the fact that he died in the defense of his country, giving his all. In the words of the Apostle 'He fought a great fight and was true to his faith.'

"Lieutenant Coe desired above all things to return to his family and loved ones, but his services could not be spared as yet from the defense of his country. Will you accept the sympathy of his entire squadron, and if at any time we can be of service, you have only to command us. Should you wish any data or information, I will be glad to co-operate with you. I beg you to accept the sympathy and services of

William H. Leininger  
1st Lieutenant Air Service, U.S.A.  
Commanding" (1)

A Letter from Dr. A. P. H. Sage, U. S. Army

"Military Hospital  
Davenport, England  
November 12, 1917

"Dear Julia, Bro. Jimmie, and Julia Carroll, and Bro. Setchie:

"Just why I've been thinking of you all more today than usual, I am unable to tell. Just couldn't turn in without dropping you a line at least.

"Since seeing you all last, have had quite a few experiences, both pleasant and unpleasant, but mostly pleasant, I must say, leaving out of course, my professional work, which would be one continual round of sadness if we allowed it to be such, of course, we do not.

(1) Times Promoter, May 15, 1919

"Davenport and Plymouth are just across a very small bay from one another and practically one and the same place. Harbor is at Plymouth, which is a naval base of considerable moment just now, and fortunately we get to meet lots of naval officers at night.

"Hospital has about 1500 beds, chiefly gunshot wounds of every conceivable kind and degree. Will not tell you about this, however, as, no doubt, you have read my other letters to the family.

"English treat us rather fine, of course; 'tis hard for you to imagine the great difference in ways and habits. They all do things left-handed to us. Have never yet learned to cross a street without fear and trembling almost, as I always look the wrong way.

"Go roller-skating occasionally, as that is the chief amusement at night, except shows and they are not very interesting to me. In fact, I've seen most of them in America six or seven years ago, except the musical comedies and most of the humor in these goes over my head.

"Enjoy food very much now but 'twas rather hard at first. Also, have become accustomed to cold and wet, I hope. Have had to discard one pair of my shoes because this moisture goes through them just like they were paper. However, they look perfectly good. Clothing is much better in England than in U.S.A. and much cheaper; matches and a few other things, however, make up for that, they are so scarce.

"Met two old college chums in London very unexpectedly, and of course was very happy. Meet some wonderful people every day. Met a frat brother today who is back here wounded. He joined the Canadian Army two years ago, with the American Legion and has been in the trenches two years.

"Write to me here as soon as possible as I've not heard a line yet.

Lovingly,

Hubert." (1)

(1) Mrs. Julia Sage Williamson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.



### Interviews

Walter Harris of Oak Grove, gives the following facts concerning his war record:

The final battle, Argonne Forest, began on September 26, 1917. The line extended from the coast of the English Channel, near Ostend, to the northern boundary of Switzerland, more than 400 miles. The Americans were near the middle of the line; they had eighteen divisions, nearly half a million men. Harris was in the third division. This was the first time that so many American soldiers had fought in an engagement. The battle lasted for six weeks, from September 26 to November 6, and raged with scarcely a breathing spell. The Argonne Forest was a densely wooded area, covering four or five hundred acres, mostly on a high hill. When the war first started the Germans had taken control of this forest, and France had to regain it.

The first battle Mr. Harris was engaged in was on the morning of October 9. The Third Division was held in reserve of the Fifth Division. They were back of the firing line, in little shelter-halves, which were little tents that accommodated only two men. They were kept in readiness for the command to take the place of the Fifth Division which was on the front. At early sunrise on the morning of October 9 the command came. Soldiers of the Third Division rushed to the front, those in the Fifth Division fell back in camp; shooting started at once, and there was not a let-up until six o'clock that evening.

Throughout the day, the distance they gained was almost eight kilometers. Two officers in the Third Division were killed, and out of the 150 men that went to the front, all were killed but sixteen. Just before they entered the battle, Walker Gaines, a DeSoto County boy, and a buddy of Walter's, said to Harris, "Buddy, this is the last battle we will ever be in together, for I will never come out of this one alive." Harris told of his trying to cheer Gaines, who was not his usual jolly self. They went into the battle side by side; at nine o'clock Gaines was killed instantly by a machine gun shell. The first bullet hit him in the chest, and almost at the same time, another hit him on the head. He did not even look or speak. Harris also stated that he could not stop to do one thing for him, but would have given anything to have picked Gaines up and run back to camp with him.

It was in this battle that Harris was gassed. He had his gas mask on, but it was not a protection against mustard gas. There was no protection against this particular deadly gas. It was used in shells of eight, ten, and twelve inches in diameter, and two feet long. The one-food containers burst when they hit the ground, and it is then that they give off their deadly fumes.

There was a German machine gun nest hid in these woods, and Harris, with seven more men, was sent to destroy it. They had to crawl on hands and knees, sometimes slide on their stomachs for a mile with but a few bushes and grass to conceal them. Most of this journey was covered with ice and sleet. These men carried both rifle and hand grenades, and were successful in destroying this nest about eleven o'clock that morning. The five Germans who were operating the gun, and two of the American boys were killed.

Harris also stated that they entered this battle with sleet about two inches thick on their helmets; the ground was so slick they could hardly stand up, and the trees were almost breaking under the heavy burden of ice and sleet. Harris' Division was in action until nine o'clock that night, when it was relieved by the Fifth Division. This was one of the most severe battles of the World War.

Harris was also in the Battle of Belleau Woods, and it was in this battle that he received a leg wound. For two and a half hours the German and American soldiers were engaged in a hand-to-hand fight. The American soldiers were more successful in this kind of fighting than the Germans, because the Germans were so awkward with their bayonets. Only thirty of the American boys were killed out of Company M, Third Division. The Battle of Belleau Woods lasted about eight days, and the stubborn defense of the American boys helped break up a desperate German drive on Paris. (1)

Charlie Davis, of Eudora, told of his experience during the war.

He was sent with forty other men in his company to destroy a nest of German machine guns on Malbroeck Hill. The Germans hid in secluded places, the American boys were divided into groups to search for them. All of the American boys were killed except five, Davis being one of the five to come out alive. On his return to camp, he was fired upon by a machine gun that had been placed in a tree. Davis jumped into a shell hole, but this did not afford much

(1) Walter S. Harris, Hernando, Miss.

protection, so he slid out and ran for a tree, getting behind it; he opened fire from first one side then the other on the Germans, finally one fell, but the machine kept rattling away. Davis stated that the ground beneath him was plowed up like a thousand moles had been working there. He succeeded in getting the other German who was stationed in the tree. After killing the Germans, Davis ran toward camp and came upon a buddy, an Indian from Oklahoma, in a shell hole farther down the hill, and together they made it back to camp safely.

Davis was in Company H, 115th Infantry, and was engaged in both battles, Argonne Forest and Belleau Woods, during the war. (1)

Johnnie Dees entered Camp Shelby on March 5, 1918, with Company A, 115th Infantry. On June 12, 1918, he sailed for France, and his first battle was Malbrouck Hill. It was during this battle that he had his narrowest escape throughout the war. The 115th Infantry was attacking the Germans, trying to drive them back off the Hill; everywhere Germans were hid with machine guns. A shell from one of these guns hit Dees in the hip. (2)

Fletcher Lamar, Hernando, entered the army in the fall of 1917, and was assigned to the Ninth Observation Balloon Branch. He was in service in France for twelve months. Lamar took part in the following battles: Toul Sector 8/18/18 to 9/12/18; St. Mihiel 9/12/18 to 9/26/18; Meuse-Argonne 9/26/18 to 11/11/18. Several times the "Huns" came near getting his range with their artillery, enemy shells burst unpleasantly near him. (3)

Mrs. Julia Sage Williamson, Pleasant Hill, gave an account of the death of her brother, Dr. A.P.H. Sage, who was killed during the World War, as was written to the family by Colonel Andrews, senior chaplain of the hospital. Dr. A.P.H. Sage, who was reared at Cockrum, was killed at his post of duty in a hospital at Doullenes in Amiens Sector. On the night of May 29th, 1918, Lieutenant Dr. Sage with two Canadian doctors and several Red Cross nurses were in the operating room when the cowardly Huns began bombarding the hospital in defiance of the rules of warfare. The first bomb came through the roof, and set fire to that entire wing of the hospital. Before the wounded could be rescued, the Germans returned, flying low and emptied their machine guns into the rescuers. In the hospital at that time were nearly 1000 patients, of whom thirty-seven were killed and more than a hundred injured as a result of the raid. The body of Lieutenant

- (1) Charlie Davis, Eudora, Miss.  
 (2) Johnnie Dees, Eudora, Miss.  
 (3) Fletcher Lamar, Hernando

Sage was found, and the next day he was given a military funeral with an American flag buried with him. (1)

Mrs. LaDell Dickson, Mineral Wells, gave the following account of the war experience of her husband, Lucius Dickson, who has died since the war closed. Lucius Dickson served in the Navy, and made four trips to France on the U. S. Steamship Peerless. On leave of absence while "overseas," he visited Paris and the battle ground where he secured numbers of souvenirs. Mrs. Dickson stated she had heard him say that on one of his visits to the battle ground he saw numbers of unburied Germans. On this same leave, he was near the Hindenburg headquarters which was so constructed that the "Old German" always had a bomb-proof retreat, and it was elegantly fitted up with the finest of furniture and musical instruments. (2)

#### Organizations That Did War Work at Home

All citizens had active part in war activities, such as Liberty Loan drives, War Saving Stamps campaigns, Red Cross subscriptions, and County Defense Council organization.

In the Times-Promoter of May 6, 1917, we find the following:

"To our customers and the public in general.

"We call your attention to a telegram received from William McAdoo, Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, published with the item, which speaks for itself; we will be pleased to receive subscriptions in any amount to the Liberty Loan Bonds named in his telegram, and will handle same without cost, other than the purchase price.

R. P. Cooke,  
 President Hernando Bank.

#### "The Telegram

Washington, D. C.  
 May 3, 1917.

"Hernando Bank  
 Hernando, Mississippi

"Government will receive subscriptions until June 15th for two billion dollars, three and one-half per cent

- (1) Mrs. Julia Sage Williamson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. LaDell Dickson, Mineral Wells, Miss.

Liberty Loan. You can render invaluable service to your country by receiving subscriptions and co-operating with Federal Reserve Bank in your district. Will you kindly do this and telegraph me, at government expense, as soon as practicable rough estimate of amount of bonds you think will be subscribed for you and your customers.

W. G. McAdoo  
Secretary of the U. S.  
Treasury'

"The total sum represented by these bonds June 15, was \$6,050.00." (1)

#### Liberty Bond Honor Roll

The Liberty Bonds were in charge of R. B. Cooke, county chairman.

In the Times-Promoter of April 18, 1918, the Liberty Bond Honor Rolls appeared as follows:

|               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Cub lake      | 42 Members on Honor Roll |
| Eudora        | 16 Members on Honor Roll |
| Nesbitt       | 16 Members on Honor Roll |
| Hernando      | 22 Members on Honor Roll |
| Mineral Wells | 12 Members on Honor Roll |
| Walls         | 12 Members on Honor Roll |
| Penton        | 16 Members on Honor Roll |
| State Line    | 6 Members on Honor Roll. |

On May 9, 1918, the following article appeared in the Times-Promoter indicative of the activity of the Liberty Loan campaign:

"Last Saturday was the last day of great Liberty Loan campaign and a number of subscriptions were received on that day, raising the total to \$134,250 for this county, or a little over three times the quota." (2)

A quotation from the Times Promoter of May 2, 1918:

"The Central Committee of the Liberty Loan organization at St. Louis has awarded the only three incorporated towns in DeSoto County Honor Flags; namely, Hernando, Olive Branch, and Nesbitt. These were the first honor flags in the State of Mississippi and every citizen of old DeSoto should be proud." (3)

- (1) The Times Promoter, May 6, 1917  
(2) Ibid, May 9, 1918  
(3) Ibid, May 2, 1918

In the Times-Promoter of February 28, 1918, was the following telegram, sent to State Director Thomas, by Rev. Melville Johnson, county director:

"Hernando, Mississippi  
February 15, 1918

"Mr. J. T. Thomas, State Director  
Grenada, Mississippi

"At a mass meeting today Hernando pledged fourteen thousand dollars for War Saving Stamps.

Melville Johnson, County Director." (1)

#### Red Cross Activities

The Red Cross report on April, 1918, showed that \$1,466.53 had been collected by the DeSoto County chapter. A Red Cross auxiliary for colored people was organized at Enon Spring in the eastern part of the county by Prof. C. E. Physis of the Kileton colored school.

The colored Red Cross auxiliaries collected the following amounts, as shown in the Times-Promoter of May 23, 1918: Liberty Hill Church, \$125, Kilston, \$75, Enon Springs, \$75.

The membership for DeSoto County on July 11, 1918, was 1,766, with \$3,466.86 collected.

Times-Promoter of April 26, 1917, states the county was organized into a Council of Defense, in keeping with the plan suggested by the State Council of Defense. The purpose of this organization was to inform the people of ways to save, and to develop all natural resources, as well as to guide them in their leisure pursuits.

Wheatless and meatless days were a part of the lives of citizens during the World War. People felt the scarcity of food, and did not indulge in varied diets of pre-war days. (2)

Mrs. Willie Abbey Howard, grand-daughter of Robert C. Irwin, who was a veteran of the War between the States, and a direct descendent of General Robert C. Irwin of the

- (1) Times-Promoter, February 28, 1918  
(2) Ibid, April 26, 1917

Revolutionary War, and one of the signers of the first Declaration of Independence, played a very important part in the American Red Cross work during the World War.

She first became interested in Red Cross work in the chapter of Tunica. The members of this chapter were trying to do their part by making wrapping bandages which were sent to the Gulf Division of the Red Cross, at New Orleans. Mrs. Howard received two weeks training in New Orleans, and after returning to Tunica, was sent into Coahoma County, then into DeSoto County.

The state field was divided and given to fourteen Red Cross Workers. Mrs. Howard's territory included Tunica, DeSoto, Coahoma, and Quitman counties, where courses were given in surgical dressing that workers might teach their respective chapters the correct method.

Mrs. Howard's time was volunteer service, and when the Armistice was signed, she was presented with a Red Cross Service Badge for 3200 hours of volunteer work with expenses paid. She was also presented a certificate, headed by "Pro Patria," signed by President Woodrow Wilson, Henry P. Davidson, and Colonel Leigh Carroll. (1)

Rev. Melville Johnson, Methodist minister; R. P. Cooke, president of Hernando bank; and R.E.L. Morgan, superintendent of education, did great work in the county during the World War in organizing Liberty Loan, Thrift, and War Saving Stamp Clubs, and a Defense Council.

The effects of the World War are, perhaps, most outstanding in the minds of the people today. DeSoto County cannot forget the loss of her young men, or the valiant services of those who were returned to her from service "over-seas." (2)

(For World War Roster see Addenda).

- (1) Mrs. Millie A. Howard, Walls, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.

### References

- |                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Barbee, Mills             | Hernando, Miss.                   |
| Bennett, Mrs. Mary        | Love, Miss.                       |
| Bobbitt, Mrs. O. C.       | Hernando, Miss.                   |
| Bowdre, Paul              | Hernando, Miss.                   |
| Britt, Richard C.         | Memphis, Tenn.                    |
| Craven, Herman C.         | Eudora, Miss.                     |
| Davis, Charley            | Eudora, Miss.                     |
| Dye, Mrs. Sudie Nelms     | Eudora, Miss.                     |
| Flowers, Mrs. Anna        | Olive Branch, Miss.               |
| Folis, John               | Miller, Miss.                     |
| Gallagher, James          | Hernando, Miss.                   |
| Gooch, Mrs. W. D.         | Hernando, Miss.                   |
| Greer, Hartwell D.        | Cockrum, Miss.                    |
| Harris, Walter S.         | Hernando, Miss.                   |
| Howard, Mrs. Willie Abbey | Walls, Miss.                      |
| Howard, Mrs. T. P.        | Walls, Miss.                      |
| Hughey, Britt             | Walls, Miss.                      |
| Lester, Miss Frances      | Eudora, Miss.                     |
| Maples, Mrs. Anna         | Olive Branch, Miss.               |
| Riley, Mrs. J. B.         | Eudora, Miss.                     |
| Sivley, A. Y.             | Olive Branch, Miss.               |
| Spencer, Clyde            | Eudora, Miss.                     |
| Underwood, J. T.          | Trinity (P. O. Hernando, Route 1) |
| White, Walter             | Eudora, Miss.                     |
| White, Mrs. Walter        | Eudora, Miss.                     |
| Wilkins, Mrs. Ella        | Olive Branch, Miss.               |
| Yates, Mrs. Ira           | Alphaba, Miss.                    |

### Bibliography

- Atkins, A. G.  
 Holmes, Francis  
 Mathis, J. Harvey  
 Rowland, Dunbar
- Roster of Confederate Veterans, P. 160  
Roster of Confederate Veterans  
General Forrest  
 New York, D. Appleton and Company, 1902  
Mississippi, The Heart of the South,  
 Vols. I and II, S. J. Clark Publishing  
 Company, Chicago, Jackson, 1925  
Roster of Confederate Veterans, pp  
 11, 172, 176, 178, 179, 169.  
The Peoples Press, May 17, 1866  
The Times Promoter, June 7, 1917;  
 August 16, 1917; April 1, 1918;  
 April 26, 1918; May 2, 1918; May 9,  
 1918; May 16, 1918; June 6, 1918;  
 July 18, 1918; September 19, 1918;  
 December 26, 1918; August 26, 1920;  
 September 23, 1920; November 11, 1920;  
 July 12, 1930.

## Chapter IX

## RECONSTRUCTION

Political Adjustment

The years following the abolition of slavery and the reconstruction of the bonds of union stand out in marked contrast with all other eras of the county's history. The negroes had been elevated to citizenship, and had been encouraged by carpet-baggers to assume a large part of the civic and political responsibility in the county. Through fearless efforts of our greatest citizens, and by sheer force, the control of local government was wrenched from carpet-bag and negro rule, and placed in the hands of competent and efficient southern white men.

In the minutes of the Board of Police July 17, 1865, it is recorded that by an order from W. E. Sharkey, provisional governor, judges of elections were appointed to hold an election for delegates to a convention on August 7, 1865. This election was held July 16, 1865, and delegates elected were:

J. S. Oliver and Charles Robertson from the county at large; from the First District, W. H. McCargo, Y. P. Rozell, N. Wilson, W. W. Wilroy, J. A. Stevens, H. O. Allen; from the Second District, J. P. McCracken, W. H. Anderson, J. W. Farmer, J. G. Jeffreys, V. Meriwether; from the Third District, John S. Jones, Dabney Hull, E. Matthews, Stephen Williams, Dr. J. C. Waite; from the Fourth District, G. W. Perkins, Finley Holmes, B. D. C. Bynum, James Walker, Samuels Rains; from the Fifth District, Dr. H. Dockery, C. S. Meriwether, W. J. A. Boone, W. K. Love, R. E. Doggett. (1)

The work of this convention is well known to the students of Mississippi history.

H. Dockery, of DeSoto County, was elected by the State Convention as a delegate from the First District of Mississippi to the convention in Philadelphia on August 14, 1865.

(1) Minutes of Board of Police, July 17, 1865.

On October 1, 1866, an election was held for all district and county officers. It was not known who were Democrats and who were Radicals; perhaps all Democrats, for the Radicals were not yet organized. This election resulted as follows:

Circuit judge, A. M. Clayton; probate judge, John A Hancock; circuit clerk, J. G. Nesbit; tax assessor, T. M. Eavenson; ranger, C. Gillespie; magistrate, L. Wheeler; coroner, J. P. Pullin; district attorney, G. E. Harris; probate clerk, A. W. Smith; sheriff, W. J. Bynum; treasurer, R. F. Cook; constable, W. L. Reynolds; surveyor, P. Lewis; policeman, W. H. Johnson, Fifth District.

The campaign and election in 1869 for the ratification of the constitution and for choosing state and congressional officers was an exciting one, as the Democratic and Radical parties each had a full ticket out. Democratic-Conservatives Clubs, composed of old line Whigs and Democrats, were organized all over the county. Dr. H. N. Ballard, Theodore Wiseman, E. J. Lipsey, and others organized Loyal Leagues among the negroes.

No joint debates were held, as the Radicals would not consent to them, but speeches were made throughout the county. J. D. Freeman, chairman of the State Executive Committee; H. H. Chalmers, Felix Labauve, James B. Morgan, P. S. Myers, B. G. Hooker (candidate for attorney-general), John Rankin (negro), and others made speeches in every community, dissecting and exposing "the bogus constitution," admonishing the negro to stand by their old white friends, and calling upon the white men to organize, co-operate, and work. The Radicals were as busy urging their negro friends to stand together; not to split their votes, and to ratify the Constitution.

The final result is well known. The Radicals were defeated by a vote of 2,167 to 413. Felix Labauve was sent as a delegate to the State Convention at Jackson, and was later elected secretary of the Mississippi delegation to the National Democratic Convention in New York, which held July 2, 1868.

This overwhelming defeat of the Radicals, it is remembered, was so unexpected that it caused a great howl from them and an investigation by Congress. "Chief" Lipsey, one of the Radical leaders, thus gives his view of the election in a private letter to Hon.

W. H. Gibbs, chairman of the Election Committee of Five, Jackson, Mississippi:

"Coldwater, DeSoto County, Mississippi

"Dear Sir:

"I have intended up to the present time to be at the convention on March 19th, and was anticipating great pleasure on meeting my Union friends, but, owing to the indisposition of my family, I am compelled to forego that satisfaction. You will see from the enclosed ticket that I was a candidate for the Legislature, and though defeated, I feel that it was owing to the time of the year at which the election was held. The rebel opposition composed the idle, loafing, drunken portion of the voters, while Union voters were generally the working people, and at that time, were straining every nerve to save their crops, it being the busy season of the year. Consequently, the Union Party was taken by surprise and met an armed opposition, which caused most of them to stay away from the polls to save their lives.

"While there was no hostile demonstration immediately at the polls, every road was guarded with armed Ku Klux Klan to intimidate Union voters. There are 4,780 registered voters in this county, and the rebel vote amounted to 2,100, and many voted with them through necessity, which they would not have been compelled to do at any other season of the year, many freedmen being dependent upon their rebel employers for rations to finish their crops with-----.

"Dr. H. N. Ballard, of this county, or Mr. Ozone, of Panola County, are authorized to act as my proxy-----.

"Hoping that you may be able to ameliorate the condition of your suffering county, I am,

Very respectfully,

E. J. Lipsey" (1)

The County Convention

In the Hernando Press June 4, 1868, we find the following account of the "glorious convention:"

"Monday last was a proud day for 'Old DeSoto' - 250 men in council, 100 delegates present. In another column will be seen a report of the proceedings of the convention

(1) Peoples Press, March 1, 1869.

held in Hernando. The greatest harmony prevailed, best of feeling existed, and great enthusiasm was exhibited during the session. The interest manifested by delegates from every portion of the county was indeed cheering. The intelligence, the wealth, in other words, the taxpayers, the high-souled southern Desoto men, were there. All things looked shining for a glorious victory at the coming election. 'Work! Work! Work!' was the cry from one end of the courthouse to the other. It was a union of souls resolved to make all efforts and use all influences to defeat the mongrel bill of abominations. It was a thorough compact of men connected together by the love of God, their families and their county.

"Its labors were finished by presenting a Legislative ticket to the whites and blacks to be voted for the election.

"For the Senate, L. W. Renfoe, of Independence, who was engaged in the mercantile business, a young man of sprightliness, intelligent, who has confidence in himself as a business man, and who will make his mark in the legislative body.

"Joel P. Walker, of Horn Lake, is a farmer, a young man of most excellent parts, a gentleman of the highest order of intellect, and with experience will honor himself and his constituency in Representative Halls.

"Charles Robertson, of Hernando, a merchant by profession, clever and popular as any gentleman in our midst; of industrial habits, a reading man, quick of perception, correct in his dealings, and an honest man, will make a safe and staunch representative - the name of 'Charley' is a tower of strength to the ticket. All three were privates in the Confederate army, and better selections could not have been made. It will strike terror in the enemy's camp, and command the respect and the support of the Freedmen.

"If we don't conquer mongrelism in the struggle for our civil political redemption, the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah would be a blessing to us." (1)

(1) Hernando Press, June 4, 1868.

Another heated campaign followed in the fall of 1869 for the gubernatorial, congressional and legislative offices. The tickets put out by the respective parties were:

|                    | Radical          | Conservative    |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Governor           | Alcorn           | Louis Dent      |
| Congress           | Harris           | J. L. Woffard   |
| Lieut. Governor    |                  | E. Jeffers      |
| Secretary of State |                  | Thos. Sinclair  |
| Auditor            |                  | A. W. Wells     |
| Treasurer          |                  | Joseph McClay   |
| Attorney General   |                  | Robert Lowry    |
| Supt. Pub. Inst.   |                  | T. S. Cartright |
| Senate             | H. N. Ballard    | H. H. Chalmers  |
|                    | Walker           | J. O. Sandidge  |
| Legislature        | M. Campbell      | T. C. Dockery   |
|                    | G. P. Carrington | Larkin Echols   |

A schedule of appointments was made out by the conservatives and published, and a cordial invitation extended to the Radicals to meet them in joint debate. The Radicals refused to do this, but rode day and night organizing Loyal Leagues and working up the negroes. (1)

In The People's Press of August 19, 1896, mention is made of a joint debate in Hernando, in which the Radicals were represented by J. L. Alcorn. But we are told that he waited until 4 P. M. before he appeared; then taking the stand, first he spoke until 6 P. M., thus giving his opponent no time in which to reply. (2)

The People's Press speaks of "proscription," disfranchisement, class legislation, exclusive privileges and taxation without representation. But in spite of all efforts, the conservatives were defeated by 640 votes.

Several issues of The People's Press are missing for the remaining years of the Reconstruction Period; the sources are too meager to attempt a detailed account of the campaign from 1872 to 1876. There was, in general, a repetition of the methods used in earlier campaigns, though party feeling became more bitter, since the Radical party remained uniformly in power until their complete overthrow in 1876. The Democrats held few offices usually, and always managed to secure one or more members of the Board of Police (Supervisors), except when they were appointed by the governor.

(1) The People's Press, August 19, 1896.

(2) Ibid.

The sheriff's office was once filled by a negro, J. J. Evans, formerly a slave of R. E. Doggett. He was elected November 4, 1873, and the following statements about his official career are interesting in this connection:

"He was a good, sound negro, but his bondsmen really administered his affairs and ran his office. Some slight confusion occurred once, resulting with his being charged with defaulting, but as no specific statement concerning it are sound, the conclusion seems to have been that nothing wrong really occurred. After this incident, some changes in office occurred; his bondsmen were changed, and R. R. West was put in charge, and became sheriff in all but name. No further trouble resulted." (1)

#### Campaign of 1876

"The campaign of 1876 was the greatest one of the entire Reconstruction Period. The Democrats made their nominations early.

"In April, J. B. Morgan was nominated for the State Senate; Judge Sam Powell, and J. D. Nichols, for the Legislature, and Van H. Manning was the Democratic nominee for Congress. Military companies were raised, clubs were organized in every community, and rallies held frequently. On September ninth a rally was held in Hernando, thirteen clubs were represented and the 'DeSoto Blues,' 900 strong, paraded on horses to the music of brass bands." (2)

#### Stage Coaches on Public Roads

J. P. Janney, of Oak Grove community, in an interview states that he remembered at the close of the War that stage coaches were run on all public roads in the county, taking passengers just as trains or buses do today. There were "Inns" or "Taverns" along the roads, at which the stage coaches had certain days to arrive. Passengers were picked up here to carry on to their destination; four horses were usually driven to these coaches, and could be changed at the "Livery Stables" along the route. Mr. Janney remembered the stage coach that carried the mail from Oxford to Memphis, traveling over the "Old Hernando Plank Road." (3)

- (1) Reconstruction in DeSoto County, by Irby C. Nichols.  
 (2) Ibid.  
 (3) J. P. Janney, Oak Grove, Miss.

J. B. Riley, of Eudora community, states that the "Conestoga Wagon" was also used; this was a crudely constructed "Covered Wagon" drawn by six horses; a man would ride the horse that was hitched nearest the wagon, so driving would be made easier, and his family could ride inside. Riley also says that many people came to DeSoto County in these "Covered Wagons" from the Carolinas, Georgia, and Tennessee. Also, at the close of the war, many people left the county in the same way, seeking a place where they thought things would be different. All household possessions could very easily be moved in this type of wagon. Two-wheel ox-carts and "pack-mules" were also common means of transportation at this time, and Riley stated that many fine horses were stolen or destroyed by the northern soldiers; oxen were used to a great extent for travel and agricultural purposes. (1)

"Nature's highways," or the rivers and bayous, were used to carry men and their burdens from place to place. Men could easily straddle a log, or make a raft by tying a number of logs together, and paddle or push it by poles to a given destination. Dug-out canoes were used by "river rats" and "fishermen;" "river rats" living in "houseboats" near the islands in the Mississippi River came to the landings near Lake Cormorant, Walls, and Lake View in their canoes to do their dirty work. Tyler Boone, of near Walls, in an interview, states that these "river rats" were plentiful in that vicinity along the Mississippi River at the close of the war. He also says that large boats, similar to a "Mississippi River Sternwheeler," were prominent on the Mississippi River - these being used for commerce and pleasure. (2)

#### Farms and Plantations

As Confederate soldiers, tired, weak, broken, and wounded, returned home at the close of the war, they found themselves without capital or labor with which to cultivate their lands. In many cases, only remnants of their stock were left; thousands of dollars worth of property had been destroyed; therefore, most farm had to be foreclosed because the owners could not meet their debts. But, with all of this, the county as a whole prospered. (3)

Miss Hazel Marshall, Hernando, in an interview states, that reunions for thirty-five years were given in honor of the Confederate veterans of the county, and were held at Lake View, usually in the form of a fish-fry and dance.

- (1) J. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.  
 (2) Tyler Boone, Walls, Miss.  
 (3) J. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.



A committee of ten was responsible for the entertainment, and the veterans dressed in their uniforms. Until his death, S. A. Hughey, "Old Hughey" to all of his friends, gave the Rebel yell just before dinner was served. These reunions were discontinued two years ago, as the veterans were all too feeble to attend; only two were present at the last meeting.

At the close of the War, in rural communities throughout the county, both young and old enjoyed "log-rollings," "house or barn-raisings," "corn shuckings" and "cotton pickings." At each of these entertainments everyone would carry something prepared to eat, or the man giving the entertainment would have food prepared, and after the day's work, a square dance was given, with both young and old taking part; music was furnished by men playing on fiddles, guitars, banjos, and by blowing jugs. (1)

#### Economic Adjustment

In the People's Press of May 23, 1865, reference is made to a meeting on May 20 of the DeSoto County Agricultural Society, Robert Temple, president; Felix Labauve, secretary and treasurer. (2)

Political and social conditions had been too exasperating and too unstable to admit economic recovery, hence all the arts and crafts languished for want and security. Agricultural labor had received an almost fatal stroke in the freeing of the slaves, and in spite of the efforts of the citizens to overcome this handicap of scarcity of labor in the county during the Reconstruction Period, we find the following discouraging item in a local paper of February, 1866:

"So far as we are informed, they (the citizens) are doing as well as might be supposed, all things considered. Our citizens through the county have not succeeded in getting a supply of laborers, consequently many open fields will not be cultivated this year." (3)

"In 1867, the crops were very poor, too much rain and green grass and too few laborers. This condition led to a meeting of the citizens at Hernando on Thursday, December 12, 1867, 'to discuss the threatened famine in consequence of no crop, low price, shortage of laborers, etc.' Accordingly, Henry Dockery, Robert Wilkinson, T. S. Tate, A. W. Stokes, Joseph Rogers, and John G. Nesbitt were chosen as delegates to attend the Immigration

- (1) Hazel Marshall, Hernando, Miss.
- (2) The People's Press, May 23, 1865.
- (3) The People's Press, February 15, 1866.

Convention at Jackson, March 31, 1868." (4)

"In April, the Immigration Convention recommended the importation of labor, and persons were selected to deliver lectures on the subject over DeSoto and other counties, as follows: At Hernando, April 13; Senatobia, April 14; Sardis, April 15; Batesville, April 16; Oakland, April 17; Grenada, April 18:

"On the appointed day, addresses were made at Hernando, and the 'Free Land and Colonization Company of DeSoto County' was organized. Among the speakers were: John Everett, of London, Colonel Labauve, P. Miller, T. W. White, and General Wallace. Trustees appointed to manage the affairs of the company were: H. Dockery, T. S. Tate, W. H. Johnson, T. W. White, and J. B. Morgan. Three thousand acres of land were subscribed." (2)

#### Social Adjustment

"Through the efforts put forth by DeSoto County's great leaders, order and peace were quickly established everywhere, and the plundered and impoverished South could at least take hope and feel encouraged to make a new effort to recover some degree of prosperity and some measure of social content. The citizens had to adjust themselves again in the place of power and responsibility; encouragement came, and the future was faced with resolution and promise. Social adjustment came natural, and as industry in the county progressed, they were an important factor in bringing about social relationship. From the great landowners of the county came leaders in both social and governmental affairs. The homes of the people on these farms were centers of hospitality and of festivity on great occasions; and, as a rule there was a little superciliousness shown in mingling with the men who were unable to match their prosperity.

"For a time, veterans of the Confederate Army were too much occupied in rebuilding their ruined homes and shattered fortunes to give much time to other things. But with the return of prosperity they began to form supervisors associations, and these at last joined in forming a great fraternity styled the United Confederate Veterans." (3)

#### Education and Religious Adjustment

There were a few good schools in DeSoto County at the close of the War, but the change in labor problems

- (1) The People's Press, March 26, 1868.
- (2) Reconstruction in DeSoto County, by Irby C. Nichols.
- (3) Story of Confederate States, by Joseph I. Derry, p 451

brought about a change in schools. At this period many people who had to work to restore their wasted farms, depended for their education upon private instructions of clergymen and others who could give part of their time to teaching.

At this time a wonderful revival of religion occurred in the county, and throughout the South there was a strong religious sentiment. The firm belief of the Southerners in the Providence of God, who doeth all things well, prepared prominent leaders to take such with sublime submission, and accept in perfect good faith the results of the war.

Mrs. Julia Williamson, of Pleasant Hill, relates some interesting facts relative to the old camp meeting which were so popular here about this time. Mrs. Williamson remembers attending meetings at Ingram's Mill in her early childhood, which were social, as well as great evangelical occasions. Mother, father, and children hailed them each summer with great joy. (1)

#### Carpet-baggers - Scalawags - Conservatives

Mrs. Sallie McKenzie, of Hernando, states that during Reconstruction Days the carpet-baggers or scalawags made bloody-shirt speeches about over the county. Upon one occasion when an election was pending, the carpet-baggers were inflamed; thinking the town was practically deserted, they planned to join the negroes and carry the election. A few days prior to the election, people from all parts of the county, camped around town, and also had parades, and the people in town illuminated their homes. Mrs. McKenzie states that she had candles in her windows and Japanese lanterns were hung in her yard. Thus, the spirit of Confederacy burned again; snatching victory out of defeat - for they carried the election.

The carpet-baggers were northern men, who came south after the War, during 1865, to help organize a form of government in the South under reconstruction measures. This was a corrupt form of government, because these northern men came south on foot, bringing all their possessions in a carpet-bag, or bundle on their back. It was from their mode of carrying their possessions that they derived the name "carpet-baggers."

(1) Mrs. Julia Williamson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.

Their sole intention was to get rich quick and hold some high office, which they could secure through negro votes; they were really northern adventurers; southern men who joined the carpet-baggers in their plots and adventures were known as "scalawags."

In 1873, the South resolved to put forth every effort to destroy and overthrow the so-called carpet-bag government. (1)

James Bright Morgan, Ham H. Chalmers, James R. Chalmers, G. D. Shands, Felix Habauve, Thomas W. White, and others, with their keen discernment, diligent work, and skilful management so checkmated the carpet-bag and scalawag foes that the county was piloted through the great reconstruction period without any bloody riots, or very extravagant administration, and with only a moderate degree of disorder and political disturbance. The county had carpet-baggers in the legislature; two carpet-bag sheriffs, and one negro sheriff. (2)

#### Freedman's Bureau

Little information has been obtained concerning the Freedman's Bureau, as the records make only slight mention of this organization. No complaint was ever made by the negroes that their liberty had been denied them. On August 9, 1866, from an account in the The People's Press, we found that there was no Freedman's Bureau in the county, but that a commissioner's court had been instituted to attend to such work as would come before that body. On September 26, 1867, there was mention in The People's Press of the appearance of the Freedman's Bureau agent being in DeSoto County from Sardis, Panola County, and it added a prediction that he would have no work to do, as there was none to be done. On April 2, 1868, some fear was manifested lest the Bureau should be continued, though its work had long since been done.

#### The Ku Klux Klan

The Ku Klux Klan in DeSoto County, as told by L. L. Jones, (deceased), to Mr. Nichols:

Forrest, who lived in Memphis in 1875, was the chief organizer of the Ku Klux Klan in the South, and in DeSoto County. Pad S. Myers, Grand Gould and organizer, received instructions from Forrest. Myers organized in each district a Klan called a company; each company consisted of

(1) Mrs. Sallie McKenzie, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) Publication of Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. 2

twenty-four men, and had a captain and three lieutenants. Captains of the second, and third, and fourth, companies, all Jones remembered, were Jobe Day, Jim McCraven, and L. L. Jones; Jones' lieutenants in the fourth district were Rufus Jones, Williams Rollins, and Asa Doggett.

The uniforms were black, with two rows of large white buttons up and down the front and back, arranged crossing each other; hats were white, and about two feet high; those of the officers were higher than the privates. No man except the staunchest sort was allowed to become a member of the Ku Klux Klan, and bound by a strict oath. Mr. Jones stated that his wife, and Mat, and Asa Doggett's wives were also members, as they had to take in a few women in order to have someone make their uniforms and do any sewing necessary.

Meetings were held every two weeks, always at night, and this particular Klan met at Bluff Springs, about three miles southeast of Cub Lake. Rides were made at mysterious hours of the night and in weird fashion. Jones states they would ride up to a negro house, summons him out, warn him in a deep, foreboding tone against voting or doing certain things, perform some ominous trick and ride off. Two of his men carried large rubber bags and frequently pretended to be thirsty; ordered negroes to bring some water, and then order more, declaring that "demons from hell had to have lots of water."

The night before the election in 1875 the Ku Klux Klan rode all night long.

In April, 1868, a Ku Klux Klan made maneuvers north and south of Hernando, and on October 1, 1868, it made its debut in this vicinity. (1)

#### Events and Conditions during Reconstruction Period

Britt Hughey, in an interview related interesting incidents in the life of his father, S. A. Hughey, during Reconstruction Days: He tells of the active part taken by his father in the Ku Klux Klan organization in DeSoto and surrounding territory after the War. After many exploits, his father was arrested by governing officials of the county and carried to Holly Springs for trial. At B. A. Hughey's own request he was brought back to Hernando for trial, and his father and brother went on his bond; later, taking the advice of friendly officials, he fled

(1) Reconstruction in DeSoto County, by Irby C. Nichols.

to Arkansas to escape being convicted and hanged. He lived there through the remainder of the Reconstruction Days, under the assumed name of Britt. In later years, Hughey repaid his father and brother for the money they forfeited on his bond; Britt Hughey received his name, he said, because of the foretold incident. Hughey mentioned the fact that his father was a prisoner in Rock Island, Illinois, for many months; yet, like many other fellow prisoners, he preferred remaining in prison and undergoing the many hardships of left there, to forsaking the cause of the South. (1)

Mrs. Mary Bennett, Love, stated in an interview June 19, 1937, how meat was hung and preserved during the war and soon after it. Meat was often covered with a preparation of ashes to preserve it, and was hung with "bear grass," a very strong vine common in the county, or with white oak splints, as wire was very scarce. Mrs. Bennett related an incident which occurred during the War between the States: Her mother had treated all her meat with ashes, while the negroes' meat, hung in the smoke-house with it, was not treated. The "Yankees" came, and when they visited the smoke-house took only the darkies' meat, because they were afraid the other had been treated with poison for their benefit. Mrs. Bennett's mother could not prevail upon them to spare the darkies' meat and take hers instead. (2)

#### Member of Ku Klux Klan

In a letter to W. L. Glenn, at one time commander of the DeSoto Camp U. C. V. No. 220, information regarding C. H. Robertson can be found: He enlisted in Capt. Morgan's company in March, 1862, which company was later Company I, 29th, Mississippi Infantry, and served with his regiment as Sergeant-Major after January, 1863. He served with the regiment continuously, not missing a single engagement or fight, until he was taken prisoner at Lookout Mountain in November, 1863. He spent the latter part of the war in prison at Rock Island, Illinois. (3)

"This is to certify that I joined the Confederate Service in February, 1862, at Byhalia, J. W. Rodgers, Captain. My company went from there to Holly Springs, Mississippi, and joined the 34th Mississippi Regiment, Sam Benton, Colonel. The regiment went from there to Corinth, and did its first fighting at that place; our next battle was at Berryville, Kentucky; the next at Chickamauga, Tennessee; next was the 'Battle Above the

(1) Britt Hughey, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. Mary Bennett, Love, Missi  
 (3) Roster of Confederate Veterans, p 179

Clouds,' on Lookout Mountain, in front of Chattanooga. Then we were captured and taken to Rock Island and kept as prisoners of war for more than one year; then taken to Richmond, Virginia, and exchanged and given a 30-day furlough. I beat my way home; being cut off from my command, I did nothing but scout until the surrender, which was but about two months. I then went into what I called my glory - the Ku Klux Klan.

(Signed) S. A. Hughey

Co. E. 34th, Miss. Regt.  
Walthalls Brigade  
Hindmans Division  
Polks Corps, Braggs Army"

#### County Government Returned to White Voters

Mrs. Annie E. Lynn, of Hernando, related the following incident in the career of her grandfather, J. C. N. Robertson: "During the Reconstruction Period, DeSoto County was in a critical condition, due to the negro and carpet-bagger rule. Some of the most influential men of the county began to seek some way to regain white supremacy. The state of Tennessee had just overcome the negro rule, so it was decided to send General Robertson up there to secure some plan to help DeSoto County. Knowing that it would cost quite a bit to do this, donations were made by the loyal citizens of the county; even those who were so poor that any gift at all meant real sacrifice, gave sometimes as much as a bale of cotton.

"General Robertson, on his arrival in Memphis, went at once to call on Bun Price, a printer and influential politician. This was quite natural, as General Robertson and Price were fellow-masons. After General Robertson had related the circumstances, the first question that Price asked was concerning finances. Upon the receipt of fifty dollars, Price outlined a plan by which the Republican ticket could be stolen and the Democratic ticket could be made, using the same picture of a donkey and the words, 'Here is your mule;' that was the negroes only way of identifying the Republican ticket, as they were unable to read. A copy of the Republican ticket was secured and the names of Democratic candidates were substituted. When the ballots were finished, a special train was secured by Robertson; riders met this train at Hernando in the middle of the night to carry the ballots to the different voting precincts of the county.

"The next day when the negroes went to the polls to vote, they were handed Democratic tickets, and seeing the picture of the mule on it, marked them. One negro, seemingly smarter than the average, discovered too late what had been done, but when he appealed to the Federal troops stationed in the county, he was told that the troops were staying here to keep order, and that was no breach of the peace. Thus, the county government was at last returned to the hands of competent officers." (1)

#### Spinning Wheel and Loom Put into Use Again

In an interview with Mrs. J. B. Riley she states the use of the spinning wheel and loom was revived after the war. The shortage of money and materials of every kind brought about by the war, made harder work, both for women and men, necessary during the period following. Clothes were made at home on spinning wheels and looms; cotton was folded into small rolls and spun into thread; socks and stockings were knitted out of this, and the same thread was used to make cloth in the loom. Dyes were made at home; walnut leaves were stewed down for dye, and many people grew indigo. Mrs. Riley told of cotton ginning about 1863. In preparation for ginning, each farmer dug a large hole in the ground; seeds were picked from the lint by hand, and the lint was packed in this hole. Homespun cloth was used for bagging and the bales were tied with ropes; rope for tying cotton, and plow lines were made by hand; thread was spun, and the men had a special hand-made device on which they twisted the thread into ropes. These ropes were used as late as 1884 by some of the settlers.

#### The Horse Gin Came into Use

The horse gin was pulled by horses hitched to a beam; cotton was separated by this gin, which was quite an improvement over the separating of seed and lint by hand. The cotton was placed in a box which was set on a platform; a weight at the top of the box was made to press the cotton as the beam was turned by the horses; bagging and ties were put on by hand; cotton was brought to the gin-stands in baskets and separated from the seed, then it was packed into the press of prepare for baling. (2)

- (1) Mrs. Annie E. Lynn, Hernando, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. J. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.

Remembers Reconstruction Days

Mrs. Julia Hinkle, of near Eudora, remembers much of the effects of the War between the States. She was only ten years old during the war, but has vivid pictures in her memory of many things that happened. She states that she never heard her mother tell but one story in her life, and that was to some "Yankee" who came up to their gate and asked if Mr. Barbee was at home? Mrs. Hinkle said that Mr. Barbee, who was her father, was home on furlough, and was sitting just inside the room, but her mother said, "No, he has gone to Mr. Nichols' to buy a horse." Mrs. Hinkle said that she looked at her mother so funny that the Yankees laughed and rode off; then her father slipped out and hid in a hollow log.

Mrs. Hinkle remembers when, during the rule of the negroes, it was dangerous for a white girl to go through Eudora. A negro named Tillman was magistrate, and there was also a negro constable. Unless a girl was accompanied by her brother or some other white man, it was common for a negro to insult her.

She remembers the time when the white men took the "polls" from the negroes; at a voting precinct near Eudora, sixty armed men went to the polls before daylight, stacked their guns and surrounded the "box." When the negroes came to vote, they were told to disband and march up in twos to vote, with threats of being shot down if they did not obey. By doing this, the ballot box could not be stuffed, and many could be disqualified. At Oak Grove, another voting precinct, Mrs. Hinkle says, a negro man and a Mr. Waldon were holding the election; everyone was allowed to vote, but the white men carried the day. Some white leaders filled fifty bottles with slaked lime; about sunset, they put water in the bottles on the lime, and when it was dark they threw the bottles under the church where an election was being held; the bottles began to burst like guns, the negroes thought they were being attacked, and confusion followed. Waldon jumped up and shot the light out, and the white men stole the ballot box and changed the tickets.

Mrs. Hinkle also remembers the activities of the Ku Klux Klan of the bluff, her father, Mr. Barbee, being a member. Once a young negro passed the field in which Jim Sing and his wife were working; he yelled

out, "Go to it, that's where I got my start." The next night the Ku Klux Klan caught him and strapped him with their belts.

Mrs. Hinkle's mother, Mrs. Barbee, and her grandmother, Mrs. Tigue, with the help of one old negro servant, plowed the field and made the crops, while Mr. Barbee was fighting in the war. Mrs. Barbee would go to Memphis in her wagon for food supplies, and carry farm products there to sell, but she was not a blockade runner. Times were very hard for the women and children while their husbands, fathers, and older brothers were fighting, but they did not complain. Mrs. Barbee was always glad to help her more unfortunate neighbors, who could not always get food. (1)

---

(1) Mrs. Julia Hinkle, Eudora, Miss.

References

|                        |                |       |
|------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Bennett, Mrs. Mary     | Love, . . .    | Miss. |
| Boone, Tyler           | Walls          | Miss. |
| Hinkle, Mrs. Julia     | Eudora,        | Miss. |
| Hughey, Britt          | Hernando,      | Miss. |
| Lynn, Annie E.         | Hernando,      | Miss. |
| McKenzie, Mrs. Sallie  | Hernando,      | Miss. |
| Janney, J. P.          | Oak Grove,     | Miss. |
| Marshall, Hazel,       | Hernando,      | Miss. |
| Riley, J. B.           | Eudora,        | Miss. |
| Riley, Mrs. J. R.      | Eudora,        | Miss. |
| Williamson, Mrs. Julia | Pleasant Hill, | Miss. |

Bibliography

Board of Police, July 17, 1865

Encyclopedia of Mississippi Historical Society

Hernando Press, June 4, 1863

Peoples' Press, March 1, 1869;  
July 18, 1867; May 23, 1865; July  
18, 1868; March 26, 1868; August 9,  
1866; May 28, 1868; June, 1868.

Reconstruction in DeSoto County by  
Irby C. Nichols.

Roster of Confederate Veterans

Story of Confederate States by Joseph  
T. Derry, p 451

## Chapter X

## OUTLAW DAYS

That part of DeSoto County lying on the Bluff and along the Mississippi River was in early days the section most closely associated with outlaws, holdups, rustlers, and wild romantic deeds. The Bluff was the last frontier of the county, and because of this and its nearness to the river, it was, until recent years, a popular hiding place for all scorners of the law. Because of these facts, this part of the county has a local color all its own.

Even today, one with some knowledge of its early history, can hardly visit this vicinity and pass in the shade of the thick woods along its roads without being carried, in his imagination, back to the days of its first settlements, when "gun-toting" was a universal practice, and life itself hazardous.

Show boats coming down the river and stopping at the river landings were likewise, a romantic part of this pioneer life.

Gang and Feud Leaders

As has already been stated, many of the inhabitants of this section were outlaws, roaming at will the dense wilderness along the river. A number of these so-called "bad men" came here from other sections of the state, or from adjoining states in the first years of the county's history.

One of these outlaws, Sime Turner, fled here to take refuge after being connected with a killing in Alabama. Tyler Boone, of Walls, told us of a shooting match between Sime Turner and Harkle, another settler of the same period. One day Boone and young Sime kept hearing rifles cracking a good distance away through the woods, and started out in the direction of the shots to determine whether Turner was killing deer.

When they reached the scene of the shooting, they found Turner and Harkle shooting at each other from behind

trees. They had met as they rode along horse-back, and being bitter enemies, got off their horses and began trying to kill each other. When Harkle saw the boys he proposed to Turner that they quit before the boys were killed. The suggestion was accepted, and the men ended their melee by shaking hands.

There have been no true feuds in the county such as are characteristic of the Tennessee and Kentucky mountains. Near Cochrum, a feud once existed between two families for a number of years, but the nearest approach to gangs were the cattle rustlers and cattle thieves, which operated extensively throughout the county and other sections. Cattle thieves are still active in the county intermittently. (1)

#### Riots and Their Results

During the period just after the War between the States, Ed Nelms, a negro from the Delta section, became a much feared outlaw. He had mortgaged his horse near Walls to Rufe Armstead and Lundy for supplies to run him while making his crop, but he was not able to pay his bill that fall, because crops had failed in the county that year. Jim Armstead, constable and brother of Nelms' creditor, was sent to get the negro's horse. Nelms refused to give the horse up to him, and Armstead straightway deputized more men for the job and then set out to Nelms' home. Neither he nor the horse were to be found, however, when they arrived, and as his father refused to disclose their whereabouts, the old negro was killed in their attempt to force him to tell on his son. Ed Nelms, several weeks later, still having eluded his pursuers, slipped to Armstead's Place and hid in a corner of the lot fence, and late that afternoon, when Armstead went out to inspect the feeding of his cattle, Nelms shot him.

From this time on Nelms became a source of anxiety and fear for everybody in that part of the county, so a mob was formed to find him. They searched for him six months fruitlessly, but several negroes were killed for concealing him, or for aiding in his escape.

About this same time, carloads of negroes were brought from Alabama to help with the crops, the labor situation being very acute. Many of these negroes were desperadoes, and one of them joined Nelms, and became known as his partner. He followed him about and they made their way by stealing horses and anything they could; even killed several persons in the meantime.

(1) Tyler Boone, Walls, Miss.

Nelms told this negro that if he ever got separated from him he would kill him, to keep him from telling on him. After a few years, the Memphis police got on his trail, and the negro felt sure that Ed would be taken. Fearing for his own safety, he went to the police and promised that he would lead them to Ed, but the police warned the negro that they would kill him if he misled them in any way. The negro told the police of Ed's plans, and for them to go over into Arkansas at 2 o'clock that night. He promised that he and Ed would leave that night in a boat for Hopeville, Arkansas, a small town on the river. He told the police they must shoot to kill, that Ed would be rowing, and he would be lying flat in the row boat.

Two police were sent to Hopefield at once, and waited on the shore that night in almost zero weather for the appearance of a boat. Toward daybreak they were about to think they had been given a false clue, when the sound of oars in the icy water made them take notice again. Soon, a boat came into view, and sure enough, there was only one passenger to be seen. They fired, and the shots were returned by Ed. The next few shots killed Nelms, however, and the long search was over.

The killing of Nelms led to a general negro uprising around Lake Cormorant, Walls, and Days. Upon several occasions following this affair it would be necessary for the white people to hideout from the negroes. One time they came 300 or 500 strong. The constable, Sam Hopkins, gave a warning to the white people, and they fled to the woods, which were very dense and proved a good hiding place. Quilts were taken for the children to rest on, and Tyler Boone remembers this occasion in the woods very vividly. He was a small boy at the time, and the children were cautioned to remain very still and quiet, lest some noise give their hiding place away. As little Tyler sat quietly on his quilt in the darkness listening to the sounds of the night, he felt his quilt move under him, and in his fright, called to his mother, who immediately silenced him. Again Tyler felt the movement under his quilt. His parents, to silence his cries, lifted the quilt from the ground, and there lay a large moccasin snake. Everyone in the woods was alarmed for fear the negroes had heard the commotion over the snake and would find them. However, no more trouble resulted. (1)

After the war, several riots occurred in various parts of the county. On September 16, 1876, Col. Van H. Manning, Democratic candidate for Congress, and Judge Walton, his Republican rival, met at Pleasant Hill in a

(1) Tyler Boone, Walls, Miss.

joint discussion. Colonel Manning, in his address, dealt radicalism some of the heaviest blows received in that canvass. Judge Walton, in his address, arrayed the negro against the white man, accusing Democracy of setting at defiance the laws of the land, intimidation, and thievery in office. Judge Walton's address seemed calculated to arouse the worst feeling in the minds of the ignorant negroes.

On September 18, 1876, the first day of circuit court, in Hernando, these two men met again for a joint discussion. Judge Walton's violent address at Pleasant Hill had exasperated the whites and inflamed the negroes. The negroes came early in the morning in organized clubs, and circled around the courthouse, shouting and yelling. They went then to the speaking ground and took possession of the seats which had been prepared by the whites around the speakers' stand. The whites remained in the courtroom until court adjourned, when they repaired to the speaking ground and requested that the negroes yield half the seats to them. This was adhered to by most of the negroes, who commenced to move back, giving whites their places. Several negroes, however, refused to leave their seats and a scuffle ensued between a white man and a negro. The negro was knocked down. Instantly, a pistol was fired. John W. Woods, a merchant, and Thomas Nichols, deputy-sheriff, both white, were seriously wounded; one negro was wounded. Sheriff Bynum and Judge Powell were soon on the grounds and succeeded in restoring peace. The crowd dispersed and the speaking was abandoned, after 700 or 800 people had gathered before the appointed time for it. John W. Woods later died from the wounds received.

#### Grand Jury Report

From the Press and Times of September 28, 1876, we quote the following:

"For the first time in the history of this county, extending now through a period of forty years, a Grand Jury of DeSoto County has found it necessary to investigate and report upon a riot of a serious character growing, to some extent, out of political differences. In entering upon an investigation of the unhappy occurrences of Monday, 18th, inst., your Grand Jury, composed as it is, of members representing both races, as well as both political parties, has striven to lay aside all party prejudice and to ascertain by most patient labor, the oath of more than fifty witnesses, of whom, perhaps, one-fourth were white and three-fourths colored - of the whites

several were Republicans. The blacks, it is believed, all belonged to that party.

"We submit this report of the causes and circumstances of this unhappy affair with more confidence of its correctness, since it is derived from the testimony of Republicans and Democrats alike, and is the unanimous opinion of a Grand Jury composed of both races and of members of both parties." (1)

In the same year Oak Hill was disturbed by a yelling column of armed negroes coming from towards Nesbitt and moving towards Dixie, near which place they were fired upon by a negro in shabby clothes in a bloody-shirt address. At its close, "Babel confounded was silence, compared to the uproarious applause of this speaker, said to be Hillman." (2)

The white men were warned that the lives of those they loved and held dear were threatened, their homes would be burned, and they would be hunted down for the good of the Republican Party.

Mack Dickson, of Horn Lake, told of an instance which happened when he was a boy of thirteen or fourteen years.

Albert Body, negro, came to the home of a lady who lived near Horn Lake and insulted her by asking for the hand of her daughter in marriage. The lady, who was there at her home alone at the time, had the presence of mind to reach for the gun which was kept over the door, fired at the negro, but missed him; a second shot hit him as he was running through the yard. He was never found, but it was evident that he had been shot, by the trail of blood which he left. Between 1873-1875, parties continued to search for Albert Body, but he was never located. (3)

In 1875, about two weeks before the election, a party of citizens rode through Days, Lake Cormorant, Walls, Lynchburg, and Horn Lake warning the negroes how to vote; at that time, every official at Horn Lake was a negro. About three days before the election, a shooting took place between a band of negroes and two white men. Word of the affair reached Horn Lake and a mob of citizens quickly formed to go back to the crossroads to kill out the negroes. The mob was met by the two men, who told them that the negroes had been fooled into thinking they had a mob of citizens back of them in the bushes, and they had already fled.

- 
- (1) Press and Times, September 28, 1876  
 (2) Press and Times, November 2, 1876  
 (3) Mack Dickson, Horn Lake, Miss.



On election day, the negroes came to town and voted very quietly, but the white citizens stuffed the ballot boxes, and the election was carried by the Democrats. In 1875, the whites came cack into power and have kept supremacy ever since.

Several mobs of lesser import have arisen since Reconstruction Days. One of these was formed at Pleasant Hill early in the present century for the apprehension of a negro murderer from another state, who was suspected of hiding with relatives in this community.

Another mob, formed in the eastern part of this county, is said to have broken into the Tate County jail and taken a negro accused of murder; they carried the black to a railroad bridge on the county line and hanged him from it.

In 1934, fear of mob violence was anticipated in Hernando when three negro men were tried and condemned for attacking a white girl from Marshall County. The negroes were kept in Memphis until the day of the trial, when they were escorted to Hernando by National Guard and placed in the vault of the courthouse, which had just been completed. Pickets were placed around the courthouse and in the streets, and barbed wire entanglements surrounded the courtyard. Crowds swarmed the streets all day, but only one small attempt was made to begin violence. The presence of the National Guard was enough to insure peace. After the trial, at which they were all speedily condemned to death, the negroes were carried to another part of the state to await the date of execution. On the appointed day, the negroes were returned to Hernando, and hanged just at daybreak, before a mob could form in the town. (1)

Many crimes were committed in those days in the name of the Ku Klux Klan by those who took advantage of the secret organization, and were never members. The purpose of the Klan was to counteract the evil influences of the carpetbagger and low politicians who were using the negro as a tool for their evil purpose to take the reins of the government into their own hands. Many of the best citizens of the community were members of the Klan, and when their mission had been accomplished, the organization was disbanded.

#### White Caps

The first mention of White Cap activities in DeSoto County was found in the county paper of March, 1894,

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.

which recounted the attack on the home of William Conley, six miles south of Hernando. Three shots from a Winchester rifle and several shots from pistols were fired into the house as the parties rode off, after leaving a note on his front porch warning him to be out of the county before Saturday night. The citizens of the southern part of DeSoto County met in April of the same year to take action in regard to the White Cap outrages, but we were unable to find a record of the results of this meeting.

The White Caps seem to have a comparatively minor organization, however, as it is impossible to learn much of their activities in this county. Several years ago a notice was pinned on the door of Mr. Bank's gin at Hernando, warning him not to gin any more cotton that year. The note was signed "White Caps," but it is not known who comprised the organization; it was evident in the above case that the members, or individuals who wrote the note, desired to decrease the amount of cotton ginned, so as to raise the price.

Another occasion on which the White Caps were heard from was during the building of a negro church in the Gray's Creek neighborhood. The negroes had nearly completed the church when a note was found pinned to it one morning warning them against finishing it. The note stated that the noise was not wanted in the neighborhood, and that if they completed the church it would be burned. The negroes were at a loss as to what to do, but after being advised by several most influential citizens of the neighborhood to complete their church, they did so. The church was burned in a few weeks.

About eight or ten years ago, gins were burned in many towns over the county, but the persons setting them afire were never caught; whether these outrages can be credited to the "White Caps" is not known. Nothing has been heard of the organization within the last decade.

#### Saloon Days

Before the state prohibition law passed there was a saloon in practically every town in DeSoto County; one was on every corner in Hernando, and all had a bar over which was served drinks to any adult. Many of the saloons were small, unpretentious looking places, and sometimes they were found in connection with stores.

The effect of these saloons socially was unquestionably objectionable, even dangerous. It was a common

occurrence to see drunken riders gallop into town firing pistols and creating great disturbances. There were many fights between drunken and lawless men, and the picnics held over the county were very often broken up by "killings." It seems evident that one of the main causes of this situation was the accessibility of drink and its low cost. The economic effect of saloons was likewise harmful; buying of whiskey by the glass encouraged more persons to spend money for it, possibly because they thought the small change would not be missed. The saloons being so much in evidence also encouraged more persons to buy whiskey, and to buy it oftener than they would have otherwise. It seems that the results of having saloons in the county were predominantly bad. (1)

#### Early Horse Thieves and Cattle Rustlers

Horse thieves have been common in the county from its early organization to comparatively recent years.

During the period just following the War between the States, horse stealing was a frequent occurrence. On March 22, 1867, W. Reynolds, constable, arrested two horse thieves near Senatobia, then in this county, and brought them to Hernando and put them in jail. One was a white man who gave his name as Moore, and who stated that he belonged to the 19th Illinois Regiment. The other, a negro, was recognized as an old resident of the county, known as William Lusher. When arrested, they had in their possession two horses and two mules, the property of citizens living near Memphis; next day these men were carried to Memphis, and delivered to proper authorities.

On February 24, 1868, a negro, George Davis, stole a mule from the plantation of R. Wilkinson, and on the same evening disposed of it to a negro for \$35. He was captured several hours later, protesting that the mule was given to him by a white man; being unable to give the white man's name, he was placed in jail to wait trial.

In April of the same year, horse and mule thieves again paid the vicinity of Hernando a visit, stealing three fine mules from Mrs. Browning, a pony from Major A. M. McKay, and two horses from R. Fort's stable.

The People's Press of March 21, 1867, states that Martin J. Taylor, convicted of horse stealing, was sentenced to five years of hard labor in the State Penitentiary. While in jail he made a confession as to who the other members of the gang were, and warned the citizens

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.

of DeSoto, Marshall, Tippah, and Tishomingo counties to be on the lookout for them, giving the names of those connected with the gang as follows: Ells Hurst, Elijah Hurst, Chapman Hurst, Timmer Moor, Jerry Ferguson, George Smith, William Garner, Andrew Garner, John Dunn, and Hiram Dunn, all of McNairy County, Tennessee. The territory in which those men claimed as their trading grounds, were the states of Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, and Kentucky. The chief of this band was Ells or Elijah Hurst, a brother of the old chief, Fielding Hurst, colonel of the 6th Regiment of Tennessee Cavalry, U.S.A. Hurst resided at all times at home, and gave to his horse traders, from time to time, the best instructions that he was able to give concerning all the best stock, and where good sales could be found. He did not take an active part in the actual stealing, but had a half interest in all that was sold. You would not suspect that this villain was engaged in such a business, as he was at all times to be found at home, sitting in his rocking chair. "Now you citizens of the aforesaid counties watch as well as pray, for when these thieves come, you will find them traveling, one by himself and always afoot, claiming to have a relative just a little ways from where you meet him, and inquires for a man that you know nothing about; at the time he is known only by an alias name himself." (1)

Taylor was decoyed into this business by Hurst, for whom he had been engaged for some time in agricultural pursuits on his place. Before being engaged in this felonious enterprise, Taylor was engaged as a clerk in the dry goods and grocery store of K. M. Hardin and Company on the Tennessee River. Having to drink the river water impaired his health to such an extent that he had to give up his job with Hardin and Company.

"As the devil would have it, this one-eyed son of Hell came down the river to lay in his family supplies, and at that unlucky hour, I was just able to perform the duties of my station. He proposed that I would die if I remained on the river much longer, so I settled with Hardin and Company, and went into the country with this devil and was to remain with him until my health was restored; and then go back or make a crop with him. I accepted the offer and proceeded to his house, twenty-six miles distant. Before we had traveled eight miles, he proposed to tell me a secret, which I was anxious to hear, of course.

(1) Martin J. Taylor in the Peoples Press, 1876

He says: 'Martin, I've got a fat old thing on hand now, I will tell it to you, if you will not expose me.' 'I won't tell it,' was my reply. 'Well, I've got some ten or twelve of the boys engaged in capturing fine horses and shipping them to Mississippi and other places to sell, for horses are high and scarce in those sections where we are selling. Now, Martin, if you would like to take an interest or an active part in this business, it will pay you big, for some of the boys have made over \$700 in three months time, and I will be your friend if you are ever apprehended while engaged in this business.'" (1)

However, when Taylor was arrested this chief did not render any assistance in this case. Taylor confessed that he did feloniously steal, take and carry away one horse, and that was the only thing that he ever stole, and that he was going to serve his time in the penitentiary with as much felicity as he was able. He stated that when a horse was lost, it might be found by going immediately up into McNairy County, in the neighborhood of Purdy, Camden, Bethel Station, Adamsville, and Jackson, Tennessee, as it was the rule to steal stock from Mississippi and carry to Tennessee, or vice-versa. Taylor also stated that they would know these thieves by their appearance, that they all carried a pair of revolvers, and a valise with some clothing in it. "My dear friends; it pierces my heart through to think of my being apprehended for the charge of horse stealing, but who should care for me, for I once possessed as good a character as anyone in the country, and that too, not eight months ago; but see what a serious change at this time in my character. It is now stained so deep that twenty years hard labor will not efface or repair it. I feel that my own race is nearly run; my disability and feebleness of health warns me that, before long I must pass beyond the reach of human wants and cease to feel the vicissitudes of human affairs. So I bid you a last adieu." (2)

Cattle rustlers, also, have taken their toll of the cattle of the county. Even to the present time cattle thieves have continued to trouble the citizens, though to a lesser degree than formerly.

Several weeks ago Mr. Campbell, sheriff, and several deputies tracked one of these cattle thieves fifteen miles through the woods and pasture land near Days. The thief, who had been leading one cow all that distance, seeing that he was being overtaken, abandoned the cow in a pasture and fled, and has never been caught.

(1) Martin J. Taylor in the Peoples Press, March 21, 1867  
(2) Ibid.

Most of the cattle stealing is done on a small scale today; not many cows are taken at once, most of it has been stopped. (1)

#### Periodic Outlaws

DeSoto County does not have many outstanding outlaws. However, there is one man, in addition to those already mentioned, who could not be left out of a history of this kind.

Julius Joyner, Confederate veteran, with a record for bravery and being a good soldier, became in his youth one of the most talked of men of this section - a murderer of circumstance.

Before killing his brother over a dispute arising from a division of their father's estate, Julius Joyner had lived a quiet and uneventful life, with the exception of his war days, and opinions differ as to the cause of the quarrel with his brother. Another version of the story is that he had warned his brother not to return home drunk any more; that his brother had been in the habit of coming home in this state and creating a disturbance. After the warning, his brother came in one night, and though quite sober, accidentally turned over a chair in the dark; Julius, who heard the noise, decided that his brother was drunk again and immediately went in and began to scold him severely. A fight ensued, knives were brought into play, and both boys were seriously wounded. Julius stabbed his brother in self-defense and fled into the darkness. His brother made his way to his mother's room and died there in a few minutes. At this time Julius was about 24 years of age, and a bachelor.

He left home immediately after killing his brother and went to Texas; he lived there for a number of years, becoming a school teacher. At school, as the story goes, Julius whipped one of his pupils one day and it made the father very angry. He came after Joyner, and Joyner killed him, it was said, in self-defense. Joyner then came back to DeSoto County and lived a secluded life at his home at Smoky Hollow; he made a crop each year, and while he was at work in the field, he carried a pistol buckled to him and had a rifle at each end of the cotton rows, being prepared for whatever might happen. He was sought by the law in the county, but because of his many friends, was always warned in time to escape. There are many bullet holes to be seen in the logs of the remains of the old

(1) A. S. Campbell, Hernando, Miss.

Joyner Place - witnesses to the many times that he was shot at while standing in his yard - or after being called out of his house on false pretexts by his pursuers..

A sheriff from a Texas County came to DeSoto one day to get him for the killing in Texas, and sent a negro to the door to "get the drop" on Joyner, so that he might come up and arrest him. But instead, Joyner was prepared, and when the negro came to the door he knocked him down, took his concealed gun, and locked him in the room before going out to confront the officer.

The story goes that he shot the sheriff's pistol from his hand and ordered him to get out of the county and state. This gun was kept for some time by Joyner, and several citizens testify to the truth of the story, for they say they have seen the bullet scar on the gun which Joyner made when he shot it from the sheriff's hand. Later, Joyner returned the gun to the sheriff.

Joyner's neighbors thought the world of him, as he is said to have been a perfect Chesterfield - even though a murderer. Whenever officers would come to take him, his friends would give him warning. Even the train crew were his friends and they often sounded the alarm to some friend of his whenever an officer of the law boarded the train for Byhalia, the nearest station to Joyner's home.

Joyner had another friend - his horse. This animal often warned him when an enemy was hiding in the field by a toss of her head and a loud neigh. The horse is said to have saved his life once in this way. Joyner, at her warning, leaped to her back and galloped away at full speed, firing at his would-be assassin as he went. He was never arrested, and lived up to his statement that he "would never be taken by the law." He died in the seclusion of his old home at Smoky Hollow.

Early in the history of the county Rube Burrows, leader of a bandit gang, made this section the scene of many of his activities, often hiding here. The story goes that Burrows told people who were willing to protect him, or aid him in any way, to plant a pine tree in their front yards as a sign to him. Pine trees remain in the yards of many homes of the county today, probably set out at this time. Some of the law-abiding citizens learned of his scheme, and hoping that the robbers would pass them by, planted pine trees also. (1)

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.

One of the first post-war tragedies in DeSoto County occurred at Lewisburg. To honor the returning soldiers, all the citizens in Lewisburg community made plans for a county-wide picnic. When the day arrived, families from far and near gathered under the huge brush arbor, where a number of prominent men of the county were to speak. The first speaker, a man of considerable wealth, had just mounted the platform when a shot was fired inside the arbor, killing a young girl in the crowd. The speaker realizing that the shot was intended for him, and fired by some member of a lawless family who were bitter enemies of his, fled to a bluff nearby. Panic seized the crowd and the people scattered swiftly. The speaker, in a vain attempt to escape, sprang from the bluff, his wife following him. His pursuers were on horseback and overtook him when he fell after leaping from the bluff. His wife rushed to him and took his head in her lap to shield him from the enraged men, but one, more daring than the others, grasped the prostrate man by the hair and crushed his skull with a pistol. It was learned later that the trouble was caused by jealousy of the notorious family, who were in poverty, toward the more prosperous man who, rumor claimed, had contemplated purchasing a carriage to "but outshine his neighbors." (1)

#### Desperadoes

A. S. Campbell, sheriff of DeSoto County, and W. H. Welch of Hernando, give a sketch of the Littlefield negroes, who were desperadoes. Nimrod Littlefield and his son, Will, killed a man in Tate County by the name of Clifton. In 1898, several years later, the Littlefield negroes, using an assumed name, moved on the Foster Place, seven miles north of Hernando, on the "Old Plank Road." When Louis Norvell, manager of the Foster Place, found out that these negroes were the ones wanted in Tate County, he notified Bob Campbell, deputy sheriff, who was a uncle of A. S. Campbell, of the whereabouts of the negroes; but due to some misunderstanding between the Campbells and the Fosters, Bob Campbell thought that it was just a trap, and did not go until his brother, Henry, who was a bookkeeper for W. C. Knight, at Glover, came home for his vacation. In June, 1897, Bob Campbell deputized his brother, Henry, Will Cooper, and Jones to go with him to make the arrests. Before reaching the house, the Littlefields recognized the officer and opened fire on them. During the exchange of shots, Nimrod Littlefield and three of the deputies were killed; Bob Campbell received a flesh wound on the throat, and Will Littlefield escaped. That night a posse formed to look for Will, but

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.

unable to find him, someone set fire to the Littlefield house, burning the body of Nimrod.

Several years later, Will Littlefield committed a crime in Memphis, and was captured, but the Tennessee officials refused to turn him over to the Mississippi officials. He was tried and given a penitentiary sentence; after serving his time, he went back to Memphis, committed another crime, resisted the officer, and was killed by Captain O'Hara. (1)

In the DeSoto Times of May 26, 1898, we find a different version of the story of the Littlefield desperadoes, as it was given to a Memphis paper by R. B. Campbell.

"Cooper, Jones, my brother, Henry Campbell, and myself went to the house of the old negro, Nimrod Littlefield, to arrest him and his son, Will, on a charge of murder committed sometime ago. We knew the character of the negroes, but had no idea that we would have to fight, or we would have been on our guard and had our guns heavily loaded. There were only five buckshot in the crowd.

"Bob Campbell's gun was loaded with buckshot in one barrel and birdshot in the other. They rode up in front of the house, which was on the east side; apparently no one was in the house, so Campbell went around to the back side, and the other deputies stationed themselves at places where they could have a fair shot, if Campbell ran into trouble. Campbell called the old man and he came out to the gate in the rear of the house; Campbell told him that he wanted him to go with him to join the army, but Nimrod did not seem to enjoy the joking, and turned to go back into the house. As he turned, Campbell raised his gun and told him he did not want any foolishness, that he must come along. When he saw that Campbell had the gun cocked, he begged him not to shoot and consented to go. Deputy Jones had taken hold of Nimrod's right hand and was in the act of adjusting the handcuffs when the negro gave a jerk and struck the deputy on the left jaw with his fist, knocking him to his knees.

Campbell jerked his gun up to his breast and waited until he saw Littlefield's pistol before he pulled the trigger that sent one load of buckshot through Nimrod Littlefield - they all gathered around the dead negro. At that instant a shot came from the house, and Deputy Cooper rolled to the ground dead, shot through the head. The rest of them raised their guns, and another shot was fired from a hole in the wall, killing Henry Campbell.

(1) A. S. Campbell, Hernando, Miss.

At that, a negro was seen running from the house on the south side, making for a ravine. Campbell and Jones ran in his direction and fired, but were unable to check him with their birdshot. Campbell continued to shoot toward the hole in the wall until he saw that it was folly to remain under fire from where he could see no one; he retreated to a place of safety, but not until Jones had fallen, shot all to pieces.

"Yes, I know my escape was miraculous, as bullets were whistling all around me, but it was not until it was all over with that I realized the danger." (1)

On February 23, 1899, a habeas corpus proceeding was held in the courthouse for Louis Norvell, under indictment for complicity in the killing of Will Cooper, Jones, and Henry Campbell in May, 1898. The trial opened at 10 o'clock with Judge Stephens on the bench. It was shown from the statements of the witnesses that Norvell and Foster were enemies of R. B. (Bob) Campbell; that both had made murderous threats against him, that both knew that the Littlefield negroes were wanted in another county, and that Norvell had notified Campbell of the fact and had urged him to make the arrest. Two witnesses swore that on the day before Campbell and his deputies went to make the arrest, Will Foster went to Littlefield's cabin and told one of the negroes that Campbell and deputies were coming to arrest Will Littlefield, and for them to be ready and not to let Campbell escape.

One witness swore before the Grand Jury that she saw Norvell with a gun go to Littlefield's cabin on the morning of the shooting and that later while the shooting was going on at the cabin, Norvell was there, hid in or behind the hen-house. When she was put on the witness-stand, she said it was a lie; that she swore falsely to the Grand Jury through fear, and that Norvell was not there and did not take part in the killing.

On the testimony given, there was nothing for the Judge to do but grant bail, and as he had just taken Norvell's recognizance, R. B. (Bob) Campbell, who was sitting outside the railing, advanced and drew his pistol; Norvell saw him, and crouched; and as he did this, Campbell shot him twice, in the head and body. Norvell fell over without a word or sound. His corpse lay for quite a while just where it fell, close to the stove on the west side of the courtroom. Campbell was carried to jail.

(1) R. B. Campbell

Sympathy was with Campbell in his misfortune, as people of the county were certain that Norvell was connected with the killing of Cooper, Jones, and Henry Campbell.

Norvell's relatives were notified but were not heard from, and his remains were buried at Love.

Later, Campbell was released on a \$2500 bond.

#### Brutal Murders

John Harbin met death by being murdered and burned in his home on the Harbin Place, two and one-half miles from Days, about nine o'clock at night ten years ago. People rushed to the fire and could see Harbin's body but could not get through the flames to rescue him. It was learned through a confession of a negro who worked for Harbin, that he killed him, robbed him, and then set fire to the house. The negro is now serving a life sentence in the state penitentiary.

The mangled remains of Thomas Anderson, station agent at Love, were found alongside of the railroad just across Coldwater River on the morning of February 11, 1898. The supposition was that in attempting to cross the river trestle he was struck by a train; some thought, however, that he might have been killed and placed on the track to conceal the crime. Following up this latter theory, friends and relatives of the deceased soon heard that Fred Moore was in possession of Anderson's pistol, and had endeavored to get a negro woman by the name of Belle to take the pistol to relatives of Anderson's. He had told another woman that she must not tell what time he came in on the night of February 10th. He was then arrested on charge of carrying a concealed pistol, and at his own request was placed in the town jail for safe keeping until authorities were ready to try him.

The authorities, with the clues already in their possession, begun to work for evidence to show that Moore was the slayer of Anderson, and accumulated sufficient evidence to warrant them in making out an affidavit charging him with murder.

The pistol trial day came on, but in the meantime the Belle woman had disappeared. She went to Robinsonville and told some of the negroes that she had been run off by threats of negroes who did not want her to testify.

This came to the ears of Herrin, manager for C. L. Robinson, and he telephoned to Love of her whereabouts. Two men went for her and brought her back on Sunday. On Monday, a negro by the name of Atkins was brought to the town jail, and it is said that he had made the following confession to a masked mob: "That on the night of February 10th, while Thomas Anderson was coming from Coldwater, he had been overtaken by Fred Moore and shot five times, and that Moore had forced him (Atkins) to help put the body of Anderson on the railway track." (1)

The sheriff then turned the two negroes over to the Tate County sheriff. Tuesday night, between one and two o'clock, a mob of about fifty men demanded the keys to the Tate County jail, and the sheriff, while dressing, threw them into the fire; then the mob begun to batter the doors of the jail; a deputy sheriff then prevailed upon his superior to turn over the keys, and the mob lassoed Fred Moore, carried him about two-hundred yards, and riddled him with bullets. However, they did not kill Atkins.

Never had there been committed in Mississippi a more brutal and cowardly murder than that committed on Mr. Jackson by a negro, Buck Muse. Jackson was sixty-five years old and a cripple, and the cowardly brute, Muse, slipped up behind him and shot his brains out. Two white men and several negroes saw him as he ran away with his gun in his hand, but made no effort to catch him, nor give any alarm. Mr. Spears, who heard of the shooting at five P. M., eight hours after the crime was committed, went with Mr. McNeely to Hernando, to notify Dr. Weissinger, sheriff. People who lived near Mr. Jackson, were so shocked that it seemed that all they could do was to stand around the corpse and talk of the good times spent with him, and of his hospitality and kindness, while the murderer got away. Some of the Cockrum boys got on his trail about sunset, but it was lost about three o'clock that night, four miles northeast of Hernando. The next morning John Morgan, R. M. Banks, Jr., McNeely, and W. I. Spears started out to look for the negro, but they failed to find him. Some of the boys managed to trail the murderer on to Lake Cormorant, and from there to Dooley's Island, just across from Lake View; then six men left Ingram's Mill, and Cockrum on Friday, reached Lake View at daylight Saturday and went over to the island and stayed until Tuesday, but the murderer could not be found. All returned home Tuesday, except Brooks and Collins, who were left to continue the trail. Brooks wrote Spears that Buck Muse was on Cat Island, in Arkansas, and Spears joined

(1) The Promoter, March 5, 1898

them again in the search. They were aided by Mr. Beasley and Mr. Oliver, of Dooley's Island, and the writer of this article; W. I. Spears, stated that he "knew that Brooks and Ingram would get the negro as they were hustlers." (1)

A. S. Campbell, sheriff, told us that Buck Muse was captured in 1910, and was put in jail in Hernando to await trial. There was some repair work being done on the jail, so one night Muse, with several other prisoners, broke jail. They made such a quiet escape that it was not found out until the following morning. After a diligent search, some of the prisoners were ever located, and Buck Muse was never heard from again. (2)

#### Douglas and Wooldridge Duel

In an interview with W. H. Welch, of Hernando, we learn of the duel at Horn Lake between Henry Douglas and Alex Wooldridge, of which he was an eye witness. This duel was over a bet made on the election of 1886, and a heated argument caused these men to put up a bet on the men they were backing. Douglas put up cash money, and Wooldridge put up a check. Douglas won the bet, and when he tried to cash the check, he found it was no good. An argument started in Bailey's store between the two over this bogus check, and Wooldridge drew a pistol on Douglas, who was not armed. Douglas told him to take a drink of whiskey with him and they would settle the argument. Then Douglas went across the railroad, back of Bette's store, to examine his pistol and see if it was in working order; finding that it was, he walked back to the railroad track and asked Wooldridge if he was ready. Wooldridge replied that he was; when Wooldridge had his pistol about even with his waist line, Douglas shot him through the heart. Wooldridge was carried to a room back of Bailey's store, and as the men sat him down on the side of the bed, he fell across it dead. Douglas was arrested, tried, but not convicted. (3)

In an interview with Angus Dee, Sr., deputy sheriff, of Eudora, he told of the mobbing of Mose Blackman: As Charlie Sexton was riding over his plantation north of Eudora, a negro named Mose Blackman slipped through the field and shot at Sexton; but as luck would have it, he was not struck by the bullet. Sexton had had some difficulty with this negro, and had been told that Blackman had threatened his life. After the shooting, Blackman ran away, but was caught near Tunica, and as he was being brought back to the DeSoto County jail, a mob overtook them and took the negro and hanged him in Hurricane bottom, on the old "Cow-pen" bridge. (4)

- (1) The Promoter, July 2, 1898
- (2) A. S. Campbell, Hernando, Miss.
- (3) W. H. Welch, Hernando, Miss.
- (4) Angus Dee, Sr., Eudora, Miss.

#### References

Boone, Tyler  
Campbell, A. S., Sheriff  
Counts, Mrs. Marye White  
Dickson, Mack  
Dee, Angus, Sr., Deputy Sheriff  
Eason, Edmund,  
McKenzie, Mrs. Sallie  
Malone, Mrs. H.J.  
Nichols, Dr. Irby C.  
Nichols, Mr.  
Robertson, Mrs. Mary Merriweather  
Scott, Miss Lula  
Welch, W. H.

Walls, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Lake Cormorant, Miss.  
Horn Lake, Miss.  
Eudora, Miss.  
Olive Branch, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
University of Louisiana, La.  
Eudora, Miss.  
Tunica County, Miss.  
Love, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.

#### Bibliography

Press and Times, September 16, 1876; September 28, 1876; November 2, 1876.  
Old Hughey in The Times  
Promoter, December 24, 1931; August 1, 1929; May 22, 1930.  
The Press, March 26, 1868; September, 1871; March 11, 1869.  
DeSoto Times, April 19, 1894; March, 1894; February 24, 1867.  
Peoples Press, March 22, 1867; February 24, 1868.  
DeSoto Times, May 26, 1898  
Mississippi Historical Society, Volume II.  
The Promoter, May 25, 1899; March 5, 1898; July 2, 1898.

## Chapter XI

## THE NEGRO

The Census of DeSoto County taken in 1930 shows that there were, at that time, 25,438 people in the county. Of this number, 6,642 were white and 18,796 negroes.

Educational Advantages

DeSoto County being strictly agricultural, there has been little development industrially by the negroes. In 1936, the Board of Supervisors for the county for the first time, allowed the negroes a county Home Demonstration Agent. The agent, Grafty Meadows, is doing a great work in training the housewives in more efficient methods of cooking, sewing and household management. She has also organized 4-H Clubs for boys and girls. The County Agent, G. C. Mingee, has also been a great help to negro families by helping them to better utilize their time and resources, and to make their farming more productive.

DeSoto County has 58 elementary negro schools with 79 teachers, and one high school, which is known as the Hernando Baptist Industrial School, and located just southeast of town. It has five teachers and a large enrollment. Pupils who have finished this school are permitted to take teachers examinations to determine whether they are fitted for teachers in the elementary schools of the county. Such examinations are held in the Court House at Hernando each September.

In 1935, the ERA sponsored an adult training school of fourteen classes for negroes.

In January, 1936, there were ten negro teachers, with an enrollment of 317; of this number 141 were men and 176 women who were below the third grade level. Daily average attendance for January was 233.

The classes came under two headings - Literacy and Domestic Services.



In April, 1936, there were approximately five hundred people enrolled. DeSoto has the highest average attendance of any other county in the WPA 4th District, Greenwood.

In September, 1936, there were five teachers with an enrollment of 250; the reason for the decline in enrollment was that some stopped to pick cotton. The daily average attendance was 208. A great work is being done by these adult education classes; many older negroes are given the opportunity to learn reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as cooking, sewing and home management. These classes reach many who have never had the advantage of school training of any kind.

#### Farmers

The Farm Census Report for 1935 shows that there are 16,444 negroes in DeSoto County who live on farms. Of these, approximately 325 own their own home or a farm. Some of the largest farm owners among the negroes are the following:

Oscar Bowles, who owns a 240-acre farm near Eudora, is a very progressive negro, and has a small store also. His stock consists of groceries, tobacco, snuff and second-hand clothing. On his farm he has two gravel pits, selling gravel for the roads in DeSoto and Tunica Counties. Oscar has built a canning house, in which he has a pressure cooker; his wife is very industrious, and cans their winter supply of food; she also helps others can in the community.

Fay Buchanan owns an 80-acre farm, and is the founder of the Saints Church near his home, north of Eudora. He donated the land on which the church is built.

Jim Nichols owns 180 acres north of Eudora, and lives in one of the early hewn log houses. He runs a blacksmith shop and a sorghum mill in addition to farming.

Henry Wilhite, owner of 229 acres in the Caldwell community, teaches at the school which he founded, donating the land on which it was built.

In addition to farming and teaching school, Henry operates a sorghum mill and grist mill, and grocery store. He has many modern farm implements, and is a leader among the negroes of the community.

William Booker owns 355½ acres of land near Jago, which is made up almost entirely of negroes; there are other large farm owners there.

Eliza Baptist owns 303 acres at Jago; Joe Bridgforth owns 83; Moody Williams, of Love, is a large land owner in the county, having 363 acres.

The negroes who do not own their homes work on shares for the plantation owners, and larger white land owners in the county. Some rent farms when they have been prosperous enough to buy their teams, and others work at day labor.

#### Other Occupations

There are a number of negroes in the county who operate small grocery and general merchandise stores, which have the patronage of negroes only. There are also a few cafes, barber shops and pressing shops run by negroes.

#### Professional

The greatest contribution to the professional world by DeSoto County negroes is that of Dr. Wm. S. Martin and his brother, who is also a doctor and a surgeon. These two negroes were reared near Lake Cormorant and still own a 280-acre farm there. They own and operate a hospital for negroes on Florida Street in Memphis, and much of the produce grown on their farm is used at the hospital. The Martin Drug Store at 907 Florida, Memphis, also belongs to these brothers.

Chris Burford, formerly a resident of Pleasant Hill, and owner of a farm there, was, until a few years ago, president of a negro bank on Beale Street, Memphis. Burford also owns property in South Memphis, and is residing in Memphis now - his age prevents his taking an active part in public life any more.

H. H. Hill, one of the best educated negroes in the county, was postmaster at Jago for nearly 30 years, or until the office was abolished. He is well liked by both negroes and white people.

in addition to finding the best of every day  
 also a satisfactory and also a satisfactory  
 in the region of the country

There are a number of factors which  
 which have the effect of making the  
 in a general sense, the country is  
 in the region of the country

The general impression is that the  
 with the best of every day in the  
 which are the best of every day in the  
 which are the best of every day in the  
 which are the best of every day in the

There are a number of factors which  
 which have the effect of making the  
 in a general sense, the country is  
 in the region of the country

The general impression is that the  
 with the best of every day in the  
 which are the best of every day in the  
 which are the best of every day in the

References

U. S. Census Report for DeSoto County, 1930  
 W. M. Darden, Editor of County paper, Hernando  
 W. F. Woods, Circuit Court Clerk, Hernando  
 Sid Campbell, Sheriff, Hernando  
 Farm Census, 1935, Mississippi  
 Pearl Hudson, Olive Branch, Supt. Emergency Adult Education

## Chapter XII

## FOLKLORE

---

Introductory

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

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

Observance of Special Days

Fourth of July has, through countless years, been an occasion of picnicking. Whether it be to the parks in Memphis, to Maywood, near Olive Branch, or simply to the "woods," the highways on this day are a continuous line of automobiles, the great majority of which are transporting enthusiastic young people, or family groups with sumptuous lunches, to various picnic grounds. In addition to picnics, other popular amusements are dancing, swimming, golfing, ball games, and picture shows.

J. B. Riley, in reminiscing a bit, tells of a neighborhood custom in celebrating the Fourth of July; the Oswalts, Rileys, and Williams, moved "down on the Bluff," five miles

west of Eudora, in the 1870's from Love. These families became very close friends and neighbors, and every year, on July 4, made it a practice to go to a place nearby, called "Council Ford," for a picnic. These picnics grew in popularity, and soon were eagerly anticipated, and attended by people from miles around. These gatherings became known as the Riley-Oswalt-Williams picnics, and sometimes enjoyed by three and four hundred people. These picnics have continued every year, with the exception of three, that were missed on account of rain. Jap Oswalt moved to Marks, and his health would not permit him to attend the last few that were given. "Old Council Ford" filled up, and the last three were held in Coldwater bottom,<sup>(1)</sup> on the edge of which is a beautiful grove of beech trees, and a spring of pure water. This was formerly the site of a large church called Beech Grove, and though it has long since been torn down, the place is still known as Beech Grove, located on the old "Solomon Place," and for a number of years, the Solomon family and their friends have met here on the Fourth of July for a picnic. Each family brings a basket filled with lunch, and the day is spent in talking, eating, and perhaps, fishing in Coldwater River. (2)

Hallowe'en, thought of as a time for playing pranks, is eagerly anticipated by children and somewhat dreaded by grownups. It is not unusual on the morning after Hallowe'en to see gates removed from their hinges and hanging in trees; in fact, chaos seems to reign in most towns of the county. One small lad told us of the boys in his crowd going "tick-tacking"; which is done by attaching a string to the weatherboarding of the house and drawing a bit of resin across the tightly-stretched string, which makes a wierd noise. (3)

Christmas morning is a time for visiting, and eggnog is usually served to callers. Gifts are exchanged, and the traditional Santa Claus makes his usual trips down the chimneys. Out-door Christmas trees, beautifully decorated with many colored lights, are seen in the yards.

On New Year's Day, many people eat hogsjowl and peas, as they believe that this dish will bring them luck through the New Year. (4)

#### Superstitions

To this day, many old beliefs and superstitions remain among the negroes and a few white people; some wear asafetida around their necks to keep off diseases.

- (1) Mrs. J. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.
- (2) Sallie Lee, Love, Miss.
- (3) Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.
- (4) Ibid.

Aunt Maggie Thomas, an old colored woman, gives the following remedy to remove a "spell" cast over one by an enemy: "You can draw dey picture on de wall, stick a nail in de heart an' hit it on de head for nine mawnin's. Den, on the last mawnin', drive de nail up, and de one dat put de 'spell' on you will appear befo' you, or dey will die. De 'spell' will be broke eider way." (1)

A hoodoo Doctor may be seen walking about Hernando on certain days, and it is thought that he has the power to locate lost articles. Through him a stolen purse was recently restored. (2)

Belief in spirits is not entirely confined to negroes. Sam Watson, was an enthusiastic spiritualist, studying and writing much on the subject. He wrote a story, "The Clock Struck One," which was based on an actual occurrence; at the death of his daughter, an old clock in the attic which had been silent for years began striking. (3)

#### Social Customs

For 35 years, reunions held at Lake View in honor of the Confederate veterans of the county, were usually in the form of a fish-fry and dance. A committee of ten was responsible for the entertainment and the veterans were guests of honor. Most of the veterans were dressed in uniform, and until his death, S. A. Huey, (old Huey to all his friends), gave the Rebel yell just before dinner was served. The practice has been discontinued, as the few remaining veterans are too feeble to attend. (4)

In DeSoto County the old custom of having quiltings is being revived. Mrs. S. G. Summers, of Pleasant Hill, told of one which she gave at her home recently, when women of the community were invited to help finish her quilt. They had a pleasant social time, and Mrs. Summers served a meal to her guests. Miss Gladys Delk, home demonstration agent, told of a quilting that was held at the courthouse by the women of the Hernando Home Demonstration Club. At this meeting they made a quilt for the Old Ladies Home; each club member contributed a dish to the dinner, and at noon the quilt was laid aside to make room for refreshments. In the communities of Lewisburg and Mineral Wells, an all-day quilting is held twice each month, and at Oak Grove such a meeting is held once a month. (5)

- (1) Maggie Thomas (colored), Eudora, Miss.
- (2) Arthur Scott
- (3) Mrs. T. H. Norvell, Olive Branch, Miss.
- (4) Miss Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.
- (5) Mrs. S. G. Summers, Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
Gladys Delk, Hernando, Miss.

House-raising, held about 1860 or 1870, were pleasant events; log rollings were had at the same time as the house-raising, the purpose of which was to clear fields for planting crops. Logs were cut and piled, and later set on fire and burned, much valuable timber being thus destroyed. These piles of logs often burned for weeks, and while the log rollings and house-raising were in progress, the women quilted. These gatherings are still common in the Love vicinity. (1)

If, for some good reason, a man cannot plant or work his crop, his neighbors take their teams and plow and work it for him. (2) Poundings for the preacher are still popular, an honor that is almost always given to a new preacher in the Love community; donations consist of chickens, cakes, and other good food, and several musicians go along, and singing is enjoyed after the presentation of the gifts. The practice is also adhered to at Pleasant Hill. (3)

Corn-shuckings and cotton seed pickings were generally held after dark, where everyone, young and old, met at the appointed place. Corn was shucked and culled, or the cotton was picked off the seed, each person being required to pick a shoe full of seed before participating in the games. The seeds were thrown and thumped at each other, but never to hurt, and games and dancing were enjoyed.

At parties, such games as Frog-went-a-courtting, the Virginia Reel, and Sugar-Lump were played. The dances were always the old square dance; music was furnished by banjo, guitar, fiddle, and harp players of the community. If a boy asks a young lady to be his partner, and she refuses, he tied a handkerchief around his right arm to show he had been slighted.

Mr. Riley also states that the chief sport on the "Bluff" from 1865 to 1875 consisted of shooting games, usually with rifles. Different families arranged for these games to be staged at their homes, and the outing would last all day, everyone carrying his lunch. Cows, pigs, turkeys, and geese were used for premiums. A cross mark was painted on a board, and ten cents a shot was charged to anyone desiring to take a chance. The one hitting the center of the mark, or nearest the center, won a cow or a pig. A turkey was put in a box with his head pulled through a hole in the top, and the person shooting the head off, received the turkey. Then came the gander-pulling; the gander was fastened to a limb of a tree, head down, and contestants, after paying their fee, grabbing at the gander's head. The person who succeeded in pulling the head off, won the gander. (4)

- (1) Mrs. Sarah Hilburn, Hernando, Miss.
- (2) Arthur Scott, Love, Miss.
- (3) Mrs. Julia Williamson, Nesbitt, Miss.
- (4) T. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.

### Table Customs

Table customs vary somewhat among the people of DeSoto, the older people of the county not having departed from the old custom of returning thanks before partaking of the meal. There are some who, when they reach the table, stand until everyone else is at his place before they are seated; others seat themselves as they enter. The negroes in the county generally eat their meals from a tin plate while sitting on the front porch or out in the yard. They have no regular time for eating, and seldom invite others to dine with them.

Where cooks are employed, they usually wait on the table, otherwise the housewife does the serving. In some instances, meats are placed on the table with the carving knife, and the man of the household cuts and serves it. In a few homes, plates are stacked at the head of the table, and the man serves each plate, passes it on to his wife, and she, in turn, passes it to the others. In some homes, if there were guests, children were formerly made to wait until the older people had finished eating. However, present-day children are seated at the table with other members of the family. Some of the older people persist in drinking coffee out of the saucer, and usually insist on a certain cup and saucer. We have a few families, who will not cut bread, still holding to the "Last Supper" idea - "breaking of the bread." Some will not eat any kind of corn bread except that made with hot water, generally known as corn-dodgers; such bread is patted out with the hands, prints of the fingers still being on the bread when bakes. (1)

### Customs of Dress

White residents of DeSoto County follow prevailing American styles in their dress. Motion pictures, and contacts with the neighboring city of Memphis, have caused a decline in most peculiarities of dress; working men wear overalls or wash suits, while women use print dresses and smocks. At many informal social gatherings, short-sleeves are no longer frowned upon, if the weather is extremely warm. Negroes copy white people in their modes of dress, sometimes with comical results. It is not unusual to see a negro girl attired in evening dress, socks, and oxfords, and walking the streets of a country town of Saturdays; some older negroes still wear long dresses and bonnets. (2)

- (1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.
- (2) Ibid.

### Religious Customs

Camp-meetings were popular in DeSoto County about 60 years ago. J. Brown Ingram, zealous member of the Fountain Head Methodist Church of Ingram Mills, sponsored a camp-meeting for several years, beginning about 1876 or '78. He owned a saw mill and plenty of timber, so he built tents for his own family and for renting or selling to other members of the church. These tents circled around a great pavilion with a sawdust floor, and sawdust walks led from one place to another about the camp-grounds. Barbecue pits were at the back of each tent, porkers being more plentiful at that time, than now.

These camp-meetings were great social, as well as evangelical occasions, lasting from two to four weeks each summer. Mothers, fathers, children, and young people hailed them with great joy. Those families who could not afford a tent at the camp-ground, pacified their children by loading them into the wagon and spending the day at the meeting, attending services morning, afternoon, and night, and spreading dinner on the ground. Other denominations cooperated with the Methodists in this religious manifestation, and hundreds of people attended. Each service was held in the pavilion, which was known as the "gospel tent." Shouts from some converted sinner often reverberated through the surrounding hills, and the mourner's bench was a familiar part of the church. At this bench, many wept and prayed for sins to be forgiven, and regular "Holding Committees" were appointed to look after the shouters. (1)

One of the oldest county-wide religious meetings is that of the Baptist people, called Coldwater Baptist Association. At one time, several other counties joined with DeSoto in this celebration, but this was discontinued about ten years ago. Delegates from all Baptist churches in the county still meet in an all-day service one Sunday in September, where discussions of church problems follow singing and preaching.

Another practice begun by the Baptists of the county is that of Fifth-Sunday meetings. Each fifth Sunday throughout the year is made a time for meeting together for worship and fellowship, and the big "dinner on the ground" is a drawing card for miles around. Churches alternate in holding these meetings, and of late years, other denominations, following the example set by the Baptists, are holding Fifth-Sunday meetings also. These are often the inspiration for "Home-Coming Days," when old residents of the community, and those who have moved away are the guests of honor.

(1) Mrs. Julia Williamson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.

Methodists of the county have a custom of holding "All-Day Singings," a day devoted almost entirely to singing hymns and gospel songs. (1)

### Religious Customs Among the Negroes

Negroes have strange religious manifestations here, as in other places. They "get happy," and after hours of shouting and intense emotional excitement, many go into a trance, or "trench" as they express it. This was really a state of exhaustion and sometimes an hour or more would elapse before the person would regain consciousness. Singing in negro churches is earnest and rhythmical. The preacher often reads a line, then the congregation repeats it in song, or the whole congregation sings a hymn through without accompaniment. Negroes persevere in "seekin' 'ligion." On one occasion, Gracie was mentioned as a seeker, and many in the congregation gathered about her, praying and singing; soon they began to chant, "Lord, have mercy on Gracie," etc.; however, Gracie didn't come through. The next day, Nettie Brooks, old colored mammy, spoke of Gracie as hopelessly lost. "She been seekin' 'ligion for four years and ain't never found it yit. If I was Gracie, I wouldn't seek no mo." (2)

At sanctified meetings on Cheer's Place, services consist of prayers that members may "loose the devil," and talking in the unknown tongue, when the devil finally "looses" the person goes off in a trance, which may last a day, or even a week. After the devil is gone, the person becomes "Sanctified," and tries to give up all wrong doing, and deprives himself of luxuries, such as snuff and tobacco. (3)

Old Aunt Hester, at Olive Branch, once told me that her husband left her soon after he became "Sanctified" because he felt he could not afford to live with her unless she became sanctified. Aunt Hester has never become sanctified, and her husband has never come back to her. A religion that has some adherents among the people of the county, is that of the "Holiness Church." This denomination has both colored and white branches, and at church services, tambourines and guitars often furnish the music, and dancing is common. When a person is converted to this religion, he is said to "receive the Holy Ghost." (4)

- 
- (1) Mrs. Julia Williamson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. Julia Williamson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
(3) Matt Williams (colored), Cub Lake, Miss.  
(4) Aunt Hester (colored), Olive Branch, Miss.

### Miscellaneous Customs

For the last 45 years the first Friday in May has been set aside in Oak Grove community as a day to meet and clean off the cemetery. This was started by the Janneys, the Nails, and the HARRISES, but has gradually grown into a community affair. At noon a bountiful lunch is spread from baskets, and the entire day is devoted to cleaning off the graves, cleaning the church, and making any necessary repairs.

Another widely-known cemetery cleaning is that at the Wheeler Cemetery, just south of Hernando. This is a family burying ground, and annual cleaning-day is a family reunion, when members of the large family and their friends gather to work and enjoy the dinner, spread picnic fashion. Of a family of sixteen children, fourteen are still living, though the youngest is nearing middle age.

Coldwater Bottom attracts hunters from all over the country, and sportsmen come from Memphis. Several years ago foxes were turned loose in the bottom to provide game for future hunting; now they are so numerous that a trail may be struck at any time. A frequent sight is that of cars with special dog trailers, loaded with camp equipment and packs of hounds, making their way to the edge of the low land, where camp is pitched on the edge of the hills. Here, the hunters stay sometimes for a week at a time; days are passed in hunting small game or merely loafing, and nights are spent around a camp-fire or cabin fireplace, listening to the music of hounds, as they tirelessly pursue the fox.

"Possum hunting" is the favorite fall sport of many boys and girls, as well as men. As soon as hunting season opens, trailing of the hounds and blasts of the hunting horn become familiar music. Just after dark a party will go to the bottom or the adjacent hills and gather around a camp-fire, while two or three men or negroes take the dogs out. At the first sound of the dogs trailing, the atmosphere becomes tense, and as soon as they "tree," a mad scramble begins, down hills, through thickets, around trees; each person or couple endeavoring to be the first to arrive at the tree. When the crowd has gathered, someone climbs the tree and shakes the 'possum down; it is put into the bag, and the dogs are carried out to strike another trail.

From the time frogs first begin to croak in spring, until far into the summer, "frog gigging" is a popular

sport. Equipped with either regular frog gigs or rifles, hunters haunt the banks of ponds, streams, and bayous. Dark nights are preferred by these hunters, and a flashlight is used to locate frogs, also to blind them. This, too, is often participated in by both boys and girls. Then packs, containing bread, lard, salt, frying pans, and anything else desired for the feast, are carried; when a sufficient number of frogs have been caught, a fire is built and supper cooked.

Hay rides are also a favorite pastime, especially near the close of school, when pupils, with teachers or parents as chaperones, partly fill a truck bed with hay and ride to some picnic spot or to a picture show. Often during the summer, truck loads of "hay riders" drive to Memphis parks and to the fairgrounds.

Weiner roasts and marshmallow toasts are other outdoor sports that appeal to local young people. A large bonfire is the central point of interest for these occasions, and after the weiners or marshmallows are roasted and eaten, games are played, songs are sung, or stories told in the glow of the dying fire.

Not only on the Fourth of July, but throughout the summer, fishing trips and fish fries are used as family and community "get-togethers." These affairs may be only for one day, but smaller groups often stay for several days and nights, camping near the river or lake. (1)

Very few singing schools have been held in recent years, but Mrs. Sarah Hilburn, of Hernando, tells about some she remembers. They lasted for about two weeks, were held at churches, and pupils would carry lunches and stay all day. The teacher taught fundamentals of singing and then taught hymns, using the tuning fork for a pitch. Mrs. Hilburn recalled the spirited singing contests formerly held between Eudora and Oak Grove schools. Out-of-town judges were invited, and after the groups took turns in singing, a ribbon or some other token was awarded the winners.

Spelling matches, popular fifty or sixty years ago, were often inter-community events, at which words were given out from Webster's old Blue Back Speller. (2)

---

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. Sarah Hilburn, Hernando, Miss.

### Customs of By-Gone Days

Mrs. J. B. Riley, of Eudora, tells some interesting facts about Love Station as it was in 1878. At that time there were three stores, one owned by Banks and Love, one by Joel Hamlett, and one by Walk Martin; Martin's father had an ax-handle factory in part of his store; these handles were made from hickory timber grown around Love. There was also a blacksmith shop and a gin owned by Banks and Love, but it burned in 1881. The stores carried a general line of merchandise and groceries, but a very different line than is found in combination stores today. At this early date, calico, red flannel, and white cloth were the principal dry-goods. Calico sold for ten cents a yard, and it took ten yards to make a dress; five yards of white material were required to make a petticoat; calico came in plain, flowered, and plaid designs; red flannel was used to make winter underclothing for men, women, and children; underclothes were usually donned the latter part of October and worn through March. Whiskey sold over the counters of these stores like anything else.

Dresses of those early days, Mrs. Riley said, were quite a contrast to those of today; from 1870 to 1880, dresses were usually made with skirt, overskirt, and basque waist; a bustle, made of cloth sewed together and stuffed with cotton, was tied around the waist and stuck out in the back; later wire bustles took the place of home-made ones; the basque was made very tight at the waist, high at the neck, and with very large puffed sleeves. Sometimes the collar was made similar to those on men's shirts of today; often it was a piece of lace or a band around the neck, with a large lace collar.

Hair at this time, Mrs. Riley told us, was combed high up on the head over a "rat," which was made of a stocking leg stuffed with cotton, making a fullness over the face; hats were made of stem-green straw with shallow crowns and broad brims. For the most part decorations were placed at the back, but often a hat was wreathed with forget-me-nots, violets, or red roses.

About this time, hoop skirts, with basque waists, and muttonham sleeves, were also very popular. Hats with elaborate trimmings, flat crowns, broad brims, and ribbons tied in large bows under the chin, were worn with these dresses. High-top buttoned shoes and cotton stockings completed the outfit.

In 1890, new cotton crepes, organdies, piques, gingham, linen, and duck had begun to appear, Mrs. Riley said, and sold from ten to seventy-five cents a yard. It varied in color; some with dots, tiny stripes, rings, or small figures; softer materials were made with full skirts, often measuring six yards around the bottom, and prettily finished with ruffles of ribbon, or cream or yellow lace; waists were also trimmed with ribbon, lace, embroidery, or ruffles; linen and duck were made into tailored suits with an eight-gored skirt, all seams strapped; coats had a godet or fluted back about four inches long, and loose fronts fully seven inches below the waist line; sleeves were very large; a belt of the same material, gold ribbon, or white leather was worn outside the back, passed through slit on the side, and buckled in front; hats were prettily decorated toques or the poke. A featherbone corset was necessary to complete the outfit and to make it fit as it should.

Children of those early days, Mrs. Riley stated, wore dresses made with full skirts and very tight bodies; their hair was plaited in two braids and worn under quaker bonnets.

Men's clothing was usually spun, woven, and made at home. Sometimes, cloth was woven at home and sent to a tailor shop to be made into a suit.

Slippers began to be stylish in 1896, and were made of kid skin, with hand-turned soles and extremely pointed toes; these slippers cost from three to four dollars a pair.

Hardships: Mrs. Riley also told of some of the hardships in the days before many of the present inventions. As late as 1879, cook stoves were very scarce in this county, almost everyone using the fire-place; cooking utensils were a spider, which was used for baking bread; vegetables were cooked in skillets and a large pot; this pot hung on a rack which was made in the chimney; an oven was used to bake potatoes, beef, and mutton; old corn-dodgers, mentioned by Mrs. Riley, were corn meal cakes rolled in a wet cloth, and baked in the ashes. Chimneys for these large fire-places were of a stick-and-dirt construction; bricks were hard to obtain at this time.

For washing, a large iron pot was used to boil clothes in; a big oak log was split open and hewed out with a foot adz to form a kind of trough, which was used as the tub. At one end of this tub a flat block was left, which was called



the battling block; a paddle was made of the same wood and used as a battling stick; after the clothes were rubbed with the hands in the trough, they were put on the battling block, then put on to boil. After boiling, they were rinsed and hung on a homespun clothes line. Later, home-made wooden washboards were made, and tubs were sometimes made by cutting a wooden barrel in half and using the bottom for the tub.

Mrs. Riley stated that it was about 1888 that glass jars were first used in preserving fruit, and remembers paying two dollars for her first dozen of half-gallon fruit jars. Before this, fruit, such as peaches, apples, and wild grapes, were dried; peas were dried; Irish and sweet potatoes were hilled for winter use; turnips and collards were grown for winter vegetable supply; beef was dried and stored away, and pork was cured; sausage was made by beating the meat with a hammer. Canning containers were then tin cans, which had a small hole in the top and a lid made to fit; cans were filled, lids inserted, and sealing wax was used to seal them. More food was spoiled than was saved by using this method.

During the yellow fever epidemic in Hernando, Mrs. Riley said, there was a scarcity of meat in the surrounding territory. As none could be bought in Hernando, a supply was shipped from Memphis to the Bell mill, three miles southwest of Hernando; Henry Pullen was placed in charge, and everyone had to go to this point to purchase meat. During the epidemic, all letters sent by mail were cut full of holes to prevent carrying germs in the mails.

Mrs. Riley remembers hearing older people talk about Commerce Road, from Commerce Landing to Hernando, being built for a railroad, during the time that Commerce was a business rival of Memphis. This road, Mrs. Riley says, has undergone some great changes. Formerly it followed the highest points and was very crooked; a part of it has now become State Highway 3, and all of it is a good gravel road from the Tunica County line into Hernando. She recalled the first brick kiln in the western part of the county - in 1885; it belonged to Tobe and Poley Stewart, and was four miles west of Eudora, on the place now belonging to Byrd McElhaney. The kiln consisted of 150,000 brick, which were considered the best burned brick in the county. Charlie Emerson and Jim Dockery also had a brick kiln at Cub Lake, which burned several thousand brick, but it was not very successful.

In 1884 Mrs. Riley moved with her family from Love Station to the Bluff, which was then almost a wilderness; settlers cleared ground and erected log houses to live in. At the foot of the Bluff, near a spring just off Whites Creek, J. D. Nichols had a tan yard at one time, before the Rileys moved on the Bluff, but Nichols related the details of tanning to them. Leather was tanned here to make shoes for the Nichols family to wear and harness for horses to draw carriages; an old slave of Nichols' made shoes and harness. The tan-yard was at this place because plenty of water was necessary in tanning hides. Troughs were hewn out of trees; hides were packed in these troughs with red oak bark, and this was left until bugs got into them; then the hides were taken up and rinsed off in the creek. Tan-yard Road was named for this yard.

Mrs. Riley remembers well when all traveling in the county was done in ox carts; later, two-horse wagons were popular, and few people were able to own "rockaways" or carriages; finally, buggies and carts came into use.

She stated that A. Shepherd operated a coffin shop at Eudora for several years, and Bob Kelly formerly had one on the Bluff. Special lumber of walnut and poplar was used to build these coffins, which were made as late as 1887, and were lined inside with black sateen, and covered outside if desired. Walnut coffins were usually polished and finished as they were, in natural color. (1)

#### Williams Fox Hunts

Paul Williams tells interestingly of the Williams fox hunts: -

Sanford Williams, who moved from North Carolina to DeSoto County in the early fifties, brought with him two red fox puppies, and after the excitement of the War between the States was over, he became anxious to continue fox races he had so enjoyed before coming to this county. He made the acquaintance of that great huntsman, Ivanhoe Spears, of Byhalia, and they had some great races. "Old" Hughey, of Poplar Corner, and Williams, with their friends in the neighborhood, also enjoyed fox races.

In the early eighties, Doll Williams, son of Sanford, moved to the "Bluff;" he had at this time two red foxes, offspring from the two brought from North Carolina, and these

(1) Mrs. J. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.

were turned loose in the dense woods surrounding Williams' home, to run wild with the many grey fox already there. In 1882, people on the "Bluff" joined in the fox hunts.

For sixty years after the death of his father, Doll Williams continued fox races, from which culminated deer hunts, on which Williams and Mack Banks, with a few of their invited friends, and some of their boys, went each year. These hunts began in 1900 and were held until 1935, when Williams and Banks had grown too feeble to go on such long trips; for the past few years they have not been able to leave camp, but the exciting stories of Mr. Banks, and the heart-thrilling laughter of "Uncle Doll" made those present know the spirit of these two great old huntsmen were still in the hunts.

For the past twenty-five years, fox hunts have been supervised by the youngest son, Paul Williams, who said, that in all these years Walker dogs were always used, and they have always been the property of the Williams generation. Foxes are still allowed to roam at large in the woods, and friends of the Williams family are invited to all the hunts. Paul said that upon several different hunts there had been people present from as many as five different states. He used 160 dogs in a chase, and in all these years of hunting, there have been only five times when there were no runs. On these occasions this was due to unfavorable weather conditions.

Even though "Uncle Doll" and Mr. Banks are dead, Williams' fox hunts will continue as long as there is a generation to carry on. Perhaps they will extend through another 100 years, and the many horns that hang on the walls of the Old Williams Home, will still be used by the coming generation to echo their call throughout the woods. (1)

#### Hunters' Club

Ivanhoe Spears, Ingrams Mill, who was a great lover of fox hunting, organized a Fox Hunters Club in DeSoto County in 1914, with membership open to fox hunters of Tate, Tunica, Marshall, and DeSoto counties. Spears served as president of the club from the time of its organization until 1923, when it was disbanded, due to failing health of some of its eminent members.

Fox chases were held on J. O. White's Place, two miles east of Eudora, on the Commerce Road, each year, during

(1) Paul Williams, Trinity, Miss.

during August and September. During fox hunting season, the home of Mr. and Mrs. White was thrown open to the hunters, their families and friends, and from 75 to 100 people always attended these chases. Tents were pitched on the lawn, and if weather conditions permitted, cots were stretched out in the open. Mr. and Mrs. White boarded the guests during the Annual Fox Hunt, and had from ten to twelve negroes employed to cook, wash dishes, and attend the guests. The time for a chase, which was sometimes between 9 P. M. and early morning, was governed by weather conditions, as to when dogs could best pick up the trail of a fox.

Fox were bought in other states when they were young and delivered to Mr. White during the month of May; he had a big kennel in his wood-lot, for keeping foxes in, and two or three weeks prior to a hunt these were turned out of the pens to run with the old dogs and puppies, in order to get the proper training before the big hunt. Regular hunting dogs were used for the main chases, and were run in heats.

There were two classes of dogs used - the July and Walker. - July dogs were owned by Spears, Ingrams Mill, J. O. White, Eudora, Monroe Johnson, of Love. These dogs were very fast, causing a fox great difficulty in staying ahead of them, unless they could shake the dogs from their trail. Walker dogs were owned by Johnnie Kline, Robinsville; E. P. Mangum, Tunica, W. K. Herron, Clarksdale. These dogs were run in Walker heats, and were never run in the same race with the July dogs. Much rivalry existed between the owners of these dogs. (1)

#### Indian Legend

Mrs. R. P. Cook contributes the following article telling of an Indian Chief who was an early inhabitant of DeSoto County, and for whom an important creek is named:

"Perhaps the Indian Chief, Mussacunna, of the tribe of the Chickasaws, was one of the most powerful and influential of the chiefs of Mississippi in the days of long ago. He was considered rich in worldly possessions and great was his name as a hunter and warrior. His domain was in DeSoto County, and today in the records on file at the courthouse in Hernando, are many transfers of land made by him to early white settlers.

(1) Miss Willie White, Eudora, Miss.

"Mussacunna Creek, that runs southwest from near Hernando and into Coldwater River, was named after the chief. On a fertile piece of land adjoining this creek, about three miles southwest of Hernando, Mussacunna raised his best Indian corn and the spot is well known to citizens living near here today, as Mussacunna's corn land. Mussacunna descended from a long line of famous red men and there is no doubt that he was a giant among other Indians. Records of his handwriting and business deals show him to have been a well educated man. He owned thousands of acres of rich land between Hernando and Coldwater River, and ruled his tribe with an iron hand. At one time there was a postoffice south of here called Mussacunna.

"With the coming of the white man, Mussacunna saw the beginning of the end for the Chickasaw Nation and the setting sun for the red man. No more tribal feasts were held and the tom-toms beat no more. With his business ability betrayed and bargained with the 'pale face.' He disposed of most of his original tract of land and settled down on a small homestead to await the summons to the happy hunting ground. There he died and was buried near the banks of the stream that bears his name. The Indian name, Mussacunna, is said to mean 'swinging winds.' On still summer nights the singing winds that sway the branches of cypress and willows along the banks of Mussacunna Creek seem to bring back the spirit of Chief Mussacunna and possibly his ghost returns from his happy hunting grounds to roam once more over his possessions of long ago." (1)

#### Legend of the Ell Davis Woods

On the Bluff, about six miles from Eudora, is a strip of woods known as the Ell Davis Woods, that is claimed by many people to be haunted. The following story is remembered by residents of neighboring communities: Ell Davis and a Mr. Williams had a falling out over a girl; Davis seemingly having made more headway with the girl than Williams, the latter became insanely jealous. He rode into the woods one day when Davis was splitting logs, and said: "Davis, I have come to kill you." Davis pleaded with him to give him some showing, but Williams shot him down. Davis died, and people claimed that it was his ghost that prowled the woods. Some said he was a very prosperous man and had money buried somewhere in the woods and was trying to tell someone where it was; others stated that he was searching for the girl he loved. Williams was put in jail, and no one ever knew what became of him. (2)

- (1) Mrs. R. P. Cook, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. J. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.

#### Ghost Stories

Maggie Thomas, an old colored woman of 66, living near Eudora, tells her experience in moving into a house where a white woman died: "Well, she kome in de room one night and kept pullin' miah kuver. I said, 'What you snatchin' my kuver fuhr?' I ain't got nothin' of yourn! An' I pulled de kuver on me agin. An' she pulled it off agin. I said, 'Youse better go on 'way from here an' leave me 'lone. This ain't none of you' bed! She said, 'Aunt Mag, I'm so hungry, me an' my two chillun! I looked up, and there she stood with two little gurls, and they were all in white. I said, 'go on way, 'oman, I ain't got nuthin' to eat! She said, 'But I'se hungry. Please fry me some batter cakes! Wid dat I jumped up an' called Papa, and she walked right straight out de front do.' " (1)

James Spears, of Eudora, tells the following story of the negro man who lived on the Couch Farm, just south of Eudora: There was an old negro man named Sargent who died in one of the tenant houses on this place. Several negro families have been moved into the house where he died, but none would stay over a week or two. Some said he would come sit down at the supper table, the chair would move or fall over, but nobody could be seen. Others said that when the women folks would try to cook, something would hold their hands, and the coffee pot would rattle like someone was trying to pour coffee. At night he would prowl all night, turn over chairs, go into the kitchen and rattle dishes, then go out into the yard and moan and carry on. The house is vacant now and no family will move into it. (2)

Miss Louella Wheeler, of Love, tells of a story related to her by Miss Emelia Mayo of Longtown. Miss Mayo said that when she was a small child her parents were living at Horn Lake. A woman in the community was very ill, and the neighbors were taking turns sitting up with her. One night a group of friends, including the Mayos, were going home from there about twelve o'clock; just as they reached the Mayo Home and were talking at the gate, strange music began to play softly. The moon was full and everything was light. Instinctively, they all glanced up, and saw what appeared to be a human form in a kneeling position, clad in white and having big white wings. This form was floating slowly through the air, and as they watched, it came to rest over the house where the woman lay ill. Thoroughly frightened, the Mayos went into the house and the other

- (1) Maggie Thomas, (colored) Eudora, Miss.  
 (2) James Spears, Eudora, Miss.

people hurried to their homes. On hearing the next that the woman was dead, they decided that the vision they had seen was the Death Angel. (1)

#### Local Tales

Joseph W. Sanders of Glover, tells of hearing Uncle Henry Smith, (colored) a slave of T. C. Knight, tell about riding a bear.

Uncle Henry was just a lad of ten or twelve years, and each night there was a man, known as a "patarole," who rode the plantation to see if all the children were at their respective homes. It was late, and Uncle Henry heard the "patarole" making his rounds. He knew that unless he could make it to a nearby log that he would be caught and chastised for being away from home at that hour. Uncle Henry decided that the best thing he could do was to hide until the "patarole" passed by, then make it home as quickly as possible. There was a big log near by so the old darky ran to hide behind it. Just as he jumped over the log, a big black bear, which was asleep by the log, jumped up and Uncle Henry landed on the bear's back. He said that he did not know which was the more frightened, he or the bear. He clung to the bear's neck and away they went through the field of corn, making enough fuss to be easily located by the "patarole," but by the help and kindness of the Good Lord, he was not found. After Uncle Henry fell off the bear and had collected himself, he found that he was nearly a mile from his home. He was scared to go home, so he lay down between the corn rows and spent the night, as he had rather be punished by his parents than by a "patarole." (2)

#### Ghost in the Church

On the old Eudora-Memphis Road, near what is now the town of Days, there was once a negro church known as Johnston Chapel. One night Will Burrus, a resident of Eudora, was on his way from Memphis, riding horse-back. As it was raining very hard he stopped in this church, where a negro funeral had been held that day. As Burrus stood inside the door, holding to his horses bridle, he heard a noise from near the front of the church which attracted his attention; this noise seemed to come nearer and nearer, and turning, he stood face to face with someone all in white; he started to run, but the white thing grabbed him and commenced to yell, "Oh! bless the Lord, glory be, I

- (1) Louella Wheeler, Love, Miss.  
(2) Joseph W. Sanders, Glover, Miss.

knew God would send my son back to me; come on, I'se gwine to take you home." Burrus pulled loose, jumped on his horse, and ran for home; the horse and Burrus were almost exhausted after the more than thirty-mile run. It was weeks later before he learned that his ghost was the mother of a negro boy who had been buried at the church that day. She was there praying for the return of her boy, and when Burrus went into the church the old negro thought her son had come back. (1)

#### Old Prophecy

This piece was taken from the scrapbook of Mrs. George Sullivan, of the Trinity Community, who has been in possession of the bit of prophecy for thirty years. It reads as follows:

"Witch of 1525 Foretold Radio, Autos, Bobbed Hair."

"Old newspaper clippings saved by engineer tells of Mother Shipton's Prophecies." (2)

"A tattered newspaper clipping, yellow with age, was found in a box of souvenirs by a Mr. Walls, of Memphis, several days ago. This clipping contains a brief resume of the traditions of the life of Mother Shipton, witch and prophetess who, supposedly, thrived during the reign of King Henry, VII of England.

"Traditions say that she was born in 1488 and died in 1559."

This newspaper clipping, one of Walls most valued souvenirs, was handed down to his wife by an aunt, who herself, kept it for ten or twenty years. The clipping appears to be fifty or more years old, having been 25 or 30 years since Mrs. Sullivan cut it out of a Memphis newspaper. (3)

- (1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. George Sullivan, Trinity, Miss.  
(3) Mrs. George Sullivan's Scrapbook, Trinity, Miss.

References

Brooks, Miss Nettie,  
 Campbell, Sid  
 Cook, Mrs. R. P.  
 Campbell, Louis Sidney  
 Delk, Miss Gladys  
 Hayes, J.  
 Hilburn, Mrs. Sarah  
 Hester, Old Aunt, (Col)  
 Lee, Mrs. Sallie  
 Merrill, Mrs. Anne  
 Marshall, Miss Hazle  
 Norvell, Mrs. T. H.  
 Riley, Mrs. J. B.  
 Scott, Arthur  
 Summers, Mrs. S. G.  
 Spears, James  
 Scott, Miss Lula  
 Thomas, Maggie (col)  
 Woodson, W. E.  
 Williford, Liza  
 Williamson, Mrs. Julia  
 Watson, Mrs. Lena  
 Williams, Matt  
 Westerman, Mrs. Mae

Bibliography

Sullivan, Mrs. George

Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
 Hernando, Miss.  
 Hernando, Miss.  
 Hernando, Miss.  
 Hernando, Miss.  
 Memphis, Tenn.  
 Hernando, Miss.  
 Olive Branch, Miss.  
 Love, Miss.  
 Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
 Hernando, Miss.  
 Olive Branch, Miss.  
 Eudora, Miss.  
 Love, Miss.  
 Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
 Eudora, Miss.  
 Love, Miss.  
 Eudora, Miss.  
 Maywood, Miss.  
 Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
 Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
 Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
 Bub Lake, Miss.  
 Hernando, Miss.

Scrapbook

## Chapter XIII

## RELIGION

Pioneer Churches

According to information given by Mrs. Tillie Pope, one of Hernando's pioneer citizens, the first church erected in Hernando was Methodist, and built in 1839 on the present site of Harvey Bank's home.

The Episcopalians built a church on the present site of Mrs. Eugene Nichols' home in Hernando in 1840, which was used as a hospital during the War between the States.

Following are accounts of other pioneer churches taken from old newspaper files:

"The Corner-Stone of the new Presbyterian Church was laid Saturday, October 13, 1877, at three o'clock. The ceremony was introduced by Rev. S. I. Reid, who read a few verses from the 38th chapter of Job, and invoked the divine blessing. A very beautiful address was then delivered by Rev. R. H. Crozier, of Sardis.

"The ladies of the Industrial Society were congratulated by Rev. Reid for the success of their undertaking in collecting funds to build a church. He then called attention of the audience to a beautiful stone at the northeast corner of the building, which had been donated by the president of the society, Mrs. S. B. McNeese. Rev. Reid then deposited a Bible in the stone, also a gift for that purpose donated by Mrs. McNeese, and various papers of the church; also a small quantity of wheat and corn, as emblems of plenty; a vial of oil and one of wine, which were emblems of joy and peace; coins were then deposited by two ladies of the society, also the Constitution and By-Laws with a list of the members and officers; roll of members and officers of the Presbyterian Church of Hernando, with a list of those who had contributed to the funds.

"The building committee was: Judge S. Powell, D. McKenzie, and R. Erwin; the builder was B. F. Thompson,

who sealed up the cavity of the corner stone with the assistance of his mason, Charles Bonar, who put it in place with square and level.

The ceremonies closed with a prayer of thankfulness to the great Head of the Church for the progress made." (1)

#### History of New Bethlehem Church

From the corner-stone we find that the organization was first made in 1849, and its first building, made from logs, was about a mile south of the present site of New Bethlehem Church.

One of the charter members was the late Mrs. Ann Welch, and the first pastor was Rev. L. C. Taylor. Among the elders we find the name of "Uncle" Andy F. Bell, who served twenty-seven years. He was the maternal grandfather of Mesdames Hammonds, Pollard, and Will Gartrelle; Messrs. Andy and Nick Nail. Mrs. Kate Logan Bennett's paternal grandfather, James Logan, was also an elder in the church, and Mrs. Bennett spoke of remembering her aunt, Mary Farrow, speak of her grandfather and grandmother coming here on horseback to the Saturday meetings held in the old log church; in those days they had Saturday and Sunday preaching; Logan served as elder for twelve years; John L. Robinson, another elder, was perhaps the same one who later became a preacher. Others who served this church were: Colman Tinsley, C. A. Logan, a son of James Logan, John Davis, Isaac Dodds, Newton Bradford, Samuel Bell, who was related to "Uncle" Andy Bell, Eli McHarg, who served 24 years as elder, and in his younger days was superintendent of the Sunday School; E. S. Nesbitt, Hugh Johnson, A. J. Stevenson, Nick Nail, who served as elder for twenty-three years, S. E. Logan, who served twenty years as superintendent of the Sunday School. Others were: A. J. White, J. L. McHarg, J. H. Smith, R. A. Logan, and Nick Dodds, who was always at his post to lead in the songs and to teach his Sunday School class. (2)

Baker's Chapel, founded by Rev. German Baker, a Methodist circuit-rider, is located five miles east of Hernando, at Brights, and was first known as California Church. Sometime between 1850 and 1860 it was dedicated Baker's Chapel, in honor of the founder. The preacher from Pleasant Hill now serves this church. (3)

(1) Press and Times of October 18, 1877.

(2) The Times Promoter, October 18, 1934.

(3) Mrs. P. B. Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

#### Churches at Pleasant Hill

An old Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Hill was the first one organized here, and the first to be built at Pleasant Hill, and used as a Union church. It was located one-fourth mile north of the public well in the center of the town of Pleasant Hill. The land was donated by Mr. Maxwell, and the founders were: Oliver Bridgforth and Robinson; some of the earlier preachers were: Rev. German Baker, a Methodist circuit-rider, and Rev. Griffin; this church was destroyed by a storm in 1905.

The Baptist Church at Pleasant Hill, organized in 1888, was located across the road (south) from the Old Presbyterian Church. The land was donated by Wilson Lowe, and the founders were John Moody and Bob Payne; the building was erected by the members; ladies gave ice cream festivals to do their part, the proceeds being used toward buying lumber and other materials needed. The church was dedicated by Dr. Graves; an earlier preacher was Rev. J. W. Leigh.

The Methodist Church, organized in 1888, was the last to form at Pleasant Hill. It is north of the business part of the town, about one-third of the distance between the stores and the school building. The building was erected by members of the church, but ladies aided the men by giving festivals, etc., to raise money to help buy the material that was needed. Founders were: Wesley Williamson, F. W. Baker, and Howell Williams. One of the early preachers was Rev. Sage.

Hinds' Chapel (Methodist Church) was organized in 1843 in the home of Dr. Josiah Hinds, and members worshipped in his home for two years or more, then a log church was built. The present church, completed in 1859, was dedicated in September, 1859, by Rev. Thomas Joiner; Josiah Hinds, H. W. Glover, and DeWitt Robinson were the original trustees. (1)

#### Hernando Methodist Church

The Hernando Methodist Church was organized about 1836, and the log house in which they worshipped stood about fifty yards west of where the old frame church stood; it was the first church erected in Hernando, and was built in 1840 on the present site of Harvey Banks' home, and was a frame building. The lot on which this building stood was deeded by Edward Orne, November 9, 1839, to Levin

(1) Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

Wheeler, George Williams, John Rich, Samuel M. King, and Lem Banks, Trustees. Rev. Richard "cPherson was pastor.

At this time Hernando was in the Hernando Circuit, Memphis Conference, Memphis district. Not until 1870 was the North Mississippi Conference organized, and it was at that time that Hernando was transferred to this Conference. In 1854, Hernando Church became a station, with W. C. Robb, presiding elder; Amos Kendall, pastor, and the following stewards: Major Moore, J. T. Moseley, J. W. Vance, L. H. Wheeler, I. D. Browning, Jabez Pullen, and Harper Spann. L. J. Wheeler was Sunday School superintendent. The new brick church,

located on the southeast corner of the Public Square and Center Street, was built in 1905 at a cost of \$5,000. The building committee was composed of the following members: Dr. W. S. Weissinger, Chairman; F. C. Holmes, Secretary and treasurer; W. F. Wesson, E. T. Wilkerson, R. L. Redding, E. D. Lauderdale, J. Watt Vinson, E. H. Randle, J. E. Holmes, J. P. Withers, and J. B. Randolph. Dr. W. T. J. Sullivan was presiding elder, and Joseph B. Randolph, pastor. (1)

#### Oak Grove Church

Before the Mexican War, in 1844, in the days of Calhoun, Webster, Clay, and Prentiss, when John Tyler was president, and Albert Gallatin Brown was governor of this state, a house of worship was built of hewn logs and occupied the site of the present building. Prior to 1844, the building belonged to the Methodist congregation, but was bought from them by the early members of the Baptist Church, and used until the close of the fifties, when it was replaced by a frame building. The old building was bought by T. C. Dockery, who at that time owned the L. L. Jones place, near Cub Lake, and moved it to that place and used it for storing corn. (2)

J. P. Janney, last of the old members, but has died since this interview was given, lived within sight of the church, and gave a partial list of the charter members and the ministers who have served this congregation. Many of the old records have been lost or misplaced, but it is known that among the original members were: Hardy Harris, Richard Doggett, Steve Jones, W. P. Dabney, Susan Goad, T. C. Dockery and Acy Doggett. The first pastor was Rev. Steven Jones. Soon after the close of the War

(1) The Methodist Church Book of 1906.

(2) The Times-Promoter, September 9, 1926.

between the States, Rev. J. D. Nichols, of Eudora, was called to the pastorate, being followed by Rev. A. S. Buchanan, who was followed, in turn, by Jobe Harrel, John Richardson, M. S. Kirkland, and M. Whittle.

Rev. Whittle, who lived in Hernando, and preached regularly at Oak Grove, occasionally walked out to this church when conveyance was lacking.

The present church building, the third since the Baptists came into possession of the site, is a small, but neat and well-kept frame building, with an organ near the pulpit; gas lights are used to light the church; candles were used for lighting the first church. (1)

#### Edmonston Church

In the Times Promoter of July 29, 1926, is the following report of the Edmonston Church, as taken from old church records prior to the War between the States.

This church was organized ninety-two years ago, at a time when most of DeSoto County was in forest. Albert Gallatin Brown was governor of Mississippi; the state senator was Andrew Knox, who represented the counties of DeSoto, Coahoma, Washington, Tunica, and Bolivar; the representative in the legislature was H. H. Colman. At that time all farming operations were carried on or directed by white people; land yielded abundantly, and nearly all retained its virgin fertility. Wild turkeys could be heard gobbling and calling in the woods, and timid deer were often seen bounding across the open fields. Masters and slaves with their families formed many small communities over the county.

The spelling of the church occurs in three styles - Edmiston, Edmonson, and the more correct - Edmonston. This church is on the border-line in Shelby County, Tennessee, between that state and Mississippi. The first record book of Edmonston Church belonged to Mrs. Oran Pickard and was an old manuscript volume of some 125 pages. It was from this book Rev. C. W. Somerville obtained his information of the early history of Edmonston Church. (2)

April 27, 1844, at a meeting of a number of individuals residing in Shelby County, Tennessee, and DeSoto County, at a school house in Shelby County, after a divine service by

(1) J. P. Janney, Oak Grove, Miss.

(2) Old Church Records of Edmonston Church - C. W. Somerville. Times Promoter, July 29, 1926.

Rev. Samuel Hodge, it was agreed by those present who were members of the Presbyterian Church and had removed into this section of the county to organize a church. The names of Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. John Morgan, Mrs. A. R. Hutchinson, Mrs. Lake, Mrs. H. N. Boone, Mrs. Sarah White, Mrs. J. Tipton (who presented a letter of recommendation from the Baptist Church), J. G. Boone, John K. Nelson, and Alfred R. Hutchinson (upon examination), were duly enrolled and the church formally constituted by Rev. S. Hodges.

J. G. Boone, having been a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church, was elected and installed as an elder in this church, and it was resolved that this church be named Pisgah. The following were elected and installed as ruling elders: John K. Nelson, and Alfred R. Hutchinson; A. G. Boone was appointed clerk.

Mississippi synodical board of missions having employed Rev. S. Hodge as a missionary to labor in the county of DeSoto and adjoining country, it was agreed to invite him to preach as a regular stated supply, which invitation was accepted. The third sabbath in February, May, August, and November were to be observed as communion seasons.

In 1846 it was resolved, that as this church had not become connected with any presbytery, that they now apply to the presbytery of the western district to be received under their care, and that John K. Nelson attended the spring meeting of said presbytery at Macon and present the petition of this church. This same year Mrs. Mary A. Murphy and her children, and their two servants, Bob and Isaac, were received by letter from Hudsonville Church.

In 1847 Rev. S. Hodge discontinued his service as stated supply and Rev. A. W. Young, a member of the Chickasaw presbytery, being invited to succeed him, accepted and agreed to preach the first and third Sundays each month, for which he was to receive \$200. That same year William Edmonston, C. Bias, and John W. Nelson were appointed as a committee to collect funds and select a site to erect a house of worship, and Dr. and Mrs. S. B. McNeese, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Weatherall, all of Memphis, were received into this church.

The new church was dedicated the third Sunday in October, 1847, and the following persons were

received: William Bell, of Kentucky; William P. Buie, and Mrs. Plunkett; Rev. C. W. Coors delivered the dedicatory sermon; it was decided that the name of the church be changed to Edmonston, and the Presbyterians were asked to authorize the change.

In 1848, Rev. Dr. N. H. Hall, of Lexington, Kentucky, conducted a protracted meeting for the pastor, at which time there were added to the church. B. B. Smith, Mrs. Catherine Smith, from Hernando, Wm. Edmonston, Miss Mary Gatewood, Mrs. Nancy Lamb, Ramson, a colored man; Miss Amanda Wadell, and Mota, a colored man belonging to J. K. Nelson.

October 13, 1848, the minute book was examined by the presbytery and signed "Approved, Jas. Holmes, Moderator."

In 1851 the deed of the lot upon which Edmonston Church was built was presented to the session and ordered by them placed in the hands of the clerk. The first deacons, elected in 1852, were: William P. Buie, and D. M. Gill.

In January, 1853, Rev. A. W. Young resigned as pastor, and during the year the following filled the pulpit at different times: Revs. Coors, Dennie, J. A. Gray, Kimmons, Dr. I. N. Wadell, Walsh, Gaston, and Angus Johnson. Rev. Walsh was ordained and installed as pastor of Edmonston Church by the Chickasaw Presbytery during the same year.

In April, 1859, the presbytery met at Edmonston Church with Rev. S. I. Reid as moderator.

On February 14, 1861, is noted the death of Rev. H. Walsh, the pastor; Rev. H. H. Payne, of Holly Springs, was procured as half-time pastor, and Rev. Hickman as communion service conductor.

In 1862, Rev. S. I. Reid was invited to supply the church, and presbytery met that year in Sardis, with Rev. E. C. Davidson as moderator.

The following resolutions were adopted in 1863: "Whereas, our church services have been so often interrupted during the last twelve months by scouting parties of the enemy, and raids which they so often make out of Memphis, be it Resolved, that we allow our minister to visit the church in the southern part of the Presbytery, and that he have services as opportunity may afford."



Only two ruling elders remained in 1863, and the congregation elected G. W. Perkins and Edward Gill as elders, who were ordained and installed by Rev. S. I. Reid.

From the minutes of 1865 appears the following: "Being unable, on account of the distracted state of the country, to procure letters of admission from the Presbyterian Church of Helena, Arkansas, William Badger and wife were, upon examination of their faith in Christ, received as members of this church."

"In 1869, this church became connected with the North Mississippi Presbytery and a list of members, of baptism and of colored members was gathered from the old book promiscuously. Reported to the presbytery this same year, 64 members, 7 colored; in 1870, reported 57 members, 6 colored." (1)

#### Methodist Church at Kelly

We also find in the DeSoto Times of May 15, 1889, the following account of the organization of a Methodist Church at Kelly:

"The Church was organized in 1889, but a union Sunday School and Service had been organized in 1886. After the organization of the Church, the following were appointed as building committee: L. H. Smith, Chairman; J. L. Bowling, Treasurer; Harry Dean, Secretary; W. M. Harrison, J. S. Hudnall. Rev. Honnell was called as pastor, and the building was erected in 1890." (2)

#### Financing Early Churches

J. B. Riley, of Eudora, tells us that the churches of the 80's were financed much in the same way that they are today. There was appointed a group of church men, whose duty it was to look after the business of the church; no silver in circulation in 1873, and Riley stated that he could remember when seeing some men pass around the "hat" for collection, and they would get it "stuffed" with "Shin Plasters;" this was ten, twenty-five and fifty cent paper money which resembled our green-back dollar of today; ladies would knit the preacher's socks, gloves, and sweaters to pay their church dues.

(1) The Times Promoter, July 29, 1926.  
(2) The DeSoto Times, May 15, 1889.

One of the greatest differences in the pioneer church as compared with the church of today, was that Saturday was held as the business day of the church, when members would come together and discuss any business which came before the church. Collections were taken on these days, and anyone desiring to donate something besides money, such as groceries, or meat, meal, molasses, pigs, sheep, goats, would tell what he wished to contribute, then a person with a wagon would volunteer his service to go around and collect this and carry it to the preacher.

The "Old Hard Shell Baptist," prominent church of pioneer days, did not believe in paying their pastor in money; they believed only in free-will offering, thinking it was a sin to pay a servant of the Lord for his service. (1)

#### Old Camp Meetings

Mr. Riley told us that he had often heard Dr. Richmond, who was one of the oldest citizens in the Eudora community, tell about the campmeetings held on the "Bluff," near where Trinity Church now stands. Dr. Richmond said that he had often been to this old campmeeting when from 500 to 1,000 people would be there. Everyone for fifty miles around would gather there for a two-weeks camp meeting, coming in wagons, buggies, ox-carts, and on foot. Those living so far away would bring equipment for camping and come prepared to stay until the service was over. They would often bring their milk cows with them, so they could do their milking and churning; would sleep in wagons, on the ground, or under tents. Dry leaves were often used for beds, and before time for the meeting, the men would go to Dockery's sawmill at Cub Lake and haul wagon loads of sawdust to the camping ground to make beds. Each family would have a separate camping place; cooking was done separately; however, men would take time-about to furnish the fresh meat for the campers - each returning to their home to kill cows, pigs, sheep, or goats. The preachers and their families would eat around with the campers, and often they would invite others to eat with them.

Riley stated that Dr. Richmond told him that every evening about two hours before sundown, men would gather in a group and go one way from the camp ground, and the ladies would gather in a group and go in another direction. Each of these groups would hold respective prayer meeting and singing, returning to camp ground in time for the night service.

(1) J. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.

A "Bush Arbor," used to preach under, covered about an acre; it was made by driving posts in the ground, covering it over with bushes off trees, and was lighted with candles and brass lamps. Wagon seats, chairs and planks laid over logs were used to sit on; children were put on pallets. The only musical instrument used was a tuning fork, and people took their own song books. Campmeetings were held in most every district in the county. Churches were few and far between, and campmeetings were the principle forms of worship. (1)

#### Sunday Schools and Sunday School Conventions

Singing schools were conducted at various towns throughout DeSoto and Tate counties, and those desiring to learn to sing could pay a small fee and join one of these classes. They could then return to their respective communities and have singing gatherings. Sunday School conventions formed great social and religious gatherings.

#### Rivalry in Old Churches

Churches in the early eighties, states William Riley, were very strict in regard to their denominations. Different denominations sometime engaged in petty quarrels, and sometimes rivalry existed among them. But they all stood for similar things; all believed in God as a loving Father, all thought that men were brothers in faith, all loved and worshiped the Creator, all stood for the higher things in life, and all helped relieve distress and misery among their fellow members.

Discipline in churches of pioneer days was also strict. A few schools and some of our prominent men of today and yesterday received their education in Sunday School. The church stood for right living, inspiring all to act justly and to live in loving-kindness, cultivate education and religion. In early days churches also played an important part in the recreation and entertainment for people in the neighborhood and towns, for there were not in those days the money and many forms of entertainment we have today.

Sunday School was the main organization. There were classes for children, young people, and adults, where they were taught the true worship of God, and brought under the influence of religion.

(1) J. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.

#### Mormon Churches

Mormon churches were located at Bakers' Chapel and Lewisburg, DeSoto County, 1898, when "The Times Promoter" carried the following notices:

"To Mormon Elders:

"We are trustees of Bakers' Chapel, property of the M. E. Church, South, in DeSoto County, and as such we have authority to manage and control the school building upon said church land. We forbid you to trespass or go upon said property or into said school house for the purpose of disseminating your doctrines. Upon your failure to heed this notice you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

J. W. Johnson  
R. C. Tilgham  
J. M. Shipman  
Trustees." (1)

"The foregoing warning was handed to Elders Penrose and Tuttonham because the trustees were opposed to the use of the building by the Mormons; many citizens of the neighborhood were in favor of allowing them the use of the property. Therefore, that warning was disregarded and the Mormons were encouraged and requested that the Elders continue to preach.

"The law provides for an abatement of nuisances, and according to a request from friends of Jacobs Chapel community Mormon Elders have fallen into the class in those parts, and it will not be well for them to rendezvous out that way any more.

"Since these Apostles of the Latter Day Saints first planted foot on Tippah's soil we have advised their non-entertainment by our people, as well as that the doors of our churches, school houses, and other buildings be closed against them. We have advised this because we could see no earthly good in their objectionable doctrine, or stay here, and we thought that the sooner that we were rid of them the better for all concerned.

"In Jacob's Chapel neighborhood there are good people who have sheltered and fed these 'doctors' of the Joe Smith persuasion without money and without price, and it now turns out that in exchange for all this misdirected

(1) The Times Promoter, May 7, 1898.

kindness on the part of these citizens of ours, these self-same 'Apostles' have engaged in conversation in the presence of a good woman, the like of which has sent less fortunate wretches headlong into eternity, and whose exit from us has not been extensively mourned." (1)

#### History of Churches of Today

"Eudora Union Church to be Dedicated September 13"

"In 1888, the Goodman Methodist and Cumberland Presbyterian congregation decided to build a Union Church in Eudora to take the place of the building then used. Goodman Methodist had been established in 1860, upon an eighth of an acre of land given by Dr. Miller, which was added to by Dr. Benjamin B. Buchanan, father of the late Judge Arthur Stilling Buchanan, formerly of Eudora. Goodman Church was sold to N. B. Turner, but the lot was retained for a burying ground for the new Union Church.

"The Union Church was located upon land given by the late W. T. Lester, a Virginian by birth; Lester signed a contract with T. J. Dean, J. C. White, and Dr. S. M. Watson, binding them and their successors to keep the church fence in repair.

"Once again this church has asserted itself in a better architecture, which is the lengthened shadow of one man, Wallace Cox, who was reared in Eudora. Plans for this building were submitted by Lucian Dent, of Memphis, and a contract awarded to L. A. Bryant, of Tunica. The building is of chaste, simple architecture, with a pleasing interior, and capable of seating one hundred and fifty people.

"On Sunday, September 13, 1936, dedication services will be conducted. Here the rich, the poor, the wise, and the simple, the great, and small, if they will, may sit together in heavenly places and behold the Lord as they inquire in His temple made with hands in the laboratory of life and love in the mansion of majesty and mercy. Whosoever will may come and be at home in his Father's House." (2)

#### Glenn's Chapel

In September, 1915, H. N. Harbin donated an acre of land on the northeast corner of his lot for a church to be built thereon. Up to this time services and Sunday School had been held in the schoolhouse, just on top of

- (1) The Times Promoter, May 12, 1898.  
 (2) The Times Promoter, September 10, 1936

the hill from the church. At the same time the land was given, \$105.00 was subscribed by different ones present; lumber was ordered by S. B. Dean, of Eudora, and work was begun on the church during Christmas week, men in the community doing the work. The lumber cost \$342.00, and in 1916 the church was painted at a cost of \$15.95. This money was collected by Mamie Pickett, Jessie Creely, and Conelly Smith.

The building committee was: Rev. W. F. Glenn, Mrs. Ollie Grady, and Mrs. Marye M. Counts. The church was dedicated to God on August 19, 1917; opening song was "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing;" sermon was preached by Rev. Glenn.

The first protracted meeting held in this church opened with all-day service, when Mrs. Maggie Dodds read a paper on the history of it; Waldo W. Counts, then nine years old sang, "Suffer the Children to Come to Me;" Mr. Fuller and Mr. McCall made interesting talks on Sunday School and Church service, and Bro. Stovall brought a very inspiring message. Rev. W. F. Glenn has served this church for twenty years, which now has 132 members. Since the church was first built another half-acre of land has been added, and the people of the community feel that this little church has benefitted the neighborhood in many ways. (1)

#### Church of Christ

About 30 people in DeSoto County who belong to the Church of Christ, and do not have a church building, hold their meeting at the courthouse in Hernando. They have Sunday School every Sunday morning and preaching service every 4th Sunday, conducted by Rev. Vandyke, of Memphis.

This church does not have musical instruments at its services, and singing is conducted without accompaniment. The Lords Supper is observed every Sunday. (2)

At Glenn's Chapel is a Congregational Methodist Church, the only one in the county, and Rev. W. F. Glenn, the organizer of it, preaches here every 3rd Sunday. The church is named Glenn's Chapel in honor of Rev. Glenn, and is located west of Day's community, off Highway 3; it was constituted in 1915, and has 132 members. (3)

#### Catholic Church

A lot in Hernando has been donated for a Catholic

- (1) Mrs. Marye Counts.  
 (2) Mrs. Grace Couch, Eudora, Miss.  
 (3) Mrs. Marye M. Counts.

church, but an edifice has not been built, and so some local adherents to the faith usually go to Memphis for service.

One Episcopal church is located at Hernando, the only one in the county. (1)

#### Minor Memorial Church

(Commercial Appeal, May 11, 1936)

"The Minor Memorial Church, given by Judge H. Dent Minor, of Memphis, in memory of his wife, was dedicated at Poplar Corner, yesterday.

"The pastor, Rev. Roy A. Grisham, Judge Minor, and his sister, Mrs. Anna Minor Dent, enjoyed a few hours in social conversation before the meeting.

"Bells from a tall white steeple rang out mellow, resonant reveille over rolling green acres of DeSoto County, calling worshipers to services in a new brick church, a church that will stand as an enduring monument to Christian faith and as a memorial to a splendid woman.

"A caravan of motors wended their way over winding gravel roads from Walls, Horn Lake, and Memphis to Poplar Corner, where the New Minor Memorial Methodist Church was being opened and dedicated at 10 o'clock to the memory of Mrs. Florence Frayser Minor, wife of Judge Dent Minor, by whom it was erected and given to the community.

"Twenty-five years ago, men and women of simple Christian faith who lived in that community, arose shortly after sunrise on Sunday morning to make ready to attend services in a small frame building on the same spot where the new brick church now stands. In those days it was a long journey from widely scattered farms and plantations in wagons drawn by sturdy mule teams or with a horse and buggy, over muddy roads.

"But stormy or sunny weather, there were but few of the good people of DeSoto County who missed going to 'Sunday Meeting.' Many took along picnic lunches and after services, ate beneath great trees in the shady grove.

"Faith built the little frame church at Poplar Corner. Faith, sacrifice, and labor of those men and women, stout of heart and strong in their belief. Forty-five years ago they began to worship there in a shack which had been a

(1) R. F. B. Logan.



MINOR MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH  
NESTLING AMONG THE TALL POPLAR TREES  
OF DESOTO COUNTY

saloon, patronized by traders. With the assistance of a 'circuit rider,' the late Mrs. C. T. Knight of Poplar Corner, organized the first Sunday School.

"The old saloon was scrubbed and cleaned and wooden benches collected. Rain drifted in through cracks in the walls and sifted through leaks in the roof. Wind whistled through holes in the rough plank floor. A new meeting place was badly needed.

"After 10 years, the spick and span white frame building was finished. It meant long, back-breaking days spent in picking cotton, trips to Memphis, which took from dawn to dusk, selling eggs and farm produce, for those stout-hearted men and women to raise money to pay for their new church. Faith, hope, and charity rewarded them, and doubly rewarded yesterday.

"Four of the charter members of that first little church were present yesterday at the dedication of the Minor Memorial. 'Grandma' (Mrs. S. A.) Hughey, 82 years of age, who said that she came to Poplar Corner to live 'the day after Cleveland was elected president;' Charles P. Stewart, who has lived there the 62 years of his life, and whose father lived there before him; Mrs. Stewart, who is a member of the board of trustees, and Mrs. W. H. Williamson, a resident of the community for more than 50 years.

"Judge Minor has done what we have tried to do all these years,' said Grandma Hughey. 'He has made our dreams come true - he's a great man, a true Christian and a wonderful friend.'

"Mrs. Williamson was showing visitors the cemetery at one side of the church, 16 gently sloping green acres spotted with dog wood and poplar trees. Here, perhaps, a neighbor will bring home from the city a son or a daughter to sleep in the everlasting hills, and here the countrymen, still among his friends, shall find eternal rest.

"The picturesque old church built of brick in mel-low red tones, was designed by Judge Minor's nephew, Lucian Dent, the architect, and is modeled after those of colonial design in Williamsburg, Virginia, which he studied while attending the University of Virginia. It is the young architect's first church and to him was a labor of love.

"Upon the cool, silvery wall of the entrance foyer is an aluminum steel-mounted plaque with the inscription.

'Minor Memorial M. E. Church, South. To the Glory of God and the Glory of Man. A Memorial to Florence Frayser Minor.'

"At one side of the main auditorium is a reed pipe organ, also the gift of Judge Minor. The interior of the church is decorated in pale gray, with comfortable pews of Tudor mahogany, gray trimmed.

"This memorial is dedicated on Mother's Day by a man whose life is dedicated to his Lord,' said Justice James McCowen, of the Mississippi Supreme Court, in a brief address, commemorative of the occasion. 'It is peculiarly fitting that the dedication of this church takes place on Mother's Day, since it is a memorial to a wonderful mother, and also will serve as mother of this community.'

"Judge and Mrs. Minor lost two children - Mary Lane Minor, who died at the age of three years, and H. Dent Minor, Jr., whom they lost at the age of five.

"Before beginning his dedicatory sermon on some of the functions of the church, Right Rev. Hoyt M. Dodds, bishop of Mississippi and Louisiana, paid a beautiful tribute of love to Judge Minor and his wife:

"We gather here on this joyous occasion to do justice to the significance of this day - to join the dedication of this memorial, which is in the exquisite taste that should accompany the tribute of such a character as this man.

"It is not the first time that a tribute of love to one's wife has been thought of, nor the first time a memorial has been erected by a man in tribute to a remarkable woman. But it is unusual, and in this case especially appropriate, that the memorial should be a church.

"We build houses to live in, shops, factories, stores, and offices to work in - all for our own comfort and convenience. Churches are built that we may have a place to assemble, worship, and return thanks to the God who made us all," said Judge Charles N. Burch.

"The influence of this church will radiate through the community and beyond, and its teachings will make better men and better women. Its ennobling influence will carry on for generations."

"Others who paid tribute to the judge and his wife were: Rev. Bertrand R. Cocks, of Phoenix, Arizona, Mrs. Ceylon Frazer, Sr., and Robert M. Beattie, of Memphis; Mrs. Frazer also read a letter to Judge Minor from Senator McKellar, in which he said, 'When I went to Memphis years ago to practice law, one of the first girls I met was Miss Florence Frayser. I was at once impressed with her charming personality and her beautiful character. We became friends and that friendship lasted while she lived. I recall that she taught the infants' class in St. John's and was always greatly interested in her church work. This tribute to her memory which you have conceived and carried out is most beautiful.'" (1)

#### Baptist Church Leader

Rev. E. C. Horton, born August 11, 1886, in Izzard County, Arkansas, attended the public schools of Arkansas; attended college in Hunt County, Texas; attended Baptist College at Greenville, Texas.

Rev. Horton began preaching in 1908, and has served pastorates at the following places: Texas, from 1908 to 1922. He married Miss Emma Anderson of Delta County, Texas, in 1908, and they moved to Louisiana in 1922, and Rev. Horton continued his work in Allen Parish, Calcasieu Parish, and DeSoto Parish, where he was located for eight years. In 1935 he moved to DeSoto County, and is now pastor of Horn Lake Baptist Church, and the Baptist Church at Eudora; Brother Horton has recently returned from Moody Bible Institute, Chicago; each summer he attends some Bible Institute. (2)

#### Sunday School and Church Activities

In every church in the county some form of Sunday School is held; in the town churches we find graded Sunday Schools, especially is this true at Eudora, Hernando, Olive Branch, Walls, and Poplar Corner. Each year, churches of the different communities sponsor some form of Sunday School Institute, when Sunday School Manuals are studied. Lectures and discussions are made by teachers on the material in these manuals, and at the end of the course diplomas are given to successful applicants.

In almost all the churches there is some form of Missionary Society - each denomination having its respective Mission Circle.

- (1) The Commercial Appeal, May, 11, 1936  
 (2) Rev. E. C. Horton, Eudora, Miss.

The Baptist have five active Woman's Missionary Unions and four auxiliaries in the county, sponsored by the W. M. S. Officers for these unions consist of a Superintendent, assistant Secretary, and Treasurer, Personal service, Mission Leader, Margaret Fund, stewardship, and Young Peoples organization.

Mrs. Barnett, of Eudora, told us the purpose of the W. M. U. "was to stimulate a Mission spirit and the grace of giving." They study mission books, and observe seasons of prayer with offerings. Their aim is prayer, study, personal service, tithes, offerings, and education of the young people.

Other denominations have auxiliaries and Ladies Aid Society; also Mission Study courses, and they play an important part in financing the church.

Some of the most important organizations in our churches of today are: Epworth League, Young Peoples Unions, and Young People's Clubs. These organizations train young people on church membership and church leadership.

Rach Church in DeSoto County has yearly institutes for training boys and girls of their church in leadership. They are taught to take part in church programs, which gives them a definite part in church activities. (1)

#### Negro Churches

Following is a list of the negro churches in DeSoto County:

A. M. E. Church, Hernando; preaching 1st and 3rd Sundays, Sunday School every Sunday; preacher, Rev. Levells, Lyons. The total membership of this church is 75, and each member pays a quarter each preaching day, which is given to the preacher. This church has a Woman's Missionary Society, and until recently, an organized League, which met every Sunday afternoon. They have special services on Easter Sunday, Mother's Day, Children's Day, and Christmas.

Hernando Baptist Church, just back of the local jail, has preaching every 1st and 3rd Sunday, with

(1) Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

Rev. Graves, from Memphis, acting pastor; membership is around 200, and each one is charged so much membership dues; women pay 15¢ per month, and the men pay 50¢ per month.

Oak Hill Baptist Church, west of Love, has preaching every 2nd Sunday, with Rev. Walter Smith as acting pastor; membership is 250, and dues of each one is \$1.00 per year.

Lewis Chapel, Methodist Church of Hernando, burned a few years ago. Beecha, Methodist Chapel replaced this church, which is located in West End. It is also financed by charging dues to about 60 members.

Pleasant Hill Methodist Church, known as Adams Chapel, is an A. M. E. Church, with Drew Pope acting pastor.

Other churches located at Pleasant Hill are: Shiloh, St. Matthew, and Mt. Pisgah. (1)

Other churches in the county are: New Bethlehem Baptist Church, preaching every 4th Sunday; Rev. Cathey is pastor. Knights Chapel, Methodist Church, with preaching 2nd and 4th Sundays, has a membership of 200, and Rev. Elks as pastor.

Morgan Grove Baptist Church, with Rev. A. D. Williams as pastor, has preaching every 1st Sunday, and membership of 75.

Elan Springs Baptist Church, with Rev. Meachans as acting pastor, has preaching the 2nd Sunday each month, and a membership of 45.

Mt. Olive Methodist Church has preaching every 1st and 3rd Sunday, with Rev. Elks, pastor.

Bethlehem Baptist, with preaching every 1st and 3rd Sundays, has Walter Smith as pastor.

Zion Hill Baptist, with preaching every 1st Sunday, has Rev. Jenkins, acting pastor.

Zion Hill No. 2 Baptist; Bynum Chapel, Methodist; Peters Chapel, Baptist; Feister's Chapel, Baptist; Averys Chapel, Methodist.

(1) Drew Pope, Pleasant Hill, Miss.

Union Hill Baptist Church, 3 miles west of Cub Lake, has Rev. Gooch as pastor, and preaching 1st and 3rd Sundays; membership is 130. (1)

Good Hope Baptist Church, located "Top of Bluff Hill" on Highway No. 3, has Rev. Bowland as pastor, with services on 2nd and 4th Sundays each month. There are 98 members.

Pleasant Grove Methodist, at Cub Lake, has Rev. Williams as pastor, and preaching every 1st and 3rd Sundays; membership is 200.

Eudora Methodist Church, located east of Eudora, with Rev. Williams, pastor, has preaching every 3rd and 4th Sundays, with 150 members.

Bullard's No. 1 Methodist Church has over 200 members, and preaching every 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Bullard's No. 2 is a Saints Church 3 miles west of Eudora, off Highway No. 3; Rev. Buchanan is acting pastor, and it has a membership of 50. They have preaching every Sunday and prayer service every Wednesday night.

Bullard's No. 3 Methodist Church, located 2 miles northeast of Banks, just at the foot of the Bluff, is a plantation church with a membership of 160.

Zion Hill Baptist Church, two and one-half miles south of Hernando, near Pulling's Corner, has Rev. Mack as pastor, and a membership of 250.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, located at Mooretown, at present does not have a pastor, but has around 200 members.

Cooper's Chapel, Methodist, is located at Olive Branch, with Rev. Hicks from Holly Springs as pastor. Their 100 members have services every 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, is located at Olive Branch, has Rev. Nobles from Memphis as the pastor, and preaching on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. There are 88 members.

Wiggins Baptist, located near Olive Branch, has preaching one Sunday in the month, and 74 members.

(1) Edwina Walker, Hernando, Miss.

Abbey Methodist Church, located on the plantation of T. P. Howard, out from Walls, has 200 members, and preaching on the 3rd and 1st Sunday of each month.

Channel No. 1, located near the Bluff in the southern part of the county, has preaching on the 4th Sunday.

Dean's Hill, located near the Club House of Mr. Dean, in Oak Hill Community, is a Methodist Church, named in honor of Mr. Dean, who donated the land for the church, which has a membership of 200, and is very prosperous. Preaching service twice a month.

Harkleroad Baptist Church, out from Walls, has preaching every 2nd and 4th Sunday.

Halloway, located near Lake Cormorant; Lake Cormorant, located near the Lake banks, west of the town; McKay, located near Lake Cormorant; Matt's Chapel, a Methodist Church, is located on the DeSoto County line, near Coldwater.

Practically all churches have Sunday Schools and other church organizations. (1)

#### Church Activities

Dora Christian, of the Trinity community, tells the following about some of the churches in that locality:

"Zion Hill and Union Hill Churches have an organized Woamn's Missionary Union. They meet twice each month at the church and have Bible reading and Mission study.

"A 'Sisters Club' is also organized at Union Hill Church, and meets once each month for an all-day service. They render a well prepared program, have several invited preachers who make talks on any subject they choose, and at noon a lunch is spread on the church ground, everyone enjoying the hospitality. The purpose of this club is to help the sick of their church, especially the members of the club. A small membership fee is charged.

"On meeting days of these churches, as well as the other negro churches throughout the county, hold all-day service; those desiring may carry their lunch, some go home for lunch, and some remain at the church until closing time, then go

(1) Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.



home and prepare lunch. Negroes go and come to this service as they please; maybe a crowd will go in for awhile, stay until they get tired, some will come out, then others go in. There are generally five or more preachers, deacons, and staunch members of the church present, who preach, talk, and give general discussions of the church. Singing is conducted by an organized group of the members of the church, led by one individual." (1)

Each year negro churches throughout the county observe Children's Day, Mother's Day, and Christmas.

For Children's Day a special program is arranged by the teachers of the classes and rendered at the church, which is decorated elaborately for the occasion, and all the children wear white dresses with colored sashes made of crepe paper. Some of the largest girls act as ushers; this day is generally observed on the second Sunday in June.

Mother's Day a special program is rendered by the children also, and is given in honor of the mothers, who are honored guests on this occasion.

At Christmas a program is gotten up by the entire church membership, and everyone is given something to do. The church is appropriately decorated for the occasion and a Christmas tree is arranged, from which everyone is given something.

Every negro church in DeSoto County has some kind of Sunday School, and they use standard literature. (2)

- (1) Dora Christian, (colored) Trinity Community  
 (2) Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

### References

|                            |                |       |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Barnett, J. S.             | Eudora,        | Miss. |
| Barnett, Mrs. J. S.        | Eudora,        | Miss. |
| Couch, Mrs. Grace          | Eudora,        | Miss. |
| Counts, Mrs. Marye         | Lake Comorant, | Miss. |
| Cox, Oran                  | Lake Comorant, | Miss. |
| Christian, Dora (Colored), | Trinity,       | Miss. |
| Dunn, Miss Gladys          | Pleasant Hill, | Miss. |
| Eddy, Rachel, (Colored),   | Hernando,      | Miss. |
| Janney, J. P.              | Oak Grove,     | Miss. |
| Marshall, Mrs. P. B.       | Hernando,      | Miss. |
| Malone, Mrs. J. H.         | Hernando,      | Miss. |
| Marshall, Hazle,           | Hernando,      | Miss. |
| Mingee, G. C.              | Hernando,      | Miss. |
| Meriweather, Susie (Col.), | Brights,       | Miss. |
| Pope, Drew (Colored),      | Pleasant Hill, | Miss. |
| Pope, Mrs. Tillie          | Hernando,      | Miss. |
| Riley, J. B.               | Eudora,        | Miss. |
| Walker, Edwina (Colored),  | Hernando,      | Miss. |

### Bibliography

- The Times Promoter, October 18, 1934.
- The Press and Times, October 16, 1877.
- The Hernando Methodist Church Book
- The Times Promoter, September 9, 1926
- The Times Promoter, July 29, 1926
- The DeSoto Times, May 15, 1889.
- The DeSoto Times, May 28, 1882.
- The Times Promoter, September 10, 1936.
- The Commercial Appeal, May 11, 1836
- The Promoter, May 7, 1898, May 7, 1898.

## Chapter XIV

## EDUCATION

By interviews with old citizens of DeSoto County and through a survey of old copies of county papers and available records, information has been secured on many of the "Schools of Yesterday." Brief sketches are given below:

Rock Springs School

According to a statement from Mrs. B. P. Marshall, Rock Springs School, near Pleasant Hill, between the Baker and Dobbins places, was established by Mrs. German Baker in 1836 for the special benefits of the Baker, Dobbins, and Gray children.

Mrs. M. G. Robinson of Pleasant Hill, in an interview on the Rock Springs School, mentioned the fact that her father, Bill Gray, translated parts of the Bible into Latin as part of his school work. She said she remembered well his reciting the whole first chapter of Genesis in Latin from memory. This is an illustration of the stress put upon Latin in the pre-war schools.

The school was conducted in a log cabin of one room, which was also used as a church. The majority of the teachers were from the North, Mrs. Robinson said, and their classes ranged from the "A B C's" to Latin and Greek. However, the school was considered only a preparatory one, which would correspond to our present day grammar school. Mrs. Robinson recalled her father's ability to spell and his unusual proficiency in Latin. These subjects, her father told her, were taught with great thoroughness. Although her father attended several colleges and military schools afterwards, he always attributed his knowledge of Latin to the training received at this school.

One of the main texts used in Rock Springs School, as in most parts in that period, was Webster's Blue Back Speller. The book contained, besides the columns of words, sentences defining words, and interesting fables.

Each of the pupils was required to pay a tuition, which was agreed upon by the patrons, and often walked miles to school.

Among the pupils who attended Rock Springs School were the following: Dr. Harvey Gray, who was for many years the only physician in a large territory surrounding Pleasant Hill; Mack Banks and George Banks; James B. Farriss, preacher.

Religious education was stressed in this school; each morning some portion of the time was spent in Bible reading and prayer. This made most of the children religious minded, and helped make Christ an accepted part of their daily life and thought.

The foundation given in Latin and spelling enabled many of the students to excel in these subjects at college. This school also gave many children training along academic lines, when there were no public schools or other means of receiving educational training. (1)

Mrs. Charles Henley, Olive Branch, stated that a private school was carried on in the residence of her father, W. H. Moody, three miles east of Pleasant Hill. It was patronized by a large group of children from the Pleasant Hill vicinity, and taught by a governess from the North. It was in existence for two or three years, between 1840 and 1850, and stressed reading, writing, and arithmetic, Latin, and Greek. (2)

#### Private Schools

Mrs. J. H. Malone, Hernando, gives information on the private school of Mrs. Fogill, who lived in Pleasant Hill: This school was held in one room in the home of Mrs. Fogill, located near where the Methodist Church of Pleasant Hill now stands, and was carried on for four or five years, beginning about 1868; it was taught by Mrs. Fogill herself.

In 1899, Mrs. Malone stated, Mrs. Clemmie Ross, conducted a private school in the town of Pleasant Hill, across the street from the present home of Mrs. C. W. Tarver. The building, a two-room frame house, was torn down several years ago, but Mrs. Ross continued her private school until 1904, when she taught in the Pleasant Hill Public School. (3)

- 
- (1) Mrs. P. B. Marshall  
 (2) Mrs. Charles Henley  
 (3) Mrs. J. H. Malone

In 1888, Miss Lila Page Moseley had a private school in her home at Hernando.

In August, 1872, Miss Addie H. Sanders opened a private school in the basement of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Hernando.

Miss Lillie Moseley, daughter of Mrs. A. M. Moseley, had a private Art School in the Moseley home in Hernando in 1889.

#### The Bristol School

Information gained from the People's Press, of August, 1867, and given us by Mrs. Bettye Bridgforth, of Pleasant Hill, is that D. W. Bristol taught in Pleasant Hill in 1862; classes met in a one-room frame building, which is now, after some improvement, the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Watson; this building was then known as the Bristol School house. Mrs. Bridgforth states that Mr. Bristol taught the school alone, and for this reason only three subjects were taught; these being the "three R's" - reading, writing, and arithmetic. About forty pupils attended this one-room school.

In 1871, the Masonic Hall, a two-story brick building of six rooms, completed in the late 1860's, was made the school house, as well as Masonic Hall. The curriculum was enlarged at this time to include more difficult and more important subjects, and in this year became known as Union High School.

In 1872 the name was changed to Pleasant Hill Masonic Male and Female College, and Prof. D. W. Bristol, who had continued as principal since 1862, when he taught at the Bristol School house, served his last term in 1872-'73.

In 1873 P. D. Padgett, Presbyterian preacher, succeeded Bristol as principal. Teaching with Rev. Padgett were the following: Mrs. P. D. Badgett, Miss Annette Wilson, Miss Ida Williams and Prof. Hollicock, a German; the first music teacher the school had.

The following were among the pupils of Prof. Padgett: Bettye Chamberlain (now Mrs. Bettye Bridgforth); Jeff Fogg, now postmaster at Hernando; Perle Jenkins (Mrs. Perle Jenkins Miller), now a music teacher at Golthwaite, Texas.

The trustees of the Masonic Male and Female College were as follows: W. J. Wilroy, W. F. Henley, C. W. Wilroy, T. O. Bridgforth, H. Murry, James D. Baker, and A. G. Perry. There were about 100 pupils in this school during this time, up to 1879.

In 1879 the school became known as The Pleasant Hill Academy; then it became a boarding school with about 200 pupils. It was the largest school in northwest Mississippi during the three or four years, (1879 to 1882 or '83), and Prof. J. B. Williams was head of it. Teaching with Mr. Williams were Mrs. J. B. Williams, Miss Mattie Hanserd, Miss Mary Robinson, Miss Jimmie Jenkins, music teacher; Miss Annette Smith, art teacher.

Among the students of Prof. J. B. Williams were: the late Walter Clifton, one-time president of Grenada College; Will Abston, Memphis cotton-broker; the late German Baker, II, merchant, and W. A. Williamson, insurance agent.

L. J. Farley, of Hernando, succeeded J. B. Williams as principal; Mrs. L. J. Farley, and Miss Perle Jenkins, music teacher, taught with him. There were only a few boarding students.

Among the students of Prof. Farley were: Lelia Collins, (Mrs. L. McArthur, former Circuit Clerk of DeSoto County); Neville Johnson, Catholic Priest; the late P. B. Marshall, former tax assessor of DeSoto County; the late N. E. Wilroy, DeSoto County Representative.

Succeeding L. J. Farley, and teaching until 1890, was Mr. Keister.

Among his former pupils were: H. E. Marshall, Arkansas Attorney; J. O. Bridgforth, farmer; C. W. Tarver, Justice of Peace of the second district of DeSoto County.

In 1890 Prof. S. S. Robinson, Sr., became principal, and the name of the school became Pleasant Hill Seminary. It continued to be a boarding school, with a small increase in pupils over the six preceding years. S. S. Robinson, Jr., taught penmanship in his father's school.

According to the records, S. S. Robinson was the last teacher to precede the public school system. However, for many succeeding years, public school terms were often supplemented by a month or two of "pay schools," during which period the pupils paid a monthly fee, as had been done in the old private or tuition schools. (1)

(1) P. B. Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

#### Private Music Schools

Miss Perle Jenkin's Private Music School was held in the Jenkins home, two or three miles northwest of Pleasant Hill, during the years of 1879-83. The piano classes of Miss Jenkins consisted of about ten or fifteen pupils, and in 1884 she became music teacher in the Pleasant Hill Academy.

Miss Lola Saulter had a private class at Pleasant Hill about 1890, in which she taught stringed instruments - violin, guitar, and mandolin; members of her class played each Sunday at the churches of the community. Miss Saulter did her teaching in the home of Jim Johnson, located about two miles north of Pleasant Hill, boarded here, and continued her classes several years. Some of her pupils were: Rebekah Baker (Mrs. P. B. Marshall), Miss Emma Johnson, Miss Lula Bridgforth, and Vallah Norris, (Mrs. Vallah Shipp).

#### Horn Lake Academy

The Horn Lake Academy, a boarding school, was located in the Masonic Building, the two-story frame building, being at the approximate location of the present High School. It was used as a church, a school house, a boarding place for school pupils, and for other public gatherings. The Academy was in existence during 1867, and we find in the People's Press of August, 1867, that the principal at the time was E. R. Gill, and that tuition was charged each pupil monthly.

#### New Bethelhem School

Joe Walker, Horn Lake, told us on June 30, 1936, of the New Bethelhem School, which, he said, was established about 1836. This school was located about three miles southwest of Horn Lake, and the building was constructed from the remains of an old store, which had been moved there for the purpose. Mrs. D. A. Dodson was the first teacher, and when the Horn Lake Consolidated School was established, the old building was torn down and class work continued in the new consolidated school. This was a private enterprise, supported by tuition.

#### Old Oak Hill Academy

Old Oak Hill Academy was located six miles northwest of Hernando, and the opening of it was announced

in the People's Press September, 1867. It was a boarding school, with Prof. S. S. Robinson, Sr., principal. Latin, Greek, and French were taught, as well as spelling, reading, writing, and other fundamentals.

Plum Point School: Dr. F. M. Malone, of Capleville, in an interview June 29, told of teaching in the Plum Point School in 1881; he said that at that time it was considered a public school, however, the salaries of the teachers were paid by the county only in part, being supplemented by private subscriptions. The school was in a frame building which, Malone said, was the location of a private school in earlier years.

Gray's Institute: Gray's Institute, a boarding school in 1879, located at Nesbitt, was founded by Mrs. B. T. Gray, who owned the property and had the building constructed. She was principal, and assisted by experienced teachers. Primary and intermediate classes, with bookkeeping, mathematics, English, Latin, art, embroidery, piano, and organ were taught. Pupils could take collegiate courses, and diplomas were awarded those who merited them. This information was gained from the DeSoto Times of September, 1879, and from Hugh Foster, Hernando.

In 1889 this school became the DeSoto Institute, and continued as a boarding school; all grades, with art and music, were taught. The principal was Hugh Foster; the primary department was headed by Mrs. Bouldin; the art department, by Mrs. Gwynn; the music department by Mrs. Fearrington.

In 1890 the faculty was as follows: Mrs. S. B. Bouldin, principal; Miss M. E. Blount, principal of higher branches; Miss Adele Porter, music, elocution, penmanship; Miss Annie Gwynn, art; Hon. J. W. Odum, lecturer; Rev. R. R. Gore, morals and educational training; E. B. Fearrington, Bible.

In 1892 Prof. Hugh Foster returned as principal of the institute for one year, and in an interview, June 30, he told us that the DeSoto Institute was partially run by public money. The salaries of the teachers were paid for four months by this fund and the rest of the term, usually a period of four months, was paid by private subscription.

The building was erected by Mrs. B. T. Gray, and in 1890 it was bought by Ephram Bouldin. The school was located opposite the Presbyterian Church of Horn Lake, and among the pupils were the following: Mattie May Gore, (Mrs. J. O. Bridgforth) Dr. W. E. Lundy, dentist, of Memphis; J. R. Tipton, Mollie Brewer (Mrs. J. P. Moore). (1)

Pay School: Mrs. Bob McCargo, Olive Branch, told us of the pay school taught by George Jackson. It was established before the War between the States, and located one mile east of Olive Branch, on what is now Highway # 78. Classes met in a long one-room log building, and as well as many others in the county, this school was discontinued during the war. The equipment was very crude; there were no desks and few books, and the pupils paid tuition each month; it was known as a "pay school." It was reopened after the war, and about 1870, was moved to the two-story frame building in Olive Branch, where school continued until 1926. The former log schoolhouse was torn down in 1870. (2)

#### Other Old Schools

Mrs. Sallie Sloan, of Olive Branch, tells of a private school during the war that was located just below the old Stephen Flinn place, about one and one-half miles east of Olive Branch. The building was a one-room frame structure, and during the war, when Mrs. Sloan attended this school, it was taught by Mrs. Buchanan. Near this school, at the same time was a Methodist Church on Pigeon Roost Road, which is now Highway #78; the land on which the church stood is in cultivation at this time, and is owned by Preston Sloan, of Olive Branch.

During the last years of the War between the States, or immediately after, school was held in a one-room house two miles south of Olive Branch, on what is now the Cockrum Road; it was taught by Professor Griffin, and Mrs. Sloan recalled that it lasted only a few years. After this school was discontinued, classes began again under Professor Bob Miller at the school east of Olive Branch, near the Flinn place. School had not been kept up at both places at the same time, according to Mrs. Sloan, but here classes continued until the school was transferred to Olive Branch, next door to the Baptist Church.

(1) DeSoto Times, September, 1879  
Hugh Foster, Hernando, Miss.

(2) Mrs. Bob McCargo, Olive Branch, Miss.

Mrs. Sloan recalled that at the home of Tom Woods, (the old Botts place, which burned this year, 1936), a private school was taught by a governess hired by Mr. Woods for his children. The governess (from the North), taught before the war, and continued until after the war. At this time the Woods children and some others from the neighborhood were taught. Among the visiting students were, Annie McNeil and Lizzie Roulett, of Olive Branch.

Dr. F. M. Malone, of Capleville, Tennessee, advises that a school known as Sylvan Hall was taught by Miss Virgie Lusk and Lou Malone, successively for three sessions of five months each immediately after the war, ending about 1869. This log school house was located just over the Tennessee line, in DeSoto County, near the old Malone place.

Jim Dalehite began a school at Love just after the war for the purpose of teaching his own children. However, other people of the community soon began to send their children, and he began to charge tuition. He taught in a one-room house on his own land for about twenty years, and was succeeded by Mat Perry. This school early became part free school, and continued as such until it was absorbed by Hernando Consolidated School. When Dalehite taught the school, his subjects were geography, arithmetic, dictionary, blue-back speller, and to the fourth reader.

Mrs. T. H. Norvell states that she attended school about 1885 in the two story frame building at Olive Branch, which was next door to the present Baptist Church. She said that this school was then taught by L. J. Farley, of Hernando, principal, and one assistant. There was no grade system in the school at that time, Mrs. Norvell recalled; however, the children received good training, and were grouped according to ability, and individual likes and dislikes were allowed to have an influence on studies pursued. Latin was stressed, and children often excelled in the subject they especially liked, to the neglect of others.

In 1889, Professor S. S. Robinson, Sr., became principal at Olive Branch, and the school became Olive Branch Institute. In 1901, it was known as the Olive Branch School and Prof. J. B. Williams became principal, with Miss Rilla Flinn as assistant.

In 1890, S. S. Robinson, Jr., conducted a private business school at Olive Branch. Mrs. P. B. Marshall gave us this information: "This school was carried on at Olive Branch by S. S. Robinson, Jr., while his father, S. S. Robinson, Sr., taught at Pleasant Hill. Young Robinson taught penmanship in his father's school at the same time, in addition to his work at Olive Branch."

Hernando Select School was a private institution taught by Mrs. A. M. Moseley, the first record of which we find in the People's Press of August, 1866. It states that her school had thirty pupils during that year, and the subjects taught were French, Latin, Music, and fundamentals usually taught in primary grades. This school was held in Mrs. Moseley's home in Hernando, which is now known as the Gwin Place, or the Banks Antique Home. Records show that Mrs. Moseley discontinued her school from 1869-82, when she re-opened it.

Mrs. Mary E. Pope conducted a small private school in Hernando several years before the War between the States, classes being held upstairs over the drug store, near what is now Albert Brewer's store. This building burned after several years, and not being rebuilt, Mrs. Pope, at the beginning of the War between the States, was given the use of the Baptist Building, which had been the location of the Baptist Female College, and during the war this school was carried on under her direction. Since most of the schools of the county and other parts of the states were closed during this period, this one had a wide attendance from other parts of the county, state, and Memphis.

Mrs. Mildred Farrington, of Hernando, who was a student in this school during the war, named the following as among those who attended at that time: Alice Trezevant, (Mrs. Armistead Collier, Memphis); Willie Tucker, (now Mrs. Lockhart, Memphis); Quennie Blevins (from Mobile), Norma Lipscomb (from Columbus).

Miss Tillie Pope, daughter of Mrs. Pope, taught painting and music in the school with her mother.

Mrs. Farrington told us of the burning of the building in which the Baptist Female College was located, which she said, occurred before the war. The building was immediately rebuilt, however, by the Baptists of the town; they having a large sum of money on hand at the

time for the purpose of building a church, decided to use it to reconstruct the school building. In continuing her discussion of this building after it was rebuilt, Mrs. Farrington stated that Mr. Parham, from Virginia, bought it from the Baptists after the war, and that his niece, Miss Molly Johnson, succeeded Mrs. Pope as head of the school. Miss Jenny Johnson, sister of Miss Molly Johnson, was matron, and had charge of the boarding division. It was a large boarding school after the war, as well as while Mrs. Pope was at its head. (1)

Mrs. Lem D. Cooke, (formerly Miss Lem Cooke) in an interview in her home in Hernando, on June 30, spoke of her private school, which began in the 1860's: The school was for young ladies and small children, and that the regular curriculum was supplemented with French and Latin, which were taught without extra cost to the pupils, but music required extra tuition. The sessions were five months long, and charges were made as follows:

Tuition per session for young ladies.....\$25.00  
 Tuition per session for small children....\$20.00  
 Tuition per session including music.....\$30.00

This school, conducted for several years in the home of Mrs. Cooke, was located just west of the Wilroy home. About 1870, Mrs. Cooke married and moved to Louisiana, and did not teach again until 1888, when she again established a private school in Hernando, which ran for one year in the Male and Female College building, Lem D. Cooke, her husband, being principal of the school at that time.

In 1892, Mrs. Cooke re-opened her private school in the Male and Female College building, and continued it until 1895.

#### Classical School for Boys

In the Press and Times of August, 1872, we found a notice of the opening of a Classical School for Boys. The paper stated that this was a preparatory school for Oxford University, and J. Watson Woods was the superintendent during that year. We have been unable to determine positively where this school was located; however, Mrs. Lorena Smith, Hernando, thinks that it was in the Male Academy building.

(1) Mrs. Farrington.

The same newspaper in August, 1870, carried an advertisement of a private school for boys at Hernando, with W. H. Foute as principal.

It was a boarding school and prices were advertised as follows:

First Class.....\$30.00  
 Second Class.....\$25.00  
 French (per month extra).....\$ 2.00

#### The Hernando Male Academy

Mrs. Annie Lynn, of Hernando, states that the Hernando Male Academy was organized by a group, or a stock company of citizens of Hernando, and that John Robertson was treasurer of the company when it was first organized; that the building was constructed by Nathan Bedford Forrest, brick mason, who later became the famous General Forrest of the War between the States. That the school was established prior to 1855, is certain, since we know that, at that date, Forrest was engaged in the slave trade in Memphis, and that he continued in this business up to the outbreak of the war.

The People's Press of August, 1867, announced that the Hernando Male Academy would open that fall with Rev. S. I. Reid as principal. It was advertised as a boarding school, and further stated that the academy building burned May 30, 1867, and that after it burned, work was resumed in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This building was rebuilt immediately, and school was begun in the new house in the fall of 1868.

This new building consisted of six large rooms, with a fire place in each. The school hall was 54 x 60, and there was a library and a campus enclosure. The building, as was the former one, was owned by a joint stock company, the trustees being: H. Dockery, Felix Labauve, F. B. White, T. W. White, Joseph Boone, J. N. Robertson.

In October, 1868, the building was leased to Rev. J. W. Lipsey, who took charge of the Male Academy, while the Rev. S. I. Reid went to Holly Springs to conduct the Chalmers Institute. In 1868 the name of the school was changed to the Hernando Male Seminary. The tuition

was \$4.00 per month for primary class; \$5.00 per month for all English branches, second class; \$6.00 per month, Classics and English, third class; there were fifty scholars. The trustees for this school were: Dr. H. Dockery, Col. T. W. White, W. J. A. Boone, General J. C. N. Robertson, John Robertson, T. S. Tate, J. W. Tate, Dr. Robert Temple. The President of the Board was Dr. Dockery; the secretary was Dr. Temple.

In November, 1868, Professor R. N. J. Wilson was added to the faculty, and taught all the higher mathematics, modern language, and natural sciences; Rev. Lipsey taught Mental philosophy and ancient language.

In January, 1870, this building was leased to E. O. Renner, as principal; W. H. Foute was assistant. The school was comprised of the following classes: primary, intermediate, grammar, and high class; the latter a preparatory for college or business. In November, 1870, J. Raymond replaced E. O. Renner as principal, and used the same tuition and principles in teaching that Mr. Renner did.

On January 2, 1871, free public school was advertised for the first time in the Hernando Male Seminary Building. Rev. W. J. Lipsey was principal and W. H. Foute assistant.

The Hernando Press of July 11, 1872, stated that Dr. H. Dockery, president, and Dr. Temple, secretary, were authorized by the board of trustees to repair the Seminary, also, to sell, rent, or lease building, "Subject to ratification of County, annual dividends, 8%." In this same paper of September 2, 1872, an announcement of public school in the male college was found. The teachers were J. M. and M. A. Youngblood.

The DeSoto Times of January 1, 1880, announced the opening of the second session of the Hernando Male Seminary, with G. W. Lawson, principal. It was a preparatory school for the University of Mississippi, or any college.

In the same paper of September 1, 1881, the Hernando Male Institute advertised W. L. Lockhart as principal. Between the years 1881 and 1889, the Male Academy building was sold to the Baptist negroes of Hernando, and they established the Baptist Institution and College for Negroes, which is still in existence.

### Baptist Female College

Mrs. Annie Lynn, Hernando, in speaking of the schools of the pre-war period, mentioned as one of the most outstanding, the Baptist Female College, which was located on the site of the present Hernando Consolidated School building, and which, she thought, was established around 1850. The building burned some time before the war and was rebuilt at once by the Baptists of Hernando. At the outbreak of the war, the Baptists gave Mrs. Mary E. Pope the use of the building for a private boarding school, which continued throughout the war, with a large attendance.

We have been unable to ascertain the date when the Baptists sold the school building, or the date when it became known as the Mississippi Female College.

In 1889, the Hernando Male and Female Colleges were combined to form the Male and Female Institute; Lem D. Cook became principal, and his assistant was Mrs. Lem D. Cook. Primary, intermediate and Academic grades were taught; also Latin, French, and German.

The Hernando High School replaced the Male and Female Institute in 1890; it was for girls and boys, and was a free school, supplemented by a few months of "pay school." The principal (1890-92) was James H. Brooks; the assistant was Mrs. H. F. Jordan, and there were 120 pupils. Primary, intermediate, and advanced class were taught; a teachers' training course and music were also offered. In 1893 Mrs. Lem D. Cooke was principal; her assistants were Miss Mattie Hansard and Miss Maud Jones. There were 65 scholars; in 1895 the principal was Miss Steadmon; in 1897, Prof. W. Jones was principal, with Mrs. Lem D. Cooke, assistant. There were only 48 pupils. The DeSoto Times of September 2, 1897, stated that this loss in attendance was caused by an epidemic of yellow fever at that time.

The People's Press of August, 1867, stated that B. Fenton Holcomb was principal of the boarding school known as the Mississippi Female College; a year later, the paper stated that the principal of this college was Mrs. A. R. Girardeau, who also taught French and Music; the assistant was Miss M. B. Moon, teacher of English and Latin. It had 22 boarding students, and a number of pupils by day.

In 1870-72, Mrs. M. B. Southworth was principal of the school; assistant was Miss M. B. McKain; professor of music, Henry Seyfert; assistant music teacher, Miss



Edith Damon; art teacher, Frank Domenico; fashionable dancing was taught by De Gray Bennett, of Memphis. Mrs. Southworth was assisted in various departments by ladies of highest merit.

Kindergarten: Misses Lelia and Alva Payne taught a private school - kindergarten - in their home in Hernando for several years prior to 1916, during the time of the public school.

#### Randle University

The first record we could find of the Randle University was in the Times Promoter of July 8, 1899. It was, at this time, a boarding school; principal, E. H. Randle, resided in the building, and young lady students were boarded in the school, which was the old Baptist Female Academy building. Dr. Randle had an able assistant in his wife, Mrs. Ella Roberts Randle, who taught with him. Professor Randle had about seventy pupils, seven of whom were boarders; Miss May Randle, his daughter, was matron and had charge of the boarders.

In 1901. Randle University had primary and advanced departments, and graduates, with a certificate, could enter the University of Mississippi or any other college without an examination. Up until 1904, Randle operated it half of each year as a free school, and the other half as a pay institution. Professor Randle established the first nine months free school in DeSoto County in 1904.

#### Kitty Bowen School - Others

Miss Kitty Bowen had a private school in her home about 1896, and continued it for two or three years, at the same time the public school was in progress.

Gray's Creek School, taught by Will Tulley in 1874, was a public school with supplementary terms.

Old Shelter School was located on the Anderson place, ten miles northwest of Eudora, three miles from Trinity, and was the first school which Mrs. Hinkle remembered as being on the bluff. It had two teachers, who were partly paid for their services by staying week-about with the pupil's parents for their board. Besides this, each parent paid one dollar per month for each child they went to school. The first teachers of this

school were Betty Whitley and Eliza Ellis. In 1865, a northerner, Mr. Ross, was employed as teacher, and was unpopular with the students. The old blue-back speller was the only text book used, and among the students were: Julia Barbee (Mrs. Julia Hinkle), Nina Jones, Auzie Whitley, Mandy Miller, Emma Miller, Noam~~ah~~ Anderson, Joe Whitley, Emma Burrus, Arthur Buchanan, Bill Dollar. Shelter School was moved to the Clint White Place in 1867, and in that year it became a public school.

Eudora Male and Female Institute, is advertised and described in the DeSoto Times of August, 1881, as being a first class grade school. G. W. Lawson was principal; board and tuition fees were the sources of revenue for the school.

Mrs. Ella Wilkins, Olive Branch, told us of a private school which she attended about 1884 at Lewisburg. It was in existence for only one year, and at the same time that the public school was being carried on. Geography was taught by questions and an atlas; the multiplication table was sung by the pupils, instead of being recited; "Spelling bees" were popular.

Mrs. J. C. Williamson had a private school in her home, two miles west of Pleasant Hill, in 1903; it was a small one with only a few pupils; in 1917-18-19, she taught several months of "pay school," at the termination of the public school, which lasted five months.

Mrs. P. B. Marshall, of Hernando, told us of a private school in Cockrum, founded about 1840 by her grandmother, Mrs. German Baker. This school continued for several years, and was attended by children of the Cockrum neighborhood. Classes met in Mrs. Baker's home, which was located on the site of the present home of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Langston, and she taught this school herself.

Mrs. Rebekah Bowen's private school followed that of Mrs. Baker's at Cockrum, but it lasted only two years.

Following the school of Mrs. Bowen, a large boarding school was established at Cockrum. It was known as Roebucker's Private Boarding School, and was taught by Prof. and Mrs. Roebucker, and one or two assistants.

The Hernando Normal College, of Hernando, was a training institute for teachers in 1892, where all common branches, elective studies, literary, rhetoric, history, primary, and methods of teaching bookkeeping, and commercial law, penmanship, debating, voice, music, drawing, and kindergarten were taught. This was a boarding school, and tuition was charged each teacher attending. It was located in the Male and Female Institute building, and was carried on only in the spring and summer.

Splinter-Back School, of Cedar View, was opened the year following the departure of Prof. J. B. Williams from the Pleasant Hill School, (approximately 1883). It was held in a two-room frame building, located near the present site of the Cedar View School, and two of Professor J. B. Williams' former pupils, Miss Mary Robinson and Miss Mattie Hansard, taught it. Cedar View, by 1900, had free school for several months, and was supplemented with pay school.

Professor Smith, of Coldwater, taught a private singing school of 30 pupils at Cedar View in 1900, giving three lessons each week to each pupil.

Mrs. Mary White Counts established in 1902, a private school in an old store building on the southeast corner of the lawn of her home, two miles west of West Day's. After a few years this school became a public institution, having been donated to the county by Mrs. Counts for that purpose. It has continued to function to present date, with Mrs. Counts as teacher.

The Cub Lake School was noted in 1900 as a part public and part pay school.

Miss Turley's Private School, 1900, at Lo Dockery, six miles southwest of Hernando, continued for several years in a building on the Lo Dockery place.

A teachers' institute was held during the summer of 1902 in the high school building at Hernando. Wm. N. Craig was in charge.

W. S. Burk conducted a mathematics class during the summers of 1905-1910 at the Hernando high school building.

Bowl Springs: Mrs. S. A. Hughey, Poplar Corner, told of another private school of DeSoto County, known

as Bowl Springs School. It was located two miles south of Poplar Corner, and Mrs. Hughey states that it was an old one in 1882, when she moved here. The school was moved to Poplar Corner from Bowl Springs, and Dock Manning was the principal. S. A. Hughey, Mr. Calmore, and Mr. Dolehite were the trustees.

#### School Tax Levied

The following statement, which is an indication of the growth of public schools in the county, is taken from the Press and Times of August 15, 1872:

"A small tax was levied for public school purposes by the board of supervisors, there being 25 or 30 schools in the county.

"Primary grades to get \$30.00 per month.  
Second grades to get \$50.00 per month.  
Third grades to get \$75.00 per month."

Notice: The following statement indicates another stage in the development of the public school system:

"In order to pay necessary expenses for the free school, such as rent for building, coal, etc., the trustees have assessed the pupils for the free term as follows: parents sending one, \$2.00; two, \$4.00; three, \$5.00, all over three, \$1.50 each. Bills for amounts due will be sent to parents and guardians, and the trustees hope that they will pay promptly, as the expenses must be paid."

T. R. Maxwell, Chairman  
E. T. Wilkinson, Secretary." (1)

#### Semple Broadus College

Albert Cartwright, of Irene, Shelby County, Tennessee, in an interview gives some facts about old Semple Broadus College, of Center Hill. Cartwright was a student at the school during the years following the War between the States, and says:

"After the war, the school was taught by Captain Patrick Henry Strickland, who had been a captain under General N. B. Forrest during the war. Other teachers of this period were, Prof. W. F. Roberts and Prof. Manning; Mrs. Davis, sister of Captain Strickland, was also a teacher at this time.

---

(1) Times Promoter, Feb. 14, 1902.

The school was much better before the war, but Greek, Latin, English, astronomy, and other college subjects were taught in the years following, as well as before.

"The school building in which the school was located was a two-story frame, equipped with a good laboratory and observatory. Although I am not positive as to the origin of the name of the school, I believe that it was named for the famous Baptist preacher of that day, the Rev. Broadus, of Louisville, Kentucky.

"The school was in existence as early as 1845, but its old records were burned several years ago. They were stored in the attic of an old home in Center Hill, and the building burned, destroying them."

In *Memoirs of Mississippi*, Volume #2, we found, that in 1858, there was a (Baptist) Semple Broadus College, in DeSoto County, and in 1860, also, there was the Williard Male and Female College of DeSoto County.

#### Early Schools of Eudora

In 1861 and through 1864, J. W. Nichols taught a private school one-half mile east of Eudora in the old Baptist Church; this building, an old frame, was destroyed by fire, so Nichols moved into another building, near where the present high school now stands. He had from forty to fifty pupils, and young ladies ranging in age from twenty-one to twenty-four.

E. B. Turner, Eudora, tells of a pay school one-half mile east of Eudora, known as Gum Springs School. Rev. Elbert Page, principal for several years, was paid so much in money, and the rest was paid by his boarding around with the different patrons for a week at a time. Mrs. Joan Jones, a Northern lady, was also a teacher in this school, which was moved from its location to the old store-house of John R. Tatum, and from there, to the old building known as Eudora Town Hall.

Some of the pupils that attended at these places were: E. B. Turner, Arthur Buchanan, Oliver Jones, and Jim McGowan. Jones became a doctor; Buchanan studied law, and later became Supreme Judge of Tennessee; McGowan studied law, and later became Supreme Judge of Mississippi.

The pay school at Oak Grove was held in a log house, with a large open fireplace. Mr. Hammond, the teacher,

stayed with the different parents for board, and the pupils paid so much tuition each month.

#### Hernando Academy

In 1837, the Hernando Academy, at Hernando, was the first school incorporated under the Chickasaw Cession, and the first principal of whom we have any trace, was Rev. McMahon, who was one of the incorporators and trustees.

In 1839, the Female Department was opened with Mrs. Dockery as the first principal; she was followed in December, 1839, by Mrs. Caroline C. Jones, who served as principal until 1845, when Mrs. M. W. Simmons was placed in charge.

In 1845, Rev. A. P. Henderson, a graduate of Glasgow College, opened a male school in the male academy.

In 1847, a building containing three rooms was erected, and in 1850, by authority of the legislature, the academy was transferred to the Methodist Church, South, and new buildings were constructed. Col. Warren M. Yates, an eminent teacher, was called to preside over it, which he did with great success for several years. He was succeeded by Mrs. M. A. Moseley, who, for several years prior to 1861, maintained a private school, highly and approved, and numerous attended. (1)

Mississippi Female College, located at Hernando, was established under the name of the DeSoto Female Seminary in 1850 by subscriptions of citizens, and was incorporated under general laws of the state. A brick building was erected in 1850 at a cost of \$6,500, and Rev. William Cary Crane, an Episcopal Clergyman, was elected president that fall, and the school opened successfully the following spring.

In 1852, a charter was granted by the legislature under the above name, and in 1856, Prof. Crane was succeeded by Prof. James C. Dockery, former Professor of French at the University of Alabama. Prof. Dockery was followed in 1858, (pro tem) by Dr. H. M. Jeter, and early in 1859, Rev. Champ C. Connor was made president.

This building was destroyed by fire in 1859 and a new one of brick was built in 1861.

(1) Goodspeed's Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. II

### Early Educators

"Professor W. L. Clifton, son of R. M. Clifton of Pleasant Hill, was elected president, and his wife was elected director of the 'School of Music.' "

"Professor Clifton is a graduate of U. & M. and Nashville, has taught in Mississippi for several years, and has been a great success as a teacher. His wife is a graduate of Wesleyan Female College and Eastern Conservatories and a musician of rare gifts and has a reputation of being one of the best vocalists in the South." (1)

"Prof. Sherwood Sledge Robinson was born in Alabama on May 11, 1833. He was the son of John Pyland and Cynthia Sledge Robinson.

"After his graduation at Bethel College, McKenzie, Tennessee, he was professor of mathematics for two years in his Alma Mater. In 1855, he married Miss Elizabeth Sledge, of Alabama, and moved to Mississippi. Most of his life was devoted to teaching. In DeSoto County he taught at Oak Hill, Eudora, Oak Grove, Olive Branch, Nesbitt, and Pleasant Hill. He is said to one of the best educators the state of Mississippi ever had. The following were some of his teachings: First, the absolute thoroughness of his teachings. He went to the bottom of things and endeavored to show his pupils the foundations upon which accurate knowledge must be built. Second, his open-mindedness, his progressive attitude toward life. He was ever willing to accept new truths and better methods. In this way he kept abreast of time, and saw that a student was always interested in the progress of the world. Third, when he saw a student was in earnest in his search for knowledge he spared no pains to make the subject plain." (2)

Some of his pupils were Judge James Greer, of Memphis; Judge J. C. McGowen of the Mississippi Supreme Court.

One of Professor Robinson's characteristics was his friendly attitude toward people, especially toward his old pupils.

He served DeSoto County one term as Superintendent of Education, and one term as County Treasurer.

(1) The Times Promoter, April 11, 1902

(2) The Times Promoter, April 2, 1925.

### First School Board

On June 21, 1866, the first School Board in DeSoto County was organized with W. P. Bowen as president, and E. R. Gill as secretary. This board was known as the Board of School Commissioners, and had charge of both the white and negro schools of the county. Among the first contracting teachers were, D. W. Bristol, D. W. Drane, Mrs. W. P. Moseley, Miss M. E. Davidson (Whites), B. F. Mitchell, James E. White, and John Scott, (negro).

The Board of School Directors, successors to the Board of School Commissioners, was organized in November, 1879, with the following members and officers:

J. W. Brister from 1st Supervisor District  
 F. W. Baker from 2nd Supervisor District  
 O. F. West from 3rd Supervisor District  
 J. A. Smith from 4th Supervisor District  
 J. S. Boone from 5th Supervisor District  
 Samuel Townsend for the county at large  
 E. J. Lipsey, Circuit Clerk, Secretary  
 John Richardson, Superintendent of Education, President.

### Superintendents

The first records available of a county superintendent of education in DeSoto County was in 1870. John Richardson was appointed by the State Superintendent of Education; on November 27, 1872. E. J. Lipsey succeeded Richardson as Superintendent. Records are incomplete as to the salary paid Mr. Richardson, however, the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of April, 1871, states that he was paid full time (November, 1870 to April 4, 1871, one hundred days) at the rate of five dollars per day. Again, in May, 1871, Mr. Richardson was paid one hundred and ten dollars by the Board of Supervisors out of the county funds.

Richardson's appointment of Superintendent of Education came at the same time that the Board of School Directors was organized. While Superintendent of Education, Richardson also served as president of the Board of School Directors.

At the first meeting of the board of school directors the following resolutions were passed:

"That we adopt the grades of qualifications for teachers, as set forth in printed instructions from the State Superintendent of Education.

"That we pay teachers in primary schools the sum of \$40.00 per month; in 2nd grade Grammar Schools, \$80.00 per month; in first grade Grammar Schools, \$100.00 per month.

"That no one teacher in this district shall teach more than fifty pupils at a time."

The board of School Directors in their December 19, 1870 report showed 4,994 educable white children, and 5,747 educable negro children in the county. At this meeting each Director reported the number of educable children, and the amount of money needed to run the schools in their respective districts for five months, as follows:

| Supv. District | No. White Children | No. Negro children |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1              | 699                | 471                |
| 2              | 1570               | 1560               |
| 3              | 1192               | 1187               |
| 4              | 376                | 822                |
| 5              | 1157               | 1707               |

| Supv. District | Amount     |
|----------------|------------|
| 1              | \$5,600.00 |
| 2              | \$7,500.00 |
| 3              | \$6,750.00 |
| 4              | \$-----    |
| 5              | \$6,750.00 |

In 1872, before the Superintendent of Education and the Board of School Directors could establish a school in any neighborhood or contract with teachers, they had to have the assurance that the patrons in every place and neighborhood had been consulted; the requisite number of scholars had been ascertained, and houses with necessary equipment provided, as there had not been any money provisions made to pay rent or leases on school houses. At that time, there was not a public school building in Hernando, as all were private property or under lease.

The first public school in Hernando was in the home of Mrs. M. A. Moseley, who had charge of it; she was assisted by Mrs. M. R. Williams. This school was open full five months, but inasmuch as there was only funds for teachers warrants for four months, it was necessary for each pupil to pay a tuition of two dollars for the last month.

In 1872, the first negro free school was taught by a highly accomplished teacher from Buffalo, New York. She was assisted by the pastor of the Negro Methodist Church in Hernando.

In May, 1873, when the county was divided, there was a considerable indebtedness hanging over the Board of School Directors, so the schools were changed and the Board of Supervisors, after the abolishment of the Board of School Directors, attended the duties of the Board.

"It is ordered by the Board of Supervisors that all public schools in the county be suspended as soon as the fractional parts of months be made out, as the present Board of School Directors wish to close up all their business before the new law goes into effect."

In June, 1873, the School Board was organized to take the place of the Board of School Directors.

E. J. Lipsey resigned as Superintendent of Education in August, 1873, and S. I. Reid appointed August 4, 1873, to the position.

During the four years (1873-1877) that Mr. Reid served as Superintendent of Education, there were from seventy to eighty full-time schools in operation; land was donated for school sites and buildings erected; the debt against the school fund of the county was paid, and a small balance left in the treasury.

In July, 1877, J. Watson Woods was appointed by the State Board of Education, but his appointment was not confirmed by the State Senate. S. I. Reid was again appointed Superintendent of Education, and received confirmation of the State Senate in January, 1878.

#### Reid's Report

Following is the report of Superintendent Reid for the year, 1878:

"The whole number of schools, including five line schools, were eighty. Sixty of these were run their full time, five months; others made two, three or four months, reducing the average time of school days to ninety-six.

"The whole number of pupils enrolled during the year was 4,050.

"Teachers employed during the past year, 109, 24 white male; 32 white female; 36 negro male, and 17 colored female."

In January, 1879, the board's report showed 47 white schools and 47 colored schools in operation in DeSoto County; in December, 1879, the board's report showed that there were 27 white male teachers; 29 white female teachers; 40 colored male teachers; 27 colored female teachers, with an enrollment of 5,070 pupils in the 94 schools in the county.

S. S. Robinson was appointed Superintendent of Education in 1880, and served in that capacity until 1884 at a salary of \$180.00 per year.

In the January, 1880, report of the School Board there were 46 white schools and 44 negro schools in operation, with \$18,136.47 necessary to run them for five months.

During Robinson's administration a general interest was manifested in education by the average attendance of pupils. In 1880 the white teachers organized a teacher's association, which promised good results.

In 1881, seventy-two white teachers employed in the county, with 1,906 white children in school; 80 teachers were employed in the 46 negro schools, with an enrollment of 3,834. The white teachers were paid an average salary of \$30.76 per month, and the negro teachers received the same.

In 1884, William Henry Johnson was appointed Superintendent of Education, served until 1892, and was paid a salary of \$180.00 per year. There were twenty-four male, and 40 female teachers employed in the forty-eight white schools, and sixty three colored male, and thirty-five colored female teachers employed in the fifty-four negro schools.

In 1885, the schools, for the first time, were run for a six-months period.

August 3, 1885, Superintendent Johnson reported to the Board of Supervisors that he had recommended five DeSoto County girls for the scholarship at the Female Industrial Institute at Columbus, Mississippi.



In 1892, L. J. Farley was appointed Superintendent of Education and served until 1896. His salary was \$180.00 per year.

In May, 1895, the Board of Supervisors appointed the following men as a School Board to serve two years from the 15th day of May:

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| W. J. Wilroy.....         | 1st District |
| C. A. Marshall.....       | 2nd District |
| Thomas Dean.....          | 3rd District |
| W. K. Oliver.....         | 4th District |
| Charles H. Robertson..... | 5th District |

At a meeting in August of the newly organized school board, the county was laid off into school districts as provided for in Section 39, 40, and 41 of the Acts of 1895.

September 4, 1895, the first examination of white teachers for common schools for the term of 1895 was held, and on September 11, 1896, the first examination of colored teachers was held.

In 1896, E. L. Morgan was appointed Superintendent of Education and served until 1928. His salaries were as follows:

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1896-1920..... | \$50.00 per month  |
| 1920-1924..... | \$208.33 per month |
| 1924-1928..... | \$229.16 per month |

#### Schools Consolidate

In 1908, a petition for an Agricultural High School was presented to the school board by citizens of Olive Branch and Pleasant Hill, and by ballot of the School Board, the proposition of Pleasant Hill was accepted for the location of the school. Again, in January, 1911, the question of locating the Agricultural High School was brought before the school board, and after reconsidering the motion of location it at Pleasant Hill, bids were received from Pleasant Hill, Olive Branch, and Hernando, with Olive Branch receiving a majority.

In 1913, a petition of the patrons of Eudora school district, was presented to the School Board for consolidating the schools; in May, 1916, the patrons of Cochran Springs, Oak Glenn, Elmore, Horn Lake, New Bethelhem, and Brewer schools presented a petition to the school Board for consolidation into the Horn Lake Consolidated School. After hearing the petition, the Board was satisfied that the majority of the patrons desired the schools

consolidated, and ordered that bonds for \$12,000 be issued.

In 1921, an additional bond issue of \$15,000 was ordered and approved by the School Board. In 1924, the patrons of Poplar Corner School presented a petition to the School Board asking that it be annexed to the Horn Lake Consolidated School, and said petition was granted.

In 1925, by petition of the patrons of Perry Church School, the school board ordered that it be added to Greenleaf Consolidated School.

In 1926, patrons of Lake Cormorant School District presented a petition to the board for the consolidation of Walls, White, Bass, and Lake Cormorant Schools into the Lake Cormorant Consolidated School. The petition being signed by a majority of the patrons, the School Board ordered the consolidation.

At the June, 1927, meeting of the School Board, patrons of Hernando, Nesbitt, Love, Oak Grove, and Bright Schools presented a petition to the board asking to be consolidated into one school, it to be known as the Hernando Consolidated High School. The board being satisfied that a majority of patrons wanted the school consolidated, ordered an election to be held in Hernando school district as to whether or not the schools would be consolidated.

In February, 1928, R.E.L. Morgan, Superintendent of Education, died, and the school board appointed his daughter, Miss Epsey B. Morgan, to the place until a special election could be held. Miss Morgan was successful in the special election, but only served the unexpired term of her father, which was three years. Her salary was \$229.16 per month.

In 1929, the board unanimously voted to annex part of Stonewall School District to Ingram's Mill School District.

In 1932, Mrs. Ethel Gore Darden was elected Superintendent of Education, and is now serving her second term. Until 1934, her salary was \$229.16 per month, but since then, it has been cut to \$183.33 per month.

#### Reports on School Finances

On December 20, 1870, the Secretary of the Board of School Directors reported to the Board of Supervisors

that an estimate had been made of the amount required to keep the schools running for five months, and that the sum amounted to \$20,000, exclusive of the amount of school funds on hand, which said board was respectfully asked to furnish by levying a tax on the county.

In the Hernando Press of May 18, 1871, we found the treasurer's report as follows:

"August, 1870, amount from various sources,  
\$7,277.70.

40,701 days; tuition, 14 cents per day,  
\$5,698.14.

Various allowances, \$5,907.48.

Balance in the treasury at that date, \$1,370.22.

November, 1870: Recapitulation, showing amount of available funds on hand, exclusive of poll tax now levied.

|                                      |    |                |
|--------------------------------------|----|----------------|
| Balance in Treasury.....             | \$ | 22.40          |
| Interest on Notes.....               | \$ | 400.00         |
| Chickasaw School Fund (Interest).... | \$ | 3,178.06       |
| Due County on money used.....        | \$ | 5,610.00       |
| Total.....                           | \$ | 9,210.46 " (1) |

#### Sources of School Income

In 1872 the sources of financing the schools of the county were from a six mill tax levied on property; tax on polls; the interest from the Chickasaw Fund, and Railroad Tax.

In the minutes of the April, 1873, meeting of the Board of School Directors, we found the following notice from H. R. Peuse, State Superintendent of Education:

"There is \$2,828.37 due the county of DeSoto, a pro rata share of the common school income fund."

The financial sources for the schools of 1884-1911 were from the State School fund; Chickasaw School fund; poll tax; estrays, railroad tax; three mill county levy, and land redemption tax.

---

(1) Hernando Press, May 18, 1871.

In 1911 an Agricultural School tax was levied on the county for the support of the Agricultural School in DeSoto.

The following special school tax has been added to the source of finances of the county schools since 1911:

1915, Eudora Consolidated School Tax  
 1916, Horn Lake Consolidated School Tax  
 1925, Cockrum Consolidated School Tax  
 1926, Olive Branch Consolidated School Tax  
 Lake Cormorant Consolidated School Tax  
 Hernando Consolidated School Tax  
 1951, Alphaba Consolidated School tax  
 Pleasant Hill Consolidated School Tax

#### Appropriations

Mrs. Ethel Gore Darden, Superintendent of Education, gave us the following data on State appropriations for the schools of the county:

The State Legislature makes an appropriation for schools every two years. Half the amount of the appropriation is placed in the Per Capita fund, and distributed on the basis of the enumeration of educable children in the county. All counties share equally in the distribution of the Per Capita fund. The other part of the appropriation is placed in the equalizing fund, and distributed by the State Board of Education.

DeSoto County has received the following amounts from the Equalization fund since 1932:

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1932..... | \$ 3,038.33 |
| 1933..... | \$ 250.00   |
| 1934..... | \$12,412.57 |
| 1935..... | \$28,633.00 |
| 1936..... | \$ 8,497.50 |

Chickasaw Fund: In the Minute Book of the School Board, we found the following: "The Chickasaw School Fund arises from the sale of lands in lieu of the 16th section of the Chickasaw Purchase, and it is now held by the state in trust for the Chickasaw Counties, and on the first day of November, 1885, amounted to \$816,668.99, upon which the state, by an act of the Legislature approved March 7, 1856, agreed to pay 8% per

annum, semi-annually on the 1st day of May and November, to be distributed to the Chickasaw Counties according to area of territory, and is now distributed to the counties as follows:

|               |               |            |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Alcorn County | 252,815 acres | \$1,359.93 |
| DeSoto County | 307,679 acres | \$1,655.04 |
| Tate County   | 256,118 acres | \$1,426.11 |
| Tunica County | 273,785 acres | \$1,472.74 |

Total purchased in Mississippi 6,072,825 acres at a cost of \$32,666.75. (1)

#### High School Established

All free schools of DeSoto County were rural schools. In 1890 a high school for boys and girls was established in Hernando, with James H. Brooks, as principal. It was known as Hernando High School, and all common branches, primary, intermediate, advancee courses, commercial, penmanship, voice, music, and art were taught.

Mrs. Ethel Gore Darden on January 14, 1937, told us that the Randle University was established at Hernando in 1899 by the late Dr. E. H. Randle, and carried a full college course, in addition to the High School Course.

The standards in school work varied from year to year until the college work was diminished. During the existence of the college work at the Randle University, 1899-1902, it was a boarding school. Dr. Randle established the first nine-months school system in DeSoto County in 1900, when the school ran five months as a free school, and four months as a pay school; the parents paying tuition for each child. A pupil with a certificate from this school could enter the University of Mississippi or any other University without having to take an entrance examination.

#### Agricultural High School

Hernando High was the only high school in the county prior to the establishment of the Agricultural High School in 1911, which was located at Olive Branch.

At first there was only one building used as Girl's and Boy's Dormitory and Administrative Building, then a dormitory was erected for the girls in 1916. In 1922 a third building was constructed to be used as the Administration Building.

---

(1) Minute Book of the School Board, p. 145

A full accredited course in Agriculture and Home Economics was offered with the regular high school course; Professor W. B. Gooch was the principal from the time it was established until 1928, when on account of ill health, he resigned. His place was taken by Professor E. E. Long, and the school was abolished in 1931.

#### Eudora Consolidated School

W. B. Evans, Principal of Eudora Consolidated School, in an interview on January 20, 1937, stated:

"In 1913, the Eudora Consolidated School, which was the first of its kind in the county, was established after the issuance of bonds for \$10,000 for the erection of a two-story frame building, its furniture and other essential equipment. This building having been destroyed, a new brick one is being built, with the county giving \$3,688, the government, \$19,835.60, and the work being done by W.P.A. labor.

"Approximately 50% of the pupils in this school are transported in modern busses. There are twelve grades in the school, with an approximate enrollment of 240 pupils. Courses are taught in Mathematics, English, Science, Typing, and social subjects. There are eight teachers - all of them having one or more college degrees - or the equivalent of a degree. A regular system of faculty meetings has been followed for several years, and the teachers board in homes in the community. The school owns a teacherage for the principal; also a library has been provided in all rooms, with more than 500 volumes in the high school. With the completion of the new building, this school will have one of the best science laboratories in the county."

#### Horn Lake Consolidated School

W. F. Turman, principal of the Horn Lake Consolidated High School, in an interview on January 19, 1937, gave us facts concerning it:

"In 1916, the second consolidated school in the county was established at Horn Lake at a cost of \$6,700; about 80% of the children are transported to the school in busses, which has occasioned a large per cent of that part of the county to consolidate.

In 1922, Home Economics was added to the regular high school course; it was offered to the 8th,

9th, and 10th grade. The school is organized according to the 6-6 plan, with the first six grades in a separate building from the Junior and Senior High, and it is the only Smith-Hughes School in the county.

A course in typing, bookkeeping, shorthand, and junior business training is offered, along with the regular course of study; also a course in agriculture, manual training, music, piano, and public school music, glee club, and quartette.

#### School Activities

Following are various clubs: Girl Reserve, Boy Scouts, Future Farmers of America, Home Economics Club, Better English, 4-H Club; also a small but well organized band, and a debating team.

It has well organized playground activities; each teacher supervises a regular 45-minute period with children grouped according to likes and dislikes.

Two first aid kits are maintained, one in the office and one in the grammar school building with the 6th grade teacher. Boy Scouts render first aid at all times needed.

The P.T.A. is very active, and renders excellent help in molding public sentiment for the school; educating mothers to good school work, and supplying equipment for the kiddy band, shrubbery, etc.

Regular faculty meetings are held every two weeks; teachers study to improve the curriculum, also to plan ways of making the school pass on experiences that will help each other.

The standards set for the present day teachers are very high. To teach in an affiliated school one must be a college graduate, with a specified number of hours in the subject that they propose to teach.

A well-kept and permanent cafeteria is maintained, and is proving to be an asset to the school.

Most of the teachers board in private homes; a modern brick bungalow is furnished the principal of this school, Prof. Turman, who has been principal for eight years.

### Cockrum Consolidated School

Mrs. Ethel Gore Darden, Superintendent of Education, on January 19, 1937, told us the following facts concerning Cockrum Consolidated School:

"In 1925 the Cockrum Consolidated School was established at a cost of \$7,029.40; about seventy-five per cent of the pupils are transported to the school by busses; they bring the grammar grades to this school, and then take the high school pupils to the Olive Branch High School. There are three teachers, with Miss Julia Sowell as principal. It is a grammar school, with classes offered as in an accredited one.

There is no club, except the 4-H Clubs for both boys and girls, nor is there a P.T.A. in this school; neither does it have faculty meetings. The W.P.A. maintains a lunch room and the teachers board in private homes.

### Lake Cormorant Active

C. L. Riggan, principal of the Lake Cormorant Consolidated School, on March 1, 1937, gave out the following facts:

In 1936 Lake Cormorant was the fourth school to be consolidated in the county. The building, of brick and stucco, cost \$25,000; the instructional equipment cost \$3,260, and the furniture, water, lights, and heat cost \$9,000. There are seven class rooms, and an auditorium; each class room is equipped with a library.

About eighty-five per cent of the children are transported to this school by bus and private cars, and in 1936, the 11th and 12th grades were added to the curriculum; each teacher has met the standard for the school.

A debating club in Lake Cormorant School is coached by Miss Braly, and in 1936 the team won second place in the Regional Collegiate Debate, and in 1937, it won first place.

This school has a Scout Club and 4-H Clubs for girls and boys; Mr. Riggan and the Scouts have charge of the first aid kits. Faculty meetings are held on an average



of 10 or 12 times a year, to study the problems and supervision of the classroom; a W.P.A. lunch room is in the school for children of the indigent. All of the teachers live in a modern brick bungalow that is furnished as a teacherage, with the exception of one, who boards in a private home.

Pleasant Hill School was consolidated with the one at Wesson in 1931. The old red brick building was completely demolished, and a modern brick structure erected, with four class rooms and an auditorium, at a cost of \$12,000. About fifty per cent of the children are transported to the school by bus. After bringing the grammar school children to this place, the bus then takes high school pupils to Olive Branch High.

Two teachers are employed with Leon Curtis as principal; it is a grammar school, with classes offered as in an accredited one. It has boy's and girl's 4-H Clubs.

There is a W.P.A. lunch room in this school, but no P.T.A. The Woman's Home Demonstration Club Sponsors the lunch room, sets out shrubbery and helps in any way possible.

The library is limited to two complete sets of reference books and a few novels.

#### Olive Branch Consolidated School

B. J. Chain, principal of Olive Branch Consolidated High School, on March 4, 1937, gave us the following facts:

"In 1926, the fifth consolidated school in the county was established at Olive Branch at a cost of \$20,000, and the brick and stucco building was erected for the grammar school. In 1931 the Agricultural High School was abolished, and the consolidated high school was established, using the old agricultural buildings for the high school students. The equipment for this school cost \$10,000.

In the grammar school each class room has its own library; the entire library is valued at \$800.00; the high school library is valued at \$1,000.

About 50% of the children are transported to the school by busses, and the school is run on an 8-4 basis. The first eight grades are taught in a separate building, and the four years of high school work is in another building. The only special course offered in this school is music.

There are four clubs: dramatic, scout, 4-H (both girls and boys), and Girl Reserve; but no P.T.A. organization.

Faculty meetings are held weekly, and twice a month a curriculum revision is studied; twice a month local school problems are discussed and studied.

The school has both a cafeteria and W.P.A. lunch room; local teachers stay in their homes, while others live in the teacherage. All the teachers have met standard requirements, each holding a degree or its equivalent.

#### Hernando High School

Hernando High School was consolidated with the Hernando Consolidated High School in 1926. The old building, which was a two-story brick, was remodeled and used as part of the new school building, which cost \$112,581. The construction work cost \$51,364; the heating system, \$5,932; the wiring and fixtures, \$2,025; the planting, \$4,560.

About 80% of the children are transported to this school by busses and one private car. Twelve grades are taught in this school, and each room in the grammar grades has allibrary valued at \$200; high school library, \$1,500; music library, \$200; athletic library \$500; a commercial library, \$120, and a science library, \$600.

Special courses in Home Economics, shorthand, typing, and bookkeeping are offered, the high school students, and music is offered both the grammar and high school students.

#### Activities

There are several clubs in the school: the music students have a Federated Music Club, the "Mozart"; Home Economics Club; Girl Reserve, and both girls and boys 4-H Clubs.

There is a P.T.A. organization in connection with the school, and through its assistance, the school has a well-equipped play ground; it also has assisted in buying equipment for the school rooms, and today, is sponsoring the W.P.A. lunch room for the indigent children. A cafeteria is operated by a local citizen in the school.

Faculty meetings are held on the average of 15 times a term, when problems are discussed with experience of handling them passed from one teacher to another, and the improvement of the curriculum.

The teachers board in private homes, but the principal is furnished a modern brick bungalow on the campus.

In 1935, through the aid of the Federal Emergency Act, the following allotments were given the schools in DeSoto County:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Eudora Consolidated School.....        | \$38,000 |
| Hernando Consolidated School.....      | 21,000   |
| Horn Lake Consolidated School.....     | 11,600   |
| Lake Cormorant Consolidated School.... | 37,000   |
| Olive Branch Consolidated School.....  | 40,000   |
| Unconsolidated White Schools.....      | 5,500    |
| Unconsolidated negro Schools.....      | 2,500    |
| Greenleaf Consolidated School (line).. | 1,500    |

#### Emergency Adult Education

Miss Pearl Hudson, of Olive Branch, Supervisor of Emergency Adult Education in DeSoto County, gave us this information: In January, 1935, there were six white teachers, with an enrollment of 250; of this number, 75 were men and 150 women, were below the third grade level.

In February, 1937, there were four white teachers, with an enrollment of sixty-six; of this number 57 women and nine men were above the age of twenty, with an average daily attendance of 50.

The classes came under three heads: Home Making Classes, General Education Classes, and Literary Classes. Each teacher has two classes lasting one and one-half hours; three hours are spent daily in classes, and three hours in preparation. Lesson plans are prepared for two months ahead, and classes are taught by unit, with lesson plans adapted to the season.

Mrs. Ethel G. Darden

Mrs. Ethel Gore Darden, Superintendent of Education for DeSoto County, was the second child in a family of four daughters and one son, the children of William Lamar and Alice Wingate Gore, of Hernando.

Mrs. Darden received her earlier training from her mother, who taught her until she reached the age of eight, when she entered the third grade of the Hernando High School and was the first student to receive a degree from the Randle University School, of Hernando, later received a degree from the University of Mississippi, and has done work at the University of Chicago, Peabody College, and in Washington, D.C.

Entering the teaching profession very young, at the end of the first year she married W. N. Darden, of Washington, D. C., but returned to her profession three years later, first as substitute teacher in Houston, and continuing through a period of seventeen years of successful teaching, serving fourteen years as primary teacher in the Hernando High School. She was elected to the office of County Superintendent of Education in 1931, receiving the largest vote from her home precinct ever accorded any candidate for office.

Mrs. Darden is now serving her second term as Superintendent of Education, maintaining the fine record of DeSoto County, as having one of the best school programs and systems of the state.

Negro Schools

Before the War between the States, most of the prominent families of the county had private schools on the plantations for the education of the negro children. Here, some member of the planter's family taught many little slaves to read and write. The more intellectual ones were trained by their "marster" and "mistress," the men being trained by overseers, and the women as housekeepers and "black mammies."

Uncle Jack's Loyalty

These negroes, who were prepared for responsible positions, were intensely loyal to their masters. An example of this loyalty was found in Uncle Jack, overseer of George Scott, pre-war plantation owner of DeSoto



BAPTIST INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE  
(NEGRO)  
Located at Hernando.

1875

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
LIBRARY

County. Uncle Jack had almost absolute control over the other slaves, who did not question his authority. During the war, while Mr. Scott was in the service of the army, Uncle Jack remained faithful to his trust, cultivating the fields and taking care of Mrs. Scott and the children. He transacted important business for the family, often carrying large sums of money and striking shrewd bargains. After the emancipation of the slaves, Uncle Jack became a fairly prosperous farmer, but he always called Mr. Scott "Marse George" and served him faithfully.

Another of these faithful negro overseers was George, a slave belonging to Rev. German Baker, of Pleasant Hill. George came from North Carolina with Rev. Baker, and served as overseer until his death several years after the war. On his death bed he begged Rev. Baker, who was in delicate health, to place Josh, George's aide, over the farm, rather than tax his health in trying to carry on the work.

#### Negro Education in Slave Days

On the plantation of Rev. German Baker, Mrs. Mary Baker conducted a school for the slaves for a number of years, being succeeded in this work by her daughter, Molly. After the war, about thirty-five negro families remained on the Baker place and were taught in the usual manner by Miss Molly Baker. This school continued for at least two years.

On July 5, 1866, the first School Board in DeSoto County was organized with W. P. Bowen as president, and E. B. Gill as secretary. This board, known as School Commissioners, had charge of both the white and negro free schools of the county. Among the first contracting negro teachers were B. F. Mitchell, James E. White, and John Scott.

The Board of School Directors, successors to the School Commission, in their December 19, 1870, report showed 5,747 educable negro children in the county; on October 8, 1872, their report showed 5,046; on January 2, 1882, their report showed 3,834 negro pupils, with 54 male and 26 female teachers, drawing an average salary of \$30.95 per month. In this same report the amount paid negro teachers was \$9,356.44, compared with the \$8,212.82 paid white teachers for a school term of five months. The report for July 2, 1883, showed 54 regular

one line school for negroes, with 111 teachers, at a cost of \$11,168.15. The next available financial report, on December 31, 1885, listed 9,777 negro children, with 5,873 educable children, and 4,365 of these were in the 58 schools. There were 71 male and 41 female teachers, drawing an average salary of \$24.75 per month, and the schools were run on a hundred-day average. This same year (1885) there was one institute for colored teachers, and the mention of one private school, of which we have been able to find no further information. The educable children of December 31, 1886, were 5,873, with 4,460 in the 60 schools, with 67 male and 47 female teachers. On September 30, 1887, the report showed 3,057 negro children in the 38 schools, there being 48 male and 20 female teachers, drawing an average monthly salary of \$26.13, in comparison with the average monthly salary for the 48 white teachers of the county, at \$40.05. The report of 1890 showed 4,342 negro children in the 47 schools, there being 90 teachers, drawing an average monthly salary of \$26.20.

In 1891, there were eleven one-teacher schools; 34 two-teacher schools, and two three-teacher schools in the negro school system.

In 1881 the negro schools of the county were listed as follows:

|                  |                   |                      |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Sycamore Grove   | Union             | Center Point         |
| Wiggins Chapel   | Botts Chapel      | Center Hill          |
| Whites Chapel    | Boyce             | Mt. Allen            |
| Matts Chapel     | Cockrum           | Shiloh               |
| Jeremiah         | Iredell           | Phoenix              |
| New Prospect     | Moons Chapel      | Halliburton          |
| Horn Lake        | St. Paul          | Bedford's            |
| McKay            | Norfolk           | Star Landing         |
| ✓ Lake Cormorant | Chandler's Church | Bullard's Church     |
| Pleasant Grove   | Jones Chapel      | Nails X Roads        |
| Williams Church  | Eudora            | Hernando Male No. 1  |
| Olivers Chapel   | Merriweathers     | Hernando Mixed No. 2 |
| Zion Hill        | Loves             | Hernando Mixed No. 3 |
| Oak Hill         | Hancock           | Knights Chapel       |
| Enon Springs     | New Bethlehem     | Deans Chapel         |
| Grays Chapel     | Drivers Chapel    |                      |

In 1892, Chalmers, Mt. Pisgah, Ralph McGowan, Bluff School, and Short Fork Schools were added to the list. In 1885, Rutland School was mentioned for the first time; Springfield and Terry's Schools were also added to the

list in that year; in 1886, Morning Star and Bethlehem Schools were added, and Springfield was consolidated with Horn Lake and Phoenix Chapel.

Lee School was abolished in 189k, after running eight years; Payne Chapel School was taught in Mt. Pisgah Church in the same year, to be abolished in 1892, along with St. Mathew, Morning Star, Penson, and Hancock Schools. In 1894, Payne School was re-established as a line school. In 1897, Norfolk School was located at the old Morning Star site and the name changed to Harkle Roads. The Bell School was abolished in 1898, after running for eleven years; Pisgah School was re-established in 1898, and the name changed to Lee.

The first six-month school term was ordered by the school board in 1910; former terms had only been five months.

Wilhite School was started about 1916, Henry Wilhite and a few other interested negroes buying the land and erecting the building. The county pays the teacher; Henry Wilhite has taught every term since the beginning of the school, and the same trustees are still serving - Reuben Boone, W. M. Boykin, and H. Robertson. The colored Baptists of the community have Sunday School and preaching service in the school house, which is kept in good repair.

Although there are about 150 children of school age in the district, the average attendance each year is around 65 to 70, and the school is in progress four months each year, November, December, January, and February. As is common in most negro schools in the county, the older children drop out before they complete grammar school, and for this reason there have been few graduates from the Wilhite School. Two of Henry Wilhite's daughters have attended high school at the Baptist Industrial Institute in Hernando.

Two of the oldest negro teachers in the county are Drew Pope, who has taught in the schools of DeSoto County for fifty years; and Horace Hill, who for a long period of time, was teacher of the New Hope School. W. S. Williams has taught at Williams Chapel for about twenty years, with the possible exception of two or three years. and will teach there this term.

Negro Public Schools of County

The following is a list of the public negro schools of the county, with the name of the teacher and, as near as we have been able to discover, the date of organization:

| DATE | SCHOOLS             | TEACHER                                       |
|------|---------------------|---|
| 1881 | Abbay Baptist       | Jennie Forrest<br>Lawrence Lester             |
| 1887 | Bedford No. 1       | Sophia Carter                                 |
| 1923 | Bedford No. 2       | Thelma Dennis                                 |
| 1924 | Bell's Chapel       | Dollie White                                  |
| 1881 | Bob White           | Johnnie Bridgforth                            |
| 1881 | Botts               | Maude Wright                                  |
| 1881 | Boyce               | Elias Johnson and<br>Cora Lee Williams        |
| 1881 | Bullards No. 1      | Ruby Mae Davis                                |
| 1881 | Bullards No. 2      | Rosa Moore                                    |
| 1881 | Bullards No. 3      | Beatrice Scott                                |
| 1881 | Center Hill         | Mattie Poole and<br>Jessie Wright             |
| 1881 | Center Point        | Kizzie Collins                                |
| 1881 | Channel No. 1       | Viola Clayton                                 |
| 1881 | Channel No. 2       | Connie Williford                              |
| 1909 | Cockrum             | Albert Evans                                  |
| 1883 | Coldwater Line      | -----   |
| 1881 | Cowan               | Nora Garth                                    |
| 1881 | Dean's Hill         | John White, Ethel Clark                       |
| 1881 | Driver No. 1        | Booker Banks                                  |
| 1881 | Driver No. 2        | Fostoria Wilkinson                            |
| 1881 | Enon Springs        | Victoria Leake                                |
| 1885 | Eudora              | Olivia McDonald                               |
| 1881 | Good Hope           | Etta Moseley                                  |
| 1897 | Haliburton          | Anna L. Hinds and Ada Sha                     |
| 1881 | Harkleroad          | Viola Moody                                   |
| 1905 | Hernando            | Elias Johnson, Mary Chap-<br>man, Ary Johnson |
| 1881 | Holoway             | Gillie Woods                                  |
| 1885 | Horn Lake           | Tommie Young                                  |
| 1881 | Hurricane           | Maggie Bryant                                 |
| 1881 | Iredell             | Alder Guy                                     |
| 1920 | Jones Chapel        | Robert Allen, Maggie McCo                     |
| 1881 | Kellys              | Louella Matthews                              |
| 1881 | Knights Chapel      | Alberta Orr                                   |
|      | Lake Cormorant No.1 | Sim White                                     |
|      | Lake Cormorant No.2 | Rosa Smith                                    |
|      | Lake Cormorant No.3 | Gertrude Brown                                |



|      |                                 |   |
|------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1883 | Lee Line                        | Oscar Hearn<br>Jennie Tolbert   |
| 1881 | Love                            | Dianna Wise   |
| 1881 | Matt's Chapel                   | Etta Brooks   |
| 1924 | Myer's Line                     | Belama Thompson   |
| 1881 | Moons                           | Lottie Bullard<br>Arthel Tate   |
|      | Morgans Chapel                  | Irma Brownlee   |
| 1881 | McKay                           | Lawrence Meriweather<br>Eora Lee Strickland                           |
| 1881 | Mail's Cross<br>Road<br>Nesbitt | Lucile Saulsberry<br>Fannie Davidson<br>Jessie Partee<br>Mamie Wilson |
| 1887 | New Hope                        | Mary Wilkinson<br>Malize Dennis                                       |
| 1888 | New Prospect                    | Wrennie Lee Dennis  |
| 1881 | Olivers Chapel                  | Hattie Myers  |
| 1888 | Payne                           | Wm. H. Thomas   |
| 1888 | Pilgrims Rest                   | Ludella Matthews  |
| 1881 | Pleasant Grove                  | Henderson Dennis  |
| 1881 | Shiloh                          | George Jones  |
|      | Shinault Line                   |   |
| 1882 | St. Matthew                     | Lucille Banks   |
| 1881 | St. Paul No. 1                  | Ida Mae Couch   |
|      | St. Paul No. 2                  | Sallie Faulkner   |
|      | Staggs                          | Ruth Woodward   |
|      | Swoops                          | Lula Stark  |
| 1881 | Sycamore                        | Cassie Johnson  |
| 1881 | Union                           | Mazola Myers  |
| 1881 | White's Chapel                  | Lottie Crawford   |
| 1881 | Wiggins                         | Joe Miller  |
| 1916 | Wilhite                         | Henry Wilhite   |
| 1881 | Williams Church                 | Wesley Williams<br>Ruth Fitzgerald                                    |
| 1881 | Zion Hill                       | Eva Lewis<br>Beulah Evans   |

Many of these schools (dated 1881) may have been established several years prior to that date, but the first list of negro schools for the county was that of 1881.

For the term of 1935-36, the number of educable children for DeSoto County was approximately 12,000, with about one-half of them enrolled in the county schools.

### One High School - B.I.I. & C.

The one high school in the county, the Baptist Industrial Institute and College, is located at Hernando, in the buildings formerly occupied by the Hernando Male Academy. In 1893, the buildings were bought by the Baptist negroes, and in 1902 the present school was organized. The school is supported by the negro Baptist Churches of DeSoto, Tate, Marshall, and Tunica Counties.

P. L. Cobb, present principal, gave us the following information:

For the term of 1935-36, there was an enrollment of 98, with between 60 and 75 of them boarding at the school; boarding students furnish their own food and do their own cooking at the school. The three buildings consist of a girl's dormitory, a boy's dormitory, and class rooms, and the principal's home. Four of the teachers live in the school.

Cobb is beginning his fourth term as principal, and has as his faculty for this year, five teachers: Percy Cobb, mathematics and English; Hallie Cobb, foreign languages, and science; E. L. Butler, music and history; Arcie Johnson, geography, spelling, and grammar; Osie Thomas, matron.

The school term is eight months, and regular high school diplomas are offered. Last year there were seven graduates, an average number. Several former students of the institute are in college: Clifton Moseley is a student at Lemoune College in Memphis, and Melvin Terrell is at Rust College at Holly Springs; Lawrence Meriwether has been doing summer work at Jackson College, Jackson; Elias Johnson has been in summer school at Rust College. Among the graduates of this school, teaching in the county are: Lawrence Meriwether, Elias Johnson, Avie C. Johnson, Irma Brownlee, Hallie Cobb, Sallie Craigen Faulkner, and Anna Laura Hinds. There are also five or six instructors teaching in Tate County.

#### Adult Education

In 1934, the relief program of the county included the establishment of education classes for both white and negro adults. The classes for negroes were, and still are, literacy classes, combined with home-making

in some instances. During the year of 1934 these classes were taught principally by white teachers, but since then, have been taught by negroes. As the percentage of illiteracy in DeSoto County is high, the six active classes have done much good under the supervision of Miss Pearl Hudson.

#### References

- Memoirs of Mississippi, Volume II, pp 317, 318, 319, 331
- J. W. Nichols, Eudora, Miss.
- E. P. Turner, Eudora, Miss.
- Mrs. Sallie Sloan, Olive Branch, Miss.
- Dr. F. M. Malone, Capleville, Miss.
- Mrs. J. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.
- Mrs. R. L. Wheeler, Love, Miss.
- Mrs. P. B. Marshall, Hernando, Miss.
- Mrs. M. G. Robinson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.
- The DeSoto Times
- Mrs. S. A. Hughey, Poplar Corner, Miss.
- The School Board Minute Book
- The Hernando Press
- Superintendent Johnson's Report
- C. L. Riggan, Lake Cormorant, Miss.
- S. D. Curtis, Nesbitt, Miss.
- B. J. Chain, Olive Branch, Miss.
- Mr. Russum, Hernando, Miss.
- Mrs. Ethel Gore Darden, Hernando, Miss.
- Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.
- Mrs. M. G. Robinson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.
- Mrs. Charley Henley, Olive Branch, Miss.
- Mrs. J. H. Malone, Hernando, Miss.
- Mrs. Bettye Bridgforth, Pleasant Hill, Miss.
- The Peoples Press
- Joe Walker, Horn Lake, Miss.
- Hugh Foster, Hernando, Miss.
- Mrs. Bob McCargo, Olive Branch, Miss.
- Mrs. T. H. Norvell, Olive Branch, Miss.
- Mrs. Mildred Farrington, Hernando, Miss.
- Mrs. Lem D. Cooke, Hernando, Miss.
- The Press and Times
- Mrs. Annie E. Lynn, Hernando
- Times Promoter
- Z. H. Wheeler, Love, Miss.
- Mrs. Julia Hinkle, Eudora, Miss.
- Mrs. Ella Wilkins, Olive Branch, Miss.
- Mrs. J. C. Williamson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.
- Miss Lula Scott, Love, Miss.
- Henry Wilhite, Love, Miss.
- P. L. Cobb, Hernando, Miss.
- Pearl Hudson, Olive Branch, Miss.

## Chapter XV

## AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

Importance of Agriculture in County

Farming is the principal means of livelihood in DeSoto County. An inventory made by the Department of Commerce Bureau of Census, Washington, from 1930 to 1935 shows there are 5,443 farms in operation in the county. These were operated by 754 owners, 186 part owners, 14 by managers; 4,489 tenants, including 2,898 share-croppers. Among these tenants and share-croppers there is inter-changing, or swapping of labor, and plantation owners hire a great amount of their cotton hoed and picked by day labor. Some of this labor is brought into the county by trucks from adjoining counties, or from Memphis. Often, cotton pickers go from DeSoto County to Robinsville and Tunica, working the large plantations where labor is scarce and wages good. In 1928, one of the large hill farmers, Milton Jones, imported several hundred laborers from Mexico to his plantation to pick cotton.

The 1935 farm census shows 276,437 acres in farm land, of which 107,735 acres are in harvested crops; 854 in crop failure.

The average farm of this county consists of 50.8 acres, the average value of which, including buildings and improvements, is \$27.17 per acre. (1)

Soil Erosion Control

In recent years much has been done toward building up the soil on farm lands in the county, as the Indians did very little toward agriculture, and at the coming of early settlers, lands were mostly wildernesses. It was necessary for them to clear tracts of land selected for homesteads; but at that time the land was very fertile. As time advanced, timber was cut away, some being used for constructing houses, and some being sold and shipped out of the county, causing the land to become less fertile, and even barren. The best cultivated places were overworked, and as the land became poor, it was abandoned for new ground, and the neglected places began to wash. When the County became more

(1) Department of Commerce Bureau of Census, Washington, D. C.

thickly populated, land became scarce, so something had to be done. County agents were employed, to help the farmers build the soil back to fertility and usefulness, and terracing was begun by them. This has been the means of saving much land, and gives to the landscape an aspect strikingly in contrast to the washed and gullied fields observed only a few years past. (1)

There are many cut-over places which cannot be cultivated except with great difficulty, as the use of large tillage or harvesting machines is impossible; hence efforts toward clearing are difficult, expensive, and slow. The county agent has interested farmers in machinery, or stump-pulling devices, and methods of burning, which greatly help in clearing new grounds.

Planting of black locust trees has played an important part in building the soils, as well as adding beauty to unsightly, washed away pieces of land, and is fast becoming one of the principal steps taken in prevention of erosion, and one that promises in later years to return a profit, because of the great demand for this timber for posts.

Drainage of the low, marshy creeks has caused much soil to be cultivatable; swamp lands and wet areas within cultivated fields are also drainage problems that may be overcome. If the wet places are plowed at the same time as the remainder of the field, their productive capacity is greatly reduced and cultivation difficulties increased. If the field is left until the wet areas are ready, farm work is greatly delayed, but drainage demonstrations put on by the county agent have helped the farmers to overcome many such problems.

The crops best adapted to DeSoto County are: cotton, corn, peas, and the soy-beans, which is fast becoming a prominent forage plant; oats, sorghum, Irish potatoes, watermelons, and sugar cane. Vetch has recently been introduced in the delta section of the county, and plantation owners are finding it a great asset to their feed problems. Hairy vetch was introduced here in 1888 by the Farmers' Alliance.

#### Early History of Agriculture

Crops of the Chickasaw tribe of Indians were corn and potatoes, and the importance of these crops was reflected in the customs of the Red men. The prospective groom in the

(1) Mississippi History

tribe made known to the Indian maiden of his choice his love, and his willingness to provide for her by presenting her with a gift of clothing or a ham of venison; the maiden would at the same time present him with an ear of corn or a sack of potatoes. This showed that the man would provide the household with meat, and the women furnish the bread.

To cultivate their crops of corn and potatoes, they used stout sticks and hoes, made partly of stone, and after the corn was dried, it was ground into meal between two stones, the lower one being larger and flat, with a hollow in the top. A little corn was placed in the hollow; then, with a smaller round piece of stone, the squaw ground or crushed the corn until it became coarse meal.

E. D. Turner, one of our oldest citizens, told the following interesting story about methods and crops of early settlers:

Many of them came to DeSoto County from states where agriculture flourished in its crude way. Many brought with them their families, household possessions, slaves, and livestock to create a home for themselves here in a wilderness. As these settlers were accustomed to farming, they resorted at once to the tillage of the soil as a means of support. Their methods of cultivation was necessarily crude, as their implements were few and imperfect, yet their problems were varied, and they produced almost everything of prime necessity which the soil could yield. Tobacco, corn, wheat, potatoes, and rice were the principal crops. Indigo, which was used in dyeing the cloth, made at home, was another important product; cloth was made from cotton which, at that time, was grown in very small quantities.

Wheat mills were common in the early sixties, and up into the '80's. J. P. Janney, Oak Grove, veteran of the War between the States, remembers when the farmers grew their own wheat, and carried it to the mills to be ground into flour. One such mill was on Hickahala Creek (now in Tate County), owned by two brothers, John and Charley Dean. Just above this mill, on the same creek, was another owned and operated by a man named Lee. Stafford's mill, located on Pigeon Creek, was owned by John Williams.

J. B. Riley, another old citizen, stated that the old hickory plow stock was used in this county as late as 1870, and resembled very much the shovel-stock of today.

These were cut out by hand by the farmer himself, or made by slaves in the shops of the more progressive farmers. With this one stock, several different points were used, namely:- turn-plow, shovel, buzzard-wing, and bull-tongue. One or two oxen were used for plowing; yokes, placed across the oxen's necks, were made of heavy hickory. The bow which went around the neck was also of hickory, as were the pins which fitted through the bow to hold it securely. In each end of the yoke was an iron ring, to which the trace chains were fastened; these chains extended back to the single-tree of the plow. The oxen were directed in their course by "Haw" and "Gee"; "Haw" meant they were to go to the left, and "Gee" meant they were to go to the right. Riley said they were easily trained, and worked better than mules, because they were not so hard-headed.

To convey these crops to market, and for general transportation purposes, the ox-cart was commonly used. The wheel of these were often made of transverse sections or disks, sawed and properly fashioned from the trunks of suitable hickory trees. The frame work was made from split rails or blue cane.

Tobacco was grown for home use only, and was cultivated very carefully. The leaves were gathered before they were completely dry, and twisted into large hanks, then hung out to dry. These twists were used for chewing tobacco; the leaves that had become dry were crushed and used to smoke in pipes. It was quite common to see an old lady sitting around the fire smoking her pipe made of corn-cob, with a cane for the stem; the dried leaves were also beaten up very fine and used for snuff-dipping.

Mrs. George Nail, of Oak Grove, stated that in antebellum days her father grew rice, which he sent to Louisiana to be classed into three grades - whole, half, and chopped.

#### Old Farming Equipment

Appraisement records of estates in the Chancery Clerk's office in DeSoto County reveal some of the methods of farming by our earliest settlers. In the estates recorded between 1840 and 1855, we learn about the following tools: cotton scrapers, shovel plows, cary plows, turning plows and bull tongues; weeding hoes, grubbing hoes, shovels, spades, mat-tocks, scythes, harrows, and cradles are recorded. Looms and spinning-wheels are also listed as farm equipment; the estates of Colonel Kerr and Eli M. Driver list cotton gins. These "gins," valued on an average of \$75.00 each, were

evidently little machines, made something like a clothes wringer with rollers, and turned by hand with a crank. A grain thresher and a treshing-pen are recorded also. (1)

#### Cotton

From the earliest occupancy by the English, cotton in small quantities, sufficient for domestic purposes only, was habitually cultivated. It was the black, or naked seed variety, that was planted in the hills and cultivated with a hoe. Fifty or sixty pounds was the ordinary quantity gathered in one day. The seed was picked out by hand, or separated from the lint by means of the small roller gin. The lint was spun and woven at home, and this constituted the chief apparel of the inhabitants. In 1719, cotton was introduced in South Carolina, whose first provisional Congress, in 1775, recommended to its people to raise cotton. The first cotton was shipped to Liverpool in 1784, and five years later, the Sea Island variety was introduced from Jamaica. It is probable that the French introduced it into Mississippi, as it was grown in Natchez in 1722, and Bienville reports its cultivation in 1735. Production of cotton progressed with such rapidity, that in 1849 Mississippi ranked third in cotton growing. (2)

Through interviews with the oldest citizens, and descendants of some of the oldest citizens of DeSoto County, it has been learned that cotton was introduced, for domestic purposes, in the county as early as 1832. Many of the early settlers who came from the Carolinas, Georgia, and Virginia brought with them their special variety of cotton, which was adapted to the state from which they came.

After the War between the States, the farmers found themselves without capital or labor with which to cultivate their lands, and in many cases, only a remnant of their stock was left; millions of dollars worth of property had been destroyed, so most of the farmers had to go in debt. An advance of supplies and money to make their crop had to be obtained from some local merchant, who compelled them at the end of the year to pay a liberal interest. But with all this handicap the county slowly prospered. Changes in farm equipment began to be made from year to year, as iron and steel came more into use. New ideas were rapidly taking hold of people, and improved implements, intensive cultivation, diversification of crops, fine stock, and fruit and vegetable production increased, agriculture advanced rapidly. Educational advantages became more accessible, until at present, modern methods in farming have solved many labor

problems of the farmers and lessened their work. The fields must be plowed, harrowed, planted, cultivated, and harvested, but all farmers cannot afford these modern methods; many hill farmers, especially the negroes, still use the turn-plow to break their land, make the bed on which the seed is planted, and later cultivated by turning-plows, shovels, sweeps, side harrows, and gee whiz harrows; more prosperous hill farmers, and all of the plantation owners of the Delta Section, have modern equipment.

Diversified farming is proving to be profitable. A section of one of these hill plantations, in October, 1936, was a field white with cotton, in which twenty-two negroes were picking furiously. This same farm a day later presented quite a different picture; the cotton was picked, and a negro was driving a tractor over the field; behind this tractor was a stalk-cutter, which was chopping the cotton stalks very fine. On the following day, in this same field, the tractor was drawing a disk, and the ground was a beautiful pulverized mass of soil. The farmer, Milton Jones, was planning to plant his winter forage crops.

Even though the modern equipment is expensive, it is a money-saver in the long run. By using a tractor, with the disk, more land can be broken at one time; the section-harrow covers a larger area; and block planting of corn saves time and labor. Drop planters for cotton are not being used, often working the crop properly will save having them hoed. In addition to breaking and cultivating the land, various other jobs are performed by the tractors; such as ditching, hauling cotton, and road building. Often, several wagons are filled with cotton, and the tractor pulls them all to the gin at the same time.

One man, with proper machinery and a tractor, can break ten acres of land per day.

D. Ulkin, of Gayoso Farm, runs his soy bean hay through a food chopper. He has observed that cows will eat about sixty per cent of the hay when fed whole, whereas they eat it all when run through the feed mill. Chopping the hay also eliminates considerable waste. It is sacked at the mill and moved to its storing place.

The old horse gin of pioneer days have been replaced with electric gins, which turn out from fifty to seventy-five bales per day. It was not unusual to take all day to gin one bale with the early type.

The approximate annual yield of cotton in DeSoto County for 1936 was 31,779 bales, while before the government regulations in 1931, it was 35,034 bales. After the cotton is ginned, it is either sold to local buyers or carried to Memphis, where it is sold or stored.

#### Corn and Forage Crops

Corn was first introduced in the state in 1775, and by 1854, it was almost universally cultivated. The first large corn crop said to be cultivated, in the county, was that of the Indian Chief, Mussacunna. The variety planted was known as Indian Corn; oats, grown in the county at an early date, were cut and bundled into sheafs and stored for winter feed for the stock.

Fodder, which is the leaves stripped from the corn and tied into bundles, was considered almost as valuable as ear corn for feed purposes.

On practically all delta plantations oats and vetch are grown for hay. These are often planted together and have proven to be a fine feed mixture, as well as a soil builder. Hairy vetch and Austrian winter peas are also promising legumes of delta plantations. Soy beans have long been in prominence for hay and a soil builder, and this quality and character depend largely upon the variety planted, and the stage of maturity at which the beans are cut. The large growing "Biloxi" can be fed unchopped with much less waste than the "Otootan" or the "Laredo."

Peanuts date as far back in the history of this county as 1855, and were first planted together in a fenced field, and after the corn was gathered, hogs were turned into the field to fatten before being killed in the fall.

Paul Williams, of Cub Lake, states that Bermuda grass seed was brought to DeSoto County in 1852, in a Bandanna handkerchief by Judd Williams, from North Carolina. It was planted at his home on the Bluff, and people desiring a start of Bermuda would get it from Williams by sprigs or wagon loads. It was soon scattered throughout the county.

Sorghum has long been grown in the county mainly for making syrup. Today it is also used as a forage crop and poultry food. Broom corn is raised by some of the older citizens, who make their own brooms; in Hernando there is an old negro who raises broom corn and makes brooms for many of the people in town.



### Truck Farming

Very little truck farming is done in the county, due to the fact that it is located so near Memphis, where trucking is the major means of support of many. However, there are a few families who do some trucking in connection with their farming.

The largest truck farm in this county is that of Mrs. Dominic Calvi, located near the Mississippi-Tennessee state line, on Highway #51. She grows plants for sale, which are marketed in Mississippi as well as Tennessee. These plants consist of tomatoes, peppers, egg plant, cabbage, and sweet potatoes. She specializes in a wholesale produce company in Memphis. The amount grown varies according to weather conditions.

Several small truck farmers of the county grow a mixed variety of vegetables - strawberries, loganberries, and tomatoes, which sell at curb markets or to families in Memphis.

Many farmers here raise large patches of watermelons for local markets and for shipping. One of the most progressive of these is Jim Stewart, of Oak Grove, who raises an early crop and late crop of melons; he often clears from two to three hundred dollars a season.

### Home Garden Products

The most important garden vegetables grown are: snap beans, lima beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, collards, roasting ears, onions, okra, cucumbers, egg plants, English peas, pepper, spinach, squash, tomatoes, turnips, mustard, and rape.

With the assistance of the Home Demonstration Agent, the housewife has been trained to have a year-round garden. Vegetables are planted early in the season and planted in succession; putting in one or more vegetables each week throughout the spring, summer, and early fall is practiced, as this assures fresh vegetables throughout the year.

Irish potatoes are generally cultivated as a garden product, but sweet potatoes are grown in larger patches.

Surplus vegetables are preserved for winter use either by canning, drying, or storing.

### Poultry Raising

Almost every family in the county has poultry for home use, as the climate and conditions are conducive; a few families raise poultry for marketing, and eggs, during most of the year, bring a good price. Often, feed is a problem for the poultry raiser, however, those on the farm generally produce the grain that they feed the poultry, and in this way enhance their profits. The flock fed entirely on farm-produced feed is in danger of being fed too much corn, and layers will lack the proteins and minerals necessary for good health and production. Eggs production is greatest in the spring, because the weather is mild and the layers easily get plenty of green feed, bugs, and worms.

Mrs. Dean Couch, of Eudora, a successful poultry raiser, for marketing purposes, has the Rhode Island Red chickens, and in February, she has two incubators of chickens to come off, which are sold in this or surrounding counties; she advertises through the Mississippi Farm Bulletin, and sells cockerels as well as baby chickens. She also sets incubators on halves with anyone in the community desiring to do so; they furnish the eggs and oil, and she furnishes the labor. These chickens, which are generally mixed breeds, are kept in different yards, and raised for market only. In 1934 DeSoto County produced 313,864 dozen eggs, and on January 1, 1935, had 111,425 chickens over three months old.

Mrs. Eugene Clark, of Miller, has a large number of leghorns, raised for marketing purposes, which bring her a substantial monthly income throughout the year.

Mr. Speck, of Eudora, has the Rhode Island Red chickens, and keeps his flock culled; he sells eggs for setting, and the culled eggs are marketed the year round.

Many citizens in the county market eggs, broilers, and fryers in Memphis. They have regular customers and get a good price for both chickens and eggs.

Many people in the Eudora community and the surrounding territory sell chickens to a negro peddler, Luther Jenkins, who markets them in Memphis on an average of once a week.

Charlie Freeman, who lives on Highway # 3, north of Days, has a large flock of White Leghorns, and raises fryers for marketing and sells grade eggs. His poultry houses are modern, and kept in excellent condition, and he realizes a good profit from his flock.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Howard, of Walls, raise poultry, geese, turkeys, ducks, and guineas, and around Thanksgiving and Christmas these are marketed.

Geese are found on most all farms where there is a good supply of water.

### Live Stock

D. Ulkin, Horn Lake, gave some facts concerning the livestock on the Gayoso Farm, as follows:

The original dairy herd consisted of Holstein cattle, which, a few years later, were replaced with grade Jerseys. Twenty years ago this herd was replaced with Guernseys, and now the herd consists of 300 head of registered cattle. From this herd are many outstanding prize milch cows.

At the Gayoso Farm are also ten head of registered American bred saddle horses, and the Farm has produced many prize hogs.

According to the U. S. Farm Census of 1935, there were 1,392 horses and colts; 6,649 mules and mule colts; 24,056 cattle; 15,134 cows and heifers two years old and over; 182 sheep and lambs, and 16,297 hogs and pigs, on the farms in DeSoto County. The number cattle in 1935 represent an equivalent of almost five for each farm in the county.

### Rural Home Improvement

There is a great contrast between the modern farm home life of today and that of yesterday. In pioneer days very little thought was given to sanitation. Houses were not screened, flies were kept from the table during a meal by a brush fanning over the table. Barns and other out-houses were built near the house for convenience, with little thought of cleanliness and sanitation. Now, by the assistance of the Health Department and the Home Demonstration Agents, both white and colored, homes have been made more sanitary. There are few homes that are not screened; even the most ignorant negroes will beg pieces of screen wire from the white folks to screen their windows. Rubbish has been moved from around the house, and places for breeding mosquitoes and flies have been destroyed and creeks, bayous, and marshy places have been drained. Barns have been built on a more modern plan, getting ventilation through small windows. The manure is taken from the



RICH LANDS OF THE  
GAYOSO DAIRY FARMS.



barns and scattered over the fields for fertilizers. Dairy farms now have modern milk houses with concrete floors and running water. The County Health Officer, through a WPA Sanitation Project, has had sanitary toilets built at almost every home in the county, and at all the rural schools.

Most farm people of years ago had little household equipment. The furnishings of the home were simple, and barely enough for the comfort of the family. Floors were bare, lights were from home-made candles; later, small oil lamps without chimneys were used; still later, these were replaced by lamps with chimneys. Churns used in pioneer days were the old barrel-type; later, the churn and dasher were used. Brooms were made of the sage grass that grew in the fields; the grass, gathered and rung from the roots by hand, was bunched and tightly wrapped with a string to form the handle; the bushy part was left loose for sweeping. Yards were cleansed with a brush broom made from small branches of trees, tied together forming a broom. Cooking was done in open fire places, with few utensils. Kitchens were built away from the main house, and many of these had dirt floors; the water was carried from springs, or drawn by hand with a rope and bucket from a cistern or well.

Today, about seventy per cent of the rural homes have modern equipments; in some, system of water works, improved lighting, and the kitchens have modern fixtures. The furniture problem for those of limited means has been solved by the assistance of the Home Demonstration and County Agents, who have taught the club members to make odd pieces of furniture, baskets, rugs, shades, curtains, and pictures.

The Mississippi Power and Light Company has recently run power lines through the rural communities, and almost every family along this route now has electricity in the home, which makes it convenient for them to have lights, and the many other electrical conveniences which lighten house-work. Those who are not conveniently located, or cannot afford an electric refrigerator, have ice boxes, and trucks from nearby towns deliver ice several times a week; now many of the rural homes have telephones and radios, and these, along with the established rural free delivery of mail, automobiles and concrete highways, keep the farmers of the remotest part of the county in close or daily contact with the important news of the world.

Farmer's Alliance

The DeSoto County Farmers Alliance was re-organized in August, 1888. (Records of the original organization are not available). The report of minutes from the DeSoto Times of August 13, 1888, are as follows:

"The County Farmers' Alliance met at the courthouse August 2, 1888, for election of officers for the ensuing year. A Trade Committee was formed, consisting of one member from each Sub-Alliance. The question of the State Exchange was taken up, and finally referred to a committee of seven, with instructions to investigate same, and report to a called meeting of the Alliance.

"The subject of the lecture was "Inexhaustible Resources of Our Soil and Climate."

"The purpose of the meeting was to investigate the plans and works of the Exchange. Mr. Lacey, State Business Agent, explained the Exchange, and the Alliance resolved to take stock in the Exchange, and to do all in its power to build up and sustain the organization."

The following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the delegates to the State Alliance be instructed to endeavor to have the State Alliance pass a resolution that the Alliance men of Mississippi will not purchase a single yard of bagging with which to wrap the present crop of cotton. - J. B. West, Sec'y. (1)

Sub-Alliances were organized in each community to carry forward the program of the County Alliance.

Alliance Clubs were again revived in 1890 by J. H. Simpson, of Sunnyside, who lectured at Horn Lake, Pleasant Hill, Miller, and Lewisburg.

A number of the members of Ingram's Mill Alliance agreed to procure and sow a small quantity of choice wheat seed. The farmers of the county were urged to secure as much as two bushels of Red Bay wheat seed and sow on well plowed, and well fertilized land. If this was done, a great many dollars would remain in the county, which otherwise must go for bread and feed stuff. It was also advocated to plant more corn.

---

(1) DeSoto Times, August 13, 1888

In March, 1927, the Farm Bureau was organized by the County Agricultural Agent, the purpose of which was to put into operation an agricultural society without capital stock. In 1936 this Farm Bureau was re-organized with the further aim of promoting educational, legislative, co-operative and social welfare, and the interest of agriculture so as to make farming more profitable and country life more attractive.

The program consists of certain definite objectives in the field of local problems and in County, State, and National objectives, and problems such as soil erosion control, soil conservation, co-operative products, taxation, home project, pasture improvement, rural electrification, farm-to-market roads, tenancy, community improvement, beneficial legislation, community service, national policies.

#### County Agencies

Records show that in 1918 Edwin Bonner was employed by the Board of Supervisors as County Agricultural Agent for DeSoto, and that as early as May, 1913, W. T. Glenn of Love, had organized a Boys' Pig, and Girls Tomato Clubs in the county.

The present Agricultural Agent, G. C. Minges, who has served the county since January 1, 1924, has greatly benefitted the farmers and land owners. Under his supervision the farmers have co-operated with the A.A.A. program, soil conservation, planting of cover crops, vetch clover, etc., and terracing, where approximately 3,000 acres have been terraced in the county to date, Black Locust reforestation, 200,000 trees have been set out in the county and one-half million more are intended for 1937. The vaccination of cows, hogs, dogs; how to apply distribution of fertilizer, grafting, spraying, and pruning fruit trees, and orchards, and the organization of the Bureau for securing better markets for produce.

#### 4-H Clubs

The origin of 4-H Clubs grew out of the united efforts of Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the General Educational Board, and Miss Susie V. Powell. In 1903, when the Mexican boll weevil began its devastations, Dr. Knapp established a community demonstration farm at Terrell, Texas, for the purpose of showing farmers how cotton could be raised despite that pest.



In a series of conferences in Washington, Dr. Knapp's varied agricultural activities and experiences were thoroughly discussed with the favorable result that the General Educational Board provided: "That the farmers cooperative work, in which the General Board of Education is to become interested, shall be entirely distinct in territory and finance from that carried on solely by the Department of Agriculture. The plan was, that this department shall supervise the work and appoint all special agents." Since then the work has expanded wonderfully. Demonstration farms are thickly studded over the state; and in 1908, "Boys Corn Clubs" were organized with the view of educating the future farmer - or the farmer of the future.

By 1910 Dr. Knapp realized the need of enlisting the co-operation of the women and girls on the farm, in promoting the program, knowing that through the simple work in and about the home, there was another means of adding to the family income.

About this time Miss Marie Cramer, of South Carolina, had organized some canning clubs, and at once Dr. Knapp seized upon an idea, and in vision, saw it encompassing the entire South.

In 1911 an initial appropriation of \$5000 was made for this work, and early in 1912 Miss Susie V. Powell was chosen to serve as the first Home Demonstration Agent in Mississippi.

Miss Powell attained universal fame through the successful organization of Girls Tomato Clubs, and her lectures and active work in the field prompted beautification of school grounds and more pleasant and healthful conditions generally; to Miss Powell credit is given also for installing the sanitary drinking cups.

Through her first years of service, the pioneer period of Home Demonstration work, many obstacles were overcome in clearing the way of the organized Extension Courses, which were given in all parts of the state following the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914. The work then began to grow in a comprehensive way.

Outstanding developments of the first three years were the adoption of the local-leader plan, and the definite organization of boys and girls into clubs, which included not only Tomato Clubs, but Poultry, Garden,

Canning, Dairying, and all forms of rural home improvements. The Agricultural and Home Economic headquarters at A. and M. College (Mississippi State), made it possible to publish printed and mimeographed circulars, applicable to local conditions, giving definite instructions as to demonstrations, programs, etc., for the improvement of farm and home through the 4-H Clubs. (Heart, Head, Hand, Health) rapidly coming into existence in a variety of projects in which thousands of boys and girls throughout the state are now actively engaged.

Miss Powell served as Home Demonstration Agent for 14 years, resigning in 1927 - but her interest has not lagged, and the present strength of 4-H Clubs is a monument to her unflinching efforts.

In 1932 the State Extension Department, at Starkville, sent Miss Nora Rogers, Tri-County Home Demonstration Agent, to the county to familiarize the people with the importance of having the Extension work in the county.

Miss Rogers worked in the county eight months prior to the employing of a County Home Demonstration Agent by the Board of Supervisors. The greater part of that time was spent in studying the needs of the county, and in organizing five Home Demonstration Clubs, which met monthly. The first club, organized at Poplar Corner, was named in honor of Mrs. Margaret McGowen, who had taken an active part in getting the work organized in the county.

On October 1, 1932, the Board of Supervisors appropriated the necessary amount of money needed to meet the requirements of the Extension Department in employing a County Home Demonstration Agent, and Miss Alice McRae was elected to fill the place.

Miss McRae's first Annual Report to the State Extension Department, December, 1933, showed the number of Home Demonstration Clubs had increased from five to eleven; a County Council was organized, 4-H Girls Clubs were organized in each consolidated school, and a Woman's Camp was held in July, the first of its kind in the county.

The following year, under Miss Belle Jones, five new clubs were organized; County Council met with State Specialist, once each month; club membership increased twenty-five per cent; a Woman's Camp was again held; fifteen pressure cookers and six sealers were bought through the County Home Demonstration Agent; 61,236 containers of

vegetables, fruit, and preserves canned; 342 families assisted in making soap; four home-made sinks were installed; beef canning demonstrations given, with 2,500 cans filled; one Home Demonstration Club purchased a pressure cooker and sealer, and a county-wide Home Demonstration Fair was held in September, at Hernando. The following year's report says 166 demonstrations were given in food preparation; 2,000 food bulletins were distributed; fifty per cent of members kept household accounts; contests, both community and county, were held in nutrition, with winners entering the state contests during Farm and Home Week, Starksville, and State Fair, Jackson; with the result of one second place winner at Farm and Home Week, one first place, and one second place winner at State Fair. Five "B.W.D." demonstrations were given; three hundred birds tested; three community houses were equipped; 40,000 pounds of beef canned; Woman's Camp was held at Humphrey's Lake. (1)

Since the tri-county agent took up the work of Home Demonstrator in the county in 1931, there has continued to be a steady growth in interest and achievement, and under the direction now of Miss Gladys Delk new things are being accomplished by the Home Management Leaders: eight homes painted; ten water systems added; four home-made sinks installed; 75 pieces of furniture refinished; 19 pieces of furniture made; 26 chairs re-bottomed; 22 rugs made; 29 storage closets made; 42 homes installed lights, and many radios installed; in 1936 the DeSoto County Home Demonstration women had a booth at the Mid-South Fair in Memphis, Tennessee.

#### Prize Winners in the Early History of Club Work

(The Times Promoter, January 9, 1913)

"Prof. C. A. Cobb, accompanied by Mr. Willis, of Grenada, was in Hernando Saturday to award prizes to the boys Corn Club in DeSoto County.

"The first prize was awarded Benson Stevenson, Olive Branch, who also won the prize of the 2nd Congressional district - a trip to Washington.

|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Clyde Glenn Ward, second county prize | - \$15  |
| Willie Treadaway, third county prize  | - \$15  |
| Earle Glenn, fourth county prize      | - \$10  |
| Harold Stevenson                      | - \$ 5" |

"The largest yield in the Corn Club of DeSoto County last year was 86 bushels, raised by Dell Bennett, of Love Station, who was very proud of the \$25 cash prize." (1)

Corn Club Contest

(The Times Promoter, November 25, 1915)

"The prize winners in the Corn Club contest last Saturday were as follows: First prize of \$25 in cash was won by Leslie Combes, Lake Cormorant; Second prize was a tie between Howard Lamb, of Love, and Glennie Brewer, of Miller; \$15 was divided, giving each \$7.50; the third prize of \$10 was awarded to Johnnie Picket, of Lake Cormorant. Other prizes of \$1 and \$2 were awarded to the following named boys, who did splendid work; Berna Hobbs, Alex Dickson, James H. Poley, Earnest Anderson, Logan Summers, Jno. H. Stevenson, Leo Ross, John Boys, Oran Cox, Sylvester Wood, Cecil Blanton, Harrison Hudson, Raymond Hudson; Willie Martin, Earl Glenn, Morris Woolsey, George McElroy, Milton Poley, James Murry, Marvin Brewer, and Claude Gowdy. Prizes were also awarded to the members of the pig club as follows: first prize of \$10 was won by Sylvester Wood; second prize of \$6 went to Howard Lamb; third prize of \$4 to James Skelton; fourth prize of \$2.50 to Glover Wheeler. Other prizes were given to Logan Summers, Sterling Anderson, Hoyt Austin, Ennis Grady, Waldo Counts, Ewart Siveley, Aubrey Dickson, Nora Clarke, Willie Wilkins, and Thomas Haraway, making a total of \$122.00. The largest yield of corn this year was 90 bushels of Mexican June Variety."

On November 30, 1916, the Times Promoter published:

"In our corn club show we had in the courthouse last Saturday we had fifteen boys making reports; the highest yield, 88 7/8 bushels, was made by Earl Glenn with North Carolina corn. Nearly all the boys got about 70 bushels. The awards were as follows: Earl Glenn, \$25 and one full blooded Hampshire pig donated by Gayoso farm; Roger Woolsey, \$15; Ira Tonnahill, \$10; Howard Lamb, \$9; John H. Stevenson, \$7; Sylvester Wood, \$5.50; Glennie Brewer, \$4.50; Willie Martin, \$4; Harry Poley, \$3.50; Aubrey Dickson, \$3.25; Logan Summers, \$3; Johnnie Boyd, \$2.75; Ernest Anderson, \$2.50; Berma Hobbs, \$2.00.

"Other boys made good yields, but failing to come or send their reports, missed a prize."

---

(1) Times Promoter, February 5, 1914.

Pig Club Boys of 1915 and Today

Sterling Anderson, Hernando, owns a trucking line.  
 Hayette Austin, Lake Comorant, owns a big plantation  
 in both the delta and hills.  
 Aubrey Dickson, Olive Branch, agriculture teacher in  
 the Olive Branch School.  
 Willie Wilkins, Cotton Plant, Arkansas, leading Doctor  
 of that city.

"The Pig Club exhibits at the fair were fine. We had only six in number, owing to the bad weather. Howard Lamb took first prize; Herman Summers was second, Glover Wheeler, third; Sterling Anderson, James Skelton, and Hoyt Austin were awarded fifty cents each. Never before has DeSoto County had such pigs, but we will have more and better next year." (1)

Tomato Clubs

The first tomato club was organized in 1913, and demonstrations were given in various communities. Exhibits were sent to the County Fair in Hernando, and the winning exhibits were then sent to the Tri-States Fair in Memphis. Following is a partial list of the club members:

Nora Glenn - Married Sam L. Kelly  
 Bernice McElroy - married Arnold Chamberlain  
 Thelma Williams - married Owen Chamberlain  
 Mary Williams - married Kirk Brassel  
 Mamie Pickett - married Oscar Almond  
 Ora Lee Glenn - married Fred Sample, after having  
 worked in Los Angeles as a dictaphone operator.  
 Winnie Redmond - married D. P. Scott  
 The club work in the county was discontinued in 1915.

Mrs. Nora Kelly, one of the first club members, was very active in this work until the death of her mother, Mrs. W. T. Glenn, September 15, 1915. She was the oldest girl, so the home chores fell upon Nora until her father married again in 1917. Nora did practical nursing during the influenza epidemic of 1917-18. On January 4, 1920, she married Sam L. Kelly, a farmer of Love, and they still live on the farm. Their two girls, who have done outstanding work in the 4-H Club, are entering their fifth year as members. When the Love Home Demonstration Club was organized four years ago, Mrs. Kelly joined with the same enthusiasm she had when a Tomato Club Girl, and has served

---

(1) Times Promoter, October 21, 1915.

this club in the following capacities:

Food Leader; Home Management Leader; one year as president, was re-elected for the coming year; County Council Representative, and was elected County Council secretary for 1938. She has won several first and second places in county fairs and exhibits.

In 1915, Miss Hazle Marshall was a Tomato Club girl at Pleasant Hill, but club work was discontinued that year.

The following is a list of former club members from the Pleasant Hill Community:

Lucille Lowe, who is now secretary for the Cole Manufacturing Company of Memphis, Tennessee; Rittie Lowe, who married, is now living in Chicago; Howell Williams, who married Aaron Brewer, lives at Horn Lake; Bernice Faulkner, deceased; Hazle Marshall is now is now County Historian on the WPA Historical Research Project.

In 1932 Miss Marshall served as County Council secretary for the county Home Demonstration Clubs, and that summer the council sponsored a county wide exhibit, at which Miss Marshall won several first places on needle work and candy. In 1934-35 she served as secretary to both the Hernando Home Demonstration Club and County Council; she also was assistant to the Home Demonstration Agent in 1934-35.

In 1935 Miss Marshall won first place in the community and the County Nutrition Contest, and was sent to Starksville to enter the State Contest, winning second place; also won first places in the community and county Menu Booklet contest, with the Booklets winning second place at the Mississippi State Fair in Jackson.

In 1936 she was serving her third year as Community and County Council secretary, when she resigned to enter other fields. (1)

#### Negro Home Demonstration Agent

A Negro Home Demonstration Agent was employed by the Board of Supervisors in April, 1935. The Agent's Annual Report to the Extension Department showed that fourteen Home Demonstration Clubs were organized with an enrollment of 4342 members, and fourteen clubs, with

---

(1) Miss Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

Mrs. Nora Kelly, Love, Miss.

an enrollment of 203 members. In organizing the clubs, a study was made of the needs of the people, and it was found that over one-half of the negroes were not getting the proper amount of body building food, nor were they conserving the surplus food produced at home. So the major problem was Home Gardens, with two minor projects, Food Preservation and Beautification of Home Grounds. Along with these projects, the agent gave the following method demonstrations: Home Gardens, 12; Beautification Home Grounds, 10; Food Preservation, 33; Home Gardens, 26; Beautification Home Grounds, 10; Food Preservation, 15.

In her 4-H Clubs there were 23 dishes of food products prepared, 121 quarts of food canned, and 64 containers of jams and jellies canned. By the end of the year much had been accomplished. One hundred and twenty-one families were assisted in food preservation, with 9,100 quarts of canned food and 514 containers of jam and jellies. Eighty-four farm families were influenced by some phase of the Extension program, and interest continued to grow. The report for September, 1936, showed 15 Home Demonstration Clubs, which had an enrollment of 359, and 15 4-H Clubs with an enrollment of 354; the major subject reported showed 751 quarts of meat canned; 18,184 quarts of vegetables; 48,211 quarts of fruit, and 2,055 containers of jam, jellies, and others; in the minor project: 40 kitchens screened; 167 other improvements in kitchen; 200 rugs made; 114 homes white-washed, and 118 flower yards arranged and improved. In September, 1936, the Agent was employed for another year with a raise in salary. (1)

### Agricultural Schools

#### 4-H Clubs

In 1933 Miss Mary Alice McRae, County Home Demonstration Agent, assisted by Miss Elaine Massey, State 4-H Clubs (Girls) specialist, organized boys and girls 4-H Clubs in each of the consolidated schools of the county. The meeting was held at the courthouse in Hernando, with 215 members and 19 Adult Leaders present. H. S. Johnson, District Club Agent from the Extension Department, had charge of the meeting. By 1934, the report shows that fifty per cent of the girls entered community contests; many entered county contests, and eight girls entered state contests during the 4-H Club Congress at Starksville, with one first and one second place winner for the county; in 1935 Lucille Tipton, Horn Lake,

(1) Grafton Meadows, Negro

won a trip to the National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, Illinois, offered by the I. C. Railroad for the club girl having the best club record for three years in the Western Extension District of the State.

The Boys 4-H Club of DeSoto County has enthusiastic members who carry out projects in cotton, corn, potatoes, pigs, dairy cows, and forestry or conservation. In 1935 the following prizes were won by club boys of the county:

Frank Acree, Olive Branch, won a trip to Chicago.

Warren Sullivan, Walls, won fifth place in the state on long staple cotton.

Leonard Johnson, Pleasant Hill, won fifth place in state on medium staple cotton.

James Gannaway, Nesbitt, won ten dollars in a Farm Accounting Contest sponsored by International Harvester Company.

In 1936, the prizes won by DeSoto County boys at the Mid-South Contest in Memphis, Tennessee, were as follows:

Six Guernsey calves won first place, though sixth place in one class with thirty-three dollars in prizes.

The DeSoto County Club won first place as a group, in second class with fifteen dollars prize.

In open competition against all exhibitors, the county club won fourth, sixth, and seventh places, respectively. The money in this class was twenty-one dollars.

Total winnings by DeSoto County Club boys on all classes amounted to sixty-nine dollars.

In September, 1936, the 4-H Club had a booth at the Mid-South Fair, Memphis, Tennessee, exhibiting soil before and after a Soil Conservation program had been enacted. Fourth place was won on this booth.

4-H Club held a three-day camp in July, 1936, at Holly Springs Experiment Station, where instructions were given in forestry, soil conservation, and work of the experiment station. Recreation included base-ball, swimming, picture shows, etc.



At the 4-H Club Rally held in Hernando on April 4th, 250 boys and girls were present. The program consisted of inspirational talks and songs by club members.

The DeSoto County Agricultural High School, Olive Branch, was established in 1911, and was the only Smith-Hughes school in the county. W. D. Gooch, Hernando, was principal for eighteen years; J. A. Berkley was Agriculturist for fifteen or sixteen years, and E. C. Elliott was Agriculturist for the remaining years the school was in existence. It was at this school that most of the young farmers of the county obtained their pioneer training in agriculture. The school was abolished in 1929, and today the Horn Consolidated High School is affiliated with the Smith-Hughes schools.

#### Horticulture

The varieties of cultivated flowers and shrubs of DeSoto County are given below:

Flowers: jonquils, narcissus, iris, chrythemum, dahlia, hollyhock, petunias, phlox, tube-rose, verbena, marigold, golden-glow, larkspur carnation, snapdragon, fox glove, winter-pink, snow-on-the-mountain, aster, zinnia, candy-turft, moss, roses, morning-glory, four o'clock, spider lily, orange lily.

Shrubs: spruce, catalpa, dogwood, redbud, china-berry, Colorado blue spruce, magnolia, hygrangia, golden arbor-vitae, lilac, arbelia, crepe-myrtle, syringa, althea, golden-bell, bridle wreath, barberry, English ivy, privet, locust, wistaria, winter honeysuckle, tartarian, thornlike, ligustrum, lucidum, deutzia, Chinese juniper, mock orange, and lemon.

The Hernando Civic Garden Club was organized and federated in 1933, by Mrs. R. P. Cooke, Sr., chairman of the Federation Extension of the Music Study Club, of Hernando. The purpose of the club is to protect natural beauties of the community; to plant for future generations; to sponsor beautification project, and to enjoy the mutual benefits of Garden friendships.

Each year two flower shows are held, one in the spring and the other in the fall.

In the spring of 1934 and 1935, members of the Hernando Civic Garden Club went to the Memphis Garden Pilgrimage, and also to the Natchez Garden Pilgrimage.

References

Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.

Mississippi History, Syndor and Bennett

Memoirs of Mississippi, Volume II, p.109

Minute Book, DeSoto County Development Club.

Interviews

DeSoto Times, August 13, 1888; November 6, 1890

G. C. Minges, County Agent, Hernando, Miss.

Miss Mary Alice McRae's Annual Report to Extension Department.

Miss Belle Jones' Annual Report to Extension Department.

Miss Gladys Delk's Annual Report to Extension Department.

Graftie Meadow's (negro) Annual Report to Extension Department.



## Chapter XVI

## INDUSTRY

---

The most important industry in DeSoto County is the Cheese Plant, located at Olive Branch. It was founded in 1928 by T. H. Norvell, President of the Olive Branch Bank.

In the beginning, the plant had two vats, one holding about 6,000 pounds of milk, and the other about 8,000 pounds. The larger of the vats was about 20 feet long, seven feet wide, and about two feet in height. The outside was made of two-inch lumber; the inside was metal lined, brightly polished, and the bottom sloped slightly towards the center, with the drainage end lowered so that the whey drained off easily.

After the cheese was boxed, it was carried to Memphis and placed in a cold storage plant to ripen for about sixty days before it was ready for marketing.

Mr. Norvell's first lot of cheese was sold to the Piggly-Wiggly Store in Memphis at a good price, and in competition with old and well known manufacturers. Not only was the community enriched by the sale of milk, but the farmers and dairymen who supplied the plant, were given the whey to feed their pigs.

In 1932, the business had grown to such an extent that the first plant, which was not much larger than a family garage, had to be enlarged.

Upon the opening day in 1928, fifty dairymen brought milk to the plant, and in 1932 there were 545 families delivering milk daily to the new plant, which is thoroughly modern in every respect - sanitation and machinery.

The daily delivery of milk, aggregating about 45,000 pounds, was manufactured into an average daily output of 4,000 pounds of wholesome cheese.

In an interview with Winston Norvell, son of T. H. Norvell, owner of the Cheese Plant, he gave out the following facts: Today the plant runs only three days a

week , due to the time of the year when there is a milk shortage, but during the spring and summer it is operated daily, and is under contract with the Kraft Cheese Company.

There are nine employees, whose annual payroll amounts to \$7,000. (1)

#### Hatchery at Pleasant Hill

In the Times-Promoter of February 9, 1928, the following account of the Hatchery at Pleasant Hill is given:

Edward Williams of Pleasant Hill, at that time the largest poultry producer of the county, had in operation a 7,000 egg incubator hatchery. He did custom hatching for the poultry growers of the county, making a charge of four cents per egg in the 100-egg lots, and three cents per egg in the 500-egg lots. He also sold baby chicks not only to local poultry growers but to out of county hatcheries. In 1932, Mr. Williams discontinued the operation of his hatchery.

#### Early Industries

Some of the older citizens of the county, state that wheat mills were common in the early sixties and up to the early eighties.

There was one wheat mill on Hickahala Creek (now in Tate County), owned by John Dean, and his brother, Charley Dean, who was the miller. On this same creek was another mill owned and operated by a man named Lee; also one at Stafford's Mill on Pigeon Roost Creek, which was owned by John Williams.

In an interview with Walter White, of Eudora, he tells of a cider mill that was located two miles southwest of Eudora. In 1865, Clint White, who lived near there, had fifteen acres in peaches, applies, apricots, and pears, and owned and operated a large cider mill which was run by the six White boys and two old slaves, who remained with the White family after the War between the States. The apples were washed in large vats, dipped up with buckets that had strainer bottoms, and then poured into the hopper of the mill. The cider was pressed out by turning a lever by hand, grinding until

---

(1) Winston Norvell, Olive Branch, Miss.

the apples fell in the press; the cider ran out through a little hole, in the large iron tub containers. Cider was made every day, some being stored for home use, some sold, and some made into vinegar and sold in Memphis. (1)

#### Saw Mills

C. P. Dockery, of Cub Lake, has a small saw mill which cuts only rough lumber for bridges, barns, or out-buildings; principally cypress, gum, oak, and hickory are used. This lumber is sold to buyers in the county - generally the supervisors.

In 1927, S. B. Dean, of Eudora, acquired the saw-mill of which he is now owner, and through his management, has developed into a hardwood lumber plant. His logs which have been obtained from the counties of DeSoto, Tate, Tunica, and Quitman, are oak, walnut, and hickory. The capacity of the mill is 10,000 feet daily, its products going to Chicago, Texas, Indiana, Tennessee, and points in Mississippi. In addition, it has furnished material for two Scout Lodges at Camp Currier, and a number of cabins on the same ground. A large force of men have had employment at the mill. (2)

The Clifton saw mill at Caldwell, opened by Cleo Riley, manufactures material for bridge-building and rough out-buildings, its chief sales being to the County Supervisors.

The Hamric saw mill in Coldwater Bottom, just south of Love, is one of the most active in the county. Here lumber is sawed by order, and the mill is patronized by citizens of Tate as well as of DeSoto County.

There are two lumber warehouses in the county, one at Hernando, owned by Banks & Company, and one at Olive Branch, owned by Mrs. Birmingham. Lumber from these warehouses have gone into many of our fine houses.

#### Sweet Potato Plant

In May, 1930, E. E. Wilson, of Nesbitt, erected a sweet potato curing plant for personal and public use.

In May, 1930, the business men of Hernando and the adjoining section subscribed for stock in a canning plant located at Hernando.

---

(1) Walter White, Eudora, Miss.

(2) S. B. Dean, Eudora, Miss.

The Board of Directors of this plant were: C. E. Emerson, R. L. Redding, M. E. Barbee, T. P. Flinn, and S. W. Eason. This enterprise was known as the Hernando Canning Company, and the capacity of the machinery ordered was from 1,000 to 1,500 No. 2 cans per day.

Professor W. D. Gooch was employed as general manager of the plant.

#### Public Utilities

In an interview, William Wood stated that the first Light Plant, which was built in 1916, was owned and operated by Mitchell and Bailey, and known as the Home Power Plant. At that time there were only two employees, whose monthly payroll was \$150. In 1923 this plant burned, but was immediately rebuilt. In 1927 the ice plant burned, and due to the depression in 1928, the Mississippi Power and Light Company built a modern stucco building which houses both the power and ice plants.

Today, there are four employees in the local plant, whose monthly pay roll is \$400. When the plant was first put into operation, only the residences inside the corporate limits of Hernando were furnished lights, but most of the rural communities of the county have lights at present.

In 1917 there were only fifteen street lights, but there are thirty-eight in the town of Hernando now.

The first ice manufacturing plant in the county was built in 1918 by Mitchell and Bailey, but was sold to the Mississippi Power and Light Company at the same time that the light plant was sold.

The first ice plant was operated by oil, and served only seventy-five customers. In 1928 a new five-ton ice plant was built and is run by electricity. It served 420 customers in 1936.

#### References

Walter White, Eudora, Miss.  
Times Promoter  
Commercial Appeal  
Winston Norvell, Olive Branch, Miss.  
Hernando Press  
J. P. Janney, Oak Grove, Miss.  
William Woods, Hernando, Miss.

## Chapter XVII

## TRANSPORTATION

Early Roads and Indian Traces

Probably the first trails on the continent of North America were those laid out by Indians. These were probably based on the runways of the buffalo, and other wild animals which commonly formed the first paths through the wilderness. Some were short and others stretched for miles across plains and hills. Indian tribes used these trails to reach their hunting grounds, to visit points where they traded among themselves, and later, with the white settlers. At times they were used as war trails, though there were certain paths which were known as "War Paths," which were used almost exclusively for war purposes. The place where two great Indian trails crossed was a historic spot - not to be forgotten by scout, guide, or geographer. A post pillar generally marked the juncture of these roads, and the white man found the Indian trails of great value, as they followed the shortest routes. From narrow paths through the forest they became well defined roads, and some of the best highways of today follow the exact routes which were tread by the moccasined feet of the Indian two centuries ago.

Old Stage Coach Line

Mrs. Julia Hinkle, of Eudora community, tells interesting and historical facts of the "Old Stage Coach" line that ran from Helena Ferry through Commerce, Banks, Eudora, Hernando, Cockrum, and into Holly Springs.

At intervals along this route there were livery stables where changes in horses were made. One of these old stables still stands as a memorial on Indian Creek east of Commerce, the other one at Cockrum, in DeSoto County, has long since been destroyed.

The present State Highway # 3 from Robinsville to Eudora, follows this Old Stage Coach line, as does the



Commerce Road from Eudora to Hernando, and thence east over the present Holly Springs-Cockrum Road.

In those early days stage coaches were run on all public roads, taking passengers, just as trains or buses do now, and had certain days to be at each place. Four horses were usually driven to these stages (mules were used only to work to wagons or to plows). A stage coach carried the mail from Oxford to Memphis, the mail carrier having an old bugle which he blew before arriving at the places where the mail was to be delivered. Everyone ran for the mail when he heard the bugle blow, and these stage coaches were often held up and robbed. (1)

#### Old and Historic Roads

From the records of the Board of Police from 1836 to 1861 most interesting facts concerning old and historical roads in DeSoto County may be found. In the minutes of June 11, 1836, we find: "Ordered by the court that the following persons be a jury of view to examine and mark out or alter the Pigeon Roost Road, where the Horn Lake intersects Pigeon Roost Road on Section 20, Township 1, Range 6: Wm. McWilliams, James Wright, Mr. Baker, Daniel Harrison, G. C. Blackbeorn, James Blackbeorn, John Rhodes, and that they make a report to the next term of the court." (2)

This Pigeon Roost Road takes its name from the story so often told by the older citizens of the county, of the enormous droves of pigeons that light in the trees here, often causing large limbs to break off. It is also believed by these same old citizens that the Chickasaw Indians very often traveled this road in their journey across the county to "Bluff City" or Memphis.

In the "Chickasaw Nation" by James H. Malone, is the following account of the Pigeon Roost Road:

"Pigeon Roost Road was a commonly traveled trail by the Chickasaw Indians and DeSoto.

"The old Chickasaw trail came from the southwest after crossing Nonconnah and along the line of the Pigeon Roost Road, then passed up Browns Hill, thus abruptly ascending from the low to the high level country, some six or seven miles from the courthouse in Memphis." (3)

Other Old Roads Were: Star Landing Road, Norfolk Landing Road, Bass' Landing Road, Holly Springs Road, and State Line Road.

---

(1) Mrs. Julia Hinkle, Eudora, Miss.

(2) Police Court Minutes of June 11, 1836

(3) Chickasaw Nation, James H. Malone

From the Police Court Minutes of 1838, the following is taken:

"Wm. Johnson presented the following petition from several citizens for a road from the Marshall County line, beginning where the road intersects the county line near James Cathy's, on the west boundary line, near Marshall, to intersect the Tunica road at the line from Tunica to DeSoto, and that the following be a jury of view:

"Ordered by the Court, that the following persons be a jury of view to mark out a public road from James Cathy's, near the east boundary of the county, to the junction of the road from Tunica Courthouse to the county line: John L. Grayhorn, W. H. Singleton, W. C. Thomas, John Thomas, Wm. Jordan, John B. Reed, T. H. Rossell." (1)

"Ordered by the court, that Joseph H. Walker be overseer of the Holly Springs road from Coldwater Bridge to McCasson Bridge on Pigeon Roost, and that he work all the lands within his district not allotted to other roads.

"Ordered by the court, that Jos. Weilton and Wembley be commissioners to contract privately if they can, and let the bridge over Horn Lake Creek where the road from Hernando to Memphis crosses same." (2)

Police Court Minutes of January, 1848:

"Wm. Henry Johnston and others, commissioners appointed at the December term of the Court as the jury of review to change the due west road so as to run it off of the graveyard donation, this day made this report, in which they state that they have marked out said road as follows: 'To continue said road as it now runs to the southeast corner of A. McKissack's plantation, then leaving the old road and run due north on the line between said McKissack's land and the corporation of Hernando, until it intersects the first street running east and west, and then with said street until it reaches the present Panola Road. It is ordered by the Board, that said report be received and adopted, and that said road be established as revised.'" (3)

In these same records is also the following:

- 
- (1) Police Court Record, 1838
  - (2) Ibid.
  - (3) Police Court Record, 1848.

"Ordered by the Board, that C. B. Payne, C. Hamill, S. C. Jones, and R. E. Dogget be, and they are hereby appointed, commissioners to examine and report the probable cost of building a Bridge across Musekenny Creek on the lower Panola Road and report at the next term of the court." (1)

The minutes of the November term of Court for the same year carry the following:

"The Commissioners appointed at the September term of this court to let out the contract for the repairing of the bridge across Hickahala at Atkenson's Mill and superintend the same, this day made their report, by which it appears that they have performed that duty, and that the undertaker, P. Gracey, has repaired said bridge for the sum of fifty dollars, and that same has been received by said commissioners. It is, therefore ordered by the Board, that the clerk issue a warrant for Fifty Dollars payable out of the County Treasury in favor of S.P.C. Buford, to whom the said Gracey transferred said claim, and that said report and transfer be filed." (2)

Report in Police Court Minutes of January, 1848:

"Jacob S. Stephens, appointed overseer of the Memphis and Chulahoma Road from Cold Water Bridge to Cockrum Cross Road, at the August term 1847 of this court, this day returned his order, which was received in consequence of his moving moving away. It is, therefore, ordered by the court that I. Langston be, and he is hereby appointed, overseer of said road for the term of twelve months from this date, and work the following hands, viz: his own hands, Joseph Mason's hands, Jackson Holland, Conrod Stephens' hands, J. A. Stephens' hands, Moses Jacob, and L. F. Jacobs.

"James M. Price, appointed overseer of the Crockett Road from the center of the Crockett Section to the county line, at the September term of this court. Ordered by the court, that Henry Neely be, and he is hereby appointed, overseer of the Holly Springs Road from McCas-son's Bridge to the county line, for the term of twelve months.

"Ordered by the board, that Wm. H. Denty be, and is hereby appointed overseer of the Mill Road, leading

- 
- (1) Police Court Records, January, 1848  
 (2) Ibid, November, 1848

to Foster Mill for the term of twelve months from this date.

"Ordered by the board, that H. M. Jeeter be, and he is hereby appointed overseer of the McAnmich Road.

"Ordered by the Board, that Adam S. Little, George W. Barkinson, Peter Grantham, John S. Moore, Stephen Flinn, Stevin Watson, and F. A. Sane be, and they are hereby appointed, a Jury of Review, and decide to mark and lay out a road commencing at a public road leading from Memphis to Holly Springs on the south boundary line of Stephen Flinn's land, thence due east until it intersects a public road leading from Farmington to the north-east corner of the land of F. A. Sane, and that they make a report in this behalf at the present term of this court." (1)

"Ordered by the Board, that William W. Flinn be, and he is hereby appointed, overseer of the Memphis and Chulahoma Road for the term of twelve months from this date, and that he work from State Line to Charles F. Dandridae gate, with the following hands, viz: His own hands, Hugh Dickerson's hands, Mr. Rof's hands, James Ragland's hands, Holmes' hands, and overseer James A. Gray, and the hands of the late Thomas S. Gray, and overseer John Powell's hands." (2)

Police Court Minutes of April, 1848:

"Ordered by the court, that the change made in the Horn Lake Road by James Sexton, where it runs through his land be, and the same is hereby confirmed, and that said James Sexton put the road so changed in good order to be received by the overseer thereof." (3)

Police Court Minutes of March, 1848:

"Lawrence W. Evans, appointed overseer of the Commerce Road from Hernando to Hurricane Creek, at the March term, 1848, of this court, this day returned his order which was accepted. It is, therefore, ordered by the court that F. B. White be, and he is hereby appointed overseer of said road for the term of twelve months from this date, and with the following hands, viz: S. W. Evans' hands, Mrs. Jones' hands, T. Oliver's hands, Mr. Beloat's hands, I.C. Pryor's hands, and his own hands." (4)

- 
- (1) Police Court Records of July, 1848  
 (2) Ibid, March, 1848  
 (3) Ibid, April, 1848  
 (4) Ibid, March, 1848

## Police Court Minutes of May, 1848:

"Moses Jacobs, Joseph Mason, and A. F. McCain, commissioners appointed at the March term of court to let out building of the bridge across Cold Water River on the Chulahoma Road, this day made this report, stating that they had performed this duty, and let out said bridge at the sum of two hundred and eighty-five dollars to James Riley, to be insured to stand for the term of five years, which report was received and agreed to. It is, therefore, ordered by the Board, that said commissioners superintend building of said bridge and report to the court when the same is finished, and by them received." (1)

## Police Court Minutes of January, 1850:

"Upon reading and filing the petition of G. C. Murphey, John R. King, J. N. Bledsal, A. F. Bell, Thos. W. Soap, J. D. Mitchell, J. J. Dobbins, and others, this day prefer asking for an order to change the middle of the Panola Road, so as to run the said road through the bottom of Horn Lake Creek, to leave the creek some one or two hundred yards from the bridge, and turn south, or nearly so, until it strikes the hill; thence west until it intersects the old road. The court being satisfied that the proposed change would better the condition, it is, therefore, ordered that the phrases of the petition be granted, and that the petitioners be, and they are hereby authorized to make said changes." (2)

## Police Court Records, of February, 1861:

"Frank Holmes, overseer State Line Road; work from Maples Road to Memphis Road with the following hands, to wit: his own hands, M. Osbueolanes, F. Hildebrandt, Mrs. Hildebrandt's hands, Mr. Dixon, and Finley Holmes' hands."

## Police Court Records, of August, 1865:

A. R. Bowdre is appointed overseer of the Looxahoma and Senatobia Depot Roads for the ensuing twelve months, to work from Looxahoma to Senatobia Depot with all hands who properly belong to said road, and subject to road duty." (3)

- 
- (1) Police Court Records, April, 1848  
 (2) Police Court Records, January, 1850  
 (3) Police Court Records, August, 1865

Present Highways in the County

Abe Linker, from Oxford, is the highway commissioner for this district.

"The Federal appropriations for DeSoto County for 1936, amounting to \$236,207.03, was used in grading, draining, and hardsurfacing state roads in the county.

"There was no state appropriation for state roads in the county in 1936, however, the state spent on the maintenance of the state roads in the County of DeSoto \$13,079.50. This was not an appropriation, but taken from the state gas fund." (1)

In the Times-Promoter of January 16, 1936, we find the following recapitulation of DeSoto County road funds:

"Recapitulation of the DeSoto County Road funds in the Hernando Bank at the December meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

County road funds:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| First District road fund                    | \$1,140.72 |
| Second District road fund                   | \$ 395.00  |
| Third District road fund                    | 119.26     |
| Fourth District road fund                   | 78.61      |
| Fifth District road fund                    | 827.79     |
| Bonded road fund: Interest and sinking fund | 5,095.48   |
| Chulahoma-Pleasant Hill                     | 8,010.55   |
| Hernando-Memphis                            | 7,290.45   |
| Air line-Delta                              | 3,884.37   |
| Hernando-Belmont                            | 66.31      |
| Cockrum-Red Bank                            | 81.45      |
| Yazoo-Delta                                 | 1,673.14   |
| County maintenance fund                     | 750.72     |
| County bridge fund                          | 77.71      |
| First District Bridge fund                  | 14.18      |
| Second District Bridge fund                 | 6.74       |
| Third District Bridge fund                  | 4.25       |
| Fourth District Bridge fund                 | 4.82       |
| Fifth District Bridge fund                  | 15.05      |

Recapitulation of DeSoto County Road funds in the Olive Branch bank on December 28, 1935:

Pigeon Roost Road interest and sinking fund 12,500.00" (2)

(1) Abe Linker, Oxford, Miss.  
 (2) Times Promoter, January 16, 1936

J. W. Leigh, office Deputy Sheriff of DeSoto County, gives the following information on the tax collected for the various districts for the year 1935:

|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| First District Road Tax Collected  | \$4,642.13 |
| Second District Road Tax Collected | 2,819.02   |
| Third District Road Tax Collected  | 4,458.79   |
| Fourth District Road Tax Collected | 1,784.33   |
| Fifth District Road Tax Collected  | 7,202.08   |
| Belmont                            | 2,503.87   |
| Goodman                            | 1,494.16   |
| Pigeon Roost                       | 1,786.19   |
| Cockrum-Red Banks                  | 1,051.16   |
| Chulahoma-Pleasant Hill            | 1,217.83   |
| Hernando-Memphis                   | 7,500.30   |
| Airline-Delta                      | 5,542.19   |
| Yazoo-Delta                        | 4,130.59   |

The following is the amount of tax collected for 1936 in DeSoto County, by districts for six months, given by J. W. Leigh:

| 1936     | 1st District | 2nd District | 3rd District | 4th District |
|----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| November | \$ 23.36     | \$ 20.34     | \$ 8.19      | \$ 10.91     |
| December | 619.41       | 517.00       | 648.95       | 677.09       |
| January  | 2488.16      | 2156.68      | 295.07       | 569.67       |
| February | 142.60       | 212.60       | 124.50       | 109.32       |
| March    | 728.84       | 188.61       | 315.30       | 184.66       |
| April    | 210.62       | 115.26       | 145.65       | 37.68        |

| 1936     | 5th District |
|----------|--------------|
| November | \$ 66.15     |
| December | 1912.20      |
| January  | 4139.78      |
| February | 1278.58      |
| March    | 320.66       |
| April    | 227.98       |

Amount of Tax collected for Bonded Roads in the county for the year 1936:

| Month    | Pigeon Roost | Cockrum  | Chulahoma-Pleasant Hill |
|----------|--------------|----------|-------------------------|
| November | \$ 8.72      | \$ 19.28 | \$ 15.20                |
| December | 317.34       | 383.30   | 280.80                  |
| January  | 1633.18      | 1021.19  | 1261.46                 |
| February | 56.64        | 78.68    | 50.96                   |
| March    | 506.50       | 196.48   | 120.04                  |
| April    | 82.04        | 153.76   | 82.72                   |

| Month    | Hernando-Memphis |
|----------|------------------|
| November | \$ 30.48         |
| December | 1745.52          |
| January  | 4586.60          |
| February | 369.36           |
| March    | 323.53           |
| April    | 196.07           |

| Month    | Yazoo-Delta | Belmont  | Goodman  | Air line-Delta |
|----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| November | \$ 19.15    | \$ 42.36 | \$ 12.00 | \$ 3.73        |
| December | 2029.66     | 470.94   | 83.91    | 692.38         |
| January  | 1962.66     | 1689.09  | 689.60   | 6397.95        |
| February | 323.45      | 53.91    | 49.35    | 205.20         |
| March    | 544.03      | 43.42    | 41.65    | 606.28         |
| April    | 83.41       | 332.94   | 14.43    | 312.33         |

National Highways Through the County

Three National Highways pass through this county. They are: Highway No. 61, Highway No. 51 at Jefferson Davis Highway; Highway No. 78 at Bankhead Highway.

Highway 61 enters DeSoto County at the Lake View-Tennessee line, which is in the northwest corner of DeSoto County. Lake View, a post-hamlet of DeSoto County, situated on Horn Lake, and a station on the Yazoo and Mississippi Railroad, 18 miles northeast of Hernando. This highway extends on through the town of Walls, one mile east of Lake Cormorant, which is situated at the junction of the main line of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad and its riverside division. The Highway runs almost parallel with the Mississippi River, leaving DeSoto County at Penton.

The following interesting facts were found concerning the Jefferson Davis Highway or Highway No. 51:

The Times Promoter of January 27, 1916, states:

"We publish this week a map showing the contemplated routes of the proposed Jefferson Davis Highway. No route through this state has been decided upon, but a meeting will be held in Memphis to take action on this matter, under the auspices of the Good Road Committee of the Business Men's Club, and it may be that a route will be selected. The club extends an invitation to all citizens of DeSoto County who are interested to attend this conference. An effort is being made to interest people of the counties south of us to get as many as possible to attend."

"This road will be a part of a great Highway extending from St. Paul, Minnesota, to New Orleans, and the project should enlist the hearty co-operation of every progressive citizen."

In the Times Promoter of February 3, 1936, we find the following:

"At a mass meeting held at the Courthouse Tuesday, February 1st, the following named citizens of DeSoto County were designated a committee to attend the Jefferson Davis Highway meeting to be held with Business Men's Club, Memphis, February 17th, and 18th:

"F. C. Holmes, R. M. Banks, M. W. Jones, R. L. Redding, W. H. Entrikin, Will H. Harris, E. T. Wilkerson, C. E. Emerson, R. C. Clifton, S. W. Eason, T. F. Davidson, A. L. Emerson, A. J. Weissenger, D. E. Williams, G. A. Brewer, W. R. Counts, Mial Wall, J. Wat Vinson, Hugh Foster, R. P. Cook, E. B. Gwin, George W. Holmes, J. R. Vaiden, C. B. Mooney, W. N. Darden, D. M. Dockery, L. L. Pointer, E. S. Mosby, L. W. Mosby, J. B. Embry, W.E. Brantley, Lem Banks, W. T. Glenn, J.M.R. Anderson, R. W. Gale, W. A. Powell, C. A. Worthy, E. B. Coe, T. J. Dean, C. E. Barham, J. G. Davie, F. R. Wright, J. M. Hall, M. C. Dickson, Eben Nelms, Z. H. Nail, R. M. Davis, E. D. Lauderdale, W. A. Lauderdale; W. D. Halbert, J. C. Matlock, German Baker, F. L. Wright, Joe Clay Davis, E. P. Davis, Finley V. Holmes, J. B. Snowden, C. P. Winn, W. L. Durley, W. F. Wood, R. L. Cabney, E. S. Nichols, W. M. Barner, W. Hardy Harris, W. B. Gray, P. B. Marshall, E. W. Smith, T. P. Flynn, J. B. Mooney, W. S. Weissenger; F. R. Merrin, R.E.L. Morgan, N. E. Wilroy, W. B. Lambert, W. H. Banks, V. R. Thompston, R. K. Bailey, E. O. Rawls, B. F. Jones, A. M. Lauderdale, J. D. Fogg, B. F. Jones, E. F. Davis, A. L. Weissinger, H. G. Johnston, J. M. Wright, W. G. Gaines, I. C. Eason, J. U. Hays.

"All other citizens of the county interested in good roads are cordially invited to be part of this committee and help in every way possible.

"This is probably our last chance for many years to be on a great National Highway, extending from St. Paul, Minnesota, to New Orleans. We cannot afford to miss the opportunity for the great development that such a road will bring to us. So everybody get busy and help develop a plan that will convince the builders of this road that the route by Hernando, Senatobia, Sardis, Grenada, and south to Jackson is the only possible one.

Signed,

F. C. Holmes, Chairman  
S. W. Eason,  
R. P. Cook, Secretaries."

The Times Promoter of February 24, 1916:

"At a meeting held in the courthouse here last Saturday night to discuss the proposed Jefferson Davis Highway, and to take action on same, looking to get the Highway by Hernando, it was decided to send delegates to the Sardis meeting Monday to confer with other county delegates. The Sardis meeting was attended by Messrs. T. C. Holmes, S. W. Eason, R. C. Clifton, C. A. Worthy, R. P. Cook, R. L. Redding.

"At Sardis, it was arranged to have a large delegation from each county, if possible, attend the meeting to be held at Grenada, March 20."

Times Promoter of February 24, 1916:

"Jefferson Davis Convention.

"For some time various individuals, organizations, and newspapers have been advocating the building of a great highway through Mississippi - from Memphis to Beauvoir - to be called the Jefferson Davis Highway, and to connect with roads already constructed in the North, so as to form a great National Highway from Canada to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi.

"On February 17th a mass meeting, composed of representatives from many counties in Mississippi, was held in Memphis to make choice between routes proposed for delta and hill sections of the state. It was determined to build the road through the hill section. At this time it was also decided to hold a meeting in Grenada on Thursday, March 2nd, at 11 a.m. to consider and discuss the proposed hill county routes, and to agree upon a definite location.

"All counties are urged to call meetings at once, canvass their resources and select delegates to attend the meeting with authority to say definitely what their individual county will do for the enterprise, in the event that the road shall be located through it.



"While the road will be of great value to the entire state, it will be of incalculable value to those counties through which it will pass and whose important towns it will make more accessible. Cost of the highway must be borne by the counties through which it passes, and constructed according to plans and specifications of the National Highway association. Once it is built, it will be expected the U. S. Government will maintain it, as it does the Lincoln Highway from New York to San Francisco. "

New Route Proposed for Bankhead Highway

"People in the eastern part of the county are much interested in a proposed main route for the Bankhead highway, which now runs north from Holly Springs, through Byhalia and Olive Branch to Memphis.

"It is the purpose to change the route to run from Tupelo, as at present, but to turn northwest-ward through Pontotoc, Oxford, the eastern part of Tate County, striking DeSoto County south of Cockrum, running through that place to Lewisburg, thence to Olive Branch, and north to Memphis.

"This route, if chosen as the main road instead of the present route, would probably be made a paved road, and the Federal Government would aid in keeping it up." (1)

Since the above notices appeared in the Times Promoter of May 2, 1929, Highway No. 78 now takes its place with other leading highways through the county. It enters DeSoto County south of Mineral Wells, running thence to Olive Branch and Miller, leaving the county at Byhalia. Almost all of this highway is paved, and what is not paved is under construction at the present.

Every citizen of Mississippi is cordially invited to attend the meeting: Gov. Bilbo, Lieutenant Governor Russell, and all members of the Legislature have been invited to be present on this occasion. Hon. Dan J. Morrison, President, Mississippi Highway Commission, will address the convention on the occasion. A special train will leave Jackson on morning of the second, making all stops, in time to arrive in Grenada about 10 a.m. It has been arranged to have "Old Miss," leaving Memphis about 2:30 a.m. make stops for delegates and visitors at Hernando, Coldwater, Senatobia, Como, Sardis, Batesville, and Oakland. The Y. & M. V. train

(1) The Times Promoter, May 2, 1929

will leave Grenada on March 2nd at 4:00 instead of 1:30 p.m. Lend a hand and boost the Jefferson Davis Highway. Come and bring a friend. Line up your county to built up its link.

J. T. Thomas, President  
J. H. Dorrah, Secretary." (1)

Times Promoter of May 1, 1930:

Report of Condition of Highway 51

"Action is being taken looking to improving the condition of Highway No. 51 from the Tennessee state line to Jackson, Mississippi. Recently the Memphis Chamber of Commerce was advised by a Chicago Automobile Association that northern tourists bound for the Mississippi Coast were now routed east of Memphis, by Birmingham and Mobile, Alabama, instead of the more direct route through Memphis and into Mississippi, and DeSoto County over Highway No. 51. This action was taken on account of the condition of this highway between Tennessee and Jackson, Mississippi. There has been a noticeable falling off in tourist traffic over this route in the last few months, hence the necessity of doing something, if this tourist travel is to be secured and held for this route.

"A meeting for this purpose was held last Friday afternoon in Hernando; four citizens of Batesville and several of the town discussing this highway matter.

"It was decided to enlist aid of the various Boards of Supervisors from Tennessee to Jackson in putting this highway in proper condition for comfortable travel. The board will begin work on this highway to put it in first class shape at as early date as possible." (2)

Since the above notice appeared in the Times Promoter May 30th, Highway No. 51 has been paved from the Mississippi-Tennessee State line through Hernando. At this time, the highway is being paved from the south corporation limits of the town of Hernando to the top of the Dalehite Hill, at the edge of Coldwater Bottom in DeSoto County.

(1) The Times Promoter, May 2, 1929  
(2) The Times Promoter, May 1, 1930

In November, 1935, small evergreens and other ornamental shrubs and plants were set out along Highway No. 51 through Hernando by the Cartwright Nurseries of Memphis.

The banks along the highway have been graded and sodded with Bermuda, now making the Jefferson Davis Highway the most picturesque of any highway through the county.

#### Only One State Highway in County

The only State Highway in the county is Highway No. 3, which enters the county at the Mississippi-Tennessee state line, north of Lynchburg, and runs south to Eudora, turning due west at this point to Tunica County, leaving DeSoto County at the foot of the Bluff.

It was through the efforts of S. B. Dean, of Eudora, that this road was taken over by the state, releasing the county from its upkeep and greatly reducing the tax of the people in its locality.

Ex-Senator Dean, when he first made his appeal for the highway, desired to see it run from Highway No. 61, through Lynchburg, Days, and Eudora; south from Eudora, through Coldwater bottom to Tate County, thus giving the people of these lower farmlands a "farm-to-market road."

This highway is under the supervision of Dan Furgerson, of Batesville. He employs men to work and gravel the road, and it is in first class condition.

The most important secondary roads in the county are:

The Commerce Road, from Tunica County line to Hernando, the county seat of DeSoto; from here, east through Brights, Kileton, Lewisburg, Cedarview to Olive Branch, and is known as the Holly Springs Road.

The other, runs from the Mississippi-Tennessee state line through Plumpoint, Sullivan, Jago, Pleasant Hill, Wooten, Lewisburg, and Cockrum, leaving the county at Alpha, entering Tate County.

There are other secondary roads in the county which rank close to these in importance, but the above mentioned run through more towns and villages.

All secondary roads in the county are under the management of Supervisors elected by their respective districts into which the county is divided.

These roads are in first class condition, most all of them being graveled, and those that are not, will be in the near future.

Each Supervisor employs his own labor, paying them out of the County Road Fund, and modern road equipment is used in all the districts. In connection with the employed help, the convicts are used to build levees, bridges, and to help in the gravel pits. The convict overseers also employ men to drive trucks, to haul gravel to any road in the county that a Supervisor has built up for graveling.

#### Bus Lines

The Greyhound Bus, via Highway 61, goes through Lake View, Walls, Lake Cormorant, and leaves the county at Penton; a Greyhound bus runs from Mississippi-Tennessee state line to Hernando over highway No. 51; it also has a route over highway 78, in the eastern part of the county.

The Tri-State Bus runs from Mississippi-Tennessee state line through DeSoto County, over Highway No. 51.

#### Railroad Pioneering and Development

In 1837 a charter was granted to the Hernando Banking Company to build a railroad from Hernando to Commerce, and deeds for the land for this railroad are recorded in the first book of the Deeds in the Chancery Clerk's office. We find that on July 10th, 1838, deeds were given by several Tunica County citizens to the Hernando Railroad Company.

The contract to build this road was let in 1838, and work was started, the Hernando Banking Company furnishing the money.

There was at this time less than forty miles of railroad in the state. The railroad bed was finished to the foot of the bluff; the cross ties were laid, and all was ready for spiking down the rails when Governor McNutt, under the authority of the banking act of February 21st, 1840, revoked the charter held by the Hernando Railroad Company. (1)

(1) Taken from Tunica County Notes.

Following is a full account of Railway Development in DeSoto County by E. D. Holcomb, Superintendent Illinois Central System, Memphis, Tennessee:

"Probably no single factor has contributed more to agricultural and industrial development of DeSoto County than its railroads. When the first company was organized eighty-three years ago to build a railroad through this region, most of what is now DeSoto County was an unpeopled wilderness. There were then only seventy-five miles of railroad in the entire state of Mississippi, and these were crudely built of wooden rails capped with thin strips of iron, and were operated sometimes by wood-burning locomotives, sometimes by mule-power. Between what is now DeSoto and the Ohio River, there was not a mile of railroad in operation, and only one railroad in process of construction. That was the old Memphis and Charleston (now the Southern), upon which the first rails were being laid at Memphis. The nearest locomotive was running over what is now the Vicksburg Route of the Illinois Central System between Jackson and Vicksburg, some 175 miles away.

Such was the state of railroad development when a group of enterprising planters of north Mississippi gathered at the old Panola County Courthouse, at Panola, in the summer of 1852 to discuss ways and means for the construction of a railroad that would provide facilities for transporting cotton to the growing river port of Memphis. The railroad would represent a great improvement over the costly and difficult ox-drawn movement upon wretched roads, wholly impassable at certain seasons of the year.

This meeting marked the starting point of the railway development of northwestern Mississippi. A movement was set in motion for the organization of the Mississippi and Tennessee Railway Company, which, in later years, was to build what is now the main line of the Illinois Central System between Memphis and Grenada.

Among the moving spirits of the enterprise were: F. M. White, who became the first president of the company; Calvin F. Vance, J. C. N. Robertson, W. W. Smith, J. C. Armstrong, Samuel Martin, William B. Pollard, Thomas Bradford, N. R. Sledge, D. L. Childress, W. C. Maxwell, James B. Sharp, Joel A. Wall. Samuel Wilbourne, all of Panola County; John G. Brody, Allen Kuykendall, Green Moore, Alex Buntin, Samuel W. Garner, S. W. Garner, R. S. Burns, S. M. Hankins, R. Mullens, Robert Golliday, all of Yalobusha County; Henry Dockery of DeSoto County.

These and other local citizens applied to the Mississippi Legislature for a charter, and on October 16, 1852, the legislature passed an act incorporating the company, and naming these men as commissioners, empowered to solicit and receive stock subscriptions in their respective communities for the construction of the railroad.

The first spade of earth was turned at Memphis in September, 1854, and by October, 1855, rails were in place from the thriving young town of Memphis to the Mississippi-Tennessee line.

On April 20, 1858, the villagers of Hernando enthusiastically celebrated the arrival of the first railway train - the first locomotive and train of cars most of the inhabitants had ever seen.

The project was a formidable undertaking for that early day, and progress was slow. During periods of that year, when slaves were busy on the plantations, the work was all but suspended; at other seasons, when help was plentiful, the work progressed as rapidly as funds would permit.

By the close of 1858, all but twenty-three miles of the railroad was in operation. Two and one-half years later, on July 20, 1861, the "golden spike" in the construction of the railroad was driven at Grenada, where a connection was formed with the newly-opened Mississippi Central Railroad between Jackson, Tennessee, and Canton, Mississippi. At Canton, the Mississippi Central connected with the New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern, extending from that point to New Orleans. These railroads now form the main line of the Illinois Central System between Memphis and New Orleans.

While the railroad was under construction, the territory between Memphis and Grenada had taken on new life; new plantations were opened; land values mounted; cotton production increased; and settlers flocked in to swell the population of communities along the route.

The outbreak of the War between the States shortly before the road was completed into Grenada, temporarily halted these developments and virtually paralyzed the commerce of the territory. Few railway lines in the South suffered more heavily at the hands of the contending armies, and for months on, operations were at a standstill,

due to destruction of bridges, building, tracks and rolling stock. A graphic account of the havoc wrought to this railroad by the contending armies is contained in the annual report of the company for 1866.

"On the first of May, 1865" says the report, "we operated only thirty miles of road; the remaining seventy miles were a mere wreck.....bridges destroyed, trestles and culverts, and culverts rotted by time and disuse; depots, division houses and water tanks destroyed, cross-ties rotted, track torn up, embankments reduced to mere skeletons, with hardly enough rolling stock to make up one train....."

The report lists the following property destroyed by Federal and Confederate forces: Depots at Memphis, Horn Lake, Hernando, Coldwater, Senatobia, Como, Sardis, Batesville, Pope's, Grenada; machine shops at Memphis and Grenada; 36,960 feet of track; 7,584 feet of bridge and trestle, several turn-tables, section houses, and water stations, five locomotives, seven passenger cars, two baggage and mail cars, eighty-five freight cars, fourteen work cars. Of the destruction to property, about 57 per cent was attributed to Federal forces and 43 per cent to Confederate forces.

The cost of reconstruction during 1866 and 1867 totaled \$482,000 or \$4,820 per mile of road.

By the close of 1867 the road was again in running order, and its only interruption since that time has been due to the occasional visitations of flood.

In 1871 Col. H. S. McComb, president of a company which had acquired control of the Mississippi Central and New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern Railroads, came into control of the Mississippi & Tennessee. Until 1881 the gauge of these lines had been five feet. On July 31, 1881, the gauge of the Mississippi & Tennessee was changed to standard gauge - four feet eight and one-half inches - and on the following days that of the connecting line at Grenada was changed, enabling standard-gauge equipment to be operated between New Orleans and Memphis without change.

The Mississippi & Tennessee was consolidated with the McComb Roads in 1889, and on April the fourth of that year the properties became a part of the Illinois Central System. Since the acquisition by the Illinois Central in 1897 of the line between Fulton and Memphis,

status became so threatening in Mississippi that the Governor summoned a special session of the legislature to meet on April 7.

In April and May the legislature incorporated banks at Holly Springs, Vicksburg, Grenada, Port Gibson, and Lexington, as well as the Hernando Railroad and Banking Company. Felix H. Walker, of DeSoto County, proposed that the State issue \$20,000,000 in treasury notes, secured by real estate; but before any form of relief could be put into operation, and even before the adjournment of the legislature, came the great financial crash of May, 1867, and the general suspension of special payment through the county." (1)

#### Mississippi River Travel

Prior to 1818, boats navigating the Mississippi were designed chiefly for freight, with deep holds and heavy machinery. In 1818 the "General Pike," built in Cincinnati, was the first steamboat constructed in western waters exclusively for the convenience of passengers, and that boat was considered a model of its kind. Before 1830, the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers were covered with steamboats, but by 1834 the number of steamboats on western waters was 230; by the early '40's, steamboat tonnage of the Mississippi Valley alone was equal, if not superior, to the entire tonnage of Great Britain. By that time, the best boats could make the voyage from Natchez to New Orleans - 285 miles - in 22 hours; against the current, they could make a headway of 12 miles per hour.

The trip from New Orleans to St. Louis was made in four days and a half - a distance of nearly 1,200 miles. After 1834, the most magnificent steamer which plied the western waters was built in St. Louis, and the cost of passenger transportation from Natchez to Pittsburg, 1,700 miles, was \$33.00, including meals.

As the steamboats of the Mississippi and Ohio developed in comfort, and even magnificence, travel increased, not only in the prosecution of business and commerce, but as a means of pleasure. Opulent southern planters and their families traveled back and forth between their own estates and northern cities; steamships were in demand for this purpose, but the railroads, in time, gained upper hand of the transportation agency of the future, and relegated steamboat passenger travel to the background. (2)

(1) Heart of the South, Vol. I, Dunbar Rowland  
 (2) Heart of the South, Vol. II, pp 554-555, Dunbar Rowland

this railroad through DeSoto County has been the main route of the through passenger trains, as well as many through freight trains operated between Chicago and New Orleans.

The second chapter of DeSoto County's railway history was written in 1899-1902, when the Illinois Central System built the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad from Lake Cormorant through Crenshaw and Lambert to Tutwiler. This railroad, traversing the western part of DeSoto County, and known as the Lake Cormorant District, was built to provide a more level route for heavy freight movements between Memphis and New Orleans, and to tap a rich cotton territory not previously provided with railway facilities.

Prior to the opening of the Lake Cormorant District on July 1, 1902, the ruling grade between Memphis and New Orleans was 1.19 per cent southbound and 1.13 per cent north bound on the route through Vicksburg. The Lake Cormorant-Tutwiler route, through western DeSoto County, reduced the ruling grade between Memphis and New Orleans to 0.61 per cent southbound and 0.5 per cent northbound. This has the effect of reducing the effort required of locomotives and make it possible to operate heavier trains than is possible over the other two Illinois Central routes.

Throughout the 46-year period since the Illinois Central has been operating in DeSoto County, it has maintained the property at a high standard and has provided a transportation service equal to that of any other railroad in the lower Mississippi Valley.

"During the year 1836 there was great activity in the sale of lands opened up by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Cession, and the division of that vast territory into counties. The state had issued bonds, which had been readily sold in the East, and made the basis for a further expansion of currency. Railroads had been incorporated with banking privileges, and instead of building transportation lines, had given their main attention to issuing more notes. The State was crowded with land speculators, and active circulation of the currency fictitiously based on specie, was of advantage to them and not to the planters or business men. The bond buyers of the East became cautious and nervous, especially when Jackson pressed his policy of a return to specie payment, and, as a preliminary step, instructed the United States Land Office to demand coin in payment for land. By March, 1837, the financial

During early commerce of the river, the keel-boats, barges, and broadhorns floated and sailed down the river to New Orleans, and were tediously warped and poled back by hand. A voyage down and back would require nine months. After the steamboat intruded, these men continued to run down stream, but the steamers did up-stream business; the keel-boat men selling their boats, and returning home as passengers. At the end of about twenty years, the steamboats absorbed all the commerce, and the keel-boat died a natural death.

It is impossible to secure many names of boats that stopped at the landings before the War between the States, but we know that all of the New Orleans packets and the boats running from Memphis south, stopped at Austin, Commerce, etc. Some of the famous boats were - "Tuscarora," "General Brown," "Randolph," "Empress," and "Sultana."

In 1837, the Sultana made a record run of 1440 miles in six days and 15 hours. The Empress made the same run in six days and 17 hours. The others averaged twenty miles per hour.

We find that in 1840 the "Ed Shipper" made the same trip in five days and 14 hours, approximately 25 miles per hour. In 1844, one of the greatest boats to run the river, the "J. M. White," made over thirty miles an hour on a run from New Orleans to St. Louis. The "Missouri," in 1849, made an average of over twenty-four miles an hour.

The fifties marked a decade of fast boats. Some of the most famous of these were, "Belle Kay," "Reindeer," "Eclipse," "A. L. Sloutwell," "Princess," and the "Slotwell." All of these were very fast, and made record runs of over twenty-eight miles an hour.

The "Alac Scott" and the "Pennsylvania" were the two noted boats of Mark Twain, upon which he and his brother, Henry, worked. (1)

#### References

Rose Belle Shelby, Eudora, Miss.  
Mrs. Julia Hinkle, Eudora, Miss.  
Police Court Minutes, June 11, 1836, 1838, 1848, 1850, 1861, 1865.  
The Times Promoter, 1916, 1926, 1936.  
Heart of the South, Dr. Dunbar Rowland

(1) Life on the Mississippi, Mark Twain  
Heart of the South, Vol. I and II, Dunbar Rowland

Life on the Mississippi, Mark Twain  
 J. W. Leigh, Hernando, Miss.  
 R. F. B. Logan, Hernando, Miss.  
 R. L. Westerman, Eudora, Miss.  
 Van Spears, Eudora, Miss.  
 E. D. Holcomb, Memphis, Tennessee.  
 Tunica County Notes.

## Chapter XVIII

## THE ARTS

Practical Arts and Crafts

The name of Malone has long been indigenous to DeSoto County, not only for Walter H. Malone, of "Opportunity" fame, but of the several near-great brothers, who have achieved much in their respective lines of endeavor. It is incumbent then, that James Henry Malone, lawyer, historian, and once mayor of Memphis, and Dr. Ferdinand M. Malone be included in the history of our county, where now stands the beautiful sentinel-like bld home, which was a hallowed place to them during childhood, and which is still in the possession of the family.

James Henry Malone

James Henry Malone, brother of the poet, Walter Malone, and son of Dr. Franklin Jefferson and Mary Louisa Harlan Malone, was born near Athens, in Limestone County, Alabama, on October 31, 1851. When he was seven years old, he came with his parents to Germantown, Tennessee, where they settled on a farm. However, after a year's time, they moved to Walnut Farm, in DeSoto County, where they were destined to remain the rest of their lives.

James Henry received a good common school education in the neighborhood of his home, and a high school education at Montreat Academy in Tennessee. Because of stress of the times immediately following the War between the States, he was not financially able to go to college, but being of a studious disposition and an omnivorous reader, and having access to a fine library, he was able to equip himself with an ample education for a business life.

At an early age he decided to become a lawyer, and when barely twenty, he entered law school at Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee. Upon his graduation from this institution, he became a member of the Tennessee bar, and immediately took up his practice in Memphis. The first case he had of importance involved the dissolution of the

charter of the Turnpike Company, and the closing of toll gates on what is known as Pigeon Roost Road, which was charging excessive tolls over a road in wretched repair across Nonconah Creek, extending from Capleville to Memphis. (1) The case was won after a final appeal to the Supreme Court.

Throughout his lifetime, Malone never lost interest in the Bar Association, and his contributions over a period of forty-two years cover a very wide range.

The following papers were read at various meetings by Mr. Malone:

1893 - Necessity for Revision of Our Laws - both Constitutional and Statutory.

1894 - Judge Lynch and the Jury Law.

1900 - How to Relieve the Supreme Court Docket.

1911 - Penal Reform

1917 - Biographical Sketch of George Gantt.

1921 - Letter to Elias Gates, president, showing laws which had been enacted by the Legislature upon the recommendation of the Bar Association.

1927 - The Vindication of Andrew Johnson.

This last paper, under the title, "The Supreme Court Vindicates Andrew Johnson," with a few changes, was published in the April issue, 1927, of Current History, and attracted favorably attention.

The only office ever held by J. H. Malone was that of mayor of Memphis, for which position he was drafted by the public.

His classification as a historian is due mainly to his book, "The Chickasaw Nation," which is an authentic and masterful story of the Chickasaw Indian Tribe, beginning with legends of their origin, and continuing through all the vicissitudes of their romantic career. Competent critics have pronounced this book as worthy of a place in every library in the country, as a source-book on early American history.

(1) Three Friends - by William Bentley Swaney of the Chattanooga Bar (a Biographical Treatise not yet published).

Another interesting contribution made by this author is a paper on the ancient Chickasaw Trail, which became known as "The Pigeon Roost Road," and opened to travel by the Shelby County Court on October 22, 1828. This article was read before the Memphis Historical Society and was published in the Commercial Appeal February 26, 1928, under the title "Noted Pigeon Roost Road Reaches the Century Mark," and besides being of great historical interest, it is a great literary achievement. (1)

Dr. Ferdinand M. Malone, brother of J. H. Malone, likewise deserves mention as a historian of DeSoto County, because of his article on "Passenger Pigeons," which once nested in the county in flocks. This interesting article required months of diligent research and literary effort, and was read by Dr. Malone at a meeting of the Memphis Historical Society; and under the title "Passenger Pigeon Gave Name to Historic Road," was published in the Commercial Appeal November 4, 1928. Dr. Malone now lives on a part of the old Malone estate, near the old family home. (2)

Anna Gray Horn may be classed as one of DeSoto County's historians, as she wrote her master thesis in the Department of History at George Peabody College on DeSoto, her native county. The title of this thesis, "History of DeSoto County, Mississippi, 1836-1861," is self-explanatory, and indicates that it covers the period from the organization of the county in 1836 to the signing of the Ordinance of Secession in 1861.

Not only is Mrs. Horn a native of DeSoto County, but both her parents were born here, and the home of her childhood may be seen by all who travel the Hernando-Pleasant Hill Road. The farm is now known as Gray Lands, although her father of Scotch lineage, always referred to it, as Bonnie Braes. A strong religious influence pervaded the Gray Home, where the Cumberland Presbyterian Confession of Faith was closely followed, and family prayers held daily.

Mrs. Horn's early education was acquired in the schools of DeSoto, but believing in higher education, especially for teachers, in later years she attended several colleges, among them being: State Teachers College, Memphis; University of Virginia; George Peabody College; and the University of Chicago. Still later, she began traveling in her vacations from teaching, and lecturing to groups of students and women's clubs. Mrs. Horn frankly admits that she had some interesting and unique experiences in her travels through Europe, and in the Americas - from the arctic circle to the equator.

(1) Commercial Appeal, February 26, 1928

(2) Commercial Appeal, November 4, 1928

At present Mrs. Horn, by appointment from Dr. Dunbar Rowland, is serving as president of DeSoto County Historical Commission. Her work comes strictly under the Department of Archives and History. (1)

Thelma Cox Dietrich wrote the thesis for her M.A. Degree in the Department of English at Columbia University on "The Reconstruction Days," which gives her the rank of historian.

Mrs. Dietrich was born at Eudora, Mississippi, receiving her early education in the schools there; in later years she attended several colleges, among them are M.S.C.W., Columbus, Mississippi; and Columbia University, New York City. She served as Dean at Whitworth College for six years, resigning in order to marry last fall. She now makes her home in New York, but very often returns to visit her father, W. W. Cox, at his plantation home, near Eudora. (2)

#### Walter Malone

"A great poet produced in DeSoto County was Walter Malone. His prolific genius lent itself to lyric, the epic, the drama, and to literary criticism.

"It was during the trying times of Reconstruction Period that the youngest son of Dr. and Mrs. J. F. Malone was born in DeSoto County. Little did these parents realize then that this twelfth child, born February 10, 1866, whom they named Walter, was the member of the family that was to cause the name of Malone to become famous in the literature of our country.

"Walter grew up on the farm as a normal country lad. From early childhood he was sensitive to the beauty and freedom of nature, running and playing among the hills and woods. He was not a strong child, however, and during several years of his childhood, was ill with chills and fever.

"When he was seven years of age, his father died, leaving his mother with the burden of a large family and with a farm as the only means of support. Being a woman of rare powers, however, she managed her business in such a way as to be able to give her younger children as many educational advantages as possible during the trying Reconstruction Period.

"Walter's unusually bright mind came to the attention of his family early, as his love of books and his appreciation of nature were evident during his first school days.

- (1) Mrs. Anna Gray Horn, Pleasant Hill, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. W. W. Cox, Eudora, Miss.

When only twelve or thirteen years of age, he began setting down his thoughts in writing, and worked diligently, hoping that he might produce something of which his family would be proud. At fourteen, he had written a large collection of poetry; at sixteen, he determined to have these published in book form, but his only means of doing this was to get up a subscription list to cover the publishing expense. This he set about to do, and trudged many miles to various houses until he secured enough subscriptions to justify publication. The book, "Clarabel and Other Poems," was published by John P. Morton and Company, of Louisville, Kentucky, in 1882, when Walter was sixteen years of age.

"Almost immediately after the publication of his first volume of poems, Walter Malone's ambition to go to college was realized. An account in a paper of the founding of the LaBauve Scholarship at the University of Mississippi aroused his interest and hope. He at once called upon Col. T. W. White, of Hernando, trustee of the fund, whom he had met while getting subscriptions for his book of poems, and Colonel White was glad of the opportunity to provide a means for the education of the young poet, in whom he had taken a great interest. Arrangements were made, through Col. White's influence, for Walter to have four years at the University of Mississippi on the LaBauve fund.

"During his years at the University he continued his literary efforts, and at his graduation, was considered one of the best informed and most eloquent speakers ever sent out from this institution.

"Perhaps his best known poem is "Opportunity," which is a product of this maturing genius. The lines of this cheerful poem speak for themselves, as Opportunity addresses every reader:

#### Opportunity

"They do me wrong who say I come no more  
When once I knock and fail to find you in;  
For every day I stand outside your door,  
And bid you wake, and rise to fight and win.

"Wait not for precious chances passed away,  
Weep not for golden ages on the wane!  
Each night I burn the records of the day -  
At sunrise every soul is born again!



" Laugh like a boy at splendors that have sped,  
 To vanished joys be blind and deaf and dumb;  
 My judgment seal the dead past with its dead,  
 But never bind a moment yet to come.

" Though deep in mire, wring not your hands and weep!  
 I lend my arm to all who say "I can" !  
 No shame-faced outcast ever sank so deep,  
 But might rise and be again a man.

" Dost thou behold thy lost youth all aghast?  
 Dost reel from righteous Retribution's blow?  
 Then turn from blotted archives of the past,  
 And find the future's pages white as snow.

" Art thou a mourner? Rouse thee from thy spell;  
 Art thou a sinner? Sins may be forgiven;  
 Each morning gives thee wings to flee from hell,  
 Each night a star to guide thy feet to heaven.

" The epic poem of Walter Malone, "Hernando DeSoto," is considered his greatest work. Although not widely read, this poem is recognized, by those who know it, as one of great historical and romantic appeal. Its exquisite imagery, beauty of diction, and narrative qualities are blended in a remarkable whole. Its enchanting story so grips the reader that he wants to follow it through to the end. "

Note: The above article is an excerpt from "The Life and Works of Walter Malone," a dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Literatur in candidacy for the degree of Master of Arts, Department of English, University of Mississippi, 1930, by Emma Ruth Corban, A. B. University of Mississippi, 1929. (1)

Mrs. M. G. Robinson

Besides our great poet, Walter Malone, there are others in DeSoto County who have had poetical aspirations. One of these is Mrs. M. G. Robinson, of Pleasant Hill, who has written several poems; her favorite is "The Old Church," written in memory of the Old Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Hill, the first church established there before the War between the States. It was a Cumberland Presbyterian Church, located in a woodland about a mile north of Pleasant Hill. Mrs. Margaret Maxwell gave the land for this church, which was a frame building, painted white.

(1) Emma Ruth Corban, University of Mississippi, 1929.

It had a gallery inside, where the slaves sat; two aisles and three tiers of seats. The church was torn down about the time that the Presbyterian and Cumberland Presbyterian Churches united, and this poem speaks clearly the author's sentiment with respect to this old church of her childhood:

" The Old Church

" In memory still I hold the woodland dear,  
The woodland with the old church near;  
The woodman's ax the trees spared not -  
Stubble grows on the old church lot.

" How changed the scenes of other days!  
The children then, now go their separate ways;  
But in fancy it all comes back to me,  
The woodland, the church, again I see!

" In the old church I see them as they sat of yore,  
They pointed us to heavenly shore -  
The trees are cut down - the church is gone,  
But those dear old voices still sing on!

" In the hearts of their children, the songs are still ringing,  
To them the dear old voices are singing.  
Dear parents! the precepts you taught, the examples you set,  
While memory lasts can we ever forget?

" Though unseen only by the spiritual eye -  
Old church, you'll stand for aye!  
In spirit there is no decay,  
So, old church, you've not gone away."

Mrs. Robinson is a thorough product of DeSoto County, being born near Pleasant Hill. Her parents, John Marion Gray and Francis Wilson Johnston, were also born in DeSoto, and her grandparents were among the first settlers that moved into the county after it was organized in 1836.

Mrs. Robinson was first taught at home, and owes much of her early training in religion and literature to her parents. Later, she was a student in Gray's Institute, Nesbit, and from this institution she went to Pleasant Hill, having the happy fortune of being a student under Prof. J.B. Williams, a proficient instructor and scholar. She received her degree from Union Female College at Oxford, and afterwards taught many years in DeSoto. She is the author of many poems and short stories. (1)

---

(1) Mrs. M. G. Robinson, Pleasant Hill, Miss.

Lula Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Scott, of Love, was born October 31, 1913, attended grammar school at Coldwater, and entered high school at Hernando at the age of twelve, from which she graduated in 1930 as valedictorian of her class. The same year she won a medal offered by the Interstate Trust and Banking Company, of New Orleans, for the best essay on "The Economic Development of the Mississippi River."

In 1932, a poem, "If I had a Thousand Lives," was published in the Post, a magazine of contemporary verse, at St. Louis; the same year a poem, "Sunset," was published in "The Poetess," a weekly magazine devoted to verse from the pens of the women of America, St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1934, a poem, "To the Trees at Grenada College," was placed in the archives of that college.

"To The Trees at Grenada College

"For countless years they have stood  
And watched the nation's youth go by;  
Many are the prayers they have heard,  
Many a laugh and many a sigh.

"Strong and courageous are they ever,  
Though in many a storm they have passed;  
Showing the way of a Christian's faith  
To those who have wandered and are lost.

"Under their leafy branches pass  
The best of this land today,  
Gathering from their silent lips  
Strength to take the rugged way."(1)

John Hartman Oswald was born, reared, and educated at Horn Lake. A member of a family interested in poetry, Mr. Oswald has had many poems published in papers and magazines, several of which have been translated into Spanish and German.

The following poem was published in a Chicago paper, for which Mr. Oswald received a prize of five dollars:

"Thanksgiving

"To whom, and for what, Thanks should I render,  
If from sleep I wake on Thanksgiving?  
For glorious Nature in Autumn splendor,  
For health in the world I am living.

(1) Lula Scott, Love, Miss.

"For the sun 'Old Sol,' the fire of my days.  
The silvery moon and stars of the night,  
One warming the earth with its brilliant rays,  
All filling the skies with heaven's own light.

"For the breath I breathe and the winds that blow,  
For flowers that bloom so fragrant and fair,  
For what I believe and for what I know,  
For fields and forests and birds of the air.

"For the friends I have and the friends I've had,  
For the thought I think and the dreams I dream,  
For the days gone by when I was a lad,  
For this Thanksgiving - this hour supreme.

"For peaceful America, home of my birth,  
A soul acquainted with sorrow and mirth,  
For a dear old mother whose hair is white,  
Her thoughts of the day, her prayers of the night -  
I render thanks to God on high."(1)

Mrs. Eulalie Boore, of Walls, has written a number of poems and short stories, many having been published in the Press-Scimitar, of Memphis.

The following poem was read at a Christmas tree gathering at Poplar Corner several years ago:

"Christmas

" 'Tis an old and beautiful story  
That so often has been told.  
Of Jesus, who was born in a manger,  
On a night that was bitter and cold.

"How Joseph and Mary could not find  
A place in the Inn for the night,  
But were sent to a stall with the cattle  
Where there was no fire nor light.

"In swaddling clothes they wrapped Him,  
While the cattle, 'tis said, bent low,  
And for warmth, blew their breath upon Him  
For his greatness they seemed to know.

"Bright angels carried the message.  
And wise men from the East afar;  
Came to worship the little Savior,  
Led by the light of Bethlehem star.

(1) John Hartman Oswald, Horn Lake, Miss.

Lula Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Scott, of Love, was born October 31, 1913, attended grammar school at Coldwater, and entered high school at Hernando at the age of twelve, from which she graduated in 1930 as valedictorian of her class. The same year she won a medal offered by the Interstate Trust and Banking Company, of New Orleans, for the best essay on "The Economic Development of the Mississippi River."

In 1932, a poem, "If I had a Thousand Lives," was published in the Post, a magazine of contemporary verse, at St. Louis; the same year a poem, "Sunset," was published in "The Poetess," a weekly magazine devoted to verse from the pens of the women of America, St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1934, a poem, "To the Trees at Grenada College," was placed in the archives of that college.

"To The Trees at Grenada College"

"For countless years they have stood  
And watched the nation's youth go by;  
Many are the prayers they have heard,  
Many a laugh and many a sigh.

"Strong and courageous are they ever,  
Though in many a storm they have passed;  
Showing the way of a Christian's faith  
To those who have wandered and are lost.

"Under their leafy branches pass  
The best of this land today,  
Gathering from their silent lips  
Strength to take the rugged way."(1)

John Hartman Oswald was born, reared, and educated at Horn Lake. A member of a family interested in poetry, Mr. Oswald has had many poems published in papers and magazines, several of which have been translated into Spanish and German.

The following poem was published in a Chicago paper, for which Mr. Oswald received a prize of five dollars:

"Thanksgiving"

"To whom, and for what, Thanks should I render,  
If from sleep I wake on Thanksgiving?  
For glorious Nature in Autumn splendor,  
For health in the world I am living.

(1) Lula Scott, Love, Miss.

"For the sun 'Old Sol,' the fire of my days.  
The silvery moon and stars of the night,  
One warming the earth with its brilliant rays,  
All filling the skies with heaven's own light.

"For the breath I breathe and the winds that blow,  
For flowers that bloom so fragrant and fair,  
For what I believe and for what I know,  
For fields and forests and birds of the air.

"For the friends I have and the friends I've had,  
For the thought I think and the dreams I dream,  
For the days gone by when I was a lad,  
For this Thanksgiving - this hour supreme.

"For peaceful America, home of my birth,  
A soul acquainted with sorrow and mirth,  
For a dear old mother whose hair is white,  
Her thoughts of the day, her prayers of the night -  
I render thanks to God on high."(1)

Mrs. Eulalie Boora, of Walls, has written a number of poems and short stories, many having been published in the Press-Scimitar, of Memphis.

The following poem was read at a Christmas tree gathering at Poplar Corner several years ago:

"Christmas"

" 'Tis an old and beautiful story  
That so often has been told.  
Of Jesus, who was born in a manger,  
On a night that was bitter and cold.

"How Joseph and Mary could not find  
A place in the Inn for the night,  
But were sent to a stall with the cattle  
Where there was no fire nor light.

"In swaddling clothes they wrapped Him,  
While the cattle, 'tis said, bent low,  
And for warmth, blew their breath upon Him  
For his greatness they seemed to know.

"Bright angels carried the message.  
And wise men from the East afar;  
Came to worship the little Savior,  
Led by the light of Bethlehem star.

(1) John Hartman Oswald, Horn Lake, Miss.

"Once again 'tis the spirit of Christmas,  
The greatest day of the year.  
Let's all join in the broadcasting  
Some message of yuletide cheer.

"For though 'tis an old time story,  
All nations rejoice as when  
The angels came forth singing  
"Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men!" (1)

#### Drama

A review of the local field of Drama brings us the versatile Walter Malone, who wrote seven plays, the first four of which were published before he reached the age of twenty. "Inez," his first play, was written when he was only fourteen years of age, and published in his first volume of "Clarabel and Other Poems"; "Clarabel" written when he was about sixteen, shows some improvement over his first play. In his second volume are two plays written in blank verse. "The Outcast" and "Fair Rosamond" are both of a political and historical nature; the former dealing with plots to overthrow the existant government and place the rightful heir on the throne; the latter deals with the life of King Henry, the second, and is much shorter and less interesting than his former plays. Malone's last three plays were written in prose after his graduation from the University of Mississippi, but were never published. (2)

Dora Delia Dean: A young student in modern drama and stage technique is Dora Lelia Dean, born August 20, 1915, at Eudora, a daughter of Simon Bolivar and Bessie Bridgeforth Dean. Dora had a personality which manifested itself in the study of expression in her grammar school days at Eudora, and at Mississippi Synodical College, she pursued the study of expression under Miss Alice Reville Reppart, a pupil of the National School of Expression, Philadelphia, and her expression was completed by the study of music, in which she received a piano certificate. She entered the School of Fine Arts at Brenau College, Gainesville, Georgia, and is at present a senior student of drama. Her casts at Brenau Auditorium have been "Spirit of Christmas Future," in Dicken's Christmas Carol, and Captain Robert De Baudre court in the chronicle play, "Saint Joan." by Bernard Shaw. "In a Luxembourg Garden," presented March 9, 1936, by the Student Government Association, Dora was costume chairman. She has written a one-act play, "The Supreme Sacrifice of Nellie Dyer," which is historically significant of the settlement of Hernando. (3)

- 
- (1) Mrs. Eula Boon, Walls, Miss.  
(2) The Life and Works of Walter Malone, Emma Ruth Corban  
(3) Mrs. S. B. Dean, Eudora, Miss.

Maribeth Yancey, assistant dramatic instructor at Mississippi Synodical College, Holly Springs, was born on the Yancey Plantation, seven miles west of Eudora, in 1917. Miss Yancey has shown an interest in dramatics throughout her school years, and will be the only graduate in the dramatic department at that college in 1937. She plans to continue her education along this line and desires to write plays. (1)

Billie Shuford: Even though Billie is now among the other stars in Hollywood, we are pleased to claim him as a DeSoto Countian. He was born in Hernando, and lived there until he was three years old. His mother, Mrs. Lillian Wooten Shuford, planning a future for her young son, moved to California, and her dreams came true; for before Billie was five years old, he had been granted several minor parts in movie productions. One of these was "Peck's Bad Boy," in which he played with Jackie Coogan. (2)

Minor Latham, born in Hernando, where she spent her early childhood, is today acknowledged as one of the best dramatists of the county. Miss Latham graduated from Mississippi State College for Women, Columbus, and is today head of the English Department of Barnard College, Branch of Columbia University, New York. Since going to New York, she has written several dramas, which have gained distinction. (3)

Professor E. H. Randle, for many years head of the Fandale University School of Hernando, was one of the most outstanding educators of the state. His students testify to the fact that his ideals were of the highest type, that he thought of the needs of others often before his own. Whenever Dr. Randle had money on hand, he sent for boys and girls not financially able to attend school, and paid their expenses at his school. He instilled in his students regard for right doing and thinking above everything else, for the peace and satisfaction that it would bring them to know they had been truthful and honest. Besides being highly educated and an outstanding educator, Dr. Randle was a philosopher and writer. His book, "The Characteristics of the Southern Negro," has been widely read as a complete background and description of the negro race. "Antagonism of the Forces in Nature" is another book of Dr. Randle, in which he quotes many authors to prove his theory. (4)

- 
- (1) Mrs. W. E. Yancey, Eudora, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.  
(3) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.  
(4) Miss Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

Dr. Irby C. Nichols, professor of mathematics at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, has written a series of articles on Reconstruction Days in DeSoto County, which were published in Mississippi Historical Society, Volume XI. Dr. Nichols was born in Eudora, DeSoto County, on November 11, 1832, and entered the University of Mississippi in September, 1901. Three years later, he was given a fellowship in mathematics in that institution, which appointment he held until his graduation. He then became instructor in mathematics in the University of Mississippi and held this place until failing health forced him to abandon his position. He received his M. A. degree in 1908 from that university, and became instructor in mathematics at the Agricultural and Mechanical College, Texas, and has held his present position at Louisiana State University for the past eight years. (1)

Dr. Sam Watson, an early settler of Olive Branch, wrote a book of Spiritualism, a subject in which he was very much interested. This book, "The Clock Struck One," was published by Samuel R. Wells, 389 Broadway, New York, 1872.

The beginning of the book bore the following words:

"The Clock Struck One  
and  
"Christian Spiritualist"

"Being a synopsis of the investigations of spirit intercourse by an Episcopal Bishop, Three Ministers, Five Doctors, and others, at Memphis, Tennessee, in 1855."

"This book gives Dr. Watson's experiences with spirit communion, and bases his beliefs and experiences on Divine Truth. He states that Jacob, Moses, Ezekial, and others had visions of angels, and firmly believes that people today can see them. The following poem, with which Dr. Watson closed his book, is a short summary of its whole theme:

"There is no death. An angel form  
Walks o'er the earth with silent tread,  
And bears our best beloved things away,  
And then we call them dead.

"And ever near us, though unseen,  
The dear, immortal spirits tread,  
For all the boundless universe  
Is life - there is no death!" (2)

- (1) Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. XI  
(2) The Clock Struck One, Sam Watson, 389 Broadway Journal, New York City.

### Music

Among our promising young organists of today are Mrs. Hughey McCarson and Lucien Dent Minor, of Popular Corner. In Minor Memorial Church is the only Reed Organ in the county; both Mrs. McCarson and Mr. Minor are studying pipe organ at a music conservatory in Memphis, though at present, the music furnished by them is much appreciated by those attending church.

Elijah Ward: In DeSoto County a number of people play stringed instruments, and among the most noted is Elijah Ward. Being blind, it is necessary for him to support himself with his violin, and he is noted as the county's "Wandering Troubadour." He plays for community dances and gatherings, and has also been engaged for broadcasting over Radio Station WREC, Memphis, and WSM, Nashville, and has won several first places in fiddler's contests in this county and Tennessee.

Mrs. Madge Tipler Campbell, of Hernando, was born in Bogalusa, Louisiana, studied music eight years, and was coached by her mother, who was a musician of talent. At the age of fifteen, she composed two popular songs, one being "The Dance of the Butterfly." In 1935, she entered a song, "The Way That I Love You," in the Pictorial Review Music Contest, of which two of the judges were Rudy Valee and Paul Whiteman. (1)

Rev. Charles O. Cook, pastor of the Hernando Baptist Church, was born at Dublin, Texas, March 15, 1886, and continued his study of music throughout his high school, college, and seminary days. In addition to being a fine singer, he is a composer of sacred music, and when Bob Coleman collected fifty songs for a special hymn book, one of Cook's songs, "Would You Know the Loving Savior," was included. (2)

J. S. Barnett, of Eudora, was born near Brookhaven; before moving to Eudora about twenty-two years ago, he studied piano and voice from musical instructors at Brookhaven, and in olden days, when singing schools were so popular, Barnett was a leader in South and Middle Mississippi. In addition to being a pianist and singer, he has composed three sacred hymns, which have been published. (3)

- (1) Mrs. Mae Westerman, Eudora, Miss.  
(2) Rev. Charles O. Cook, Hernando, Miss.  
(3) J. S. Barnett, Eudora, Miss.

Mrs. Ida White Dockery Owens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Dockery, of Cub Lake, has contributed both her time and talent to organizing choirs for churches in her community. She studied music during her high school and college days, and for several years was pianist at Eudora Baptist Church. (1)

Mrs. Daisimai Ellis Garrett, of Eudora, who completed a course in piano from the University Extension Conservatory, Chicago, and studied under Professor Kroeger, St. Louis, and Miss Jennie DeShazo, Memphis, has for a number of years been a private music teacher. She was a member of the Tunica Choir, and is now a member of the Eudora Presbyterian Choir, and assistant organist. (2)

Mrs. Jennie Reed Dean, born in Chicago, May 27, 1872, came to DeSoto County after the death of her mother, to make her home with Mrs. Jobe Harrel, from whom she received her early musical and literary education, returning to Chicago to complete her music career. For forty-five years, "Miss Jennie" has engaged in teaching piano at Eudora, and has always graciously contributed her time and talent in forming choirs and giving musical entertainments. (3)

Organists: The little church at Oak Grove has one of the best choirs in the county. The organists are Mrs. Frank Nichols, Mrs. Mamy George Brigance McClain, and Master Eugene Riley. Members of the choir are: S. N. Dunaway, Joe Brigance, bass; Mrs. Irene Nail Dunaway, Miss Lucy Mai Dunaway, Mrs. Nina Nail Dunaway, Leon Bowling, and Mrs. Susie Nail, soprano; Miss Louise Dunaway, Miss Pearl Curtis, Mrs. Pauline Harris Jones, and Miss Pauline Manning, alto; Mrs. Imogene Craig and Mr. Jake Dunaway, tenor. (4)

Pianists: DeSoto County has several young graduate pianists; they include: Miss Juliaette Jones, Mrs. Mary Tipton Jackson, Mrs. Susan H. Wilkinson, Mrs. Mary E. Nichols, Miss Elizabeth McArthur, all graduates of Mississippi State College for Women. Miss Jones is now teacher of piano in Horn Lake Consolidated School; Mrs. Mary Tipton Jackson is now Tri-County Supervisor of Music under WPA musical program; Elizabeth McArthur is piano and public school music teacher at Pace. Mary Morgan, a native of Hernando, and graduate of Mississippi State College for Women, now has a studio and teaches in El Paso, Texas.

- (1) Mrs. C. P. Dockery, Eudora, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Sidney Garrett, Eudora, Miss.
- (3) Mrs. J. R. Dean, Eudora, Miss.
- (4) Jake Dunaway, Oak Grove, Miss.

Jerome Sage, a native of Cockrum, graduated at Mississippi State College for Women (I. I. & C.) in 1905, with a diploma in piano. She has been instructor in piano at Grenada College, Grenada, and at Mississippi State College for Women, and is now WPA Director of Music.

Rebekah Dean, librarian of State Teacher's College, Memphis, has been known in DeSoto County as an accomplished violinist for several years. Born in Eudora, August 27, 1901, Miss Dean studied violin under Preston Dixon, of Hernando, and Jacob Bloom and W. W. Saxby, of Memphis. Upon her graduation from Central High School in Memphis, she entered the School of Music of Sophie Newcomb College, New Orleans, and the next year entered the University of Tennessee, receiving her M.A. degree four years later. It was during this period that she became interested in library science. (She is today listed in Who's Who in American Education, by Robb C. Cook, and in Who's Who in library science).

Annie Mosley, now Mrs. Everett, who lives near Atlanta, Georgia, made her home in Hernando during her young womanhood, and is the composer of "Little Worn Shoes," "Black Mammy," and "Street Mackerel." (1)

Voice: In DeSoto County are several graduate students in voice: Mrs. Marshaline Wood is a graduate of Union University, Tennessee; Mrs. Mary V. Knox, Hernando, is a graduate of Mississippi State College for Women; (2) Eugene Clark, of Miller, studied voice in Memphis and in New York City, where he gained distinction.

#### Music Clubs

By the interest and effort of the following women of Hernando, the first music club, "The Hernando Music Study Club," was organized: Mrs. Ethel S. Cook, Miss Inez Emerson (for twenty years organist for the Baptist church), Mrs. J. R. Tipton, Mrs. Grady Johnson, Mrs. Tom Dean, Miss Tommie Davidson, Mrs. Lucile Holmes Bufkin. This club has been federated, and is today the center of the music life of the town. (3)

Ernestine Baldwin, piano instructor in Hernando High School, organized recently the Junior Music Club, which has been of great benefit to the Members. One month's program each year is devoted to "Original Compositions," each member being required to present a number.

- (1) Mrs. Mae Westerman, Eudora, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Marshaline Wood, Hernando, Miss.
- (3) Mrs. Ethel S. Cook, Hernando, Miss.

### Bands

During the eighties, a band was organized by the musical Dickson family of Hernando, and they gave concerts regularly in the courthouse square, on the same spot where the band stand is now. The members were: Annie Dickson, (now Mrs. Baker, of Memphis), an accomplished pianist; Glenn (Press) Dickson (violin); Luke Dickson (cornet); A. J. Spencer, Bright Morgan, R. P. Cooke (horn); Julius Tipton, (cornet); Richard (drum); Caffey Robertson (violin); George Banks, (cornet); and Jim Morgan. Their concerts were given regularly at the courthouse bandstand, and their music was enjoyed and looked forward to by citizens of the town. During this time, Henry Diecroger (German) and E. L. Bass were two of the leading singers of the town. Before the bandstand was built, practices were held on the roof of the old Henry Diecroger Home (now Brewer's store).

### Negro Music Groups

During the late seventies in the town of Hernando, some negroes gathered together for music-making and organized what was known as the "Chicken Pie Band," composed of the families of Simon MacMillan, Tom White, and King Chapman, who played for the dances of that day. Gradually, they lost some of their players and others were taken in, including Old Tom Young (B-flat horn), George Goolsby (snare drum), Will Rice (bass horn), Frank Patrick (horn), and Uncle Nat Jones (alto horn) who lives today to tell of their playing.

One occasion, of which he loves to talk, is when they played at the depot to celebrate the arrival of the "white boss" - Congressman Bright Morgan - of DeSoto County. Uncle Nat still believes that it was their stirring music which prompted Mr. Morgan to make a speech as he stepped from the platform, surrounded by his admiring friends.

Some years back, Jim Jackson's Band, of local negroes played for the smaller dances in Hernando; but for the large dances held in the courthouse, Cross Brothers and Saxby Bands from Memphis were used. (1)

### Public School Music

At present there are no bands or orchestras in the schools of the county. Piano is taught in Hernando, Horn Lake, Lake Cormorant, and Olive Branch Consolidated High Schools; Hernando High School has a glee club under the direction of Miss Ernestine Baldwin, piano teacher. Mrs. Lillian C. Martin, voice teacher in the Horn Lake Consolidated High School, who has had much experience in choir directing

(1) Nat Jones (colored), Hernando, Miss.

and in coaching singers, as well as in radio broadcasting from Chicago and other cities, conducts choral work in the school at Horn Lake. Mrs. Martin is an instructor in the Memphis Conservatory of Music, coming to Horn Lake for classes two days a week.

Mrs. Ruby Chain, former piano instructor at Olive Branch Consolidated High School, has, during the last two years, done valuable work with the Community Choral Club, which she conducted as Music instructor on the Adult Education Program at Olive Branch. Her class has put on several creditable programs at the Olive Branch Methodist Church, and at other towns in the county.

Public School Music is taught in Hernando, Lake Cormorant, and Horn Lake Consolidated Schools. (1)

### Painting

DeSoto County has one renowned miniature painter, Miss Light Monroe McClintock, who was born at Hernando, February 26, 1870. She studied in Memphis under Fannie May, and then in London, England, under Louis Kight and Charles Edgley, and while there did two miniatures of Thomas Carlyle and wife, to be placed in the Carlyle Museum in London. These were copies of portraits that had been made during the lifetime of Carlyle, and are still in the museum today. At the age of 61, or thereabouts, her miniatures were accepted in the Paris Salon two years in succession. She has also painted portraits of prominent Memphians and many others.

Tillie Monroe Pope, sister of Mrs. McClintock, born in Hernando January 3, 1878, has done many pictures in water colors. She finished at Heatherly's Art School in London, England, and studied under Louis Kight. She received first prize for water colors at the Nineteenth Century Club Exhibition in Memphis in 1900, and first prize for the best group of pictures the following year. These were landscapes made in London, England. For many years Mrs. Pope was art teacher in Memphis and Hernando; one of her pupils, Charlotte Gaylor, is a designer of much recognition, and an art lecturer at the Nineteenth Century Club. (2)

Annette Monroe Smith, painter in oils, was born at Hernando July 2, 1852, and died at the same place August 31, 1932. Studying art in Memphis under Miss Fannie May, she painted many landscapes, of which, perhaps the best is "Rain

(1) Mrs. Lillian C. Martin, Horn Lake, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. Tillie Monroe Pope, Hernando, Miss.



on the Mountain," now owned by Mrs. Tillie Monroe Pope. Miss Smith taught art in Hernando, Pleasant Hill, Byhalia, Mississippi, and at Brownsville and Dyersburg, Tennessee.

Mrs. Lee Fogg McCamey, now of Memphis, was born in Hernando, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Fogg. Her early training was under Miss Annette Smith, and her advanced training was at the Cincinnati Conservatory. She taught in Randle University School, Hernando, and in the Cincinnati Conservatory. Her painting includes water colors and oil paintings. (1)

Mrs. Powell: Another talented artist of DeSoto County is Mrs. W. A. Powell, (Mancy Bell Winningham Powell); she was born February 18, 1868, in Marshall County and was brought to DeSoto County two months later by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Winningham, who bought the beautiful old Colonial home which is now occupied by Mrs. Powell. Mancy Bell Winningham was educated in the Higbee School, Memphis, and at Mary Baldwin School in Staunton, Virginia. She specialized in art, working in charcoal, crayon, burnt wood, water colors, oil paintings, miniatures, and china painting. Her home, "Foreways," is filled with her handiwork; particularly the oil painting of a negro mammy, which hangs in the dining room, commands much admiration. (2)

Miss Clara Louise Rawls, is studying commercial art, and it is in this field that she expects to continue her career. In her senior year in Hernando High School, she painted the curtain used by the music teacher in her musical recital, and which received much comment and praise.

Miss Mary Lula Dean, born August 28, 1905, at Eudora, is the daughter of Simon Bolivar and Bessie (Bridgforth) Dean. Her early education was received at Eudora Consolidated High School, where she joined the art class under Miss Ada Williams, which was under the auspices of the Eudora P.T.A. Her drawings here, some of which were from casts, and some which were simple sketches in water colors, won distinct praise. While teaching in Darlington, North Carolina, her special interest was art, which she pursued under the Darlington Artist, Mrs. Mary Wel-ling. Several pastels in crayons, etchings, and oil paintings were produced. Her best picture, which hangs in the Dean Home at Eudora, is "Stratford on Avon." (3)

(1) Mrs. Mae Westerman, Eudora, Miss.

(2) Mrs. W. A. Powell, Nesbitt, Miss.

(3) E. R. Rawls, Hernando, Miss.

Mrs. D. E. Wilson, of Nesbitt, is an oil painter, many of her pictures winning considerable comment and praise. Most of these hang in the homes of relatives and in her own home. (1)

Miss Hazel Marshall, Hernando, has done a good many interesting pencil sketches, both during her high school days, and since her graduation from West Tennessee State Teachers' College. While at college she studied art for one year under Miss Marie McCormick. (2)

Mrs. Lorena Hill Latshaw, of Lake Cormorant, was born in Calhoun County, where her early education was received. She studied art under the instructor at Derma, attended college at State Teachers' College, Jacksonville, Florida, and took special training in art at Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Her work consists of photographic tinting, copy work, and landscaping.

V. W. Latshaw, of Lake Cormorant, was born in Michigan, where his early education was obtained. He had special training in art in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, at Dunn's Art School. He was working in his own studio in Ridgely, Maryland, when he enlisted in the World War, and while in the war, his work was that of doing photographic pictures for the World War Book. He developed, printed, and enlarged maps used by the American troops in locating the enemy. These developments were made from films taken by Aeroplane photographers. Mr. Latshaw's health no longer permits him to work at his cherished work. (3)

#### Practical Arts and Crafts

Roy McElheney, of Eudora community, has never had any training in wood carving, but is, nevertheless, very proficient, having made a number of interesting pieces which he sold for good prices. His most interesting work is a boat whittled from a solid piece of cypress wood, and in which is seated several men carved from wood, whose hands and feet are fastened on with pins, making them movable. The entire work is painted in contrasting colors. (4)

In 1935, Mrs. Mill, as Home Vistor for the E.R.A., held a class in basketry at Dean's Chapel for the negro women in that locality, and taught them first how to prepare honeysuckle vines to make beautiful baskets and trays. Numbers of negro men in DeSoto County weave their own cotton baskets from white oak bark, which is made into splints.

(1) Olin Wilson, Lake Cormorant, Miss.

(2) Hazel Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

(3) Mrs. V. W. Latshaw, Lake Cormorant, Miss.

(4) Roy McElheney, Eudora, Miss.

Chair bottoms are also made from them.

Maywood Recreation Camp for girls under 15, which is held at Maywood, near Olive Branch each summer, conducts classes in basketry and wood carving; small girls make many attractive baskets and ornaments during the summer camp. From honeysuckle grown in Hernando, a beverage set was woven by Hazel Marshall in 1929. This set, consisting of a tray, wine jug holder, and eight glass holders, was sold for \$15 to a State Senator's wife in Louisiana. (1)

#### Architecture

In DeSoto County, there are interesting examples of various architectural types.

The courthouse at Hernando is an unusual edifice, built on the plan of a Norman Castle. Colonel Thomas W. White's Place in Hernando is a mixture of French and Spanish design, the Spanish influence being shown in beautiful iron tracery, which adorns its verandas. The log house, so popular before the War between the States, and in the years immediately following the war, is still seen in the county. The homes of W. A. Powell at Nesbitt, the Millers at Miller, and the Finley Holmes at Plum Point, are of the Colonial type, and are truly old. Mrs. George Banks has a beautiful modern home, though fashioned in the Colonial style.

The Methodist Church at Olive Branch is a thing of beauty, having been built within the last decade. It is brick with large white columns in front, making it Colonial in design.

Dr. Richard Dean's home, on the Huddleston Place, about five miles from Eudora, stands on a hill which gradually slopes down to a large horse-shoe lake, making a pretty picture. The road leading up to this house crosses the lake, and over this lake road is a beautiful rustic bridge, which is a picture within itself. The house is a log structure of twenty rooms, all having hardwood floors; ceiling of the first floor is pecky cypress, and the walls are of the same; second floor ceiling and walls are composed of various hardwoods, oak predominating; overhead are large cypress beams, panelled in effect; third floor is composed of two large assembly halls, with anterooms annexed; chimney is constructed with brick and veneered with Arkansas field stone, and the massive stairway is of oak. French windows and doors are used throughout the house.

(1) Miss Hazel Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

The new Colonial cottage of Mrs. M. H. White, three miles east of Olive Branch, is a low, white structure with columns adorning its front, and sets in an oak grove. (1)

#### Landscaping

In Oak Grove Community, near Hubert Nail's store, is a pretty little park, land for which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Brigance, and they contribute towards the upkeep of it. Many large shade trees of different varieties throw cool shadows across the Bermuda sodded lawn, which is always kept well mowed. Dividing the park is an artistic driveway leading up to the Nail and Brigance residences. Shrubbery and flowers add to the beauty of the park, and rustic seats beneath the shade trees invite the passerby to rest; plenty of space for the playing of games is in the park, and the lights in different colors are furnished by Mrs. Hubert Nail. (2)

The Tomb of Felix LaBauve at Hernando is standing in the center of a small park, which is circled by a driveway and surrounded by an iron fence.

Nesbitt has a small park in the center of town, near the depot, that is laid off with flower beds and shrubbery. Almost every school in DeSoto County has its grounds landscaped and shrubbery planted; W.P.A. Beautification Project planted shrubbery and set out trees on many school campuses during the past year, and the courthouse square is landscaped, having many beautiful trees as well as shrubbery about the lawn.

Hernando's Garden Club of enthusiastic members, holds a flower show each spring in the courthouse and prizes are given for the most perfect ones, or those most attractively arranged.

Many pretty gardens are throughout the county, being both new in arrangement and old fashioned. The garden about the home of Mrs. Mildred Farrington and Miss Nellie White is typically ante-bellum, having been laid out by M. LeBesque, French Landscape Gardener, immediately after the war. Part of this garden was arranged before the war, and before the building of the White Home; LeBesque followed the original plan of the older portion of the garden in laying off the remainder of the lawn, and magnolia trees and shrubs lend charm to the romantic quaintness of the old garden, and it is easy to imagine the charming persons who must have walked in it in the days of hoop skirts, carriages, and Confederate uniforms. (3)

(1) Mrs. Mae Westerman, Eudora, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. J. J. Brigance, Oak Grove, Miss.  
 (3) Mrs. Mildred Farrington, Hernando, Miss.

Another garden is that of the old Whitney Place, the home of Mrs. A. L. Emerson at Hernando; it was laid off with boxwood before the war.

The G. Olin Wilson Home, near Lake Cormorant, has an unusual garden bordered with hedge, and gigantic yellow jonquils and narcissus arranged to spell the name Wilson. A winding drive, bordered with beautiful shrubs, bulbs, and pink roses, leads to the house.

Mrs. W. E. Yancey, of Eudora, has a beautiful garden which she landscaped herself. On each side of the wide door steps are cedars; along the veranda are hydrangeas of various colors, and beds of chrysanthemums and five varieties of iris grow luxuriantly.

The home garden of Mrs. S. B. Dean, of Eudora, was arranged by Vera Daniels, florist, of Memphis, who furnished the plants and flowers. A bed of hydrangeas of different varieties are around the circular porch; east of the house, the shrubbery consists of golden avavidas, arbelia, crepe myrtle, syringa, althea, purple lilac, golden bells, bridal wreath, barberry, and English ivy. This shrubbery is artistically arranged about the house and to the back of the rose garden. In front of the house are beautiful twin oaks which are old land marks. In the rose garden back of the house are many varieties of roses, arranged so as to give a beautiful blend of color; a hot house which contains many ferns and other plants is back of the garden.

One would not recognize the beautiful landscaped lawn of today at the home of Mrs. Percy Howard, of Walls, as being the cotton patch of a few years ago. A drive enters at the left of this lawn, and winds itself in a half-moon shape out to the west. The planting of trees, shrubs, and vines are so arranged that they soften the architectural lines of the modern Colonial type plantation home, native shrubs predominating.

The rock garden of Mrs. Ramelle Eason, with its background of shrubs arranged in the cool shade at the side of her home, is most attractive.

The beautiful lawn at the Banks Home (the Old Orne Place), is a fitting approach to the lovely old Colonial home, which forms a background for many beautiful shrubs.

Mrs. Julius Tipton, of Hernando, has a most restful shady lawn, bordered by shrubs.

The old Miller Place, at Miller, has gardens of both old-fashioned type and the more modern arrangement. The long avenue of boxwood to the front of the house is reminiscent of ante-bellum days, while to the east of the house, is a smooth-mown lawn bordered with petunias and shrubbery.

Boxwood is arranged in old fashioned design in the garden of Mrs. Annie Lambert's home; it was laid off prior to the War between the States.

The lawns mentioned here are typical of many other attractive ones in our county. (1)

#### References

- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Barnett, J. S.                  | Eudora, Miss.         |
| Boone, Mrs. Eula                | Walls, Miss.          |
| Brigance, Mrs. J. J.            | Oak Grove, Miss.      |
| Campbell, Mrs. L. S.            | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Cook, Rev. Charles O.           | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Cook, Mrs. Ethel                | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Cox, Mrs. W. W.                 | Eudora, Miss.         |
| Darden, Mrs. Ethel Gore         | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Darden, W. N.                   | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Dean, Mrs. S. B.                | Eudora, Miss.         |
| Dean, Mrs. Rebekah              | Eudora, Miss.         |
| Dean, Richard                   | Eudora, Miss.         |
| Dockery, Mrs. C. P.             | Oak Grove, Miss.      |
| Dunaway, Jake                   | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Emerson, Mrs. A. L.             | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Farrington, Mrs. Mildred        | Eudora, Miss.         |
| Garrett, Mrs. Sidney            | Nesbitt, Miss.        |
| Gill, Mrs.                      | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Goolsby, Uncle George (colored) | Pleasant Hill, Miss.  |
| Horn, Mrs. Anna Gray            | Walls, Miss.          |
| Howard, Mrs. Willie             | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Jackson, Mrs. Mary              | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Jones, Uncle Nat (colored)      | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Lambert, Mrs. Annie             | Lake Cormorant, Miss. |
| Latshaw, V. W.                  | Capleville, Tenn.     |
| Malone, Dr. T. M.               | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Marshall, Miss Hazel            | Horn Lake, Miss.      |
| Martin, Mrs. Lillian C.         | Eudora, Miss.         |
| McElhaney, Roy                  | Horn Lake, Miss.      |
| Oswald, John Hartman            | Nesbitt, Miss.        |
| Powell, Mrs. W. A.              | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Pope, Mrs. Tillie Monroe        | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Rawls, E. L.                    | Pleasant Hill, Miss.  |
| Robinson, Mrs. M. G.            |                       |

(1) Mrs. Mae Westerman, Eudora, Miss.  
Mrs. Julia Baraway, Hernando, Miss.

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Spencer, Mrs. Ida     | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Westerman, Mrs. Mae   | Eudora, Miss.         |
| White, Mrs. Nettie    | Horn Lake, Miss.      |
| Wilson, Mrs. Marie    | Nesbitt, Miss.        |
| Wilson, Mrs. Olin     | Lake Cormorant, Miss. |
| Wilkinson, Mrs. Susan | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Wood, Mrs. Marshaline | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Yancy, Mrs. W. E.     | Eudora, Miss.         |

(Refer to Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Historian, DeSoto County Historical Research Project, for all statements not specifically given).

#### Bibliography

Corban, Emma Ruth, A.B. Thesis, Life and Works of Walter  
University of Mississippi, 1929 Malone

Swaney, William Bently  
of the Chattanooga Bar  
Watson, Sam

#### Three Friends

"The Clock Struck One,"  
Broadway Journal. (New  
York; Samuel H. Wills,  
1872)

## Chapter XIX

### THE BAR

#### Lawyers of the Past in DeSoto County

According to information found in "A History of Mississippi" by Lowery and McCardle, Colonel Buckner, Major Vormery, and J. P. Campbell were among the early and prominent lawyers of DeSoto County. Further accounts of their particular service have not been available.

Other outstanding lawyers of the early times who practiced in DeSoto County were, Sargent S. Prentiss and Samuel J. Gholson.

From "Memories of Fifty Years," by W. S. Sparks, we quote the following:

"Prentiss was a high roller. He seemed to go all the gates and touch only the high spots. When he was not thrilling the multitude or captivating a judge with his eloquence, or fighting a duel, or betting on a horse race or cock fight, or setting behind four aces, he was having a good time, mingling the juice of the glorious grape of France with the genial companionship of his friends - the good fellow around the festive board.

"A story is told of Prentiss and Judge Gholson while practicing law in northwest Mississippi. They were stopping at Hernando, Late at night, Prentiss discovered that Judge Gholson and himself, who occupied the same room, 'were not the only claimants,' according to L. F. Bigelow, in his 'Bench and Bar,' 'for the possession of the bed, as he was vigorously beset by a description of vermin that do not make very comfortable bedfellows. Accordingly, he awoke Gholson, and a consultation was had whether they should not beat a retreat, or make an effort to exterminate their assailants. The latter course was adopted, and for the purpose they took from their saddle-bags a pair of pistols, with caps and powder and other

munitions of warfare. With pistols in hand, they proceeded to raise the bed clothing, and as the creeping insects started from their hiding places, bang, bang, would go the pistols.

"This, of course, aroused the worthy landlord, who came in hot haste to the room, and when he learned the facts, was in great rage. Prentiss demanded the landlord should leave the room, claiming that he was only exercising the right of self-defense, a right which the law of God had given him. Both the entreaties and the rage of the landlord proved unavailing, and the firing continued until the bedstead and the bedding were completely riddled with bullets. At last they succeeded in capturing one of the enemy, and a difference in opinion arose between Prentiss and Judge Gholson as to what should be his fate. At length it was agreed that the offending vermin should be fairly and impartially tried by a 'jury of his countrymen.'

"The bedbug was held fast by a pin stuck through him into the table. Three of the landlord's sons were brought in, and forced to sit as members of the jury. The prisoner was pinned to the wall, and Judge Gholson, who was a very able lawyer, opened for the prosecution in a speech of two hours in length; Prentiss followed for the defense in a speech of four hours. There were those present who had known Prentiss intimately, and heard him on the great occasions of his life, and who now assert that this was, perhaps, the most brilliant speech he ever delivered.

"The bedbug was acquitted, whereupon Prentiss pulled the pin from him, fondly caressed him, and said: 'Come to see me, I will have you for a bedfellow!'" (1)

Leonard J. Farley was born in Hernando, January 6, 1858. He received a scholarship on the LaBauve Fund, and attended the University of Mississippi from 1880 to 1884, graduating with second honors and distinction, and receiving the Bachelor of Science degree. Returning to DeSoto County, he taught school for four years, teaching at Plum Point, Olive Branch, and Pleasant Hill, and became Superintendent of Education of DeSoto County, and began the study of law at home. About 1890, he entered the office of Judge Sam Powell in Hernando, received instruction in law from him in apprentice fashion, and after a year or two, was admitted to the bar, became a

(1) Memoirs of Fifty Years, W. S. Sparks

partner of Judge Powell, and practiced law in Hernando from that time until 1910. Farley served as State Senator from DeSoto County from 1896-1904; ran for District Attorney in 1907, but was defeated by Hon. Hubert Stephens. In 1910 he became Professor of Law at University of Mississippi, and removed to Oxford, where he served as Professor of Law until 1921. In 1913 he became Dean of the Law School and served as such until 1921. In 1913, Mississippi College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. He died August 3, 1921, and is buried at Hernando. During the time that he practiced law, Farley served as special judge a number of times by appointment of the governor. While practicing in Hernando, he had a fairly wide reputation in North Mississippi, particularly as a criminal lawyer, being successful in a number of celebrated cases. One of his best known cases was the defense of some twenty members of a mob that killed Sheriff Pogue of Tate County. By changes of venue, various numbers of this mob were tried in Lafayette and Marshall Counties, and none were convicted.

Robert J. Farley, born in Hernando, December 7, 1898, and his father moved to Oxford in 1910. Robert was educated in the Oxford Public Schools, and entered the University of Mississippi in 1915, serving in S.A.T.C. as a sergeant from September, 1918, to December 11, 1918; he graduated with Bachelor of Arts Degree from University of Mississippi in 1919. He was principal of High School at Canton, 1919-1920; principal of High School at Natchez, 1920-21; re-entered University of Mississippi and studied law from 1921 to 1924, receiving a Bachelor of Law Degree. He served as Mayor of Oxford 1924-28, and was City Attorney for the next five years, and practiced in Oxford as a partner of Dr. T. H. Somerville until the latter's death in 1928, and then alone until 1931. Robert Farley was part-time instructor in law at the University of Mississippi from 1926 to 1930, receiving a Sterling Fellowship to Yale University for 1931-32. He entered Yale Law School and received the degree of Doctor of the Science of Law in 1932, then became Professor of Law at University of Mississippi, in 1932, and taught there three years. He served as Visiting Professor of Law at Tulane University in 1935-36; invited to remain there, he is at present Professor of Law there. He has contributed articles on legal subjects to Yale Law Journal, Mississippi Law Journal, and Tulane Law Review.

Felix LaBauve: From the Press and Times of June 19, 1879, we take the following:

"Felix Labauve, son of Captain Felix and Antonette LaBauve, was born in Veuziers, France, in the Department of Ardennes, on November 16, 1809. Left an orphan at the age of seven, he was brought to America and placed in charge of two maternal uncles, who had preceded him and had already become successful merchants in Camden, South Carolina. He remained there until 1834, when he was induced by the distinguished lawyer, Chapman Levy, to come and settle with him in Noxubee County. He remained there only a short time, and in 1836, emigrated to DeSoto County, where he continuously lived until his death. In the period of 46 years which intervened, the history of Felix LaBauve was the History of DeSoto County. When he settled here the Indians had almost undisturbed possession, and the less than a dozen white men scattered at intervals among them gave but little token of the advancing tide of civilization which was soon to sweep the red man away. Colonel LaBauve participated in the organization of the county, and from the time of his birth, until the day of his death, DeSoto County never had a truer or a more devoted son. He was often a member of the State Legislature in both branches, and was ever an active and intelligent representative. He visited his native land about fifty years after he was brought to America, only to find himself a forgotten man and a stranger. None who bore his name or blood could be found, and it was with some difficulty that he discovered his parents' graves, over which he caused a handsome monument to be erected. He made several more trips to France, and served as a commissioner to the Paris Exposition in 1878. Though he was proud of his nativity and his French lineage, the land of his adoption was the land of his love, and here his heart's best affections centered.

Felix LaBauve died June 12, 1879, at his residence in Hernando, in his 70th year. He bequeathed by his will the sum of twenty-five thousand francs to a distant relative's daughter, whom he found in one of his later visits to France. The remainder of his property, with the exception of a small legacy to some of his old friends, was left in trust to his life-long friend, Colonel T. W. White, for the purpose of educating at the State University, at Oxford, such orphan boys of DeSoto County as Colonel White during his life, and after his death the Chancellor of the University, selected. (1)

(1) The Press and Times, June 19, 1879



LA BAUVE. MONUMENT  
IN MEMORY OF PIONEER CITIZEN  
FELIX LA BAUVE

Sketch of His Life

In the Times Promoter of October 10, 1935, we find the following:

"This sketch of Felix LaBauve, written by the late R. L. Dabney, member of the Hernando Bar, is published because it will prove of interest to many readers. On the out-skirts of Hernando, but not a part of the Protestant Cemetery, is a lonely grave, inclosed with an iron fence; the grave being marked with a marble shaft with the inscription:

Felix LaBauve  
Born At Veuziers, France, On The 16th Day of November, 1809,  
Died  
On the 12th Day Of June, A. D. 1879,  
Age  
69 years, 5 months, and 26 days.

"But as lonely as this grave appears, it is consecrated ground, for Colonel LaBauve was a devout Catholic, and in his lifetime, by will, provided for his burial in accordance with the rules of his church.

"The subject of this sketch was the son of one of Napoleon's officers, who had conferred upon him by the Little Corporal himself, a sword and the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

"After the death of his father, and at the age of eighteen years, young LaBauve came to America about the year 1828. From the last mentioned date we lose sight for a few years, and until the Chickasaw Cession, in 1834. But at the time of the cession we find him established as an Indian trader in what is now DeSoto County, and located at the point of an Indian trail where the village of Cockrum now is. But when DeSoto County was created by the legislature of 1836, and the county seat was established at the town of Jefferson, which is now Hernando, we find Colonel LaBauve established himself at the last named place; in fact, at the first term of Circuit Court held in the newly-created county March, 1836, we find from the minutes of the court that Felix LaBauve and others were indicted by the grand jury for fighting a duel on the streets of the county seat; and the odd thing about this incident is that our Colonel was fined five dollars.

"When Mississippi seceded, LaBauve went out with the first troops from this county - Chalmers Regiment - and served until disabled. During the latter part of the war he served as probate judge of the county, and after the war, was in the active practice of law until shortly before his death.

"The subject of this sketch must have been a good business man, for he left an estate of something over fifty thousand dollars. By the terms of his will he left several one thousand dollar bequests to widows of DeSoto County soldiers who had been killed or who had died in the service. He made a devise of certain described Hernando real estate to the Natchez (Roman Catholic) in trust, for the erection of a Catholic Chapel on a lot designated and adjoining the lot which he had had consecrated as his own burial place. This devise in trust to the Bishop was held void under our statutes of Mortmain, and the property designed by him for the building of a Catholic Chapel went to his next of kin in France. He was a bachelor, and had no kin in America. The residue of his estate he created into a trust fund, the income from which was to be devoted to the education and maintenance of sons of DeSoto County Widows, at the University of Mississippi. This fund amounted to \$21,411.84, and many DeSoto County boys, and some who were not of this county, have been educated with the income of the LaBauve Fund.

Colonel LaBauve became clerk of the probate court in 1838; studied law, was admitted to the bar and practiced his profession actively, except during the times he was probate clerk, judge of the probate court, and while in the Confederate Army. He went to the army in April, 1861, with a DeSoto County Company (Company A), commanded by General James R. Chalmers. This was one of the companies composing the Ninth Mississippi, which later with the Tenth, was sent to Pensacola, Florida, in April, 1861. On arrival there, he became Colonel of the regiment.

Colonel LaBauve held many offices of trust, both under state, Confederate, and Federal governments. He served his state as judge of one of its courts, the Confederate Government as a soldier in the immortal 9th Mississippi Regiment, and the Federal Government on a special mission to France, under the Cleveland administration; and during the days of Reconstruction he went, heart and soul, with the people of the Old South, his adopted people. He was a gentleman of the old school,

of a high sense of honor, personality, responsible for his words, and actions, believing in the sanctity of womanhood, but with Henry Waterson - 'That after all, the shotgun was the proper preserver of the sanctity of the American Home'."

"Rest to his ashes! His memory is in the hearts of all true DeSoto Countians." (1)

Robert Edward Lee Morgan, a native of DeSoto County, was born June 20, 1870, being fifty-seven years old at the time of his death. He was a son of James Bright Morgan and Lizzie Daugherty Morgan.

R.E.L. Morgan was educated in the common schools of the county, in the Webb Academy at Bellbuckle, Tennessee, and in the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. He began the practice of law in Hernando in 1893, and became well known as an attorney throughout this section of the state. He became County Superintendent of Education in 1898, holding this office unto his death.

Early in life Mr. Morgan joined the Presbyterian Church; was a Mason, member of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Woodman of the World. He was a man of positive character, gifted with the power of making and retaining friendship, also possessed an alert and vigorous memory. He was very companionable, and his wide range of information and insight into human character made him an interesting conversationalist. He was a liberal contributor to the organizations or movements for county or community purposes, and to charitable and humanitarian causes.

In the Times Promoter of February, 1928, we find the following account of his death:

"Hon. R.E.L. Morgan, County Superintendent of Education and prominent lawyer of north Mississippi, died suddenly late Monday afternoon, February 20, 1928. Death was due to heart failure, caused by acute indigestion, which seized him while on his way home from his office. Mrs. Morgan saw that he was ill as he was entering his home, and a physician was hastily summoned, but death came as he arrived. His death was a great shock to all, because of the esteem that his fellowmen had for him." (2)

(1) Press and Times, June 19, 1879

(2) Times Promoter, February, 1928



Sam Holloway: In personal and local notes in The Times Promoter of June 7, 1928, we find the following:

"Sam Holloway, prominent Memphis attorney, who died a few days ago, was a former DeSoto County resident, having been reared a short distance south of Lake Cormorant, on the Penton Plantation of Colonel Ira Holloway, his father. He went to Memphis years ago and became a well-known and prominent attorney and business man, and was successful in accumulating a competence."

John W. Lauderdale: E. Scotto tells the following about John W. Lauderdale:

"He was born in Hernando, and educated in the public schools there. With his law degree from Lebanon, Tennessee, he married Mary Driver, of Senatobia, and they had one son, J. W. Lauderdale, Jr., who is practicing law in Grenada now. The Senior Lauderdale died October 4, 1913, and was buried at Bethseda Cemetery, Senatobia.

"He served two terms as Mayor of Senatobia; was a leading member of the North Mississippi Bar, and enjoyed a wide range of general practice." (1)

Douglas Clifton Lauderdale: The Tate County Democrat of April 29, 1937, has the following:

"The third generation of attorneys has gone with the passing of Douglas Clifton Lauderdale, who died Friday, April 23, 1937. He was 52 years old - born in 1885. He was attorney for the county Board of Supervisors at Senatobia, and died 17 days after the death of his father, A. M. Lauderdale, 90-year old attorney of Hernando.

"Mr. Lauderdale was born in Hernando, and attended the University of Mississippi, where his father also attended. After his graduation, he practiced law with his father, later going to Senatobia. He had divided his time between Senatobia and Memphis for the last few years." (2)

Mial Wall: From the Times Promoter the following is taken:

(1) E. Scotto, Hernando, Miss.

(2) The Tate County Democrat, April 23, 1937

"Hon. Mial Wall died suddenly at his home here Friday, March 21, 1930. In the passing of Mial Wall, the legal profession has lost a member learned in the law, with a devotion to the highest standards of legal ethics. He was uniformly courteous to opposing litigants and attorneys, as well as true to every trust and confidence reposed in him by clients and friends. He was a typical gentleman of the old South, and by inheritance and training, a Chesterfield in his manner toward all men and women alike.

"He was universally well versed in the history and development of the organized governments of the world, and was interested in the current development of Christian institutions. He had a deep appreciation of classic literature and classic music, and possessed a keen sense of humor. He admired all sincere leaders of thought and action, but gave little credit to those inclined to parade their virtues or wear false masks.

"Mr. Wall had a deep sympathy for the poor and needy about him, and made numerous donations for their comfort, which deeds of charity only became known, if at all, from the tongues of the beneficiaries. His virtues will live in the memory of all who knew him well." (1)

Lem Banks: In the Commercial Appeal of August 27, 1936, we find the following:

"Lem Banks, one of the pioneer advocates of diversified farming and improved livestock in the Mid-South, was born at Love Station, Mississippi, sixty-six years ago. He was educated at Webb School, Bellbuckle, Tennessee, and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, where he became a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

"In 1892, Mr. Banks went to Memphis and began practicing law in the office of Myers and Sneed. Later he became a partner of D. E. Myers, and at Myers' death, he formed a partnership with W.H. Harrelson. Banks served as one of Tennessee's Commissioners on uniform state law.

"Mr. Banks was not only known for his planting activities, but was equally successful as a lawyer, merchant, cotton factor, and breeder of pedigreed livestock. He also sponsored and wrote various agricultural articles, and with his uncle, Henry Banks, organized the Banks Grocery Company, and the Planters Cotton Company of Memphis,

(1) The Times Promoter of March, 1930

Tennessee, and also co-operated with Arkansas planters in the formation of road and drainage districts. He was a great advocate of soil improvement, and is said to have been one of the first planters in this section to advocate crop rotation by the reduction of cotton acreage." (1)

C. A. Marshall, one of DeSoto County's early lawyers, was born August 24, 1833, in North Carolina. When quite a small boy he moved to Pleasant Hill, with his parents, and received his education in private schools. (We have not been able to obtain information as to where he received his law training).

Mr. Marshall married Mollie Robinson, and to this union, three children were born: Pleasant Breese Marshall, Henry Edison and Maude M. Marshall. Breese served DeSoto County for sixteen years as deputy sheriff and eight years as Tax Assessor; Henry Edison was a lawyer.

C. A. Marshall served DeSoto County for two terms as member of the Board of Supervisors; one term as Representative (1882-1886), and one term as Senator (1888-1890).

Following is an article taken from the Times Promoter of August 15, 1912:

"Hon. C. A. Marshall, a well-known resident of Pleasant Hill, died at the home of his son, H. E. Marshall, an attorney of Harrisburg, Arkansas. He was a fine type of the old Southern gentleman, being gentle and courteous in manner, and possessed to a large degree the gift for making friends. He was prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, and at one time represented the county in the State Senate, and was a member of the Hernando Bar." (2)

R. L. Dabney: Another of our past lawyers of prominence was R. L. Dabney, who moved with his parents to near Lake Cormorant in 1857, when he was a small boy. He attended the schools of DeSoto County, completing his education at Hampden Sidney College in Virginia, his mother's state. He was admitted to the Hernando bar, locating first at Nesbitt, later moving to Hernando.

Dabney wrote several books which were never published; also wrote the life of Felix LaBauve, which was published in the Times Promoter - a local newspaper.

(1) The Commercial Appeal, August 27, 1936

(2) Times Promoter, August 15, 1912

For more than thirty years he served as counsel for the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Dabney died February 25, 1930, at his residence in Hernando, being a very active man and was practicing law at the time of his death, as a member of the firm of Dabney and Lauderdale. (1)

N. E. Wilroy: From the Times Promoter we collected the following account of the death of N. E. Wilroy:

"News reached here last Thursday night that Hon. N. E. Wilroy had died suddenly on the train that was bearing him to Hernando after the Legislature had adjourned. Death was thought to be due to heart trouble, from which he had suffered at intervals for some months past. When the train reached Canton a physician pronounced him dead, and his body was carried on to Hernando, accompanied by one of his fellow Legislature members, C. E. Riley, from Lambert.

"Mr. Wilroy, born in the Lewisburg community in September, 1874, would have been sixty years old, had he lived until September. His was a remarkable career, having served as District Attorney, as Representative in the State Legislature, as Chancery Court Clerk, and as State Senator.

"His boyhood was spent on a farm, but when he reached manhood, he entered the University of Mississippi, taking an A. B. Degree. He taught school for some time; was elected Chancery Court Clerk, going into office in January, 1904. He was elected for a second term, but resigned within a few weeks of its close, to represent his county as State Senator during a brief special session in the fall of 1911, filling out part of the unexpired term of the late G. L. Darden, who had moved to another county.

"Again entering the University of Mississippi, he graduated in Law and located in Hernando. In 1914 he was appointed District Attorney by Governor Brewer, and served out an unexpired term, returning to private practice at the close.

"He was married April 10, 1907, to Miss Margaret May, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. May, of Arkabutla, who survives him. He also leaves three sons, William Edward, Sidney, and Lake; also one brother, R. B. Wilroy, of Memphis, and a sister, Mrs. Ben F. Ross, of Oakville, Tennessee.

(1) Times Promoter, February, 1930

"Mr. Wilroy was a member of the Masonic and Elks Orders, also a member of the Order of Eastern Star, of the Woodman of the World, and of the Knights of Pythias; being past Grand Master of the last named organization." (1)

J. Elmore Holmes, son of one of DeSoto County's earliest settlers, Finley V. Holmes, was born at Plum Point, April 18, 1875, and was a graduate of the Literary and Law Department of the University of Mississippi. After a brief experience in the insurance business in Jackson, he became a partner with his brother, F. C. Holmes, in Hernando.

In 1907, he announced for State Senator from DeSoto County, but early in the year he withdrew from the race to accept the position as instructor in the law department of the University of Mississippi.

In 1911 he went to Memphis to practice his profession, and was very successful, soon becoming recognized as one of the leading attorneys of the city. He served as special Judge on the Supreme Court bench of Tennessee.

Mr. Holmes died Wednesday, August 27, 1935, of heart trouble. (2)

Judge James Bright Morgan, a true DeSoto County gentleman in every respect, early in life married Lizzie Daugherty. He represented this district in Congress, and also served as Chancery and County Judge. He was a gallant Confederate soldier, coming out of the southern armies with the title of Colonel; he played a conspicuous and honorable part in the state and county affairs during the Reconstruction Days.

Judge A. S. Buchanan: No record can be found of any of Judge Buchanan's works, but Mrs. Julia Hinkle, of Eudora, states that his father was one of the oldest citizens of The Bluff. Judge Buchanan attended the Old Shelter School on the Bluff, also Goodman and Gum Springs Schools. His father moved to Hernando in 1888 in order that Judge Buchanan could practice law, and later, his family moved to Memphis, where he became probate judge, which office he was holding at the time of his death.

James Greer McGowan, Judge of the Supreme Court, from the Third District, was born at Nesbitt, DeSoto County on September 19, 1870. His father, whose full name he bears, was a native of Lafayette County and of Scotch-

(1) The Times Promoter, 1934

(2) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.

Irish descent. His mother, Mary (Dean) McGowan, of Marshall County, was of English and Welsh ancestry.

Judge McGowan was admitted to the bar on August 11, 1893, and his ability soon brought him recognition. He served as city attorney from 1906 to 1913; Chancellor from 1913 to 1922; Judge of Juvenile Court, 1916; Member of Legislature, 1904-1908; elected Judge of Supreme Court, 1924.

Samuel Powell, who came to Mississippi from Kentucky in the thirties, was commissioned as Circuit Judge of the third district in 1876.

The following is a list of names of other lawyers who have served DeSoto County at the bar:

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| A. S. Meharg         | Hernando  |
| Captain John Fennell | Horn Lake |
| H.R.C. Foster        | Horn Lake |
| J. N. Campbell       | Horn Lake |
| M. S. Stokes         | Horn Lake |
| J. T. Holiday        | Hernando  |
| J. F. Lauderdale     | Brights   |
| John Foster          | Horn Lake |
| Arthur Foster        | Horn Lake |
| J. P. Campbell       | Horn Lake |
| Jobe Harrell         | Eudora    |
| J. H. Johnson        | Hernando  |
| P. S. Myers          | Hernando  |
| H. C. Watson         | Hernando  |

#### Present Day Lawyers of DeSoto

Gerald Weissinger Chatham, son of the late Wilbourn Chatham and Mrs. Anna O'Donnell Merriweather, was born February 17, 1906, at Hernando.

Mr. Chatham received his early education in the schools of DeSoto County, graduating from the DeSoto County Agricultural High School at Olive Branch, later receiving his B.S.C. and B. L. degrees from the University of Mississippi. He was admitted to the bar in 1931, and has served this county in his profession for six years, including general practice in justice of the peace, circuit, chancery, state, and Federal courts.

He served as County Prosecuting Attorney (1932-36), during which time he prosecuted four negroes who were

sentenced to hang for committing rape upon a white girl. These were the first persons to be hanged in DeSoto County in the past thirty years.

In 1935 Mr. Chatham was elected member of the House of Representatives (1936-40). He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Universities and colleges (1935-1940).

He married Miss Minnie Gabbert Holmes in 1932; she was the daughter of Herbert and Minnie Gabbert Holmes of Senatobia, and two daughters have been born to this union. They are: Anne Holmes Chatham, April 10, 1933, and Fone Gabbert Chatham, June 11, 1936.

In the Times Promoter of September 26, 1936, we find the following:

"Attorney Gerald Chatham is a member of the official "Who's Who" among the noteworthy young men of the nation. Two thousand young men were selected to make up the list for the 1936-37 edition of "Who's Who." Only men under forty-five years are eligible for selection, and they are chosen from men of achievement, of striking characteristics and ability, and who are beginning to rise in prominence.

"Mr. Chatham was nominated as one of the thousand by Dr. John Wendall Bailey, head of the department of biology of the University of Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Bailey had known Chatham for some time, and recognized him as a very promising young man.

"In the next edition of "Who's Who" among the young men of America, will appear a short biography of Mr. Chatham." (1)

R.F.B. Logan, son of the late S. E. and Fannie Pugh Frazier Logan, was born April 1, 1874, at Days, and received his early education in the schools of DeSoto County. His other schooling consists of: Avalon School, Avalon, Texas; Business College, Corsicana, Texas; Law University of Mississippi; (receiving L.L.B. Degree) Equity Jurisprudence, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and summer work at the University of Chicago.

Admitted to the Hernando Bar in 1903, he does general practice in the county, state and Federal courts. For six years he practiced law in Ardmore, Oklahoma, and DeLeon, Texas.

(1) Times Promoter, September 26, 1936

In 1907 Mr. Logan was married to Miss Elizabeth Threlkeld, of State-Line, Kentucky, and to this union one daughter, Ruth Hagan Logan, was born. She is a student in Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, from which school her mother was graduated when she was a girl.

Mr. Logan is a true gentleman of the Old South; though now 63 years old, he is still very active in the practice of law. He is a man of a positive character, gifted with a fine sense of humor, and possesses an alert and vigorous memory. He has been a liberal contributor to various county organizations, and has done considerable RedCross work in the county. 'Tis said that, perhaps he has given away a small fortune in his life, helping the unfortunate ones; but only from those helped do we hear these deeds of kindness.

Mr. Logan served as Deputy Chancery Clerk from 1898-99 under Maxwell; Circuit Court Clerk from 1904-1911, and is now serving as County Prosecuting Attorney. (1)

Henry Edison Marshall, son of the late C. A. Marshall, was born June 22, 1877, at Pleasant Hill. He was educated in the schools of DeSoto and Tate Counties, later finishing his law course at the University of Mississippi. After graduating in law, he was admitted to the Mississippi Bar, practicing for one year in DeSoto County, then moved to Harrisburg, Arkansas, where he was admitted to the Arkansas Bar. With the exception of an interval of five years, at which time he practiced law three years in Kentucky and two in Tennessee, he does general practice in county, state, and Federal Courts of Arkansas, and has served as special Judge in Chancery Court of Poinsett, Arkansas. (2)

Clarence E. Clifton, son of the late R. C. and Mrs. Lee Ella Dickey Clifton, was born December, 1900 in Hernando, and was educated in the public school of Hernando; Webb Academy, Bellbuckle, Tennessee; and received his degree in law from Vanderbilt, Nashville, Tennessee. After graduating in law, he was admitted to the Tennessee Bar, locating in Memphis, and during the illness of the Shelby County Chancery Judge J. E. Swepton, Mr. Clifton was unanimously chosen at a meeting of the lawyers of Memphis to sit as special Chancellor.

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. P. B. Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

The unanimous vote was a tremendous tribute to Mr. Clifton, as he is the youngest lawyer who has ever served as Chancellor in Division I, of the Chancery Court of Shelby County.

F. C. Holmes, son of the late Finley V. Holmes, was born December 5, 1869, at Plum Point. He received his early education in the private schools of DeSoto County, later (1890-92) receiving his B. S. Degree from the University of Mississippi.

After finishing his law course, he located at Hernando, going into partnership with Donald McKenzie. Later, he and his brother, J. E. Holmes, were partners until the latter moved to Memphis. Today, he and his son-in-law are partners. They do general practice, including justice peace, circuit, chancery, supreme, and United State Courts.

Paul H. Bowdre, a native of DeSoto County, was born September 24, 1895, and educated in the local common schools; Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas; University of Mississippi, and Northwestern University. He began practicing law in Little Rock, Arkansas, leaving his practice there to serve his country in the World War. After the war, he came to DeSoto County, and on January 2, 1924, married Miss Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of F. C. Holmes, and formed a partnership with his father-in-law, creating the firm of Holmes and Bowdre.

Mr. Bowdre is a man of positive character, gifted with the power of making and retaining friends. He has become well-known as an attorney throughout the state, possessing an alert and vigorous mind, and a remarkable memory. His wide range of information and convincing way has won for him many difficult cases in his practice.

Mr. Bowdre is now serving his second term as attorney for the Board of Supervisors, and has proven true to every trust and confidence placed in him.

Ethlbert J. Pollard was born June 19th, 1875, at White Haven, Shelby County, Tennessee, where he grew to manhood and attended the public schools. He attended a private school, also the West Point Male Academy 1897-98-99; and spent four years at the University of Mississippi.

Mr. Pollard read law while teaching school, and was admitted to the DeSoto County Bar, September, 1907.

He has filled the following political places: served in Mississippi Legislature 1908-12, and was a member of the extraordinary session in 1935; he was County Prosecuting Attorney from January 1st, 1924, until January 1st, 1932.

Henry Grady Johnston, member of one of the oldest families in DeSoto County, and a lawyer who has achieved rapid distinction in his profession, has already filled public office to the satisfaction of his community, and is prominently identified with many interests of the town of Hernando and the county. He was born November 20, 1890, five miles east of Hernando, on the old Stephen D. Johnston home place, which has been in possession of the Johnston family since it was occupied by the Indians, the father of Stephen D. Johnston having purchased it at that time - May 13, 1836. Henry Grady Johnston is the son of Joseph Samuel and Sarah Elizabeth Johnston, who were married January 10, 1884. He received his education in the public schools of DeSoto County, entering the Hernando High School in 1906 and remained there until 1909. In later years he matriculated in the University of Mississippi, receiving the degree of B. S. and LL. B. and graduated with the class of 1914. He at once begun the practice of law in Hernando and has been so engaged here since that date, with the exception of a brief period during the World War. He was appointed local attorney for the Federal Land Bank of New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1917, and elected secretary-treasurer of the LaBauve National Farm Loan Association of Hernando in 1921. For the years 1920-23, inclusive, Mr. Johnston was county prosecuting attorney of DeSoto County, and is now engaged in examining land titles in connection with the Sardis Reservoir Project on Tallahatchie River in Panola County, said to be the second largest flood control work of its kind in the world. Johnston enlisted in the United States Army, in September, 1918, and was serving in the Officers Training Camp at Camp Pike, Arkansas, when honorably discharged December 5th, 1918.

Fraternally, he is a Mason, being a member of Hernando Lodge No. 51, F. & A.M., in which he has held the offices of Treasurer, Senior Deacon, Senior Warden, and Worshipful Master. He is also a member of the American Legion, having attended the first State Convention in 1919, and in addition to holding active official positions in the local Post, he has served the State Department as District Commander for two consecutive years. He

is also a member of the 40 and 8, of the Legion; is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has served as superintendent and assistant of the Sunday School since 1916, of which time he was superintendent for eighteen consecutive years. While attending the University of Mississippi he was vice-president of the Y.M.C.A., and has also been elected several times as delegate to the Annual Conference from the Sardis District, and has been a member of the Board of Stewards of the Hernando Church for many years.

Mr. Johnston married Miss Rose Armstrong Blann, June 16, 1922, at Batesville, who was the only child of Will and Annie Bell Alston Blann. To this union a daughter, Sarah Frances, was born January 11, 1925. Mrs. Johnston is a member of the David Reese Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and has been active in the State and Federation Club work, as well as the work of the local Methodist Church of which she is a member.

Honorable F. C. Holmes, a native of DeSoto County, and a descendant of one of its oldest families, was born December 5, 1869. For ten years of his life he attended the public schools of the county, and two years he was under private teaching. He received his B. S. from the University of Mississippi in 1890, and from the School of Law, University of Mississippi in 1892, but freely stated that his greatest schooling had been the school of experience.

Mr. Holmes began general practice of law in the Justice of Peace Courts in the county, and has continued in the Circuit, Chancery, Supreme, and United States Courts, and his gentle, pursuant manner has won for him many difficult cases. He is a true gentleman of the old school, a man of a high sense of humor, with a devotion to the highest standards of legal ethics. He is courteous to opposing litigants and attorneys, as well as true to every trust and confidence placed in him by clients and friends.

John W. Barbee, born February 12, 1886, two miles west of Alden Station, has lived in DeSoto County all his life, being the son of John W. and Isabella Frazier Barbee. He attended public school (New Bethlehem), later Mississippi State; finished with B. S. degree from Bethel College, McKenzie, Tennessee, 1905. He was in the literary

department, Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee, one year, and received Bachelor of Law degree from that institution in 1910. He has been practicing law in county, state, and federal courts, and Mississippi Supreme Court since 1910, and is local attorney for Y. & M. V. and Frisco Railroad Companies. Elected as a member of House of Representatives in 1911, he served four years, then elected as a member of State Senate in 1915. He was county prosecuting attorney, first by appointment from the Governor, and then by election, 1916-20. Appointed by the Governor as special District Attorney 17th judicial district; also appointed special circuit court judge to preside over the regular terms at Summer, Tallahatchie County; Vaiden, Carroll County, and Winona, Montgomery County. Elected to State Senate again in 1923, served in 1924-26 sessions. Served as City Attorney, Hernando, since 1920. While a member of the State Senate, he was the author of legislative act, bringing motor trucks and passenger buses under the control and jurisdiction of State Railroad Commission. Was chairman of committee on levees while member of the senate, and was author of resolution amending state constitution so that members of levee boards were made elective by the people instead of receiving appointments from the governor.

Member of DeSoto County Executive Committee, also member of DeSoto County Election Commission for many years, and was on the State Democratic Executive Committee from Second Congressional District for seven years, being a delegate from this district to National Democratic Convention in 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson was nominated the second time. He married Cora Edna Seitz, of Magnolia, Mississippi, May 16th, 1923. They have no children. (1)

---

(1) Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

References

A History of Mississippi by Robert Lowry and Wm. H. McCardle  
 Memoirs of Fifty Years, by W. S. Sparks  
 Times Promoter, May 3, 1907  
 Mrs. P. B. Marshall, Hernando, Miss.  
 Press and Times, June 19, 1879  
 R. L. Dabney, Hernando, Miss.  
 Times Promoter, February, 1928  
 Times Promoter, June 7, 1928  
 Personal and Local Notes, Times Promoter, June 7, 1928  
 E. Scotto, Hernando, Miss.  
 Tate County Democrat, April 23, 1937  
 Times Promoter, February, 1930  
 Times Promoter, March, 1930  
 Times Promoter, 1934  
 The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, August 28, 1936  
 Times Promoter, August 15, 1912  
 Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.  
 Times Promoter, September 26, 1936  
 Times Promoter, January 26, 1928  
 Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

Chapter XX

LOCAL PRESS

County's First Paper

W. N. Darden, the present owner and editor of the county's only paper, the Times Promoter, states in an interview that the first record of the county having a newspaper was in 1847. This paper, known as the People's Press, was owned and published by W. S. Slade, but publication was suspended during the War between the States.

Due to the fact that the courthouse was burned during the war, no copy of the People's Press is available. However, after the war, W. S. Slade resumed publication of his paper, and the first record of this paper was in 1866. It was known as the People's Press until July 4, 1867, when it was changed to The Hernando Press, with W. S. Slade still editor and publisher. Copies of these papers are kept on file in the Chancery Clerk's office in the courthouse at Hernando, and are well preserved.

Slade's editorials were mostly on politics and history of the progress of the county.

Times and Press Combined

In 1876 the Senatobia Times was combined with the Hernando Press, after which the two papers were called the Press and Times. W. S. Slade continued as editor and publisher. Copies of this paper are on file in the Chancery Clerk's office in the courthouse at Hernando, in a good state of preservation.

In 1889, with W. S. Slade as editor and publisher, the Press and Times was changed to the DeSoto Times, and as long as Slade was editor and publisher of the county papers, he used the same style of editorials - those pertaining to politics and history.

In 1898, R.E.L. Morgan bought an interest in the DeSoto Times, and with Slade, published it for several

years. In 1897 the Promoter was established by George Slocumb and Frank Barlow, who, after a few months sold it to Mack Banks, Jr.

In 1900 R.E.L. Morgan bought out Slade's interest in the DeSoto Times. Banks and Morgan combined the two papers - the Promoter and DeSoto Times - and then it was called the Times-Promoter, under which name it is published today. Mr. Banks was the editor until 1902, when George W. Williams became editor. In 1903, the paper was sold to W. N. Darden and his brother, G. L. Darden, who were publishers and editors until 1911, when G. L. Darden sold his interest in the paper to his brother, W. N. Darden, who is still owner, publisher, and editor.

In January, 1926, the DeSoto County Democrat was established by J. B. Snider, of Senatobia, with D. D. Patrick as publisher; Dick Edwards as editor, and Miss Hazle Marshall as social editor and bookkeeper. There are no files on record of this paper, since only copies of the issues carrying county reports are kept on file. The Times-Promoter had the contract to do all county work. In 1929 the DeSoto County Democrat suspended publication, with the Time-Promoter taking over the subscription list.

The following are the names of the editors and publishers of the county paper:

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1847-1898 | W. S. Slade  |
| 1898-1900 | W. S. Slade and R. E. L. Morgan                                |
| 1898      | George Slocumb and Frank Barlow                                |
| 1898      | Mack Banks, Junior   |
| 1900      | R. E. L. Morgan  |
| 1900-1902 | R. E. L. Morgan and Mack Banks, Junior                         |
| 1902-1911 | G. L. Darden and W. N. Darden                                  |
| 1911-1937 | W. N. Darden   |
| 1926-1929 | J. B. Snider, D. D. Patrick, Dick Edwards, Miss Hazle Marshall |

Names of Papers and Magazines Down to Date

|           |                              |   |
|-----------|------------------------------|---|
| 1848-1898 | W. S. Slade                  | The People's Press<br>The Hernando Press<br>The Press and Times<br>The DeSoto Times |
| 1898-1900 | W. S. Slade, R.E.L. Morgan   | DeSoto Times  |
| 1898      | George Slocumb, Frank Barlow | The Promoter  |

|           |                            |                     |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1898      | Mack Banks, Jr.            | The Promoter        |
| 1900      | R.E.L. Morgan, Mack Banks, | Times Promoter      |
| 1902-1911 | G.L. Darden, W.N. Darden   | Times Promoter      |
| 1911-1937 | W. N. Darden               | Times Promoter      |
| 1926-1929 | J. B. Snider               | The DeSoto Democrat |

Outstanding Editorials


Political Conditions at the Close of the War

"On Monday last there was an unusual number of country gentlemen in town. The Probate Court was in session, and in our present issue will be seen the names of delegates appointed to the State Convention. The selection, we must emphatically say, is admirable, and if the State Convention will send a corps of such substantial, conservative men to the National Convention, it will go far to change the prejudice of the North against the true men of Mississippi. We favor the policy of this grand political move, because we do not see anything in it that can be construed as inconsistent with our well-rooted principles. We have well considered it, and so long as we live, no power on earth can influence us to belie our record. The equal rights of the South in the Union is the thing needful for its political salvation. This is the echo of the conservative South. We are not of those who can look on the Radical Party with a nonchalant air, doing their 'level best through legislation to patch up the "old Constitution" - to burden the planters of the South with enormous or oppressive taxation;' in brief, to force the white people of the South to wash dishes and do chores for their board in the future, without raising our little finger against the tyrannical abominations. When a gleam of light is presented to our vision, such as the National Convention, therein to strike the usurpers with telling blows, we are giving it 'aid and comfort.' The South is denied the right through her representatives to be heard in the legislative halls of the nation. On the name of her late heroic deeds, let her be heard in the National Convention at Philadelphia, through representatives fresh from the noble people. In this connection, we have no intention to pursue the matter of politics any further than we think it propitious, and in line of our duty as a journalist hereafter; to do so, as we have done on this occasion." (1)

(1) People's Press, July 19, 1866.



"All the negroes, especially those who prate so much of their friends, the Republicans, should read, or have read to them, Governor Longino's inaugural speech. His sentiments are those of the best white people." (1)

  
County Alliance Club

"The County Alliance will meet in extra session on the first Saturday in February, 1894, at Hernando, to take into consideration the address of the state officers, as sent out from Tupelo, Mississippi; President-Jamison, B. J. West, and Col. Connely, are especially invited to attend.

"The meeting will be open to all persons who are eligible to membership, and we hope all farmers will attend, as it is a meeting for business alone, and to discuss the subject of Co-operation, Economy, and Agriculture." (2)

J.C. Droke, President  
County Alliance Club

"The first quarterly meeting of the DeSoto County F.A. and O. U. will be held with the Ingrams Mill Alliance on Saturday, 3rd of March. Business of importance will come before the body.

"The purpose of the meeting is to establish a Trade Degree in the Alliance; to assist in reducing the expenses, and adding to the income of the farmers, by securing a quick transportation and profitable market for all his products, and the most economical system of purchasing his supplies. To bring him near the manufacturer and consumer, and to enlist the favors of transportation companies in developing the diversified resources of the farmer. Any honorable white farmer can become a member; five members can establish a trade degree. Politics and politicians will not be discussed at any meeting."

W. L. Glenn, Secretary  
Brights, Mississippi

"The DeSoto Blues will be organized under the charter from the legislature, on the 3rd of March; this organization is not intended solely for Hernando and

- 
- (1) Times Promoter, January 27, 1866  
(2) DeSoto Times, January 11, 1899

vicinity, but to be made up from the different parts of the county - Horn Lake, Olive Branch, Nesbitt, Cockrum, Love, Pleasant Hill, Oak Grove, Eudora - in fact the entire county is expected to contribute its quota of citizens to fill up the ranks of the company of 100 men." (1)

First Chinaman who Came to America

"The first Chinaman who came to America was Chum Ming in 1847. He was a native merchant of Nai Sang, intelligent and enterprising. He went to Montanz, dug gold, and wrote a friend, Cheong Yum, in 1848 about the new country. Yum came to the Pacific slope, but before doing so, told a number of his countrymen of the discovery of gold in America. At that time no steamer was available to bring them, so they came in sailing vessels. As soon as the tide of Chinese immigration set in towards California, the Yesng Wo and the Hong Chew, the first two of the present six companies, began the business of adding the shipments." (2)

Hurricane Tears Through Hernando

"A hurricane of tremendous force and sudden violence swept through Hernando at 5:45 last Thursday, March 15th, leaving behind a scene of desstruction never witnessed here by any of those now living within the incorporation, and creating indescribable havoc in many parts of the town.

"The storm was preceded by a warm, calm, cloudy period of short duration, following one or two showers. All day the powerful wind from the southwest held a fearsome manace for those who noticed. The top of a black cloud was discernable in the southwest shortly after five o'clock approaching rapidly, but lying low on the grounds. Rain first fell in sheets, followed by a hurricane increasing in violence so swiftly that it appeared that rain and tempest came together.

\*\*\*\*\*

"After the first fury of the hurricane had spent itself, there came another strong wind, which blew down trees, and greatly increased the damage already done.

"When it ceased and people were able to move about the streets, it was found that there were in many places a mass of wire and other wreckage. A few automobiles got about after the streets had been partly cleared.

- 
- (1) The DeSoto Times, March 1, 1877  
(2) The Press and Times, August 15, 1878

"The hurricane came up Mussacunna Valley, the cloud swinging low over the high ridge southwest of town. With cyclonic force it struck the houses on the Goodman place, lauing every building to the ground. J. W. Douglas and family escaped injury, but lost nearly everything. Moving swiftly across the field of Miss Nettie White, it continued its path of destruction up the valley to Bank's Company Gin, striking in the meantime the homes along both sides of the street running west.

"The home of Mrs. W. P. Harris, appeared to be in the path of part of the storm and almost wholly unroofed. Injury was done to the Davidson home across the street; slight damage to the residence of Mrs. Banks, the Smith place, and the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Darden, Miss Annette Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Redding on the north side of Depot Street.

"On the opposite side, a small portion of Mr. Tipton's roof was blown off in little patches about over the house. Some damage was done to the Day and Eason residences and to that of E. S. Nichols. The Williams home appears to have escaped any material damage. The Banks and Company Gin Building is almost a total wreck, the large smokestack lying across the main building. The porch of the Dalehite home was torn away. The homes of E. T. Wilkinson, Dr. J. M. Wright, and G. A. Brewer sustained slight damage. Mrs. Brown's home was not hurt to much extent, but the cottage north of her, occupied by Lee Bennett, was blown almost to the ground. The houses to the South of these last mentioned appear to have escaped, as well as all the store buildings on the southside of the square, with the exception of the Wat Vinson home and store building; the porch on the west side of the house, being carried over to the picture show theatre, and the houses and store unroofed.

"The storn struck the middle and north side of the courthouse square, laying Banks and Company's store low, blowing out the upper east side of Redding and Hayes on to Thompson's store; the roof was almost ruined, reducing the Bell frame building to ruins. The wood work of Banks and Company caught fire and was consumed. Fire broke out in the ruins of the Bell store, burning everything inflammable; spread to the Weissinger store, which was reduced to ashes, and was stopped only by the heroic work of the white and black volunteer firemen at Malone's place. Slate was ripped off the courthouse roof and a great hole blown through the tower. The estimated damage to the courthouse by wind and water was \$10,848.

"The residence occupied by T. J. Jordan was almost wrecked. It struck the jail and the estimated loss is \$4,385. East of the jail stood the old colored M.E. Church. It is a hopeless wreck.

"P. B. Marshall lost some windows and part of a porch. Alex Weissinger sustained serious loss in injury to residence and an out building. A large tree fell across the McArthur home, crushing in almost half of it. The home of Hardy Harris was practically wrecked, and the home of Mack Banks was unroofed and chimneys blown down. The old Foster home was badly damaged; part of the county as well as the town suffered, the extent of which has not reached us. Not a person was hurt beyond sustaining a few scratches." (1)

#### Notices of W.P.A. Work

"Officers of municipalities, counties, and those of the state desiring to work up a project to be financed by the W.P.A. will receive the full co-operation of the district and state officers and employees of the Works Progress Administration, according to a statement issued by Wayne Alliston, State Director.

"The W.P.A. is designed for the purpose of creating jobs for those on rolls of the E.R.A. in the states wherein it operates; in Mississippi for the 30,614 enrolled on E.R.A., he said.

"The initial step for any community, municipality or county to work up a project should be to consult their relief rolls and then design the project; if possible, to conform with their labor needs, to utilize as great a percentage of the labor on rolls of the E.R.A. as possible.

"In turn, labor available on relief roll must register with their county or the nearest re-employment office before it is eligible for employment on W. P. A. Projects.

"In working up a project, it would be in a measure defeating the purpose of the W.P.A. for an elaborate structure of brick and stone to be planned when a relief roll discloses two or three masons enrolled, compared with a host of carpenters and laborers; a frame structure or a farm to market road would be more in keeping with the ideas of the administration. A recently approved

(1) The Times Promoter, March 16, 1923.

project, calling for construction of a sewer disposal line, is a 100 per cent perfect project. Labor to be used in construction of the line was 100 per cent drawn from relief rolls, with the municipality furnishing all materials and equipment.

"If all projects in Mississippi were to be patterned after this one, the funds allotted to Mississippi in providing jobs for the unemployed during the ensuing twelve months would keep those on relief rolls employed constantly.

"Designers of the W.P.A., however, knew it was too much to expect all projects of this type, therefore, made provisions for the use of certain percentages of W.P.A. funds for materials, supervision, and equipment, with a relatively small percentage for the hire of labor not available on relief rolls.

"In this division of funds, there is no set gauge by which a project may be measured; the greater part must be used to employ relief labor, then the balance may be divided; to be used for the purchase of material, hire of equipment, and employment of labor not available on rolls of E.R.A.

"For example, a recently approved project calls for the utilization of 65½ per cent W.P.A. funds for relief labor; 5½ per cent for supervisory labor; the balance, 29 per cent, for purchase of material and hire of equipment." (1)

#### W.P.A. Program Instructing Adults

"The Adult Education Program of the Works Progress Administration for Mississippi, is making rapid strides towards the elimination of adult illiteracy in this state, according to the statement made by Frank Welck, who in company with A. L. May, State Supervisor of Adult Education, left Thursday afternoon for St. Louis to attend two conventions; one, a meeting of all educational directors and field workers of the W.P.A.; and the second, the National Convention of the Department of Superintendents, an organization within the National Education Association, stated that more than 100,000 persons were attending classes in Mississippi today.

"This number is composed of persons who have expressed a desire to improve their education, either in

(1) The Times Promoter, July 28, 1935.

the pursuit of a definite branch of study or are receiving instructions in special courses.

"Messrs. Welch and May will be on the program of the W.P.A. meeting Saturday of this week, making their report of Mississippi activities, and will lay emphasis on 'Teachers' Training in Service,' and other special work being done. Dr. L. Anderson, educational director of the W.P.A., will preside over the sessions.

"They plan to remain through next week end and attend sessions of the second convention, at which more than 15,000 outstanding educators of the nation will be in attendance.

"The Mississippi Program, Mr. Welch stated, prior to his departure, is flexible and the types of instructions given are designed to fit into the community eye in any section of the state, and can be adapted to the social or economic needs of any community. In this, an effort is being made to break down the stereotyped methods and procedure of teaching, and also to get away from the type of curriculum that has been in use in our schools.

"A report, in process of being compiled, and which will be rendered by Mr. Welch at the St. Louis meeting, shows the different subjects included in the educational program. It is indicated in the report that 565 teachers are instructing classes that range in size from a mere handful to more than 100, in the fundamentals of education, including reading, arithmetic, writing, spelling, health, home-making, citizenship, and problems of adjustment. Three hundred and nineteen teachers are instructing in basic subjects, including practical English, advanced arithmetic, current events, health, etc. In home-making classes, primarily for women, instruction is given in budgeting, clothing, health, child development, family relations, feeding the family, home improvement; instruction is given in music, including choral, piano, orchestra, and so on.

"Health instruction is included in practically every type of class that is being conducted, but 103 teachers are specializing in this important phase of the program. First aid is also embraced in the adult educational program, and 96 adult teachers, who have received special training in this work, in turn impart this knowledge to W.P.A. foremen and others interested." (1)

(1) The Times Promoter, February 27, 1936

Social Items

"The Ethiopian minstrels will give one of their interesting, amusing, and laughable performances on Friday evening, June 14th, 1867, on which occasion will be introduced several original songs and farces, together with vocal and instrumental music; comic and sentimental songs, negro melodies, jokes, conundrums, wits, jigs, dances, etc.

"The Virginia Mummy," one of the most laughable dramas ever introduced on the American stage, will conclude the performance. Quite a number of other amusing pieces will be performed.

"No expense or time will be spared to make the concert an entire success.

Admission.....\$1.00  
Children..... .50 (1)

Hernando Couple Quietly Weds

W. N. Darden and Miss Ethel Gore were quietly married here by Rev. Walton Lee last Wednesday night. The marriage was a complete surprise to the friends of the couple, and they will leave next Sunday for Washington, D. C., where they will reside, the groom having a position in the government printing service at that place." (2)

Odd Advertisements

"The Young Colonel, and other Tales, by R. W. Thomas, 670 pages, elegantly bound in cloth; price one dollar and fifty cents.

Charles L. Thomas  
Hernando, Miss." (3)

"C. L. Hence, hair dresser and Wig Maker - all orders for hair work of every description promptly attended to."

South of Postoffice  
Hernando. (4)

"T. C. Mullins, buggy trimmer, Hernando, Miss." (5)

"Wash Tub Drugery abolished by using The Challenge Washer and Wringer, Sold by D. W. Bristol." (6)

"Adam Denhard, Boot and Shoemaker, Hernando." (7)

- 
- (1) The Peoples Press, July 13, 1867  
(2) The Times Promoter, 1904  
(3) The Peoples Press, June 21, 1866  
(4) The Peoples Press, June 21, 1866  
(5) Ibid  
(6) Ibid.  
(7) Ibid.

"Dr. Warner's Health Corset, with skirt supporter and self-adjusting pads." (1)

"DeSoto Stable, Wood Pro's Prop'ors, Hernando." (2)

"Notice to Friends and Customers: I have my coffin shop located in the old post office building, and am ready for business. I have laid in some fine caskets and coffins, also burial robes, and if any of my friends and customers should have the misfortune to need any of them, I will sell them at a reduced price. Call and See me.

A. J. Spencer, Hernando." (3)

Notice of Levee Construction

Levee Construction Work will take in Bass Landing:

"Contracts for levee construction on the Mississippi River in the Yazoo Mississippi Delta Levee District, amounting to \$300,000 will be awarded April 3, at Memphis, according to announcement of N. E. Offenher, Chief engineer of the Mississippi Yazoo Levee Board at Clarksdale. Contracts will include approximately 3,466,000 cubic yards of earth, the chief engineer said.

"The work includes 16,000 cubic yards of replacement of slides on the Norfolk loop at Bass Landing; 7,573 lineal feet of enlargement of the present levee, and 24,418 lineal feet of the new loop extending from the lower end to Norfolk loop, about a mile above Lake Cormorant, to Clark, a total length of six miles, which will require 2,550 cubic yards of earth.

"Another contract calls for the construction of levee work one mile long at McClon Cross Line, a mile from Sherard, in Coahoma County, which will require approximately 300,000 cubic yards of earth. With the completion of these projects, the entire length of levees in this district will be built up to the new grade, consisting of 23 miles or 24 per cent of the lineal extent of the entire district according to Offenher.

"Levee work already completed and under contract totals 1,700,000 in value, and consists of 6,385,000 cubic yards of earth. The new projects will employ 200 men." (4)

- 
- (1) The Press and Times, 1877  
(2) The Peoples Press, February 7, 1889  
(3) The Times Promoter, January, 1913  
(4) Times Promoter, March 26, 1931

### Large Slices of Land Taken for Levee Purposes

Wednesday several strips of land from the Crump place on the Mississippi-Tennessee line to Tunica County were appraised and taken over for levee purposes.

The Mississippi River is digging into the land on the DeSoto side in places, and it was considered necessary to build new stretches of levee at several places.

Several hundred acres of land have been taken, probably the largest single piece lying on the Swoope plantation at Penton. A few acres, about four, were taken from the Crump place in the extreme northwestern part of the county, and a good slice taken from the Holloway place at Benton.

The men present who represent clients, levee board employees or otherwise interested were: J. A. Tyson, attorney for the levee board; Holmes and Bowdre, attorneys; Logan and Barbee, attorneys; Charles Strong, of Macon, attorney; Augustin Magruder, attorney of Starkville; Chief Engineer Offenbiser; assistant engineer McKay; S. W. McClesky, of Memphis; and the appraisers, Messrs. Hope, Huppivan, J. P. Shannon, and B. K. Allen. (1)

### References

W. N. Darden, Hernando, Miss.  
Hernando Press  
Press and Times  
DeSoto Times  
The Times Promoter  
Peoples Press  
Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

(1) Times Promoter, April 23, 1931

## Chapter XXI

### HEALTH

---

### Personnel of First Board of Health

The first State Board of Health (1877) consisted of the following men: Dr. Robert K. Ellis, president, Jackson; Dr. Wert Johnson, secretary, Jackson; Dr. S. U. D. Hill, Macon; Dr. P. J. McCormick, Yazoo City; Dr. A. J. Smythe, Baldwin; Dr. C. A. Rice, Brandon; Dr. A. H. Cage, Canton; Dr. L. W. Hughes, Grenada; Dr. J.M. Taylor, Corinth; Dr. W. M. Compton, Jackson; Dr. John Wright, Sardis, Dr. R. G. Wharton, Port Gibson; Dr. F. W. Dancy, Holly Springs. (1)

### Present State Board of Health - 1937

Dr. J. W. Lipscomb, president, Columbus; Dr. Felix J. Underwood, secretary, Jackson; Dr. L. B. Austin, Rose-dale; Dr. W. H. Frizell, Brookhaven; Dr. B. J. Shaw, Slate Springs; Dr. John Darrington, Yazoo City; Dr. S.E. Eason, New Albany; Dr. W. H. Banks, Philadelphia; Dr. W. A. Dearman, Gulfport; Dr. W. R. Wright, Jackson. (2)

### Epidemics of Mississippi

Yellow fever epidemic: This awful disease was ravaging the population of Memphis to such an extent in 1878 that the people came to Hernando trying to escape the deadly disease.

"At a meeting of the citizens of Hernando, Hon. J.B. Morgan explained that the object was to select some house for a yellow fever hospital, in event one was needed. There being no houses available, Senator Harris volunteered to build a hospital. This disease soon became so serious that it was necessary to have a hospital - all business houses were closed. There were 175 registered cases of yellow fever, with a registered death list of seventy-one. It will be observed that the mortality of this plague was quite heavy, when it is considered that the population was not over 250, all told. The actual loss of Hernando

(1) Health Syllabus, State of Mississippi  
(2) Twenty-ninth Biennial Report of State Board of Health

people by death from yellow fever was sixty-five. Among this number were some of the truest Christian and enterprising citizens, whose places could not be filled. (1)

"For the first time in the history of Hernando, it was visited by disease in epidemic form, leaving empty homes and newly-made graves - a calamity which shall be long remembered.

"Upon the outbreak of the yellow fever in other places, they declined to establish here any quarantine against their fleeing citizens, but on the contrary, threw open hearts and doors to all comers. Sad and bitter was the penalty of such indiscretion.

"In the short space of sixty days, amid a population reduced by an exodus which ensued at the outbreak of the disease, to less than 250 souls, of all ages and both races, there occurred 176 cases and seventy-one deaths. This frightful mortality, more deadly than any battle, pervaded all classes and ages, until, of the families who remained, there were only few who do not mourn the death of some member. Wives were bereft of husbands, and husbands of wives; children were torn from their parents, or themselves left orphans without father or mother; in some instances whole families were blotted out." (2)

We find in the Press and Times of December 5, 1878, an account of a relief committee being formed with the organization as follows:

Dr. E. Bullington, president; E. J. Vorndran, vice president; D. McKenzie, treasurer; R. Hickling, secretary; G. W. Dickson, assistant secretary.

Purpose: "To secure the cooperation of its members in mutually aiding each other should Hernando be visited by yellow fever as an epidemic and to relieve and aid all destitute citizens or residents of Hernando. Money for the use of the committee was raised by subscriptions (\$630.30) but was not sufficient. Other aid came from a relief committee at Washington but was not called for until it was actually needed. The work of the committee was to secure for the sick prompt medical attention and proper nursing; provisions and fuel for the sick and destitute, and burial for the dead.

(1) Press and Times, Nov. 21, 1878

(2) Press and Times, Dec. 12, 1878

"Two doctors were employed from September 21 to October 28, and they were furnished buggies and drivers. Drs. Powell, Westbrook, and Saunders were the physicians; Dr. Powell died September 25 of the fever after a short illness; Dr. Westbrook was taken with a violent case on October 11, on which date Dr. T. Jones reported for duty and continued with Dr. Saunders until the close of the siege of the yellow fever.

"Burials during the epidemic were conducted by the committee except in one or two instances. This committee procured the coffin, saw that the body was placed in it, and buried within two to six hours after death when possible and that the graves were four and one-half feet deep. Without trouble or responsibility to the family afflicted.

"The committee as first appointed included E.J. Vorndran and V. J. Philippi. When Mr. Vorndran died September 25, George Kaplin was appointed in his stead, and Mr. Kaplin died October 16. Another member of the committee, Mr. Baker, died October 22. No member who came in actual contact with the sick except Dr. Saunders and Dr. Jones, escaped the disease, and only two of the members taken, recovered. Dr. McKenzie was the only member taken with the fever who reported for work afterwards. Mr. Hickling, president, Dr. Bullington, E. J. Vorndran, George Kaplin, and J. H. Baker all died at their post. The following money was contributed: Home contribution \$630.30; Mississippi (outside DeSoto) \$736.00; contribution from other states \$2,506.20; grand total \$3,872.50.

"Contributions of fruit, lambs, chickens, eggs, butter, potatoes, boxes of champagne, bread, and milk came from Newark, Ohio, Senatobia, Oak Grove, Nesbitt, and Love. These were the main sources of supply for the town from September 28 to November 1. The Howard Association of Memphis not only helped in money, but furnished hospital supplies, ice, wines, liquor, and nurses." (1)

"The yellow fever broke out suddenly July 9, 1879, and the next day ten or fifteen cases were reported. The medical men believed then that the disease was not imported, although the mosquito had not been accused and convicted at that time." (2)

Smallpox epidemic: In the DeSoto Times of April 6, 1882, is found the following notice concerning the

(1) Press and Times, Dec. 5, 1878.

(2) Press and Times, Nov. 20, 1879.

smallpox and the pesthouse:

"Mr. Editor: On yesterday at 4 P.M., the Inspector, Dr. T. Jones, proceeded with the instructions of the chief health officer, with the permission and sanction of Mrs. H. O. Allen who owned the property on which our pesthouse was located, to burn the house, together with every vestige of clothing and bedding that had been in contact with the smallpox confines. Dr. Jones supervised the matter 'en propria persono' and had a thorough and perfect conflagration and consumption. He states that he was pleased with the liberal response the neighbors made to his solicitations for subscriptions of clothing, bedding, and cash, to reimburse the parties whose effects had to be committed to the flames. He thinks the parties are better off in quantity and quality of goods than they were before the fire. He caused each party to take an effectual disinfecting bath and dress in new and uncontaminated clothes, and he feels that there will be no reason for future apprehension from that source. The health officer and the county have good reason to congratulate themselves that they have been enabled, by the plans and program adopted, to thus early subject that terrible scourge to their control. Dr. Jones, on this day, tenders his resignation as inspector for the county appointed by the chief health officer and State Board of Health for the specific purpose of investigating and reporting smallpox cases of our county during its present prevalence, and states that he has been as faithful to the trust reposed in him as the very best energies of body and mind would allow, and with what results his semi-weekly reports have kept the State Board of Health perfectly cognizant." (1)

"This solemn and urgent warning comes to us with full force of meaning, now that the much despised monster and life destroyer, smallpox, in its most virulent type, is at our doors. Dr. T. Jones, who has been placed in charge of the smallpox patients and the conduction of the pesthouse by the chief health officer, reports the death of one patient and the incipient attack of several others and that the present form of the disease is much more malignant and repulsive in appearance than most types that were witnessed in our epidemic of 1873. The bovine virus that the chief health officer obtained for the county from the State Board of Health had proven insufficient in quantity and, in many instances, unsatisfactory in results as it would not take. We would advise the citizens, if possible, to be

(1) DeSoto Times, April 6, 1882.

vaccinated from the arm of a healthy child, whose family history is traceable to no constitutional disease on either parent's side. Dr. Jones has a supply of such matter and has reduced the price of vaccination to twenty-five cents, that everyone may avail himself, or herself, of an opportunity to be vaccinated immediately. It is to be hoped that none will hesitate to be vaccinated at the earliest opportunity, for this is the only way in which we can hope to exterminate or stamp out, this most repulsive and terrible disease that now menaces and infects our very hearthstones. The physicians are apprehending a rapid and wide spread of the disease from the present starting point, as there had been a great many direct exposures to the case before it was seen by a physician and diagnosed smallpox. But since that time, every effort is being made by the chief health officer of the district, with the aid of the physician in charge, to prevent its spread by strict quarantine and perfect isolation." (1)

The following is an extract from a local paper in 1900:

"Here is a guaranteed smallpox remedy: sulphate zinc, one grain; one grain of foxglove; one-half teaspoonful sugar; pour in two tablespoons of water; and when thoroughly mixed, add four ounces of water. Take a teaspoonful every hour. An additional virtue of this remedy is that it cures scarlet fever." (2)

Health office notice: "Our health officer, Dr. T. M. Jones, says our county had been more or less infected with smallpox for the past twelve months, during which time, he supposes he has seen in all its varied forms and types, not less than two hundred cases. In many instances among the negroes, the disease has become so mild in form he does not see the cases at all until they are entirely recovered. The negro is almost universally disposed to conceal the fact of having smallpox, as he is apprehensive of the isolation the health officer will enforce by quarantining. The disease is much less frequent but much more malignant and fatal among the white population. About five per cent of the number with the disease were white, with a death rate of thirty per cent; whereas the negro has not exceeded three per cent. Dr. Jones has on hand now a fresh supply of bovine virus tubes and is anxious that everyone who is in need of it be vaccinated free of cost to the individual. The doctor says, under his constant observation, vaccination is an infallible

(1) DeSoto Times, April 6, 1882.

(2) Times Promotor, Feb. 3, 1900.

protection and is our only hope of eradicating this loathsome and fatal disease. During this dry spell, every family should see that all the accumulated rubbish and debris about their respective premises are burned. It will protect them from the typhoid fever this fall." (1)

Influenza epidemic (1918): "Several local outbreaks of influenza have occurred since the epidemic struck Hernando about three weeks ago. The number of cases has increased daily and some of the victims of the malady have suffered severely, others have had milder attacks.

"A greater proportion of cases have appeared among negroes than among white people, but so far, we have heard of only one death in Hernando, that of a negro soldier returned from camp.

"Several people are severely ill with this disease at present but none of them dangerously." (2)

Report of influenza cases in January 1919: "A second epidemic of influenza appears to be prevailing in several neighborhoods in this county. This second recurrence of this disease is especially prevalent among the negroes. In several instances during the past few weeks pneumonia has developed and caused the death of patient.

"One negro, Jim Newsom, living east of Nesbitt, lost three children within one week.

"Several people in Hernando are ill from the disease, but the number of sick is growing smaller.

"Many influenza victims who are up and back at work are still complaining of the after-effects of the disease." (3)

Report of influenza cases in April, 1919: "There are still a few cases of influenza scattered about over the county, but it is generally dying out. Many people who had the disease early in the winter or last fall have not yet completely recovered from its effects, although the great majority have fully regained health and strength.

"There is a strong probability that the disease will return later in the year with the beginning of cool weather.

(1) Times Promoter, Feb. 3, 1900.

(2) Times Promoter, 1918.

(3) Times Promoter, 1919.

The sunshine of spring and summer will have a tendency to keep it down." (1)

#### First Meeting of County Board

The Board of Health of DeSoto County met April 30, 1878, in its first session. The following doctors composed the board: C. Baskerville, president; W. S. Weissinger, H.W. Gray, L. L. Saunders, and T. O. McKennis.

According to the minutes of the meeting, Dr. Baskerville read an interesting and able paper upon the great good to be accomplished as the consequence of the faithful and intelligent enforcement of the sanitary laws and regulations. In a forcible manner he spoke of the responsibilities and duties of the Board of Health and of the positions and difficulties health officers would encounter in the honest discharge of those duties.

Dr. Baskerville said in part: "Today we meet for the first time in executive session as a county board of health. We have individually been honored by our respective representatives in the Board of Supervisors by being appointed to the responsible, important, and onerous duties as custodians of the public health of our county. This, gentlemen, is, by no means, an ignominious position. We should each feel the responsibility that is resting upon us, not only as public officials, but we should have that desire which always prompts the true physician to further the influence of his profession.

"The world is full of skepticism; I am aware that there will be a wonder what those doctors are doing.' We will meet with an opposition, which, can only be circumvented by a successful fight against the encroachment of disease. We must have a sense of national charity in our hearts and must look upward and onward and remember, that although we are giving without money and without price to governments and municipalities, at the same time, we are instituting organizations for the prevention and suppression of disease on a scale of efficiency never before known." (2)

"State medicine," says Marion Simms, "does everything to protect the health of communities and states. In fact, gentlemen, it investigates the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the fuel

(1) The Times Promoter, April 17, 1919

(2) Dr. Baskerville, Report of Board of Health, April 30, 1878



we burn, the house we live in, and the soil we cultivate; our habits and industries of life, the nature of endemics and epidemics, the method of their transmission, and the means of their prevention whenever or wherever found. Here we have succinctly and clearly drawn the ones which rest upon our shoulders. We are physicians; and although Voltaire, satirical as he was, with all his erudition, defined a physician to be an unfortunate gentleman who expects every day to perform a miracle, viz, to reconcile health with intemperance, still it behooves us, as philanthropists and as a component of the State Board of Health, to do all we can as humanitarians, not only to successfully treat such cases as come under our immediate supervision, but to discuss their cause and to prevent their organization as well as their spread. We are agricultural people, and our lands in the main are worked by the negroes. These, we know, are peculiarly subject to exanthematous diseases and particularly smallpox. Now, from an objection to paying the small protection for vaccination fee or from a foolish fear of a development of some other disease by vaccination, we have today the startling fact of not more than one-sixth of our county population protected from this scourge." (1)

#### Board Adopts Resolutions

In the People's Press of July 24, 1879, we find the following:

"What the Board of Health, Supervisors, and Hernando authorities have done and will do in the matter of the report of the County Board of Health:

"The County Board of Health met this day at the office of its president, Dr. Westbrook, whereas the following action was taken:

"Resolved, That it is necessary for the protection of the lives of health of the citizens of our county that the Board of Supervisors establish a rigid quarantine of persons and goods coming from any infected portion of the county whenever a fever is declared an epidemic, or when the board may have notification of such necessity by the president of the Board of Health. In establishing said quarantine, the Health Board further recommends that a medical inspection officer be stationed at

(1) The Peoples Press, Apr. 30, 1878.

or near the northern county line on the M. & T. R. R., whose duty it shall be to examine and attend persons who may be detained in quarantine or for observation.

"Resolved, That the different thoroughfares leading into the county be protected by pickets, whose duty it shall be to stop ingress into the county.

"Resolved, That any person who may be reported to have entered the county contrary to these provisions shall be arrested by any proven officer and conducted to quarantine station, and upon sufficient proof, shall be fined to the sum not exceeding fifty dollars.

"Resolved, That the pickets for roads shall be appointed by the member of the Board of Supervisors of each district upon the recommendation of the health officers of said district, the salaries of said picket not to exceed one dollar and fifty cents per day.

"Signed:

J. H. Westbrook  
W. S. Weissinger  
H. W. Gray  
L. W. Gabbet" (1)

#### Orders Clean-up Campaign

In the DeSoto Times of June 27, 1898, we find the following:

"To all the world and the balance of mankind, but more especially to the citizens of DeSoto County and the citizens of the town of Hernando, whom it may concern, let this come.

"Greeting! and Hear ye! As your health officer, nothing but the spirit of kindness and interest could actuate me to announce that you must and shall place your houses and premises in sanitary order.

"By virtue of the authority vested in me as health officer of your county, and as chairman of the Sanitary Committee of Hernando, I have directed the marshals and constables of the respective towns and beats to make a house-to-house investigation; and whenever and wherever an unsanitary condition is found to exist, the fact is to

(1) The Peoples Press, Apr. 30, 1878.

be reported to me, and will be declared a nuisance and such immediate steps be taken (at the owner's expense) to remove said objectionable features or nuisance, as the law directs.

"Remember, fellow-citizens, at this time of the year, in our climate, after protracted rains and intense heat that follows, we have all the factors present, viz, heat, moisture, and animal and vegetable decomposition, that would go to generate the most aggravated types of the most dreadful disease that human flesh is heir to. Then, as good citizens, let us bear in mind the trite but true assertion that cleanliness is next to godliness, and we must go to work and gather together that garbage in and around and about our respective premises and destroy it.

"Hoping that a hint to the wise is sufficient and that we may in this enlightened age find no fool wedded to his folly, I remain respectfully and cordially,

T. M. Jones, M.D.  
Chief Health Officer of DeSoto  
County." (1)

#### County Cooperates with State Board of Health

Dr. A. L. Emerson, part-time county health officer, tells us that assisting the drainage project and cooperating with the State Board of Health by using the special funds for purchasing vaccines and antitoxin, will greatly facilitate the control of malaria and contagious diseases in DeSoto County.

Following are articles taken from the Times Promoter, which tell some of the things done in the county in regard to safeguarding health:

"A Red Cross meeting was held here Monday looking to the employment of a full-time nurse for the county for one year, beginning about July 1. Mrs. Nicholson, district representative of the National Red Cross, was here and gave assurance that the organization would supplement local funds and any other sum secured to pay the salary of a nurse. The work of the nurse would be instructive and educational, and much of it would be done in connection with schools and local organizations." (2)

(1) DeSoto Times, June 27, 1898

(2) The Times Promoter, May 15, 1931.

County Red Cross nurse's report for October: "The home hygiene and care of the sick classes are progressing nicely with great interest. The aim and purpose of this instruction is definite and clear-cut:

"To develop an appreciation for health and a desire to build those habits which will safeguard it.

"To give the fundamental relationship between individual health and the cleanliness, sanitation, and arrangement of homes.

"To give efficient and healthful methods of meeting the normal problems of the home, and also a basis for intelligent practice in these special problems of the care of the baby, the run-about, the school child, and the aged.

"To build a basic understanding of the principle of prevention and control of disease.

"To develop some manual skill in the care of the sick under home conditions and according to the physicians' direction in order that simple illness and home emergencies may be met with safety and efficiency.

"To develop an intelligent understanding and an attitude of interest and cooperation in the solving of community health problems.

"The class of Hernando has an enrollment of twenty-nine; Horn Lake forty-seven; and Olive Branch twenty-seven.

"Number of interviews and visits to homes, 119; number of meetings, visits, and interviews in behalf of nursing service, forty-one; assisted County Health Officer with annual examination of 614 children; number of enrollment of mothers in home hygiene and care of the sick classes, 110; with ninety average attendance; number of hours spent on duty, 132; number of hours spent in travel, 111; number of miles traveled, 2,394.

"It has been a great pleasure to work with Dr. Emerson, the part-time county health officer, this month, in the annual medical inspection of the school children. We have visited a majority of the schools of the county, and have had wonderful cooperation from the local physicians.

"The diphtheria epidemic is still on the decline, and we think it is only a matter of time now until it will be over. During this month, the health officer and I have given 758 inoculations for the prevention of typhoid fever and diphtheria. We find that it is little trouble to get the majority of people, both white and colored, to take preventive treatments, if we could only get the free serum to give.

"Three classes in home hygiene and care of the sick have been organized with an enrollment of 110. The members and mothers are showing a great interest in this work, and the classes are being well attended. We are also giving a short series of lectures on personal hygiene to the high school girls in the three consolidated schools of Horn Lake, Hernando, and Olive Branch. This work was requested by the mothers and members of the home hygiene class. I have been greatly impressed and gratified with the interest and cooperation of this high school class and the cooperation of the superintendents in regard to these talks with the girls.

"The next work that we hope to get started is that of assisting the teachers of the grammar grades in mapping out and giving suggestive material for definite health work in their respective grades for the school year.

"I feel greatly encouraged over the work as a whole, and with the continued fine cooperation of the nursing committee of the DeSoto County Red Cross Chapter and the physicians of the county, I trust that much good is going to be done for DeSoto County's welfare." (1)

#### Sanitation

"Milk is the most valuable food we have, and it should be taken daily from infancy through old age. Impure or contaminated milk is dangerous, because it may be the means of carrying diseases, such as typhoid fever, dysentery, tuberculosis, diphtheria, undulant fever, and others; therefore, it is necessary that all dairies be under the supervision of the health authorities in order that those who buy may be protected as much as possible from diseases that may be contracted from drinking unwholesome milk." (2)

(1) The Times Promoter, Oct. 1931

(2) Health Syllabus, State of Mississippi, p. 24.

Tom Dean Ellis, of Eudora, advises that it is now the requirement of all dairies in DeSoto County to have milk barns with concrete floors and running water. All cans must be sterilized each day. Milk must be kept at a given temperature from the dairy to the shipping point. All dairymen or hired help must be free from any contagious disease, such as tuberculosis. Dairy barns and containers are investigated by authorities and must pass inspection, as well as the trucks that haul the milk. Cows are tested for tuberculosis. All requirements of the health authorities must be met, or the milk will be returned to the dairyman. Other sanitary laws are as drastic.(1)

Regulations in regard to soda fountains and ice cream stands:

"Article 42: All openings into the rooms within which a soda fountain or ice cream stand is located and in which the food or drinks are prepared or served shall be screened with wire netting with sixteen mesh to the inch each way. Screened doors leading into or out of such rooms shall open outward only and be provided with springs or other devices to keep them closed at all times when not in use. Every soda fountain and ice cream stand shall be kept free from flies.

"Article 43: The screens shall be maintained in proper repair and remain intact throughout the year.

"Article 44: A soda fountain or ice cream stand shall not be conducted in a barber shop, pressing establishment, or in direct connection with any other business which might become dangerous to said place and its patrons.

"Article 45: All soda fountains shall have two separate and distinct compartments holding water; one for washing glasses, and the other for rinsing. The one for washing shall contain a suitable cleansing powder or solution.

"Article 46: Glasses must be kept clean, and no soiled glass shall be put away without washing but shall be washed immediately after using.

"Article 47: All appurtenances shall be kept clean at all times.

(1) Tom Dean Ellis, Eudora, Miss.

"Article 48: The floor shall be scrupulously clean. The throwing of straws on the floor is prohibited.

"Article 49: All straws for soda fountains shall be protected from flies and dust, must be kept in proper condition, and straws in proper containers.

"Article 50: All places where soft drinks are served and using syrups in the manufacture of such drinks, shall be provided with a well-screened syrup room to be used exclusively for the mixing and storing of syrups.

"Article 51: All water, syrup, fruits, and flavors must be pure and handled cleanly.

"Article 52: Slops and waste water shall be disposed of in such manner as not to become a nuisance to the community.

"Article 53: Soda fountains handling sandwiches, pies, and other luncheon foods are essentially restaurants, and will be governed accordingly as such in which a soda fountain, ice cream stand, or syrup room is located.

"Article 54: No bedroom shall be opened into or have direct connection with any room in which a soda fountain, ice cream stand, or syrup room is located.

"Article 55: In the peddling of ice cream on the streets, the conditions imposed by these regulations are necessarily violated; and therefore, the peddling or sale of ice cream on the street or sidewalk is prohibited.

"Article 56: No person suffering from cancer or any contagious or infectious disease, or who has recently been exposed to a quarantinable disease, shall be employed in a soda fountain or ice cream stand. Any person in charge of a public service place, that is, a business coming under the regulations of the Mississippi State Board of Health, shall keep a copy of the regulations pertaining to that particular business posted in a conspicuous place in the building where such business is conducted." (1)

(1) , Division of Sanitary Engineering, State Board of Health.

Sanitation in grocery stores: All grocery stores in DeSoto County have some sanitary means of disposing of garbage. In the towns, especially Hernando, garbage cans are furnished by the town for the disposal of garbage. These cans are air-tight, and the garbage is disposed of by hauling it out of town. In smaller towns, the garbage is put in some home-furnished container, burned, or hauled away from town and disposed of.

All stores throughout the county are well screened throughout the year.

Stores are cleaned every morning, floors oiled daily to keep down dust and germs. All perishable goods are kept in refrigerators or ice boxes which are cleaned every morning, and the refrigerators are thoroughly cleaned twice each week.

Foods that get old are returned to the wholesale houses from which they are bought, and they dispose of it under the requirement of the pure food laws.

Bread and cakes are brought daily from the bakery in Memphis, and the stale bread and cakes are taken up by these same trucks that deliver it to the merchant.

All grocery stores in the county are governed by the pure food law of the Mississippi State Board of Health. (1)

The owners of the two restaurants in Hernando, Garrett and Spencer, tell us that the most important sanitary problems in restaurants are cleanliness and sterilization. These two restaurants are equipped with all modern conveniences. All restaurants in the county are well-screened and remain so throughout the year. Windows are such that they afford plenty of ventilation, fresh air, and sunlight. Tables are kept clean and well painted. Restaurants are generally remodeled twice each year.

Garbage from the restaurants is kept in air-tight cans and disposed of outside the city limits.

The food served is well prepared, well balanced, and wholesome, meeting all requirements of the pure food laws of the State Board of Health.

Waiters in the restaurants wear uniforms which

(1) Mrs. J. R. Garrett, and Mrs. Ida Spencer, Hernando, Miss.

are changed every morning.

Dishes are sterilized after each meal and after each use.

Only first-class cooks are employed, and the kitchens are always found in a sanitary condition, meeting the requirements of the inspectors.

Sanitation in meat markets: The meat markets in DeSoto County meet all requirements of the inspection of the State Board of Health. The garbage is put in air-tight containers and disposed of in a sanitary way. All perishable foods are kept in refrigerators which are defrosted twice each week. These refrigerators are checked each day for sanitation. Fruits and vegetables that are perishable are kept in the refrigerator at night and on stands during the day. Meat is ordered from cold storage houses, kept at one temperature in refrigerator all the time, and is always fresh. Any meat becoming old, molded or otherwise damaged is disposed of at once. (1)

Sanitation of water supply: Water is one of the most important properties in life; therefore, the purity of water is an important factor in the control of water-borne diseases, such as typhoid fever, dysentery, and hookworm. Probably the home demonstration agent has done more toward improving the water supply in DeSoto County than any other agency. This department has indirectly helped every farm home in which the improvement of water supply has been necessary. Stress has been made on pure water for cooking, canning, and drinking. If water is contaminated in any way, the user is urged to boil it. Stress has also been made on the use of pure water for chickens, keeping it clean and in sanitary containers.

This department has also helped in putting sanitary home-made sinks in many rural homes.

The county health officer sends water to Jackson twice a year to be examined. Not only from the town water supply, but where there is some communicable disease, the water is examined, especially in case of hookworm or typhoid fever; and if the water is found to be contaminated, the well or cistern is filled up.

(1) Dr. A. L. Emerson, Hernando, Miss.

In recent years, water conditions have been greatly improved in DeSoto County. Not so many years ago, cisterns were used extensively; now dug or drilled wells are replacing these. Drilled wells are replacing dug wells, and pumps are installed with a Delco which puts running water into many of the rural homes. Also electricity has lately added water to many of the farm homes. Water supplies in the home, schools and public drinking places are now under the requirements of the Mississippi Board of Health. (1)

Sanitation through WPA projects: One of the most important phases of sanitary work is proper disposal of human waste materials. Human excreta is responsible for the spread of hookworm disease, typhoid fever, and many other similar bowel troubles. Safe disposal of human waste material is accomplished in towns and cities by the use of properly constructed sewerage systems. A sewage system was installed in Hernando in 1936 by cooperation of the town with the PWA, and there is now under construction in the town of Olive Branch a similar sewage system.

The WPA sanitary project had been a wonderful help to the county for the past two years in doing away with old-fashioned privies and building pit-toilets. These pit-toilets have also been built at every rural school in the county, at many of the public meeting places, and in some of the churches. The WPA furnishes all the labor and the person that wants the toilet built furnished only the materials. The cost of a pit-toilet is approximately fifteen dollars.

This project has played a wonderful part in general sanitation in DeSoto County. Herbert Moore, WPA county-wide sanitation supervisor, gave us the following facts about this project and its works in the county:

All food-vending establishments are inspected; surveys are made of all schools, colored and white, where talks are made to principals, teachers, and janitors concerning sanitation.

Talks with trustees and superintendents of education on sanitation have resulted in improved water supplies in all schools, and all the rural white schools are now supplied with sanitary toilets. The high schools have indoor sanitary toilets, also shower baths. Many of the negro schools have the sanitary toilets.

(1) Mrs. Mable Eason, Olive Branch, Miss.  
S. T. Oswalt, Hernando, Miss.

Sanitary drinking fountains or sanitary coolers have been established in all the white schools and many of the colored.

Lighting and heating improvements have also been stressed by this project.

The promotion of general improvements concerning sanitation are: Water supplies (municipal, school, private, etc.) sewerage and excreta disposal, milk sanitation, food sanitation, camp sanitation, bathing place sanitation, general waste disposal, miscellaneous (nuisances, complaints, and etc.)

For malaria control, Mr. Moore tells us that his project has helped in the following ways: elimination of breeding places of the anopheles mosquito, either by draining these places or by oiling with some reputable lavacide, and screening against the mosquito and fly. (1)

#### Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing

The State Health Syllabus contains the following resolution:

"That a Division of Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing be created by the Board of Health, and that this work be organized in cooperation with the Division of Child Hygiene of the United States Public Health Service.

"Maternal hygiene refers to all activities for safeguarding the welfare of the mother before and after the birth of her child. Since there are nearly 50,000 births in the state of Mississippi every year, it can readily be seen how large is the task for bringing all these mothers safely through this trying ordeal. Unfortunately, only a small percentage of all these mothers avail themselves of the opportunity they might have for safe motherhood. A large proportion of them are not able financially to employ good doctors to look after them properly during a period of several months; others, who might be financially able, are not concerned of the need of special care during this period." (2)

In DeSoto County no definite step has been taken toward this work only to hold a monthly meeting of

(1) Herbert Moore, Hernando, Miss.

(2) Health Syllabus of Mississippi, p. 28.

midwives, to teach them cleanliness and instruct them in their duties.

Very little has been done in child hygiene.

Dr. A. L. Emerson stated there was a yearly examination of all school children in DeSoto County by the county health officer and a nurse. When the children are found to have defects in teeth, their parents are advised to carry them to a dentist.(1)

Teachers in schools also give health charts to the children and stress cleanliness, especially in care of the teeth. Often the child who has the best health chart is given a prize. (2)

Coming under the State Board of Education, Mrs. Darden, county superintendent of education, says that children physically handicapped can be treated for the defects. We have in the county now some children who are being treated for these defects; some receiving glasses, some receiving medical attention, and some, in cases of infantile paralysis, are given braces or operations. There are several physically handicapped in the county who are, through the board of education, being given some special training which fits them for a special life work. (3)

#### Industrial Hygiene and Factory Inspection

"Factory inspection was created by the Legislature of 1914. Its purpose was to protect women and children who worked in the factories of the state of Mississippi, so that they may have clean, sanitary surroundings in which to work, and so they will not have to work hours which are too long for them."

The only factory in DeSoto County is the cheese plant at Olive Branch; at present it is meeting all requirements of the factory inspector of the State Board of Health.

#### Communicable Diseases and Control

The county health officer and county health nurse are main factors in keeping down communicable diseases. Working with these, in importance, are the school teachers, because they can form a connecting link between health officials and the citizens of the districts.

(1) Dr. A. L. Emerson, Hernando, Miss.

(2) Mrs. Darden, County Superintendent of Education, Hernando, Miss.

(3) Health Syllabus of Mississippi, p. 49.

Communicable diseases in DeSoto County are: smallpox, scarlet fever, whooping cough, measles, mumps, diphtheria, tuberculosis, chicken pox, typhoid fever, infantile paralysis, dysentery, and pellagra.

Vaccinations that are given by the county health officer are preventing the spreading of these diseases, greatly reducing them in recent years.

Tuberculosis: There are a number of cases of tuberculosis in DeSoto County. Each relief agency that has been in the county has tried to set up some kind of control over the spreading of tuberculosis, but just as a plan is worked out, something hampers it. The county health officer makes visits to schools, and a child having the disease is taken out of school. Sanitation in public places and schools is helping in the control of tuberculosis.(1)

Dr. Henry Boswell, superintendent of Mississippi State Sanitorium, states that twenty-two white patients from DeSoto County have been sent to the Sanatorium since the opening of the institution in 1917.(2) Dr. Emerson stated that he had made application for several patients but had been turned down because there was not enough room for any more patients.(3)

#### Physicians

Following are leading physicians: Dr. A..L. Emerson, Hernando; Dr. C. W. Emerson, Hernando; Dr. H. M. Wadsworth, Hernando; Dr. J. M. Wright, Hernando; Dr. D. C. Funderbeurk, Olive Branch; Dr. H.A. Stuart, Olive Branch; Dr. W. B. Maxwell, Nesbitt; Dr. L. L. Minor, Lynchburg; Dr. F. M. Pollard, Horn Lake; Dr. J. A. Rhodes, Horn Lake; Dr. A. V. Richmond, Lake Cormorant.

Following are nurses in the county: Miss Jane Redman, county health nurse, Hernando; Miss Frances Lester, war nurse, retired, Eudora; Mrs. Edna R. Campbell, registrar of vital statistics, Eudora.

Dr. H. M. Wadsworth, born June 30, 1911, Ripley, Tennessee, graduated from Milan, Tennessee, high school; received his A. B. degree from Lambreth College, Jackson, Tennessee, and his medical degree from University of Tennessee. He is the son of a

- 
- (1) Hazel Marshall, Hernando, Miss.  
 (2) Dr. Henry Boswell, superintendent of Miss. State Sanatorium, Magee, Miss.  
 (3) Dr. Emerson, Hernando, Miss.

Methodist minister, and has lived at numerous places in West Tennessee. He was on the basketball and football teams in high school and during his college years continued in sports, making nine college letters - four in football, three in basketball, and two in baseball. In addition to this, he was a great lover of tennis, playing this game for pastime. He made the all-Mississippi Valley Conference Team in football three years, and in basketball one year. Dr. Wadsworth completed his medical training in three years by attending summer school. On finishing medical school, he entered Hotel Dieu Hospital, New Orleans, for his internship, after which he made a trip to South American, where he visited all places of interest on the eastern coast as far down as Buenos Aires, Argentine. Later, he entered public health work in Louisiana, where he was in charge of the health unit in West Carroll Parish. After being in this work a short time, he gave it up to come to Hernando to take over the office of the late Dr. A. J. Weissinger. Dr. Wadsworth married Miss Ruth M. Scherf, of New Orleans, October 17, 1937. They are now making their home in Hernando where Dr. Wadsworth has a general practice.(1)

Dr. W. S. Weissinger: "Death came peacefully to Dr. W. S. Weissinger shortly before one o'clock yesterday afternoon at his residence here, following an illness of several day's duration. The simple announcement that his life had ended brought sadness to hundreds of friends. Since 1881, he had been a familiar figure in Hernando and one of the town's first citizens. He was eighty-two years old last June.

"William Strong Weissinger was born in Lauderdale County, June 17, 1847. In 1848, his parents, A. J. and Cordelia S. Weissinger, moved to Carroll County and located about six miles east of Winona.

"At the age of sixteen, W. S. Weissinger joined the Confederate Army and served for a few months before the close of the great conflict. Returning home when hostilities ended, he decided to become a physician and was encouraged in this resolution by his old friend Dr. W. N. Hurt. He taught school for one or two years, then attended a medical school in Louisville, Kentucky. He came to DeSoto County in 1869 and boarded with the family of Dr. W. C. Wall, who then lived in the Caldwell neighborhood, southwest of Hernando, on a virgin plantation extending to Coldwater River.

- 
- (1) Dr. H. W. Wadsworth, Hernando, Miss.

"Dr. Weissinger completed his medical studies at Tulane Medical College, New Orleans, in 1870, after which he returned to DeSoto County, where he resumed his medical practice. He married in 1873, and in 1881, came to Hernando where he enjoyed a lucrative and successful practice until his retirement.

"Dr. Weissinger was kind and generous, a citizen of lofty character, and a friend who could always be relied upon. During his active years as a medical practitioner, he gave freely of his time and service to the unfortunate. He never hesitated when called to go to the aid of suffering or to alleviate pain. Often summoned in the dead hours of midnight, he went over slippery roads and through quagmires out in the winter cold to reach those who were ill. Many a hard night or day's work he had done, went unrewarded in a material way, but he had done what he felt was his duty - had aided humanity. He never lost faith in humanity, in his friends, or in his God; he believed that after the night of death there comes the dawn of the eternal morning; his thoughts sustained and soothed him in his last conscious hours." (1)

"Dr. A. J. Weissinger: "The career of a great man ended with the death of Dr. A. J. Weissinger, at six-twenty-five o'clock Thursday afternoon, April 16, 1936. In his profession he was recognized as one of the leading physicians of North Mississippi. Among medical men of Memphis he was acknowledged as one of the truest of diagnosticians and one of the most skillful doctors in case treatment in the South. In his home community, he was the beloved physician whose counsel and sympathy did as much toward healing as medicine and professional care. A man of innate fineness and fairness, lofty ideals, and high courage, his life was a challenge to others to live up to the best. His example as a citizen was one that every young man would do well to emulate.

"No man came nearer in the fulfilment of the ideals of honesty, integrity, and the ethics of his profession. He chose his profession in the early years of his youth and received his training largely through his own efforts, putting up a gallant fight after the loss of a limb and winning out in spite of every handicap.

(1) The Times Promoter, April 16, 1931

"He was recognized by his contemporaries as a man of brilliant intellect who allowed nothing to detract from his interest in his profession. He refused to spare himself in meeting the requirements of his calling. He was cut down at the height of his usefulness, and hundreds feel a personal loss in his passing.

"Dr. Alex Jackson Weissinger, the eldest son of James Madison and Anna Johnson Weissinger, was born March 31, 1870. He was one of eleven children, only two of whom lived to maturity - Dr. Weissinger and his brother Jack. He grew to manhood and received his early education in DeSoto County. He studied medicine first in old Memphis Hospital Medical College, later taking post-graduate work at Tulane, Memphis, Chicago, and other medical institutions. He first located as a practicing physician at Days, DeSoto County, in 1896; after nine years there, he moved to Hernando, where he spent thirty-one years, during which time he endeared himself to the community which he served with consummate skill and efficiency. He owned one of the finest libraries in the state and kept in close touch with modern developments in medical science.

"On November 8, 1900, he was married to Miss Cora Bell Scott of Days, and to this union three children were born.

"In early youth, Dr. Weissinger united with the Methodist church. He was a man of strong conviction, of unswerving faith and loyalty. He was generous in response to calls for help, and untiring in his efforts to relieve suffering. Known to his friends as Dr. Alex, he practiced with, and follow his uncle, Dr. W. S. Weissinger, and was physician and surgeon for the I. C. Railroad Company for the past twenty-eight years, being in service at the time of his death.

"As a mark of respect, all business houses and the schools in Hernando were closed during his funeral. Services were held in the home Friday afternoon by Rev. E. B. Sharp, of Crenshaw, a former pastor and close friend of the family. The length of the funeral procession formed a line perhaps two miles long, and countless floral offerings of great beauty, attested the esteem in which Dr. Weissinger was held." (1)

(1) Times Promoter, April 23, 1936.



"Dr. W. K. Love moved to DeSoto County in 1840, bought land, and settled near Hernando. After the war, when his slaves had been freed and he could not control the labor and the cultivation of his lands as his energetic nature required, he went into mercantile life and build the flourishing village of Love." (1)

"Dr. William A. Powell was born October 14, 1862, at Rogerville, Tennessee, the son of Mary Armstrong Powell and Judge Sam Powell. When he was a small boy his parents came to Hernando where they made their permanent residence. Dr. Powell graduated at the University of Mississippi in 1883 where he was a member of the Chi Psi fraternity. In 1885, he graduated in medicine and surgery from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, Maryland. After graduating, he toured the West, practicing his profession for a time in Kansas City. Returning to Hernando, he engaged in the practice of his chosen profession for the remainder of his life. He was married December 17, 1890, to Miss Nannie Bell Winningham. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, Knights of Pythias, and Woodmen of the World. As a citizen, he stood high in the county, and his life was such as might well be followed. In all movements which he thought were for the public good, he took an active part. He was a man of warm and sympathetic nature, willing to help where he could." (2)

Dr. T. M. Jones: "The earthly career of Dr. T. M. Jones, beloved citizen of Hernando, closed Tuesday morning at four o'clock, at which time he lacked only a few days of being seventy-six years old."

"Thomas Merriweather Jones was born at Cub Lake, March 28, 1846, the son of old settlers in this county before Hernando was a town. He graduated from Baltimore Medical College, later taking a post-graduate course at Charleston, South Carolina, and at New Orleans, Louisiana. During the War between the States, he served with the Eighteenth Mississippi Regiment as second lieutenant under General Forrest.

"For more than fifty years Dr. Jones practiced his profession, and during that period he remained in Hernando, attending the sick and dying while the frightful yellow fever epidemic raged in 1878. In the days of reconstruction, Dr. Jones took an active part in the work." (3)

- (1) Times Promoter, April 23, 1936
- (2) Times Promoter, January 10, 1935
- (3) Times Promoter, March 16, 1922

Dr. S. B. Robinson: "Died at his residence five miles northwest of Hernando on third of May, of typhoid pneumonia, aged fifty-three years. The deceased was born in Fayette County, Tennessee, moved to DeSoto County in 1839, and resided here several years; moved to Texas where he remained fifteen years, then returned to this county, where he resided up to his death." (1)

Following is a list of other doctors who served the various communities in days gone by:

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Dr. David Bridgforth | Pleasant Hill, Miss.  |
| Dr. J. H. McNeil     | Olive Branch, Miss.   |
| Dr. Malone           | Capleville, Tenn. RFD |
| Dr. Davies           | Walls, Miss.          |
| Dr. McIntosh         | Brights, Miss.        |
| Dr. Mimms            | Cockrum, Miss.        |
| Dr. A. L. Jagoe      | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Dr. A. D. Lauderdale | Brights, Miss.        |
| Dr. J. L. Lauderdale | Brights, Miss.        |
| Dr. Byrd Grey        | Nesbitt, Miss.        |
| Dr. T. C. Bridgforth | Pleasant Hill, Miss.  |
| Dr. James Oliver     | Cub Lake, Miss.       |
| Dr. David Maxwell    | Pleasant Hill, Miss.  |
| Dr. J.H.P. Westbrook | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Dr. H. W. Grey       | Pleasant Hill, Miss.  |
| Dr. L. L. Saunders   | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Dr. W. S. Watson     | Pleasant Hill, Miss.  |
| Dr. J. J. Collins    | Pleasant Hill, Miss.  |
| Dr. E. Bullington    | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Dr. Bruce Maxwell    | Nesbitt, Miss.        |
| Dr. Haywood          | Eudora, Miss.         |
| Dr. Buchanan         | Eudora, Miss.         |
| Dr. H. Dockery       | Cub Lake, Miss.       |
| Dr. T. O. McKinnie   | Popular Corner, Miss. |
| Dr. Glover           | Cockrum, Miss.        |
| Dr. Freeman White    | Cockrum, Miss.        |
| Dr. Sam Alexander    | Cockrum, Miss.        |
| Dr. W. C. Wall       | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Dr. Sandige          | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Dr. Jas. Rice        | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Dr. J. T. Smith      | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Dr. J. W. Powell     | Olive Branch, Miss.   |
| Dr. Harve McNeil     | Ingrams, Mill, Miss.  |
| Dr. Sam Ingram       | Eudora, Miss. (2)     |
| Dr. Richmond         |                       |

Mrs. Edna Roach Campbell of Eudora, registrar of vital statistics in DeSoto County, is a graduate nurse of the Memphis General Hospital. She served with Base

- (1) Miss Hazel Marshall
- (2) Mrs. Edna Roach Campbell, Eudora, Miss.

Fifty-seven, American Expeditionary Forces, in France one year, where she was stationed at Red Cross Number Eight, about twenty miles from Paris.

Prior to her war service, Mrs. Campbell was assistant superintendent of nurses at General Hospital, and on her return from France accepted a position as night supervisor of nurses at the same hospital.

Later, she was two years with the Memphis City Board of Health, two years with the Mississippi State Board of Health, for a time with the Maternity Infant Hygiene Department of Mississippi, and for two years ran a private training school for handicapped children at her home near Eudora. She is at present completing her course of study in order that she may reach the requirement of the present State Board of Health of Mississippi that she may take up public health nursing again. (1)

(1) Mrs. Edna Roach Campbell, Eudora, Miss.

#### References

Campbell, Mrs. Edna  
Boswell, Dr. Henry  
Darden, Mrs. Ethel Gare  
Delk, Gladys  
Emerson, Angus  
Eason, Mrs. Mabel  
Emerson, Dr. A. L.  
Ellis, Tom Dean  
Garrell, Mrs. J. R.  
Gale, Mrs. Lula  
McInvale, H. W.  
Moore, Herbert  
Oswalt, S. T.  
Riley, B. B.  
Spencer, Mrs. Ida  
Yates, Levitte

Eudora, Miss.  
Sanatorium, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Olive Branch, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Eudora, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Eudora, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.  
Hernando, Miss.

#### Bibliography

DeSoto Times, Apr. 6, 1882;  
June 27, 1889.  
Health Syllabus of Mississippi  
Press and Times, Apr. 23, 1936;  
May 9, 1878; Nov. 21, 1878;  
Dec. 5, 1878; Dec. 12, 1878;  
July 17, 1879; Nov. 20, 1879;  
Times Promoter, Apr. 30, 1878;  
July 24, 1879; Feb. 3, 1900;  
Jan., 1919; Apr. 17, 1919;  
Mar. 16, 1922; Apr. 16, 1931;  
May 14, 1931; Oct. 29, 1931;  
Jan. 10, 1935; Apr. 23, 1936.  
State Board of Health.

Chapter XXII

ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES

Fraternal Organizations

The following information concerning the Masonic Lodge of DeSoto County is given by Hon. Hugh Foster:

The Masonic Lodge was first organized in DeSoto County in 1845. The first Lodge Hall was in the Bell Building, and was destroyed by the Federal Troops; the second hall was in the old Banks and Company Building, and this building was destroyed by storm and fire in 1916; the present hall is located in the Emerson Building in Hernando.

The first records of this organization were destroyed when the Lodge Hall was burned by the Federals, so very little data is available regarding the early organization.

Some of the older Masons who received distinction were: Col. Thomas C. White, Judge James Bright Morgan, R.E.L. Morgan, and N. F. Wilfroy.

The present officers are as follows:

|                   |                   |                |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Worshipful Master | W. P. Sanders     | Horn Lake      |
| Senior Warden     | Gerald Chatham    | Hernando       |
| Junior Warden     | Hoyette Austin    | Lake Cormorant |
| Treasurer         | R.F.B. Logan      | Hernando       |
| Secretary         | Hugh Foster       | Hernando       |
| Senior Deacon     | Paul Brown        | Hernando       |
| Junior Deacon     | A.L. Emerson, Jr. | Hernando       |
| Chaplain          | Rev. N.A. Spencer | Horn Lake      |
| Tyler             | Joe T. Bledsoe    | Hernando       |

Hugh Foster has served as Secretary to this Lodge for forty years. (1)

(1) Hon. Hugh Foster, Hernando, Miss.

W. O. W. Lodge

B. F. Jones, Financial Secretary, gives the following sketch of the history of the Woodmen of the World of Hernando:

Hernando Camp #117, Woodmen of the World was organized May 19, 1896, by T. H. Hamlett, State Deputy, Coffeeville.

The charter members of this organization were:

|                   |                 |               |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| W. A. Powell      | P. B. Marshall  | R. L. Pedding |
| E. L. Bass        | R. E. L. Morgan | N. W. Bacon   |
| J. C. Payne       | N. J. Harness   | R. L. Dabney  |
| A. M. Johnston    | George Banks    | W. M. Jones   |
| T. C. Robertson   | J. S. Rollins   | E. J. Bell    |
| A. P. Meriweather | T. M. Jones     | J. H. Peace   |
| J. M. Weissinger  | M. L. Smith     | J. D. Fogg    |
| W. D. Phillips    | J. S. Oliver    |               |

The first officers of this organization were:

|                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| W. Powell                         | Consul Commander      |
| T. M. Jones                       | Past Consul Commander |
| W. D. Phillips                    | Advisor Lieutenant    |
| E. L. Bass                        | Banker                |
| M. L. Smith                       | Clerk                 |
| Drs. T. M. Jones and W. A. Powell | Physicians            |
| W. S. Humphreys                   | Escort                |
| George Banks                      | Watchman              |
| A. M. Johnston                    | Sentry                |

The following is a list of the present officers:

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| R. L. Pedding     | Consul Commander    |
| Herman Strickland | Advisor Lieutenant  |
| J. Watt Vinson    | Banker              |
| B. F. Jones       | Financial Secretary |
| C. F. Davidson    | Escort              |
| Z. W. Wheeler     | Watchman            |
| S. W. Vinson      | Sentry              |
| Dr. A. L. Emerson | Physician (1)       |

Social and Cultural

A brief sketch of the Girl Reserves organization at Horn Lake is given by Mildred Hobbs:

(1) B. F. Jones, Hernando, Miss.

The Girl Reserves was organized at the Horn Lake Consolidated High School in January, 1937, by Mrs. E.C. Hodge, of the Commercial Department. Girls from the seventh grade through the 12th grade were eligible for membership, and met every two weeks during the school term.

The officers of the Club were:

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| President               | Maurice Bradford   |
| Vice-President          | Annie Ruth Hurt    |
| Secretary and Treasurer | Angeline Calvi (1) |

The Hernando Music Club was organized September 20th, 1923, by Mrs. Dotherow, instructor in music at the Hernando Public School.

The officers of the organization were:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| President         | Mrs. Ethie B. Dotherow   |
| Vice-President    | Mrs. John Knox   |
| Secretary         | Mrs. S. W. Fason   |
| Treasurer         | Mrs. J. R. Tipton  |
| Program Committee | Mrs. John Knox, Miss Margaret Emerson, Mrs. P. T. Luter, Mrs. W. G. Gaines, Miss Tommie Davidson |

Charter members were: Mesdames A. L. Emerson, Alice Smith, J. W. Vinson, W. F. Wood, J. M. Jackson, B. F. Jones, E. S. Mosby, R. P. Cook, John Knox, P. F. Luter, W. G. Gaines, J. R. Tipton, E. S. Nichols, V. R. Thompson, N. E. Wilroy, F. W. Roth; Misses Margaret Emerson, Alberta Caruth, Mary Vinson, and Tommie Davidson.

This club was federated the same year of its organization, and is active in Hernando, meeting once a month during the school term. (2)

The Rotary Club

The charter for a Rotary Club in Hernando was granted October 22, 1936, and was organized by District Governor, Rev. H. L. Martin, of Senatobia, assisted by representatives of the clubs of Senatobia, Tunica, and Memphis. It was organized with twenty-four charter members.

The following is a list of the first officers and directors:

(1) Mildred Hobbs, Horn Lake, Miss.  
(2) Julia Harroway, Hernando, Miss.

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| President      | F. Clarke Holmes   |
| Vice-President | C. Whitley Emerson |
| Secretary      | Byron Jackson      |
| Treasurer      | Robert P. Cooke    |

Directors: F. Clarke Holmes, W. Granville Gaines, Grover C. Minge, Julius Russum, Gerald W. Chatham, Thomas P. Flinn, and Robert P. Cooke.

This club sponsors projects for the betterment of civic interest, and sponsored the project that placed water in the Baptist Cemetery at Hernando. (1)

The Federated Garden Club, organized April 7, 1933, by Mrs. Ethel Smith Cook, Chairman of the Mississippi Federated Clubs, is sponsored by that organization.

The first meeting of the local club was held at Shadow Hill Tea Room, and won the Mississippi Federated Club Loving Cup the first year it was organized.

The following is a list of the charter members:

Mrs. Harvey Banks, Mrs. George Banks, Miss Minor Banks, Miss Anna Barbee, Mrs. Ethel Cook, Mrs. Millie Farrington, Miss Inez Emerson, Mrs. George Holmes, Mrs. Anna Lambreth, Mrs. Ramell Morgan, Mrs. Tillie Pope, Mrs. P. J. Scott, Miss Margurite Redding, Mrs. Mial Wall, Mrs. S. W. Eason, Mrs. Minnie Porter, Mrs. W. D. Gooch, Mrs. Leslie Darden, and Mrs. A. L. Emerson.

The first officers to serve this club were:

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| President            | Mrs. George Holmes      |
| Vice-President (1st) | Miss Inez Emerson       |
| Vice-President (2nd) | Mrs. Mial Wall          |
| Secretary            | Mrs. A. L. Emerson, Jr. |
| Treasurer            | Marguerite Redding      |

The present officers are:

|                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| President          | Mrs. Ramell Morgan      |
| 1st Vice-President | Mrs. Annie Lambreth     |
| 2nd Vice-President | Mrs. Mial Wall          |
| Treasurer          | Miss Marguerite Redding |
| Secretary          | Mrs. W. D. Gooch (2)    |

#### Mozart Music Club

In an interview with Mrs. R. P. Cook, Sr., she told us of the Federated Music Club sponsoring and organizing

- 
- (1) Byron Jackson  
(2) Mrs. W. D. Gooch, Hernando, Miss.

the Mozart Music Club.

The Mozart Music Club was organized in 1933 for the music pupils in the Hernando High School. It was federated with the Mississippi Federated Club the same year of its organization, and the young people of Hernando High School, enjoy programs given by this club one time each month in the respective homes of the members. (1)

#### Patriotic Organizations

The American Legion Auxiliary, Post 64, was organized in 1932, the first meeting being held at Eudora. The charter was granted March 30th, 1932, and received April 9th, 1932.

The following were charter members: Mesdames Guy Riley, Elizabeth D. Ballard, Lillian Coleman, Marie Counts, Mildred Counts, Virginia Hobbs, Ladell Dickson, Susie Dickson, Mrs. Irene Dillard, Altie Flinn, R. B. Johnston, Anna Lamar, Aliene McGowen, Margaret McGowen, Floy McCall, Pearl Mosby, Maggie Sing Oswald, Pearl Riley, Alice Smith, Clara Wheeler; Misses Alice Barbee, Annie Gaines, Anna E. Jones, Clara Ray.

The present officers are: Mrs. Guy Riley, chairman; Mrs. Joyner Wheeler, secretary; Mrs. Alice Smith, treasurer.

This organization is county-wide, with memberships from each community. (2)

The Bedford Forrest Chapter of the U.D.C., organized April 2, 1901, with a charter membership of thirty-four. The following were the first officers to serve this chapter:

|                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. Mildred White Farrington | President               |
| Mrs. Sarah Boon Jones         | Vice-President          |
| Miss Bettie Temple            | Historian               |
| Miss Ethel Lyons Smith        | Secretary and Treasurer |

The present officers are:

|                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mrs. Mial Wall          | President                   |
| Miss Marguerite Redding | Secretary and Treasurer (3) |

- 
- (1) Ethel Smith Cook, Hernando, Miss.  
(2) Mrs. Pearl Riley, Hernando, Miss.  
(3) Mrs. Mildred Farrington, Hernando, Miss.

Eastern Star Chapter No. 258

A chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was organized at Hernando, April 7, 1925. District Deputy Grand Matron, Annie Miller, of Crenshaw, and Worthy Grand Patron, Horace E. Stansel, Ruleville, were present and acted as organizing officers. Sardis Chapter was present and assisted in the work by presiding at their several stations.

The chapter was designated as Chapter No. 258, and consisted of twenty-five charter members: Mrs. Cora Barbee, Dr. Angus L. Emerson, Mrs. Margaret Wilroy, Mrs. Bettie Mingee, Mrs. Mildred Dalehite, Miss Winnie Massey, Miss Mamie Entrikin, Mrs. Hattie Emerson, Mrs. Willie McCracken, Miss Martha Turner, Mrs. Frances Carter, Miss Anna Barbee, Mrs. Byrd Bailey, Mrs. Julia Jones, Miss Katie Harris, Mrs. Ida Spencer, Mrs. Ruby Entriken, Myrtle Entriken, Mrs. Myrtle Dalehite, Mrs. Ethel Wellon May, Mrs. Daisy Mae Garrett, Mrs. Monica Riley, and William A. Guy, James C. Dalehite, and J. W. Riley.

The first initiation was held on April 27 and the following five candidates were received into the order: Lula Robinson, Lizzie Mae Robinson, Mrs. Jodie Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Lamb.

The chapter has had only two treasurers since its organization. The first, Mrs. Mildred Dalehite, who served two years, followed by Mrs. Ruby Entriken who has served until the present time.

Other officers now serving (1937) are: Myrtie Dalehite, matron; S. W. Eason, patron; Lizzie Mae Gooch, secretary. (1)

References

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Cook, Mrs. Ethel       | Hernando, Miss. |
| Foster, Hon. Hugh      | Hernando, Miss. |
| Gooch, Mrs. Lizzie Mae | Hernando, Miss. |
| Gooch, Mrs. Mary       | Hernando, Miss. |
| Hobbs, Mildred         | Hernando, Miss. |
| Jackson, Byron         | Hernando, Miss. |
| Jones, B. F.           | Hernando, Miss. |
| Riley, Mrs. Pearl      | Hernando, Miss. |
| Williams, Mrs. J. E.   | Hernando, Miss. |

(1) Mrs. Lizzie Mae Gooch, Hernando, Miss.

## Chapter XXIII

## PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC LEADERS

---

Following is a list with brief sketches of professional and civic leaders of DeSoto County, in addition to those given in preceding chapters pertaining to their chosen fields of endeavor:

Edwin Henderson Randall, A.M., L.L.D., was born in Henry County, Tennessee, December 18, 1830; died September 22, 1916 in Hernando. Dr. Randall came of English parentage who first settled in Virginia, and was educated at Andrew College, Trenton, Tennessee, receiving his degree in 1856. He went at once into his chosen profession and for fifty years was known as one of the foremost among school men. In his later life he established Randall University in Hernando, which was maintained under that name for several years after his retirement from active teaching. He was a profound scholar, and great were his contributions to science and literature; he stands pre-eminent as an educator. His books published while in DeSoto County were "Characteristics of the Southern Negro," "Plurality of the Human Race," and "Antagonism of Forces in Nature." He also contributed many articles to newspapers and periodicals upon a great variety of subjects, proving himself a great philosopher, a deep thinker, and a profound reasoner. (1)

Simon Bolivar Dean, was born at Nesbitt, DeSoto County, July 28, 1874, the son of T. J. and Virginia Robinson Dean, who died when he was a small child. His early education was acquired at Oak Hill Academy, and after attending Mississippi State College for two years, he entered the mercantile business at Eudora under the style of S. B. Dean and Company in 1895, and has been in this business continuously. He later became a landowner, and has a sawmill, a lumberyard, and a market.

When quite a young man, Mr. Dean was elected to eldership in the Presbyterian church at Eudora, where he has been in active service for over thirty years. Mr. Dean is a public spirited citizen, being a trustee of the Agricultural High School, DeSoto County, a member of the council

(1) Times-Promoter, December 12, 1920.

of the Boy Scouts, Memphis, Tennessee, a member of the Yazoo Delta Highway Commission in 1924; he was commissioner from Oxford Presbytery to General Assembly at Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1924, and was awarded a trip to the sixth national Boy's and Girl's 4-H Club Congress, held in Chicago, November, 1927, to represent North Mississippi. Mr. Dean was elected to the State Senate in 1927, and was honored by a biographical sketch in "Who's Who in Government," published by the Biographical Research Bureau, New York, copyright 1930. He is a Mason, Elk, and a Knight of Pythias. He married Bessie Bridgeforth in 1900. (1)

James Henry Johnson, born June 4, 1867, Hernando, was a son of Wiley and Orentine Shaw Johnson; he was a member of the board of stewards of the Methodist church for over forty years, serving as president of the board during 1934-35; was chairman of the finance committee of the Methodist church for ten years or more, and delegate to the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1934, and is now treasurer of North Mississippi Conference. He organized the Clarksdale Rotary Club, and served as its first president; was president of the Chamber of Commerce for four years and active on the board for the past twenty years; was member and secretary of the school board for fifteen years; on three different occasions was member of the board of aldermen of Clarksdale; served four years as vice-mayor and police justice; was member of CWA board of the city of Clarksdale in 1933; organized Coahoma County chapter of American Red Cross, and served as chairman for seventeen years. He served eighteen months as postmaster and custodian of the Federal Building of Clarksdale; was chairman of the Victory Loan drive during the war, and received a loving cup given by Young Business Men's Club for most useful citizen of Coahoma. He is now serving as president of Clarksdale Hospital, president of Carnegie Library Board, secretary of Oak Ridge Cemetery Association, secretary of Clarksdale Realty Company, member of executive board of Delta Grocery and Cotton Company, director of Planters Oil Mill of Tunica, member of executive board of Columbian Mutual Life Insurance Company of Memphis, chairman of the Board of Eleemosynary Institutions of Mississippi, and colonel on Governor White's staff. He served as Insurance Commissioner of Mississippi in 1935; was three times president of the Mississippi Association of Insurance Agents; former president of the Yazoo Delta Local Agents' Association, and president of J. H. Johnson and Company, Inc., having been in the insurance business for the past forty-one years. He was chairman of the Masonic Flood Relief Committee for Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana,

(1) Mrs. S. B. Dean, Eudora, Miss.

and Grand Master of Masons of Mississippi in 1927; served as presiding officer of all local Masonic bodies; chairman of the finance committee of the Grand Lodge of Masons for several years; is now serving as Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi, and Grand Junior Warden of Grand Commandery of Mississippi, and is a charter member of Elks Club of Clarksdale, Knights of Pythias, and Woodmen of the World. (1)

Hugh Foster was born August 28, 1861, at Foster's Settlement, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama; he attended private schools at that settlement, and later attended the University of Alabama, where he received his A. B. degree in 1880, and his A. M. degree in 1881. Mr. Foster moved from the settlement bearing his name (which was created in 1917 by four Foster brothers), to Mississippi in 1883. He taught school at Durant for a number of years, also in Leflore and Copiah counties for some years; was for two years instructor at Newton, and taught two years at Nesbitt, in one of DeSoto's earliest schools. He taught his last year at Clarksdale, giving up teaching in 1894 to enter the insurance business. Since 1894, Mr. Foster has been with the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, having a general insurance agency at Hernando. He has been superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School of Hernando, for the past forty years, and clerk of the Hernando Baptist Church for the same length of time. He married Miss Anna Holmes McClamroch, daughter of Sanford McClamroch, pastor of the Hernando Cumberland Presbyterian Church and merchant, in 1890. Mr. Foster is a Mason and a Christian gentleman of the highest quality. (2)

Joel Summers, born at Pleasant Hill, DeSoto County, completed high school at Pleasant Hill, and has lived there all his life. After finishing school, he worked in the store and kept books for Williamson Brothers for about twenty years, farming as a pastime. He left Williamson Brothers to go into partnership with his brother, S. G. Summers, in the mercantile business. This firm was discontinued in 1930, when the partnership was dissolved and Summers established a mercantile business of his own. He married Miss Johnnie Smith, of Olive Branch, November 26, 1911, and to this union were born three children - one son and two daughters. He was elected supervisor of the Second District of DeSoto County, November, 1932, to fill out an unexpired term, and served in this capacity until January, 1936. (3)

(1) J. H. Johnson, Dundee, Miss.  
 (2) Hugh Foster, Hernando, Miss.  
 (3) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.

Will Dockery, Mississippi philanthropist, planter, and cotton man, died at twelve minutes past six o'clock last night, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, after an illness of five weeks. He was seventy-one years of age, and in excellent health when he attended a board of trustees meeting of the Baptist Hospital, November 10. He became ill a few days later and was taken to Baltimore, November 27. Pneumonia, which developed several days ago from other complications, caused his death. Born near Love Station, in DeSoto County, November 10, 1865, Mr. Dockery had been prominently identified with Mississippi's progress for more than a half century. From a small job as a bookkeeper, for his uncle, Jim Dockery, (mercantile business) in Hernando, he became one of the state's wealthiest men. He owned between 14,000 and 15,000 acres of the Delta's richest land, and was the son of an officer of the War between the States, Major Thomas C. Dockery; his mother was a member of a pioneer family of Mississippi. Mr. Dockery was born on the old home place, which is still one of the ante-bellum show places of DeSoto County. He was a Baptist, and one of his first deeds of philanthropy was to give several hundred thousand dollars to the Baptist Memorial Hospital when it was built on its present site twenty-four years ago. Later, he gave 1,400 acres of rich Delta land in Sunflower County (valued at \$85,000 at one time), to the Hospital for the endowment of a nurse's home in memory of his wife, Mrs. Hughla Rice Dockery, who died sixteen years ago. Mr. Dockery built a dormitory for the Woman's College at Hattiesburg, which is known as Dockery Hall, and endowed the Old Ladies Home at Jackson. Besides his planting interest, he was identified with two Memphis cotton firms as vice president: Dockery & Donelson Company, and the Memphis Cotton Discount Company; he was also a director in the Mississippi Power and Light Company, the Minter City Oil Mills, and the Planters Bank and Trust Company; he was an ardent hunter and fisherman, holding membership in several Arkansas and Louisiana clubs. He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Frances Dockery Cherry, of Parkin, Arkansas, and a son, Joe Rice Dockery, of Dockery." (1)

Marye Manley Counts, born two miles west of Days, June 28, 1878, moved with her parents to Nesbitt when she was eight years old, later returning to the old home, where she still resides. On October 10, 1894, she was married to White Counts, and to this union two children were born; one girl who died in infancy, and a son, Waldo. Mrs. Counts is prominently identified with the educational work of the county, having received her training in the public schools of Nesbitt, in the private schools of Professor S. S. Robertson, Hugh Foster at Nesbitt, and Professor Jolly at Hernando;

(1) The Times Promoter, December 30, 1936

later, she took a correspondence course on education, attending institutes and summer normals, and taught at Bluff School, Glenn's Chapel. After Bluff School was moved to a little store in the Counts' yard, Mrs. Counts had charge of it for twenty-six years. She is a member of Hind's Chapel Church, having her membership here for thirty-eight years. She is a member of Woman's Missionary Society, Hind's Chapel, and has been secretary and treasurer of this society for twenty years. In addition to her church work at Hind's Chapel, she held preaching and Sunday School for the people in her community in a little school building; through her efforts, Glenn's Chapel Church was built, and is still maintained by programs gotten up each year by Mrs. Counts. (1)

Adolphus D. Williams, born in South Carolina, grew to manhood in the Love community, but many years ago moved to Cub Lake, locating west of the little village, as he was a great hunter and fisherman. Back in this quiet retreat, where the soil was fertile, yielded bountifully, and forest and stream furnished fish and game, he and his wife reared their family undisturbed by the clamor of the outside world. Before Mrs. Williams died, less than two years ago, it had been their custom while both were in good health to give dinners once a year to all their relatives and friends. These were enjoyable occasions to all who attended, as they feasted and enjoyed a day of relaxation and forgetfulness of ordinary daily cares. Mr. Williams played an important part in the reconstruction of DeSoto County; both white and colored people in his community finding him a great scholar and a generous adviser, went to him with many of their troubles. He settled many difficulties for the people on the Bluff that would have gone into court and cost the county large sums of money. He died June 16, 1937, at the Baptist Hospital, Memphis, at the age of seventy-nine years. (2)

Thomas Percy Howard was born April 17, 1888, near Coldwater, Tate County, Mississippi. His early training was in the schools of Tate and Sunflower counties, and in Webb School, Bellbuckle, Tennessee. He was a graduate of Atlanta College of Pharmacy, and a licensed pharmacist in Mississippi and Tennessee. Mr. Howard is the son of Mary Ann Crawford and William Gregory Howard of Tate County. He was with Hammer-Ballard Drug Company, Memphis, Tennessee, for thirteen years, being secretary of the firm at

(1) Mrs. Marye Counts, Days, Mississippi  
(2) Paul Williams, Cub Lake, Miss.



the time it was sold in 1922. He then became a planter and merchant in DeSoto County. When war was declared by the United States in 1917, he volunteered, but was rejected due to physical disability. Mr. Howard was at one time president of the Berean Sunday School Class, McLemore Christian Church, Memphis, and served on CWA committee for DeSoto County; was for two years a member of DeSoto County Cotton Committee, and served on the Red Cross executive board. He is now president of County Farm Bureau; president Lake Cormorant Drainage District; director of Staple Cotton Co-operative Association; and director of Staple Cotton Discount Corporation; vice-president Memphis Lion's Club; member DeSoto County School Board; member County Executive Committee; elder in Tunica Presbyterian Church; and superintendent of Tunica Presbyterian Sunday School. He was married June 12, 1920, to Willie Abbay of Tunica; and their children were Thomas Percy, Jr., George Ann, and Elizabeth Irwin. (1)

Mrs. Willie Abbay Howard was born June 5, 1891, at Tunica. She attended school at Tunica; had one year at St. Paul Public School at Memphis, and six years at Higbee (private) School, Memphis, graduating in the class of 1909. She took a special course at Loulie Compton Seminary, Birmingham; had private tutors in Washington, D.C., and fifty-two hours at the University of Mississippi. Courses taken: Red Cross Institutes in New Orleans in 1917, and at Pass Christian in 1935; Citizenship under Mrs. Emily Newell Blair; Political Science under Dr. Herbert Adams Gibbons, Chatauqua, New York; Parliamentary Law under Mrs. J. F. Lewis, Chatauqua, New York; Bible courses under Dr. Charles L. Goodell, and Dr. C. H. Williamson; and summer courses in Bible at R. E. Lee Hall, Black Mountain, Tennessee. Mrs. Howard's services to the community have been many. She was treasurer of Higbee Alumni Association 1909-1910; founder Tunica Woman's Club in 1914, and four times its president; started movement for one of the first community houses in North Mississippi; served two terms as recording secretary Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs; as temporary secretary, wrote the organization of the Mississippi League of Women Voters in Gulfport; field representative national Red Cross, gulf division, headquarters, New Orleans. She volunteered for service during the World War, was in charge of all phases of Red Cross work in twenty-two counties in Northwest Mississippi, for which service she received a certificate and service badge from National Red Cross, signed by President Wilson and Colonel Leigh Carroll. She was director gulf division and prominent in other civic and community activities.

(1) Mrs. T. P. Howard, Lake Cormorant, Miss.

At present, she is executive secretary and member of executive board, DeSoto County Red Cross; Chairman of DeSoto County Democratic Women; teaches night Bible class at Walls; Sunday School class of young people at Tunica; trustee of Tunica County Woman's Club. (1)

J. F. Conger, chancery clerk of DeSoto County, was born April 15, 1904, at Arkabutla, Tate County, and graduated at the DeSoto County Agricultural High School, Olive Branch, and at the University of Mississippi in Business and Science of Commerce. Mr. Conger moved to DeSoto County from Tate County when he was two years of age, and was taught to work from early life; he has never gotten away from that teaching. He worked his way through school, graduating from the University of Mississippi in 1926, and has helped support his mother, who is a widow, by following his chosen profession as a clerical worker. He made the race for chancery court clerk in 1931 and was elected over three popular opponents; he was reelected to this same office in 1935 without opposition. (2)

A. S. Campbell, sheriff and tax collector of DeSoto County, was born September 12, 1882, at Horn Lake, and attended public school there, but his principal schooling has been in the school of experience. Mr. Campbell has been engaged in farming and dairy work for twenty years, and deputy sheriff and constable from 1905 to 1924. He was elected sheriff to fill the unexpired term of R. C. (Dick) Clifton from 1930 to 1932, and elected again in 1934 to fill the unexpired term of W. M. Birmingham. In 1934 he made the race for sheriff and tax collector of DeSoto County and was elected. (3)

James Buchanan Riley, retired farmer, was born January 3, 1858, and few men in DeSoto County have made a more notable record than J. B. Riley - a self-made man whose record constitutes a fine example of notable achievements through individual efforts. He was born in Old Columbus, Henry County, Alabama, and came of Irish lineage on the paternal side; his parents were James Buchanan and Fanny Kelly Riley, direct descendants of 'Old Ireland.' The only recollection Mr. Riley has of his father is his good-bye kiss as he was going on the ship anchored on the Chattahoochee River at Old Columbus which would carry him to Ulflora, Alabama, and from there on into the War between the States, never to return to his wife and boy. Mr. Riley received a common education in the rural schools of Henry County, Alabama, commonly 'The Old Blue Back Speller Schools.' Even though his opportunities were limited, they proved adequate for a man of such distinct alertness of mentality. At an early age he was thrown upon his own resources. Mr. Riley came to Mississippi, October 6, 1786, one year after the call for

(1) Mrs. T. P. Howard, Lake Cormorant, Miss.  
 (2) J. A. Conger, Hernando, Miss.  
 (3) A. S. Campbell, Hernando, Miss.

men from Alabama to help Mississippi down the 'Black Bureau.' He could not get his mother's permission to come with the 250 families who answered the first call, but followed a year later, because he wanted to have a part in helping overthrow a regime that had taken his daddy from him. He had enough money to go to Memphis, there he pawned his trunk for money to go to Como. At Como he joined the 'Torch Light Procession' which was so active during the Reconstruction Days. After the 'Black Bureau' was overthrown, Mr. Riley sent back to Alabama for his mother to join him. On March 20, 1878, Mr. Riley married Miss Alice Radford, daughter of Avery and Elizabeth Todd Radford of Fort Gains, Clay County, Georgia, who came to Mississippi, December 24, 1876, on the emigrant train, and who played an important part in Reconstruction. In the fall of 1877, they moved to Love Station, from where they moved on the Bluff in 1884. There were a few families on the Bluff, one school, but no church. Mr. Riley for the past fifty-three years has been active in church work among the people in this community. For twenty-one years he held meetings in the little schoolhouse on the Bluff and summer revivals under bush arbors. In 1905 through his efforts, Trinity Church was built." (1)

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Riley who are living are: Mrs. Millie Livingston, Eudora; James N. Riley, Trinity; Charles B. Riley, Lambert; Grover D. Riley, Eudora; Barney B. Riley, Eudora; Houston H. Riley, Oak Grove; Mae R. Westerman, Eudora.

G. C. Minge, son of William Henry and Adella McRae Minge, was born at Cannonsburg, Jefferson County, October 7, 1884. When G. C. (or Grover as many of his close friends called him) was about four years of age, the family moved to Tensas Parish, Louisiana, where his mother died, about a year later. The family lived there three years, then after a few years in Texas, and Oklahoma, they moved back to Mississippi, where his father purchased a farm in the Church Hill community. G. C. Minge attended public schools at Hollandale, Washington County, Adams County, and Duncan, Oklahoma. He entered Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical Collège in the fall of 1908, where he remained five years, graduating in the spring of 1913 with the degree of Bachelor of Science from the School of Agriculture. He paid his entire college expense by saving enough money to matriculate before going there and by working while in college during both summer and winter months. After graduating, he was awarded a fellowship in the Dairy School. His intention was to get a Master's degree in

(1) J. B. Riley, Eudora, Miss.  
This sketch has been taken from writings of the Life of Mr. Riley, by Rev. J. E. Cox, Rev. W. W. Grafton, and Dr. Potts.

dairying, but soon after starting work for a Master's degree, the herdsman of the dairy department resigned, and Prof. J. S. Moore, head of the department, asked C. G. to take charge of the dairy herd as herdsman, which position he held until the first of January, 1914. He served as county agent in Wayne, Perry, Pike, Lee, Montgomery, and Greene counties. Later, L. A. Olson wanted him to come to DeSoto as county agent to help the farmers in the production of cotton under boll weevil conditions. He has not only assisted the farmers of DeSoto County in the production of cotton, but has shown almost an equal interest in dairying. He encouraged the importation of pure-bred Guernsey cattle into the county, the use of good, pure bred bulls in the herds of the county, the control of diseases, and the production of feeds for the dairy cattle. With this dairy work, dairymen have been encouraged to keep records of their individual cows, and there was a Dairy Herd Improvement Association organized in the county this year (1937), which is doing a splendid work for the membership. Mr. Minge has not only been interested in his work as an agriculturist, but has been interested in the general welfare of the community. He is a Mason, a Rotarian, and a member of the Hernando Methodist Church; also member of the board of stewards of his church, and has been chairman of the board for about ten years. He is and has been superintendent of the school of his church for several years, and is always interested in religious and civic improvement of the community and county. (1)

S. W. Eason, merchant, manufacturer, and funeral director of Hernando, was born December 24, 1883, at Arkabutla, Tate County. His business career has been a successful one and he is now conducting a mercantile business. For the past twenty-two years Mr. Eason has been a member of the Hernando board of mayor and aldermen, for two years as an alderman; for eighteen years as clerk; and for two years as clerk and tax assessor for the municipality. For eight years he was a member of the DeSoto County Democratic County Election Commissioners. Mr. Eason is a Mason, Knight of Pythias, Eastern Star, and Rotarian; is a member of the Hernando Baptist Church, being assistant Sunday School superintendent. (2)

Mrs. Winifred Massey Gartrell, daughter of the late John Madison Massey, was born June 30, 1899, at Alpha, Tate County, Mississippi, and moved to Hernando June 6, 1906. Mrs. Gartrell received her education in the Hernando High School and Randell University School of Hernando. She

(1) Miss Hazel Marshall, Hernando, Miss.  
Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.  
(2) S. W. Eason, Hernando, Miss.

finished Hernando High School in 1917, and attended normal at A. & M. College during summer of 1918; normal at New Albany summer of 1919, and normal of West Tennessee summer of 1920-21. She taught school in 1917-18-19 at Pisgah, DeSoto County; taught Olive Branch Grammar School for three terms, and then taught in Vina Consolidated School, Vina, Alabama; from 1924-1927 Mrs. Gartrell did office work for Drs. Emerson and Wright, and September 24, 1927, she married C. C. Gartrell. Mrs. Gartrell began work for the chancery court clerk July 10, 1929, and is still connected with this work, being deputy chancery clerk of DeSoto County. She is a member of the Presbyterian church; Past Matron of the Order of Eastern Star, and member of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian church. (1)

James Madison Granberry, of Horn Lake, was born in Warren County, Georgia, and came to Hinds County, Mississippi, with his parents, Moses and Mary Warner Granberry. When still a youth, Madison, as he was called, entered Ole Miss and from there went to Rochester, New York, for post-graduate work. He enlisted in the War between the States from Grenada County, serving his country for four years. He was captured by the enemy at Memphis and put in Irvial Block, from which he escaped and made his way to Grenada to his young wife, whom he has married in 1863. In 1869, Granberry moved to Horn Lake to make his future home; he was elected a member of the Board of Supervisors in 1879, and served as president of the board until 1881; in 1884 he was elected to the Lower House of the Legislature, and served as a member of the committee that formed a bill giving Mississippi its first girls' school - I. I. & C. - and also was a member of a committee to select a site for this college. He served his third and last term as a member of the Legislature in 1900. Mr. Granberry died March 28, 1915, and was buried in Edmusston Cemetery. (2)

"Senator A. T. Dent, who was living in Lynchburg community, was called to the home of his heavenly rest on December 12, 1929. A devoted Christian husband and father, he always did his best for his country, community, neighbors, and friends; never tiring, but always doing his best for their benefit. We know the time our Heavenly Father loaned so kind and helpful a companion to his friends and family seems short to all, yet we cannot ever forget the jewel we received from so fine a Christian whom it was our privilege to be associated with." (3)

- (1) Mrs. Winifred Gartrell, Hernando, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Mamye Jones, Nesbitt, Miss.
- (3) The Times Promoter, December 12, 1919.

James P. Tipton, tax assessor of DeSoto County, was born April 15, 1911, at Eudora, and graduated from Eudora High School in 1928. He ran for tax assessor in 1935 and was successful over two popular opponents. He married Miss Nell McCullough in October, 1936, who was a school mate through his school days at Eudora; she is now his office deputy. (1)

Epsy Morgan Cook, born June 1st, 1902, at Hernando, completed high school there, then attended Sophie Newcomb College, New Orleans; Northwestern University, and Business College, Washington, D.C. Mrs. Cook taught for a number of years in Shelby High School, and the high school of Hernando. After her father's death (R.E.L. Morgan), she served DeSoto County as superintendent of education for three years. She married R. P. Cook, Jr., banker; to this union two children - one son and a daughter - have been born. (2)

Hazel Elizabeth Marshall, born June 4, 1905, at Pleasant Hill, was a graduate of that grammar school, the Hernando High School, and West Tennessee Teacher's College. While a student at the latter institutes, Miss Marshall was a member of the sororities, Sigma Alpha Mu and Pan-Hellenic. She was vice-president of the Y.W.C.A.; president of the Freshman and Junior classes; vice-president of Junior English Club; captain for two years of the college basketball team, and a member of the Latin-French Club. She taught for six months in the public school of Memphis; was social editor and assistant bookkeeper for the DeSoto County Democrat for one and one-half years; deputy tax assessor for DeSoto County for eight years; assistant to home demonstration agent for one and one-half years; and historian for Historical Research Project, WPA. Miss Marshall is a member of the Hernando Methodist Church; member of the 19th Century Club of Memphis; and member of West Tennessee State Teacher's College Alumni. (3)

J. D. Fogg, postmaster at Hernando, was born April 19, 1861, at Pleasant Hill, being a son of the late George W. and Sara Pounders Fogg. He was educated in the public schools of Pleasant Hill, and married Mary E. Baker of that village in 1883. To this union three children were born, J. D. Fogg, Jr., Helen J. and Sara Lee Fogg. In 1935 Mr. Fogg entered the political field as a candidate for circuit clerk, was elected, and served as circuit court clerk for eight years. At the expiration of his second term, he

- (1) James P. Tipton, Hernando, Miss.
- (2) Mrs. Epsy Morgan Cook, Hernando, Miss.
- (3) Hazel Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

entered into the mercantile business at Hernando, and remained in business until June 1, 1916, at which time he was appointed postmaster at Hernando by President Woodrow Wilson. He is now serving his twenty-second year as postmaster. (1)

" Robert Percy Cook, banker, was born at Shreveport, Louisiana, January 23, 1871, being a son of Robert Tinsly and Lemuel Doty Cook. He was successively bookkeeper, assistant cashier, cashier, and president of Hernando Bank from 1916 until his death in 1935." (2)

T. P. Flynn, banker, was born November 17, 1874, near Olive Branch, and was educated in the county schools of DeSoto. Mr. Flynn has been a resident of this county all his life, coming to Hernando, January 1, 1903. He is a member of the Hernando Baptist Church, having served as deacon since 1908. He has been a member of the Woodmen of the World since 1908, became connected with the Hernando Bank in 1905 as bookkeeper; was elected director in 1907, assistant cashier in 1907, cashier in January, 1914, and active president, January, 1935. Mr. Flynn is also a director in the newly-organized Rotary Club. (3)

Evander Jefferson Spigner was born January 11, 1911, at Lambert; is a graduate of the grammar and high school at Lambert, Junior College at Senatobia, and graduated with Bachelor of Science degree at Mississippi State College, January, 1935. He worked with the Soil Conservation Program located at Meridian from February to June 17, 1935; in September, 1935, he became connected with the Agricultural Adjustment Association in Hernando, where he has been located since. (4)

Daniel Ebenezer Wilson, merchant and farmer, son of Andrew Madison and Xantippa McCallum Wilson, of Nesbitt, was born at Elkton, Tennessee. Mr. Wilson was educated in the public schools of Giles County, Tennessee, and married Miss Maria Ann Bridgeforth of Pleasant Hill, in 1898, and to this union three daughters were born. Mr. Wilson is a public-spirited citizen, having served his community, county, state, and church in the following ways: Mayor of Nesbitt, 1880-89; president Mississippi Sunday School Association, 1909-1910; State Senator, 1918-1919; director Mississippi Co-operative Cotton Association, 1918-1928; president Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation since 1931; member of Mississippi Agricultural Advisory Committee;

- (1) R. L. Westerman, Eudora, Miss.
- (2) C. E. Emerson, Hernando, Miss.
- (3) Who's Who in the South, page 182
- (4) T. P. Flynn, Hernando, Miss.
- (5) E. J. Spigner, Hernando, Miss.

Farm Debt Adjustment Work; secretary DeSoto County Democratic Executive Committee; member of the Presbyterian church, and the Rotary Club. (1)

Dr. Bruce Maxwell, postmaster, Nesbitt, was born at Pleasant Hill, 1852, and has served the town of Nesbitt (which derives its name from Thomas Nesbitt, the grandfather of Dr. Maxwell), for the past forty-one and one-half years, as postmaster. (2)

W. S. Slade was born in Claiborne, Louisiana, October 22, 1857, the son of Joseph Slade. He married Miss Jane Lane, May 27, 1857, and to them, twelve children were born. Mr. Slade, at the outbreak of the War between the States, joined Company K, Confederate Army, and was a brave and faithful soldier until disabled by exposure while on picket duty, suffering paralysis of one leg, which made him a permanent cripple. After the close of the war, he returned to Hernando and resumed the publication of the Hernando Press, which the war had interrupted. He continued in this business until his health failed, and for fifty-seven years lived in the house where his last hours were spent. Mr. Slade was a member of the Presbyterian church, and his only survivor is his daughter, Mrs. Fannie Dickson, who still owns the old home in Hernando. (3)

Miss Mamie Entrikin, second daughter of the late W. H. (Cap) and Mrs. Ruby Entrikin, of Hernando, was born in DeSoto County. Miss Entrikin was educated in the public schools of this county, graduating from Hernando High School and Nelson Business College, Memphis, Tennessee. Upon graduating from business school in 1920, she began keeping books for her father, who owned and operated, in DeSoto, the oldest Ford Agency in the Mid-South. This company is still in operation after twenty-four years of successful business. After her father's death, Miss Entrikin became office manager for the company, while Fred Gore handled the sales, service, and repair business. Today, she is part owner in the company and has charge of the office. She is a member of the Eastern Star and the Methodist church. (4)

Mrs. L. J. (Lucile Parker) Toombs, was born February 2, 1900, at Benton, Yazoo County. She finished high school at Yazoo County Consolidated High School, had one year at M.S.C.W., Columbus, and in 1916-17 took a business course at Nelson's Business College, Memphis, Tennessee.

- (1) Miss Maria Wilson, Nesbitt, Miss.
- (2) Dr. Bruce Maxwell, Nesbitt, Miss.
- (3) Miss Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.
- (4) Jewel Entrikin, Hernando, Miss.

After Mrs. Toombs attended college at M.S.C.W. one year, she taught one year in Sharkey County, then married. She became active postmaster July 16, 1928, her commission being signed by Harry S. New. She has lived in Walls since February, 1921. (1)

#### References

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Campbell, A. S.         | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Cook, Mrs. Epsie Morgan | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Conger, J. F.           | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Counts, Mrs. Marye      | Days, Miss.           |
| Dean, Mrs. S. B.        | Eudora, Miss.         |
| Eason, S. W.            | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Entrikin, Jewel         | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Foster, Hugh            | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Flynn, T. P.            | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Gartrell, Winifred      | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Haraway, Mrs. Julia     | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Howard, T. P.           | Lake Cormorant, Miss. |
| Johnson, J. H.          | Dundee, Miss.         |
| Jones, Mrs. Minnie      | Nesbitt, Miss.        |
| Maxwell, Dr. B.         | Nesbitt, Miss.        |
| Marshall, Miss Hazel    | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Marshall, Mrs. B. P.    | Nesbitt, Miss.        |
| Riley, J. B.            | Eudora, Miss.         |
| Sanders, T. W.          | Glover, Miss.         |
| Spigner, E. J.          | Hernando, Miss.       |
| Tipton, James P.        | Eudora, Miss.         |
| Williams, Paul          | Cub Lake, Miss.       |
| Wilson, Miss Maria      | Horn Lake, Miss.      |

#### Bibliography

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Cox, Grafton, and Potts, | <u>Life of James Buchanan Riley.</u>  |
|                          | "Who's Who in the South", pg. 188   |
|                          | "The Mayfield Publishing Company, 1927"   |
|                          | <u>The Times Promoter</u> , April 11, 1902; April 2, 1925; December 30, 1936; December 12, 1920; December 12, 1919. |

(1) Mrs. Julia Haraway, Hernando, Miss.

ADDENDA

ACTS OF THE LEGISLATURE

An Act to Incorporate The Hernando Academy in the County of DeSoto: "Art. 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That Rev. McMahon, Richard C. Hancock, C. Payne, John C. Pryor, John Manning, Thomas Reed, Benjamin Cartwright, Milton Blocker, Hamilton H. Brown, and their successors in office be, and the same are hereby created and constituted a body corporate, and shall have perpetual succession in the Hernando Academy; may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer or demur, may purchase and hold, and convey real and personal estate, may make bylaws, laws of this state, may employ all necessary agents, preceptors, and teachers, may at their first meeting, or as soon thereafter as convenient, select from their own body a president, secretary, and treasurer, to hold their office for one year, and may have a common seal, and may do and perform all and anything incident to bodies corporate and politic, agreeable to the laws and usage of this state; shall hold their regular meetings of the board on the first Monday in April and October in each and every year, and may have as many called or special meetings of said board, as they may deem needful, at the discretion of the president, reasonable notice thereof being given; may receive donations in money or land for the use and benefit of said corporation; said trustees shall locate said institution at, or within one mile of the seat of justice, in DeSoto County; that the board of police court may make appropriations, or any surplus revenue that may have accrued to the County of DeSoto from the sale of lots in the town of Jefferson, as they may deem necessary for the erection of an edifice or building; may, by appointment, fill all vacancies that shall happen in their own body.

"SEC 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

"Approved: May 11, 1837." (1)

AMENDMENT, February 9, 1839.

AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE HERNANDO

(1) Laws of Mississippi, 1837

iii

iii

ACADEMY: "SEC. 1. BE IT ENACTED, BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That so much of an act, to which this is an amendment, as provides for the appointment of the trustees of said institution, therein named, be, and the same is hereby repealed; and that the following named persons, to wit: John C. Pryor, the Rev. William McMahan, Benjamin B. Newburn, Parry W. Humphreys, Culberson B. Payne, and two other persons to be by them chosen, and their successors shall constitute the trustees for said institution, which shall hereafter be known by the name and style of the Hernando Male and Female Academy, and, by that name, shall exercise all the rights, powers, privileges, and regulations, that are embraced in the act to which this is an amendment.

"Sec. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the donation hereafter made by the police court of DeSoto County, to the said Hernando Academy and all the rights pertaining thereto, shall rest in the Hernando Male and Female Academy; and the trustees thereof shall demand and receive from the police court and treasurer of said county the titles of all such lots of ground, bonds, notes, and effects, which were intended, by the order of said board of police court, to be donated to said Hernando Academy; and it is hereby expressly made the duty of police court of DeSoto County, at the first regular term of said court that may be holden after the passage of this act, or as soon thereafter as practicable, to deliver over to the president and trustees of said institution, the titles to all such lots of ground, and all the notes, bonds, and effects hereinbefore mentioned.

"SEC. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the lot of ground and the edifice or buildings thereon erected for a female seminary of learning at the town of Hernando, shall be under the entire control of said Hernando Male and Female Academy, and that the same shall constitute a part of estate of said institution, which may be sold by them at pleasure; and that said building may be completed out of the funds of said institution.

"SEC. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it shall be the duty of said president and directors of said institution to cause separate buildings for the male department to be erected and paid for out of the funds donated by the police court, and such other effects as said institution may be able to command.

" SEC. 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

" Approved, February 9, 1839." (1)

-----  
An Act Concerning the Hernando Female Academy in DeSoto County: "SEC. 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That hereafter the revenue derived from licensing tippling houses in the town of Hernando, and that which may have been paid into the treasury of the county of DeSoto be, and is hereby appropriated for the use and benefit of the Hernando Female Academy of said town of Hernando; and the president of the board of trustees of said institution is hereby authorized to draw said revenue, upon his giving bond and security to the treasurer of said county, for the faithful application of the same; and said treasurer shall receive two per cent for receiving and disbursing the same.

" SEC. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

"Approved, March 3, 1848." (2)

-----  
An Act To Authorize The Trustees of The Hernando Female Academy to Transfer Said Institution: "SEC. 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That the trustees of the Hernando Female Academy be, and they are hereby authorized to transfer said Academy with the appurtenances thereto, belonging to any society or denomination that in the opinion of said trustees or majority of them, offers the greatest inducements for the permanent prosperity of said institution, and the advancement of the cause of female education.

" SEC. 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That in the event that said trustees determine to transfer said institution, as provided for in the first section of this act,

- (1) Laws of Mississippi, 1839  
(2) Laws of Mississippi, 1848

said transfer shall be made to such persons in trust for said society, or denomination, as it shall designate.

" SEC. 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That said society or denomination, to which said transfer is made, shall appoint nine trustees for said Academy, who shall hold monthly meetings in the town of Hernando, to consult for the good of said institution, and who shall be invested with all the authority pertaining to said academy, with which the present trustees are at present invested by the act incorporating the Hernando Female Academy and the amendments thereto.

"SEC. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage. (1)

" Approved, February 28, 1850. "

-----

An Act To Amend An Act To Incorporate The Hernando Academy In the County of DeSoto, Passed May 11, 1837, and An Act to Amend and Consolidate the Several Acts Passed Supplemental to the Said Act of Incorporation: " SEC. 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That so much of the several acts to which this is an amendment, as provides for the appointment of the Trustees of said institution therein named, be, and the same is hereby repealed, and that the following named persons, to wit: James M. Tait, Wm. K. Love, L. Banks, R. W. Temple, W. C. Blake, J. B. Bridgforth, J. H. Morgan, W. G. Lobban, J. K. Connelly, F. Coghill, Thomas Nesbit, L. C. Taylor, John Robertson, J. T. Mosley, and Wm. Gray, and their successors shall constitute the Trustees of the said Institution, which shall hereafter be known by the name and style of the Hernando Female Institute, and by that name shall exercise all the rights, powers, privileges, benefits, and regulations that are embraced in the act to which this is an amendment.

" SEC. 2. THAT all gifts and donations, grants, and sales, heretofore made to the said Institution in the first act to which this is an amendment, named, whether to it by the name of the Hernando Academy or Hernando Male and Female Academy, or otherwise, however, and all the rights and immunities pertaining thereto, and all the privileges and benefits secured or intended

(1) Laws of Mississippi, 1850

to be secured to it by what name or style soever called or known in the several acts of amendment or acts supplemental to the said first act of incorporation, shall vest and reside in the Trustees of the Hernando Female Institute.

" SEC. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the lot of ground in the town of Hernando, owned by the Hernando Male and Female Academy, and originally intended as a site for the erection of a Female Seminary of learning, shall be under the entire control of the Trustees of said Hernando Female Institute, and that the same shall constitute a part of the estate of said Institute and may be sold by the Trustees thereof at pleasure, for the benefit of said Hernando Female Institute.

"SEC. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

" Approved, January 23, 1852 "(1)

-----

AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT ENTITLED " AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE HERNANDO ACADEMY IN THE COUNTY OF DESOTO PASSED MAY 11th, 1837, and AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT ---CONSOLIDATE THE SEVERAL ACTS--- PASSED SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE SAID ACT OF INCORPORATION"

APPROVED January 23, 1852

" SEC. 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That so much of the above recited acts to which it is amendatory and supplemental, as provides for annual and monthly meetings of the board of trustees of said Hernando Female Institute, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

"SEC. 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That said board of trustees hereafter shall have power, and is hereby authorized to meet upon its own adjournment, as well as upon the call of the president.

"SEC. 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the officers of said board shall be elected annually, at such time as the said board of trustees shall direct, and shall hold their office for one year or until their successors shall be elected.

(1) Mississippi Laws, 1852



"SEC. 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

" Approved, February 19, 1856 "(1)

REFLECTIONS OF OLD CONFEDERATE VETERAN

Dr. R. E. Bullington, aged 89, Honorary Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate Veterans of the United States, was interviewed at his home in Memphis on August 11, 1936.

Dr. Bullington spent the greater part of his life in DeSoto County, was born in Hernando on September 2, 1847, and enlisted in the Confederate Army when he was sixteen years of age. He was a member of the 18th Mississippi Cavalry, Company K, under Captain Raines and Colonel Alex Chalmers, brother of Brigadier General James R. Chalmers of DeSoto County.

After the war, Dr. Bullington said he attended the Kentucky Military Institute, and at the last meeting of the Confederate Veterans, which was held at Shreveport, Louisiana, he was elected Honorary Commander-in-Chief. He spoke enthusiastically of the good times he has had at the Confederate Reunions, and eagerly looks forward to the next one. Dr. Bullington seems to value his many friends very highly, and says that he "loves people." He plans to celebrate his 90th birthday with a dinner at the Peabody Hotel, Memphis, for all his children, grand-children, and other relatives. Many of these, he said, have already promised to be present, even though they live in distant states. He considers himself one of the DeSoto County Veterans, even though he is now a resident of Tennessee. He was once a member of the DeSoto County Camp of Veterans.

Dr. Ed Bullington, father of Dr. Bullington, came to Hernando in 1836 from Richmond, Virginia, and did valiant service to his townsmen during the yellow fever epidemic of 1878. He was head of the Relief Committee during the worst of the epidemic, and in October, 1878, he contracted the fever himself and died in six days.

A history of the Bullington family which Dr. Bullington has in his possession, traced his ancestry back to 1616. This history was compiled by a cousin of his in Richmond, Virginia. It took him three years to get the information and record it. His mother's father, Peter B.

Stubblefield, came to DeSoto County from North Carolina before the war.

Dr. Bullington spoke of the activities of the Ku Klux Klan in our county. He said the Klan did much to restore order and to make negroes realize that the white man was still to be respected. Dr. Bullington was a Grand Scribe of the Ku Klux Klan of DeSoto County, and said that dens or houses where negroes congregated were sometimes burned; and that they were often frightened by seeing the strange-looking ghosts gulp down bucket after bucket of water. Members of the Klan in another section of the state confiscated arms which were being sent negroes in Florida by the United States government after the war.

During most of the administration of Governor Ames the white men of Mississippi had practically no chance against Republican and negro radicals. There were a few Southerners who, lured by the promise of big offices and pay, deserted their old cause for the Republican Party.

Dr. Bullington spoke of a reception which he attended at Washington, D. C., during the administration of President Cleveland. He is a great admirer of President Cleveland, and said that Mrs. Cleveland was considered the prettiest woman who ever adorned the White House.

When asked if he knew Felix LaBauve, Dr. Bullington replied that he knew him well, and that he was one of the finest men he ever knew. He spoke of LaBauve's loyalty and his high temper. Upon one occasion, he said, George F. Harris was speaking in the Hernando courthouse and in referring to his change of party affiliation used these words: "Wise men change their minds, but fools never do." This so angered LaBauve that he yelled in reply, and the meeting was in great confusion for several minutes.

Dr. Bullington said that, at one time, Hernando controlled more wealth than any other town of its size in the United States, and that it had the best bar in the state. At that time Hernando and Holly Springs were in the same Judicial District.

#### Water From DeSoto Wells

Dr. Bullington practiced dentistry in Memphis for many years, but at one time during this period, he found that his health was declining. No cures or remedies prescribed by the best physicians seemed to improve his condition, he said. Finally, in desperation he tried some mineral water given him by a friend, who stated that he had been cured by drinking the water, and that after continuing it for several weeks, he was entirely well. This water, he said, came from what was then known as Kelly, or DeSoto Wells, a small settlement about 18 miles from Memphis. Dr. Bullington moved to this small place about 32 years ago and made it his home. He bought 320 acres from a Mr. Denton and built a hotel, and had a large stock farm here, also.

For many years, Dr. Bullington said, the hotel was full of visitors eager to try the water. After the hotel burned, he built cottages and a large dining room to replace it, but continued his career as a dentist until, again failing health forced him to give up his practice. During this time his resort at Mineral Wells (which it was then called), suffered because of the incompetence of persons hired to manage it. Again fire destroyed the accommodations of his guests, and the resort was no longer frequented. Dr. Bullington stated that countless persons were benefited by the water of the place, and that in 32 years since the hotel was built, there has been only one death among those who visited the resort. He said that many persons die each year now, who could have benefitted and possibly saved by drinking that water, had they known it. (1)

(1) Interview with Dr. R. E. Bullington, Memphis, Tenn.

ELECTION DISTURBANCES

(Interview with D.F. Pounders)

D.F.Pounders remembered a riot which occurred in Hernando in the early 1370's. He said that this riot was caused by election disturbances; that radicals were in power at the time, and the county had a negro sheriff, also a negro tax assessor at this time, named Young. The feeling ran high between the radicals and the white people of the county, several men being killed in Hernando. Guns were sent to every voting precinct throughout the county to be used in case of trouble.

Pounders told of a gunpowder mill which operated near Hernando during the War between the States. His father, J. F. Pounders, told him of this, he said. It was operated by two Englishmen, whose names he did not remember, but powder was made and sold for war use. It was manufactured from cotton, button willow, salt peter, and some other substance, of which he did not recall the name.

His father had a shoe shop in Hernando about 1365, and tanned leather for shoes, himself, at a tanyard southwest of town, near Rock Hill, below the cemetery. Shoes were completed in his shop. The leather was tanned with red oak and white oak bark; the process took about a year's time. The powder mill mentioned above was located near the tanyard.

Mr. Pounders has in his possession war discharge papers of his father, dated April 11, 1364. It was signed by George Moore, Lieutenant and Assistant Provost Marshal. His father enlisted at Hernando on August 5, 1361, in Company D, First Mississippi Regiment, under Captain Wm. A. Boon, General Alcorn, and Colonel Simeington. This Regiment had its headquarters at Iuka at this time. William A. Boon was Captain of the DeSoto Grays of the first regiment of the Army of Mississippi.

"That the brick for the building of the Male and Female College," said Pounders, "were burned in a kiln located south of Hernando on the Wilcox place."

Pianos were made in Hernando after the war by Louis and Gus Gitter.

Speaking of the burning of the courthouse by the Yankees during the war, he states that Dick Cobb,

colored janitor at that time, broke down the door to the room in which the records were kept, and rescued an armful of books from the burning building. This same negro served as coroner in Hernando during the administration of Jeff Evans, negro sheriff.

During the war most of the bridges in the county were destroyed. Because all bridges were destroyed on Coldwater River, a ferry was located after the war on this river at Pounder's Fort, and operated by Pleas Pounders. This fort, located near Cockrum, had a flour mill near it. Harvey Wheeler had a wheat thrasher two and one-half miles south of Hernando at the same time.

Among Mr. Pounders' treasured possessions is a scrap book which belonged to Jim Baker, uncle of J. F. Pounders. This book was begun in 1348, and contains a list of all letters received and answered by Jim Baker; also many orders received by him for tailoring were kept in it. (Mr. Baker had a tailor shop in the basement of the courthouse). There are many home remedies for diseases written on its pages. Green asparagus tips were recorded as a cure for hydrophobia, and cures for rheumatism, diphtheria, whooping cough, and other diseases are given. Bearing witness to the fact that ink was home-made at that time, there are formulas for making various types of ink. The book contains formulas for making home-made soap, also.

Mr. Pounders has a large collection of old clothes, many of which he said dated back to 1358. There are home-spun dresses and suits, knitted socks and gloves, and the spinning wheel used by the women of his family to make the thread for the garments. In addition to clothes, Mr. Pounders exhibited silver spoons and silver salt and pepper shakes which are 98 years old. (1)

(1) D. F. Pounders, Eudora, Miss.

HEARD LAMAR SPEAK IN 1876

(Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Banks)

When his grandfather, Lemuel Banks, first came to DeSoto County to live, Mr. Banks said, he found Indians encamped on the slope which lay before us. He believes that there was at one time an Indian settlement just west of his present home, as evidenced by the many Indian arrows and trinkets found there.

Lemuel Banks came from Georgia to Raleigh, Tennessee, where his oldest child was born. After a few years he moved to DeSoto County and settled at the place where Mack Banks lives now. Lemuel Banks built his home here in 1839, or a few years prior to this. This home was torn down in 1906, and the present one was built.

Lemuel Banks owned many slaves and bought considerable property in Memphis. He owned property on Beale Street, and other land, of which the present Riverside Park was a part.

Mack Banks spoke with interest of the days following the War between the States. He recalled the unrest that marked the Reconstruction Period, when the negroes were often beside themselves with their newly-gained freedom. He especially remembered Saturday afternoons during these days, when the roads would be crowded with negroes and whites coming home from or going to town. He remembered being frightened on these days because of the shooting and fighting which usually took place along the road in front of the house. He recalled that his father would not permit his colored tenants to go to town on Saturday afternoons; they obeyed his orders, as they had respect for his wishes, and fear of his displeasure.

Mr. Banks remembered hearing L.Q.C. Lamar speak in Hernando in 1876. He was a child at the time, but told us that Lamar spoke at the old Orne Place in Hernando, which is now the home of Mrs. George Banks. He spoke from the veranda on the east side of the house, and the lawn and streets were black with people. Mr. Banks does not recall specifically what started the trouble, but before the day was over, a riot started between the whites and blacks. Many were killed and injured before it ended.

About 1874 or before, Mr. Banks recalled, a company of Yankees camped below the Orne Place for several years for the purpose of preserving peace between the colored and white people. They were high class men for the most part, however, he added, and soon began to understand the Southern point of view.

Here Mr. Banks spoke of the days before the war, of which he often heard his father speak. He told of their going to church at Baker's Chapel, which he said was founded by German Baker, a well-known Methodist Minister of that day. The slaves attended the same church, sitting upstairs in the balcony. The white people sat downstairs, but often the negroes joined in the shouting with their "marsters and missuses." Mrs. Henrietta Baker, wife of German Baker, often led the shouting. Church was often held for the slaves on Sunday afternoons under the trees in front of the Banks Home.

When the present Illinois Central Railroad was known as the Mississippi and Tennessee Railroad, the depot was located where the water tank now stands. The present Depot Street was formerly known as "Lawyer's Rows." On this street the following lawyers lived: Allan Stokes, Col. T. W. White, Judge Hamilton Chalmers, Donald McKenzie, General Jas. R. Chalmers. He said that Gen. Forrest's home was located where Percy Scott's home now stands, and Colonel Felix LaBauve owned the home where Mrs. Elijah Bell lives now. He said that Mack Banks and Bob Morgan bought the DeSoto Times from W. S. Slade, and combined it with The Promoter, a paper founded by Mr. Banks. They made the name of the paper, The Times Promoter.

Mr. Banks remembered the time of saloons well, and thought most of the killings and shootings which occurred during those days were indirectly due to whiskey being so easy to get.

The Yellow Fever epidemic which occurred in 1878 was one of the greatest disasters of DeSoto County's history. Mr. Banks said that several families were completely wiped out, and that often only one or two members were left out of large families. A crowd of Hernando people refuged in front of the Banks home during the epidemic. The epidemic completely stopped business, and the streets of Hernando grew up in grass and weeds.

Mrs. Banks said that her father, Joe Boone, came to DeSoto County from Raleigh, North Carolina. (1)

---

(1) Mack Banks, Hernando, Miss.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT DESOTO COUNTY

(Interview with Mrs. G. W. Nail)

Mrs. Nail told of some of the early settlers of the Oak Grove community, who were the Meriwethers, the Dockerys, Tom Jones, the Raines, Major Oliver, and G.W. Nail, Sr. Each of these families had a beautiful old colonial home. Perhaps Oak Grove, Mrs. Nail said, can boast that it had more colonial homes than any other small community in the county at an early date.

Mrs. Nail also spoke of the slaves belonging to these early settlers, of their loyalty to their masters, and of their freedom. She said it was customary for each slave to have a pass to go from one house to another to visit with other slaves or to transact business for their masters or mistresses. If the "Patrol" who was a man or group of men out scouting, caught one of the slaves out without a pass, he was severely punished. This is where the old song so often heard in DeSoto County in bygone days was originated; "Run, nigger, run, the patrol will catch you."

Mrs. Nail told of the last election in which the negroes participated. Supper for the judges was given that night at the home of G. W. Nail, Sr.: white judges were served first, then the negro judges. Mrs. Nail waited on each table.

Mrs. Nail remembered some of the entertainments of the early days; one especially clear in her mind was the "Honey Festival" given by Bill Baker, who lived one mile south of Mooretown. This festival was held each year about the middle of May. Mr. Baker had a great many bees, and each May he invited everyone in the neighborhood to his house to help "rob the bees." Everyone went and carried dinner, spending the day to help extract the honey. They had all the honey they could eat for dinner, together with many other good things, and when then went home, Mr. Baker gave everyone a honey frame full of honey. Neighborhood picnics and dinners were also enjoyed in those days.

Mrs. Nail remembers when Mr. Nail grew his own rice and wheat at home. The rice was thrashed by beating it out of the head on a cloth, then fanning the husks out. He then sacked it and sent it to New Orleans to have it hulled and bleached. Three grades were made - whole grain,

half grain, and chopped rice. Wheat was thrashed by cleaning a large place on the ground, which was known as a "wheat yard." The heads of wheat were laid together in this yard, and boys on horses rode around and around over the wheat heads, the horses trampling out the wheat. It was then gathered up and the chaff was blown out with a home-made fan, which was of copper, attached to a screened box. The wheat was poured into the box, the fan turned by hand, and the chaff blown from the wheat. It was then sacked and taken to one of the wheat mills in an ox wagon, where it was made into flour. The wheat straw was fed to the stock, or straw bedding was made from it.

In speaking of the yellow fever epidemic in Hernando, Mrs. Nail said that Oak Grove did its bit toward supplying food, and a shack put up at the foot of Rocky Hill, south of Hernando. Twice each week G. W. Nail gathered up the provisions at Oak Grove, which consisted of bread and ginger cakes, baked by the ladies, and mutton, beef, and pork. In his spring wagon he took this to the shack on Rocky Hill, where someone from Hernando met him and carried it into town.

Three miles southwest of Hernando, Lige Bell owned a beautiful old country home, where he also had a mill and ice house. Mrs. Nail said that each winter Mr. Bell gathered ice, packed it in the ground in a large pit, and covered it with sawdust. He sold some of this ice, but usually donated it to sick people.

At Eudora, Dr. Watson would fill his cistern with snow each winter, and late in May and June he could draw large lumps of snow from it. This was also donated to the sick, especially the yellow fever cases at Hernando. She remembered the old Bradley Hotel in Hernando, which was formerly a colonial home. Everyone in this hotel took yellow fever.

The first sewing machine and cook stove at Oak Grove were owned by Mrs. G. W. Nail, Sr. Women in the community would spin, weave, cut, and baste their sewing at home, and on a certain day everyone would carry sewing and dinner to Mrs. Nail's to spend the day and sew. Mrs. Nail did all the stitching, as she was afraid for anyone else to run the machine.

Quite a few of the soldiers' uniforms in the War between the States were made at home. People met at the different homes, cutting and sewing all day, even on Sunday. To make the grey uniforms, black and white wool

was spun together. Occasionally an old black silk dress was torn up and carded in with the white wool.

Hernando was the main provision-furnishing town for the surrounding territory. During the yellow fever epidemic, nothing was brought into Hernando from the outside, for fear of spreading the fever germs. Sugar, flour, coffee, and other necessities had to be obtained from Memphis. Mr. Nail often made the trip to Memphis in his ox wagon to get these supplies, three days being required to make the trip. Sugar was bought in 350-pound barrells; flour in barrels; coffee in 100-pound sacks. Once on a return trip from Memphis, coming down the Rocky Hill south of Hernando, Nail's oxen ran away with him, and a barrel of sugar fell off the wagon and burst open. Mrs. Nail said sugar was strewed all over the Rocky Hill.

When Mr. and Mrs. Nail married, a Mr. Deanheart was running a shoe shop in Hernando, and made both pairs of their wedding shoes. Mrs. Nail's cost \$9.00; Mr. Nail's boots cost \$18.00

Mrs. Nail told of the earlier ways of lighting the homes. People usually made their own candles. Tallow and beeswax were poured into molds, and a string was put in the molds to make the wick. When the tallow hardened, molds were heated just a little to get the candles out. Some people used iron jars, having a little spout hung from a chain on the mantle or stand. A homespun wick was placed in this jar with tallow or grease, and the wick was "lit" to furnish light. Almost as much smoke as light was given out. (1)

---

(1) Mrs. G. W. Nail, Oak Grove, Miss.

## RIOT ON THE SHOWBOAT

(Interview with Tyler Boone)

When the Delta section of DeSoto County was new, almost a wilderness, life there was altogether different from what it is today, Mr. Boone stated. Wild life of all kinds was abundant; wild beasts, bear, and deer roamed the woods at will, and this section of the county was the hiding place for many outlaws.

Mr. Boone mentioned an outlaw named Sime Turner of that section, who came from Alabama, and settled in DeSoto County in the dense woods along the Mississippi River bank. Boone also spoke of the outlaw's son, Sime Turner, Jr., of whom he was very fond. Young Sime was born and reared in this section, and having been brought up in the environment offered there, he was, of course, influenced by it. This boy was quick with the gun, and used it to settle his difficulties. However, he never bothered anyone except when he was bothered. He was high-tempered, but loyal and true to his friends. As it was the general custom at that time to carry a gun, young Sime was never without his.

To young Tyler Boone this friend was an ideal, and visited him often. On one of these occasions, Mr. Turner sent Sime, Jr. and Tyler to Lake Cormorant to have the mules shod. At this time Boone said, he was about sixteen years of age. (It was about 1889).

While the boys were at Lake Cormorant this Saturday, they learned that a showboat was coming down the river from Memphis, and that it was going to anchor at Star Landing and give a show. The boys decided to gather the rest of their bunch together and go to the show, so hurried home to tell their friends of the fun in store for them. These friends were Dr. Conner, Ed Bozeman, Press Nelms, Bill Howard, Bob Caruthers, Joe Elliott. They arrived at Star Landing that night and watched the showboat come into view and land at 9 p. m. It had the picked up passengers at Memphis and points between there and Star Landing. After loading on more passengers, including the boys mentioned above, it pushed out to the middle of the river and anchored. Just before the show began, a boat came out from the Arkansas side and tied onto the

side of the showboat. This tug boat was loaded with whiskey, and many on the showboat drank all they wanted. The showboat never carried whiskey. Soon, there was a clamor for seats as the show was about to begin. There were about 50 or 75 negroes on board the showboat, and these were already seated on the left side in elevated seats. Many of the Arkansas fellows were full of whiskey, and a remark made by one of them to the Mississippi boys, angered them, and a pistol shot rang out from the back of the boat. The lights went out and more shots were heard, causing a great uproar and confusion aboard, and the crew tried to pull anchor to get back to shore. This was finally done, and as they neared the shore, the gangplank was going down, and many were shot or wounded. Others frantically jumped into the water to escape the danger on board; as the boys rushed toward the gangplank they saw a woman with her baby trying to get ashore. They recognized her as Mrs. McDougal, whose husband had a store in Star Landing. Tyler Boone took the baby for her and told her to follow him, that he'd get the baby and her ashore some way. Just as he took the baby, a large negro grabbed Mrs. McDougal and whirled her around. Sime Turner, who was nearby, did not hesitate for a moment, but shot the negro and he fell into the water below. They then managed to get ashore, and after taking Mrs. McDougal out of danger, they ran for their horses which they had hitched near the levee. These had run away because of the noise and excitement, so the boys then set out walking to McDougal's store. They could still hear the shouts from the boat; some were still jumping into the water, and others plunged into a wire fence near the shore in the excitement of getting away from the boat.

As they neared McDougal's store, they heard groans which seemed to come from beneath the store porch. Dr. Conner went to the store and asked who was there and what the trouble was. A forlorn looking negro stuck his head out from under the porch and declared he had been "shot all to pieces." The boys pulled him out, but they could not see that he had been wounded. However, he kept insisting that he was shot to pieces and the groans got louder; finally, upon closer examination, the boys found that he had not been wounded at all - he was simply scared nearly to death - and had escaped from the boat and hidden under the store.

Next morning the boys again set out to look for

their horses, and as they passed along the shore, they saw the wire fence with every conceivable kind of clothing hanging from it. The place looked as if a battle had really been staged there. (1)

References

- Laws of Mississippi, 1837
- Laws of Mississippi, 1839
- Laws of Mississippi, 1848
- Laws of Mississippi, 1850
- Dr. R. E. Bullington, Memphis, Tenn.
- Mr. and Mrs. Mack Banks, Hernando, Miss.
- Mrs. G. W. Nail, Oak Grove, Miss.
- E. B. Turner, Eudora, Miss.
- D. F. Pounders, Eudora, Miss.
- Tyler Boone, Walls, Miss.

---

(1) Tyler Boone, Walls, Miss.

POPULATION  
(1930)

|                            |        |        |        |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                            |        | ----   |        |
| TOTAL                      | MALE   | 13,026 | 25,438 |
|                            | FEMALE | 12,412 |        |
| WHITE (TOTAL)              | MALE   | 3,522  | 6,660  |
|                            | FEMALE | 3,138  |        |
| NATIVE BORN WHITE (TOTAL)  | MALE   | 3,507  | 6,642  |
|                            | FEMALE | 3,135  |        |
| FOREIGN BORN WHITE (TOTAL) | MALE   | 15     | 18     |
|                            | FEMALE | 3      |        |
| NEGRO (TOTAL)              | MALE   | 9,499  | 18,771 |
|                            | FEMALE | 9,272  |        |



CHINESE FAMILY IN DESOTO COUNTY

-----

Jue Jim Fook and family, Chinese, lived in DeSoto County, at Lake Cormorant, for ten or more years. They came from California, but he and his wife were both born in China. They had four children; two of them were born in China, but the other two were born in the United States. Jue Jim Fook wore his hair in a long braid and also wore his native dress, and his family used their native custom of eating. Rice was served three times every day. They could speak very little English. Fook had the only meat market in Lake Cormorant while he lived there. His wife died 1933, and he carried her remains back to the Old Country; the children went also. After he left for China, another family of Chinese moved to Lake Cormorant, taking over his business and it is still operated under the name of J. J. Fook and Company.

Jeu Sue Bun, the Chinaman there at present, was born in America, of native-born Chinese parents. He went through the eighth grade and speaks in very broken English; his parents speaking very little English. He married an American born Chinese girl, and they have three children. They serve rice three times daily, yet their customs of eating and dressing are the same as the American. This family has lived in DeSoto County three years. He has a meat market in connection with his general merchandise store, just as Jeu Jim Fook had, and this market is patronized by the people of that section of the county. (1)

---

(1) Miss Hazle Marshall, Hernando, Miss.

CHURCH STATISTICS

(1936)

----

There are thirty-three Churches in DeSoto County of all denominations. Of the above number of Churches, there are: 11 Baptist; 15 Methodist; 1 Church of Christ; 1 Episcopal; and 5 Presbyterian.

Baptist

| Pastor        | Name         | When Established | Membership |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|------------|
| Henry Rushing | Center Hill  | 1850             | 57         |
| C. Horton     | Eudora       |                  | 198        |
| C. O. Cook    | Ebenezer     | 1875             | 25         |
| Henry Rushing | Grazes Creek |                  | 82         |
| C. O. Cook    | Hernando     | 1846             | 217        |
| C. Horton     | Horn Lake    | 1926             | 47         |
| H. Rushing    | Macedonia    |                  | 106        |
| W. E. Lee     | Lewisburg    | 1866             | 65         |
| W. W. Grafton | Oak Grove    | 1844             | 50         |
| H. Rushing    | State Line   | 1908             | 147        |
| W. W. Grafton | N. Trinity   | 1906             | 125        |

Methodist

| Pastor         | Name                                | When Established | Membership |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| W.L. Robinson  | Hernando                            | 1836             |            |
| T. M. Dye      | Hinds Chapel                        | 1843             |            |
| H. M. Hammil   | S. Pleasant Hill                    | 1888             | 50         |
| H. M. Hammil   | Baker's Chapel<br>Brights Community | 1850             |            |
| T. M. Dye      | Cox Memorial<br>Eudora              | 1860             | 100        |
| T. M. Dye      | Minor Memorial                      | 1894             | 65         |
| J. B. Simpson  | Maples Memorial<br>Olive Branch     |                  |            |
| Rev. Beasley   | Fountain Head                       |                  |            |
| E. C. Driskell | Walls                               | 1929             |            |
| T. M. Dye      | Horn Lake                           |                  |            |
| H. M. Hammil   | Lewisburg                           |                  |            |
| H. M. Hammil   | Cedar View                          |                  |            |
| J. B. Simpson  | Mineral Well                        |                  |            |
| H. M. Hamill   | Cockrum                             |                  |            |
| J. B. Simpson  | Barton                              |                  |            |

The Methodist also have Sunday School each Sunday at the School House at Lake Cormorant. (1)

(1) Mr. Minges, Miss Gladys Dunn, Oran Cox.

Presbyterian

| Pastor         | Name                          | When Established | Membership |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| J. E. Green    | Hernando<br>Southern          | 1877             |            |
| Rev. Dilsworth | Eudora<br>U.S.A.              | 1888             | 30         |
| Rev. Dilsworth | Nesbitt<br>U. S. A.           |                  | 55         |
| Rev. Dilsworth | New Bethlehem<br>U.S.A., Days | 1849             | 100        |
| Rev. Dilsworth | Bethel<br>U. S. A.            |                  |            |

GRAZE CREEK was named by the Indians because there were so many deer grazing along its banks.

CUB LAKE was so named by Captain Tom Dockery because of the numerous bears in that locality. There was another lake south of this one known as Bear Lake, so Captain Dockery called this new lake Cub Lake for the little cubs.

BEANPATCH BRANCH was given that name because the earlier settlers planted beans there during the dry seasons.

LICK BRANCH was so named because the deer licked salt from the banks of this stream.

BEARTAIL CREEK was so named because an early settler named Alex Scott killed a bear near the creek. When he skinned the bear he threw his tail into the water, and the creek has since that day been known as Beartail Creek.

RED BANKS CREEK was named for the red clay banks between which it flows.

SULPHUR SPRINGS derived its name from the sulphur-like taste in the water and the yellowish look of the ground around the springs.

BAKER'S SPRING was named in honor of Rev. German Baker, a pioneer preacher.

CHURCH SPRING was named because of its location on the Presbyterian church lot at Pleasant Hill.

COWPEN CREEK, so named because in earlier days it divided in the bottom, forming a kind of island on which cows were herded for grazing. Its formation made a good cowpen.

HURRICANE CREEK was named for one of the Indian warriors of the Mussacunna tribe of Indians. He was so swift and bold that he was called Hurricane.

BANKS DITCH was so named as an honor to Mr. Banks, the advocator and builder of the ditch that drains so much of the farm lands of the district.

CAMP CREEK was so named because the Indians camped along this creek.

WHITE'S CREEK was named in honor of the White family, who owned the land through which the creek ran and most of the surrounding territory.

JERRY BRANCH, named by the older settlers in the community because a man by the name of Jerry went hunting in the woods near the branch and was lost there, wandering around for several days before his people located him.

FARMER'S HILL is a plantation owned by Mrs. George Banks, of Hernando, and so named because of its location on numerous hills clustered around one large hill, and its settlement of Negro farmers.

SHINPACK HILL was so named in honor of the Shinpack family who settled near this hill in the early making of the county.

ROCK HILL was so named because of the enormous rocks on its slopes and the rocks in the road bed which runs nearby.

#### References

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Crawford, Mrs. Freddie   | Moretown, Miss.      |
| Farmington, Mrs. Mildred | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Logan, R. F. B.          | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Malone, Mrs. J. H.       | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Marshall, Mrs. P. B.     | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Miller, Mrs. J. J.       | Miller, Miss.        |
| Nail, Mrs. George        | Oak Grove, Miss.     |
| Nichols, J. W.           | Eudora, Miss.        |
| Riley, J. B.             | Eudora, Miss.        |
| Scott, Howard            | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Swan, John               | Hernando, Miss.      |
| White, Mrs. Nettie       | Horn Lake, Miss.     |
| Williamson, Mrs. Julia   | Pleasant Hill, Miss. |
| Welch, Pete              | Hernando, Miss.      |
| Wood, Will               | Hernando, Miss.      |

#### Bibliography

##### Chain of Titles

Vol. I DeSoto County Records

##### DeSoto Times

March 29, 1888,

February 20, 1890.

NESBITT derived its name from Colonel Tom Nesbitt, who deeded land to the public for a village.

COCKRUM CROSS ROADS was one of the very earliest settlements in the county, being originally a trading post situated at the cross roads of the Hernando-Holly Springs and Oxford-Memphis Indian Trail roads. It derived its name from W. F. Cockrum, one of the earliest settlers of the community. Later it became known as COCKRUM.

CALIFORNIA derived its name from the many gold hunters who stopped to camp in this community on their journey to California in search of gold.

EUDORA was known as Ellaville until the Reconstruction Period. The name of Ellaville was an honor to Ella Lewis, daughter of Charles Lewis, one of the earliest settlers of the community. The name Eudora was given the village by the late Mr. Harrell, who moved from the Delta to this village, establishing a postoffice and incorporating it into a town. It could not continue as Ellaville, since there was already a postoffice by that name in the state.

MOORETOWN was named as an honor to Captain Moore, who settled there before the War between the States, establishing a sawmill and cotton-gin.

OAK GROVE community was named for the Oak Grove Church, which was named by Major Dockery, Major Dabney, and Sebran Jones. The church was, and still is, located in a beautiful grove of oaks.

JAYBIRD community is so named for the numerous jaybirds to be found in that locality.

BULLFROG CORNER derived its name from the fact that there were numerous bullfrogs in the surrounding bar pits and creeks.

WINDY CORNER derived its name from the meetings at Hughey's store of older settlers, who would tell long-winded tales of the past. This place later became known as POPULAR CORNER, since it was a popular place of meeting.

LYNCHBURG derived its name from the many lynchings held there during outlaw days.

LEWISBURG was named for the Lewis family, early settlers in that community.

INGRAM'S MILL, a principal village of 1836, derived its name from an early settler who owned the sawmill.

KELLY was first named as an honor to a railroad official of the old Memphis, Birmingham and Atlanta Railroad - the Frisco Road of today. In 1910 the name was changed to Mineral Wells as an honor to Dr. R. E. Bullington, who discovered the mineral waters in this community and built a summer resort there.

PLUM POINT, named by Finley Holmes, one of the earliest settlers in the community, because of the many plum thickets that were there.

PIGEON ROOST Creek was named for the enormous droves of passenger pigeons that formerly roosted in that section of the county, often breaking limbs from the trees.

HORN LAKE, so named because it is in shape of a cow's horn, was formerly a part of the Mississippi River bed and is still fed by the overflow waters of the rivers. A town on this lake is known as LAKE VIEW.

JOHNSON'S CREEK is thus named in honor of Jimmy Johnson, one of the first white men to come to DeSoto County. Mr. Johnson married the daughter of an Indian chief named Colbert and remained with the tribe as white advisor. He died before the tribe left for Oklahoma Territory and is buried near his wife in the Johnson Cemetery, just across the Mississippi-Tennessee State line.

MUSSACUNNA CREEK was named for the famous Indian Chief, Mussacunna, who once had an Indian camp near its banks. Mussacunna was one of the most powerful and influential of the chiefs of the Mississippi Indians in former days. His tribe occupied thousands of acres of rich land between what is now Hernando and Coldwater River.

COLDWATER RIVER was so named by the Indians because of its cold water. There was an Indian camp on the south side of the river, in what is now Tate County.

Mr. Robertson, who lived on the northeast corner of the crossing. Later, Mr. Robertson donated land to build a Presbyterian church. This church was located on a hill and was named Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church in honor of Mr. Robertson's eldest son, Pleasant, and the beautiful hill on which it was located.

OLIVE BRANCH, one of the first villages of 1836, was known as Watson prior to 1836, deriving its name from one of the early settlers. In 1836, the name of the village was changed to Olive Branch by Mrs. Frankie Blocker and her daughter, Julia Blocker Batts. Just why it was so named is not known. At this time the greater part of the village was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Milton Blocker.

WALLS was known as Alpika until the year 1906, when the name was changed to Walls, in honor of Captain Walls, who was one of the earliest settlers and leaders in the War between the States.

LAKE CORMORANT was known as Blythe, in honor of Captain Green Blythe, organizer and leader of the great Blythe's battalion of the War between the States. In 1905, the name was changed to Lake Cormorant, being named for the lake which is near the town. The name is of Indian origin, being the name of a tribe of Indians.

DAYS was first known as the "Chicago of Mississippi," due to the fact that the town was blocked out, streets named, and the location of the business houses designated.

MONKEY TOWN was named by the ladies of the community. It was a sawmill town very thickly settled. The sawmill was owned by Vestal Stroud and Company, who later sold out to Wilson Brothers. It was at this time that the name of the village was changed to WILSON'S MILL, in honor of the Wilsons.

CEDAR VIEW derived its name from the many cedars that are in this locality.

MILLER derived its name from I. J. Miller, one of the earliest settlers.

LOVE was first known as Love Station, as an honor to Dr. W. K. Love, who owned most of the surrounding territory.

NOMENCLATURE

Many interesting stories of historical events, heroism, and romance lie hidden in the naming of places and objects, especially is this true in the settling of a new country. These stories are usually concealed from the average reader, but the significance forms a most interesting study. Many of the counties, rivers, and towns in Mississippi bear Indian names. There is no complete dictionary of Indian terms, even for the dialects that are still in use. As a result, the meaning of many Indian names has been lost beyond all hope of recovery. Those that are known, however, seem to be highly descriptive and helpfully informative. The interpretation of the Indian names of rivers and localities in Mississippi adds a new interest to the places which bear these various names.

Thus, in this History of DeSoto County, nomenclature plays an important part. As will be noted, its rivers, many creeks, and old towns have Indian names which add to their charm. The names of early settlers and important events, which perhaps would otherwise be lost to memory, are perpetuated through the names found on the map of the county.

DESOTO COUNTY bears the name of the noted Spanish explorer, Hernando DeSoto, and has, therefore, an historical setting. He is believed to have camped where the county courthouse now stands while on his exploration travels through Mississippi when he discovered the Mississippi River.

JEFFERSON, which became Hernando in 1836, originated as a trading post for barter with the Chickasaw Indians, but just how the name Jefferson was given the post is not known.

HERNANDO was named by Senator A. G. McNutt, of Warren County, as an added honor to the great Spanish explorer, Hernando DeSoto.

PLEASANT HILL was originally a part of two sections of land granted by the United States Government on January 5, 1836, to a Chickasaw Indian named Ta-To-Yea. Records show that George Anderson Robertson purchased the land November 2, 1849. At this time a settlement was formed, which was called Robertson's Cross Road, in honor of

ROSTER CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS

| NAME                      | COMPANY | REGIMENT                  |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Adams, W. W.              | A       | 21st. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Anderson, G. H.           | C       | 42nd. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Appling, W. N.            | I       | 17th. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Atkins, A. G.             | E       | 34th. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Brady, B. B.              | C       | 42nd. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Baker, F. W.              | D       | 42nd. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Burton, W. H.             | B       | 5th. N. C. Cavalry        |
| Bell, E. J.               | K       | 5th. Mississippi Cavalry  |
| Blasingame, J. M.         | F       | Cobb Legion Ga. Inf.      |
| Broom, M. H.              | B       | Forrest's Reg. Cavalry    |
| Bennett, B. H.            | A       | Kings Battery Mo. Art.    |
| Black, P. M.              | K       | 7th. Tennessee Cavalry    |
| Bynum, W. J.              | A       | 9th. Mississippi Inf.     |
| Baker, J. D.              | A       | 7th. Tennessee Cavalry    |
| Bowe, R. B.               | G       | 11th. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Buford, J. P.             | H       | 15th. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Brower, M. W.             | K       | 10th. S. C. Inf.          |
| Brown, W. W.              | G       | 7th. N. C. Inf.           |
| Bledsoe, W. D.            | G       | 18th. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Booth, J. O.              | K       | 29th. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Banks, R. M.              | I       | 10th. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Boggan, R. P.             | E       | 2nd. Mississippi Inf.     |
| Birmingham, S. L.         | K       | 41th. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Boggan, G. D.             | G       | 9th. Mississippi Inf.     |
| Carson, Henry             | A       | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry |
| Chamberlain, J. M.        | A       | 12th. Tennessee Cavalry   |
| Chalmers, James R.        | K       | 4th. Alabama Cavalry      |
| Cavitt, W. E.             | K       | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry |
| Conley, G. W.             | F       | 17th. Tennessee Cavalry   |
| Cox, J. P.                | F       | 22nd. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Chrisman, E. B. Chap.     | F       | 10th. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Crumpler, B.              | A       | 42nd. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Crumpler, J. H. C.        | C       | Mississippi Inf.          |
| Crumpler, R.              | C       | 42nd. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Coggin, J. M. Con. Guards | C       | 2nd. Arkansas Cavalry     |
| Clifton, T. L.            | D       | 42nd. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Crawford, J. M.           | D       | 22nd. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Carmichael, J. H.         | F       |                           |
| Couch, J. F.              |         |                           |
| Chanell, Matt             | I       | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry |
| Chamberlain, T.W.         | C       | 17th. Mississippi Inf.    |
| Cooper, Henry             |         | 42nd. Mfs Inf.            |
| Cobb, R. H.               |         |                           |

|                  |           |                                    |
|------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Dollahite, W. A. | G         | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry          |
| Davis, J. G.     | F         | Jeff Forrests Bat. Cavalry         |
| Dean, E. J.      |           | Ballentine Reg. Cavalry            |
| Dye, W. R.       |           | Ballentine Reg. Cavalry            |
| Dockery, J. M.   | Sgt. Maj. | 33rd. N. C. Inf.                   |
| Dockery, Alfred  | Capt. E   | 38th. N. C. Inf.                   |
| Dockery, T. C.   | Maj.      | 22nd. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Dockery, D. M.   | Maj. A    | 7th. Tennessee Cavalry             |
| Dunn, T. A.      | I         | 29th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Dollihite, P. H. | A         | 33rd. N. C. Inf.                   |
| Dickson, G. W.   | F         | 19th. Mississippi Cavalry          |
| Davis, A. C.     | D         | 44th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Droke, J. C.     | I         | 17th. Inf. and Cavalry             |
| Dye, J. M.       | C         | 42nd. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Duncan, T. C.    | I         | 17th. Mfs Inf.                     |
| Evans, J. W.     | D         | 2nd. Mississippi Cavalry           |
| Eason J. T.      | L         | 17th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Elmore, W. G.    | No Record |                                    |
| Eason, E. E.     | K         | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry          |
| England, B. F.   |           | Blyths Cavalry                     |
| Flynn, Stephen   |           | Ballentine Cavalry                 |
| Frisby, Tom      | C         | 42nd. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Freeze, A. A.    | A         | 10th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Flynn, T. J.     | I         | 29th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Glenn, W. L.     | D         | 5th. S. C. Inf.                    |
| Goodvick, P. C.  | A         | 12th. Tennessee Cavalry            |
| Gale, Charles    | C         | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry          |
| Garrison, W. A.  | H         | 12th. Alabama Inf.                 |
| Grimes, W. T.    | H         | 11th. Va. Inf.                     |
| Granberry, J. M. |           | Stanfords Batty. Mississippi Atty. |
| Goad, R. A.      | G         | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry          |
| Gartrelle, J. C. | F         | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry          |
| Grey, J. M.      |           | Forrests Reg. Cavalry              |
| Hines, J. N.     | B         | Forrests Reg. Cavalry              |
| Ham, George      | K         | 9th. Mississippi Inf.              |
| Hansard, T. A.   | E         | 50th. Ala, Inf.                    |
| Holmes, Francis  | Lt. I     | 29th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Hanvell, T. J.   | A         | 10th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Harbin, H. N.    | F         | 42nd. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Hughey, S. A.    | E         | 43rd. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Hawks, A. E.     |           | 3rd. Va. Cavalry                   |
| Howard, R. W.    | B         | Adams Reg. Mississippi Cavalry     |
| Holliday, R. B.  | Lt.       | Ballentines Mississippi Cavalry    |
| Holland, T. H.   | F         | 9th. Ala. Inf.                     |
| Holloway, J. R.  | F         | Blyths Mississippi Cavalry         |
| Harrison, J. D.  | G         | 15th. Tennessee Cavalry            |

|                   |            |                                    |
|-------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| Ham, J. R.        | G          | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry          |
| Herbert, J. W.    | A          | 11th. Ala. Cavalry                 |
| Hayney, C. M.     | C          | 4th. Tennessee Cavalry             |
| Howell B. O.      | I          | 19th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Isom, Isaac       |            | McBetha Bat. S. C. Art.            |
| Jenkins, Calvin   | I          | 6th. N. C. Inf.                    |
| Jones, T. J.      | B          | 43rd. Va. Inf.                     |
| Jones, P. B.      | I          | 17th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Johnson, John W.  | Lt. D      | 1st. Mississippi Inf.              |
| Jones, C. R.      | K          | 29th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Janey, J. P.      |            |                                    |
| Johnson, Henry M. | D          | 44th. Mfs. Inf.                    |
| Jones, L. L.      | D          | 1st. Mississippi Inf.              |
| Jones, Crawford   | J          | 18th. Mfs Inf.                     |
| Jones, T. Dr.     | F          | 18th. Mississippi Chalmers Cavalry |
| Joyner, Julius    |            |                                    |
| Johnson, T. F.    | K          | 9th. Mississippi Inf.              |
| Kerr, W. I.       | 42 Mfs     | Inf.                               |
| Laughter, W. E.   | I          | 17th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Laughter, H. B.   | K          | 9th. Mississippi Inf.              |
| Love, W. H.       |            | Harts Bat. Alabama Inf.            |
| Love, C. C.       |            | Harts Bat. Alabama Inf.            |
| Langston, J. C.   | H          | 28th. Mississippi Cavalry          |
| Lamb, I. W.       | B          | 31st. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Logan, S. E.      | H          | 10th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Logan, R. A.      | H          | 10th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Lauderdale, A. M. |            | Forrests Reg. Cavalry              |
| Lauderdale, E. B. |            | Ballentines Reg. Cavalry           |
| Martin, Lee       | A          | 10th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Lester, W. T.     |            | Rock Bridge Va. Art.               |
| Lee, W. D.        | I          | 51st. Ga. Inf.                     |
| Lovelady, J. A.   | I          | 13th. Mfs. Inf.                    |
| Lewis, B. F.      | I          | 17th. Mfs. Inf.                    |
| Lewis, V. C.      | G          | 15th. Mfs. Inf.                    |
| Martin, J. P.     | F          | Mississippi Inf.                   |
| McGaha, J. A.     | M. Gen. E. | 3rd. Arkansas Cavalry              |
| McFarland, John   | I          | 17th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| McCargo, R. P.    | A          | 1st. Mississippi Inf.              |
| McKenzie, D.      | Lt. K      | 9th. Mississippi Inf.              |
| Miller, W. T.     | D          | 44th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Mosby, M. W.      | I          | 29th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| McIntosh, B. F.   | A          | Marmaduke Cavalry                  |
| Malone, John T.   | I          | 29th. Mississippi Inf.             |
| McKinney, James   | C          | 21st. Mississippi Inf.             |
| Mimms, W. D. Dr.  | B          | 17th. Mfs. Inf.                    |
| Medlin, H. L.     | G          | 4th. N. C. Inf.                    |
| Nelms, E.         | Capt. E    | 9th. Mississippi Inf.              |
| Nichols, J. S.    | Lt. F      | Forrests Cavalry                   |
| Nichols, J. W.    | F          | Forrests Cavalry                   |



|                     |           |   |
|---------------------|-----------|---|
| Nesbitt, W. T.      | Lt.Col.   | 44th. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Odom, J. W.         | Lt. I     | 29th. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Oliver, John T.     | Lt. B     | 9th. Mississippi Inf.                     |
| Owens, A. Q.        | B         | 44th. Alabama Inf.                        |
| Oliver, W. K.       | I         | 33rd. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Powell, Sam         | Col.      | 29th. Tennessee Inf.                      |
| Pullin, J. T.       | A         | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry                 |
| Pounders, J. F.     |           |   |
| Perry, A. G.        | I         | 29th. Mississippi Reg. Inf.               |
| Pryor, John         | C         | 42nd. Mfs. Inf.                           |
| Robertson, J.M. Dr. | H         | 8th. Tennessee Cavalry                    |
| Robertson, C. E.    | Sgt. Maj. | 29th. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Rollins, W. H.      | A         | 7th. Tennessee Cavalry                    |
| Randell, E. H.      | A         | 20th. Tennessee Cavalry                   |
| Robertson, A. T.    | I         | 3rd. Ga. Inf.                             |
| Reynolds, Nathan    | A         | 37th. N. C. Inf.                          |
| Rogers, Pat         |           | 21st. Mfs. Inf.                           |
| Reed, Plez          | C         | 42nd. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Stephens, H. E.     | I         | 17th. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Stephens, W. H.     | F         | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry                 |
| Solemon, J. H.      | I         | 29th. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Slade, W. S.        | K         | 9th. Mississippi Inf.                     |
| Sullivan, N. W.     | I         | 29th. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Solomon, B. F.      | F         | 22nd. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Stuart, W. E.       | A         | 10th. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Sanders, J.         | A         | 44th. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Scruggs, William    | A         | 13th. Mississippi Cavalry                 |
| Tarver, B. F.       |           | Price Headquarter Band                    |
| Tribble, N. J.      |           |   |
| Thomas, John        | D         | 44th. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| Turner, N. B.       | B         | Forrests Cavalry                          |
| Treadway, Wm. . .   | C         | 1st. Mississippi Cavalry                  |
| Taylor, Clem        | F         | Forrest Reg. Cavalry                      |
| West, J. B.         | K         | 9th. Mississippi Inf.                     |
| Wilroy, T. J.       | K         | 9th. Mississippi Inf.                     |
| Wesson, W. F.       | F         | Forrests Reg. Cavalry                     |
| Williamson, W. H.   | A         | Blyths Battalion Miss-<br>issippi Cavalry |
| Walton, John W.     | D         | 1st. Mississippi Inf.                     |
| Weissinger, W. S.   |           | Vaidens Battalion Miss-<br>issippi Att.   |
| Weissinger, J. M.   | A         | 5th. Mississippi Cavalry                  |
| White, W. R.        | F         | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry                 |
| Whitley, N. M.      | F         | 18th. Mississippi Cavalry                 |
| Wall, W. C.         | Capt. F   | 23rd. N. C. Inf.                          |
| White, J. C.        | F         | Forrests Reg. Cavalry                     |
| Wheeler, W. H.      | K         | 9th. Mississippi Inf.                     |
| Walton, S. A.       | F         | 18th. Mississippi Inf.                    |
| West, W. V.         | E         | 3rd. Va. Cavalry                          |
| Vinson, J. M.       | K         | 10th. Mfs. Cavalry                        |

## WORLD WAR

|                         |         | Date<br>Enlisted | Date<br>Discharged |
|-------------------------|---------|------------------|--------------------|
| Aldridge, James C.      | Pvt.    | 6-30-18          | 12-24-18           |
| Allen, Bridger B.       | 2 Lt.   | 9-28-18          | 1- 9-19            |
| Allen, Harry            | Pvt.    | 9- 1-18          | 11-28-18           |
| Allen, Percy Wilimore   | Pvt.    | 10-18-18         | 12-19-18           |
| Allen, William R.       | Corp.   | 11-25-17         | 4- 9-19            |
| Allison, Sam Jerone     | Pvt.    | 9-10-18          | 12- 7-18           |
| Anderson, George        | Pvt.    | 7-16-18          | 5- 3-19            |
| Anderson, Roy N.        | Pvt.1cl | 3- 5-18          | 2- 1-19            |
| Anderson, Thomas G.     | Pvt.1cl | 5-24-18          | 7- 8-19            |
| Armstrong, Willard Leo  | Pvt.    | 10-19-18         | 12-15-18           |
| Ashburn, James C.       | Sgt.    | 6-21-16          | 7-12-19            |
| Bailey, Burley          | Corp.   | 5-24-18          | 12-30-18           |
| Banks, Charles R.       | Sgt.    | 3-18-18          | 6- 3-19            |
| Barbee, Mills E.        | Pvt.1cl | 12-15-18         | 2-19-19            |
| Barnes, Charles W.      | Sgt.    | 12-13-17         | 10-24-19           |
| Bennett, Will           | Pvt.    | 3- 7-18          | 7-26-19            |
| Bernard, Henry H.       | Pvt.    | 6-25-18          | 5-15-19            |
| Birmingham, Drue D.     | Sgt.    | 4- 1-18          | 3-14-19            |
| Birmingham, William H.  | Mec.    | 5- 8-18          | 7-24-19            |
| Blanton, Cecil          | Cook    | 3- 5-18          | 3-17-19            |
| Blocker, Frank N.       | Pvt.1cl | 5-22-18          | 2- 6-19            |
| Boggan, George E.       | Pvt.1cl | 4- 1-18          | 10-20-19           |
| Bowe, Hector A.         | Pvt.    | 10- 7-18         | 12-11-18           |
| Bowlin, Robert L.       | Pvt.    | 1- 4-18          | 4-21-19            |
| Brady, Norman B.        | Pvt.    | 10-21-18         | 12-13-18           |
| Brantley, Alexander H.  | Pvt.    | 8- 8-18          | 4- 4-19            |
| Brantley, John Charles  | Pvt.    | 10-31-18         | 12-10-18           |
| Brasell, William K.     | Sgt.    | 3- 5-18          | 1-27-19            |
| Brewer, Robert A.       | Pvt.1cl | 3-18-18          | 1- 4-19            |
| Bridgeforth, Robinson   | Pvt.    | 3- 4-18          | 7-11-19            |
| Britt, Richard C.       | Pvt.    | 9-22-17          | 4- 7-19            |
| Brown, Alex H.          | Cook    | 9-22-17          | 2- 9-18            |
| Brown, Jessie C.        | Pvt.    | 7- 7-18          | 5-31-19            |
| Brown, Joe L.           | Pvt.    | 4- 1-18          | 6-21-18            |
| Buntin, Taylor D.       | Pvt.    | 10-11-18         | 12-10-18           |
| Busby, Henry L.         | Pvt.    | 9- 2-18          | 1-30-19            |
| Busby, William E.       | Pvt.    | 5-15-18          | 4- 9-19            |
| Carroll, John D.        | Sgt.    | 3- 5-18          | 11-27-18           |
| Caruthers, James M. Jr. | Pvt.    | 10-20-17         | 7-28-19            |
| Cheatham, Edgar         | 2 Lt.   | 6-14-18          | 3-31-19            |

|                            |         |          |          |           |
|----------------------------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Cheatham, Richard Jr.      | Pvt.    | 4-30-18  | 12- 1-18 |           |
| Cheatham, Joseph W.        | Pvt.    | 5-15-18  | 7-10-18  |           |
| Chamberlin, Arnold         | Sgt.    | 3-18-18  | 12- 6-18 |           |
| Chamberlin, Lamar          | Corp.   | 5-24-18  | 1-28-19  |           |
| Clarke, Edward H.          | Sgt.    | 3- 5-18  | 3-14-19  |           |
| Coe, Roderick Dhu          | 2 Lt.   | 8-15-17  | 8-23-18  | (Drowned) |
| Counts, Roy R.             | Sgt.    | 3- 5-18  | 5- 6-19  |           |
| Counts, William L.         | Corp.   | 9- 5-17  | 1-15-19  |           |
| Cox, Virge P.              | Pvt.    | 7-30-17  | 8- 1-17  |           |
| Craven, Herman C.          | Pvt.    | 7-11-17  | 4-23-19  |           |
| Dancy, Sumner A.           | Pvt.    | 9-22-17  | 5-26-19  |           |
| Daniels, John E.           | Pvt.    | 9- - -18 | 1-30-19  |           |
| Daniels, Thomas B.         | Pvt.    | 12-14-17 | 7-19-19  |           |
| Daniel, William J.         | Sgt.    | 7-17-17  | 7-22-19  |           |
| > Davis, Charles W.        | Pvt.lcl | 2- 5-18  | 6- 3-19  |           |
| Davis, Russwurm L.         | Pvt.    | 10- 6-18 | 12-10-18 |           |
| Davis, William Denton      | Corp.   | 8- 8-18  | 7-21-19  |           |
| Day, Grover C.             | Sgt.    | 9-22-17  | 1-30-18  |           |
| Dean, Thomas Jefferson Jr. | Off.    | 9-12-18  | 1-14-19  |           |
| Dee, John L.               | Pvt.lcl | 3- 5-18  | 6- 3-19  |           |
| Dee, Mack L.               | Corp.   | 9- 5-17  | 6-23-19  |           |
| Dickens, Fred F.           | Wag.    | 6- 4-17  | 8-14-19  |           |
| Droke, Leonard             | Sgt.    | 8-31-18  | 4-25-19  |           |
| Droke, Samuel H.           | Pvt.    | 5-10-18  | 12-31-18 |           |
| Dunn, Hubert A.            | Pvt.    | 10- 2-18 | 12-10-18 |           |
| Eason, Glenn G.            | Pvt.lcl | 8- 2-17  | 3-28-19  |           |
| Ellis, Tom Dean            | Pvt.    | 10-22-18 | 10-10-18 |           |
| Elmore, Jack J.            | Corp.   | 9- 2-18  | 2- 1-19  |           |
| Elmore, James C.           | Pvt.    | 11- 5-18 | 12-10-18 |           |
| Farris, Howard M.          | Pvt.    | 8-31-18  | 10- 6-18 | (Died)    |
| Flinn, Edgar O.            | Wag.    | 5-15-18  | 6-12-19  |           |
| Flinn, William A.          | Pvt.lcl | 5-15-18  | 6-12-19  |           |
| Flinn, Wilson B.           | Corp.   | 7-29-17  | 3- 3-19  |           |
| Freeman, Archibald H.      | 2 Lt.   | 10-26-18 | 1-16-19  |           |
| Fritz, Harry W.            | Corp.   | 5- 8-18  | 6-26-19  |           |
| Gaines, Thomas M.          | Pvt.    | 3- 5-18  | 9-24-18  | (Died)    |
| Gaines, Walker A.          | Pvt.lcl | 9- 7-17  | 10- 9-18 | (Killed)  |
| Gale, John W.              | Sgt.    | 3-18-18  | 8-13-19  |           |
| Gale, Robert Rollins       | Pvt.    | 11- 5-18 | 12-12-18 |           |
| Gardner, John A.           | Pvt.lcl | 4- 1-18  | 6-23-19  |           |
| Garret, Sidney J.          | Pvt.    | 3-18-18  | 3-26-19  |           |
| Gooch, Bernard B.          | Corp.   | 4-16-17  | 7-21-18  | (Killed)  |
| Gore, John F.              | Sgt.    | 3- 5-18  | 12- 2-18 |           |
| Griffiee, J. (Preston)     | Pvt.    | 5-24-18  | 5-15-19  |           |
| Griffiee, J. William       | Pvt.    | 5- 8-18  | 3-11-19  |           |
| Guy, Charles W.            | Pvt.    | 5-24-18  | 9-26-19  |           |
| Harris, Clinton            | Pvt.    | 5- 3-18  | 5-21-19  |           |
| Harris, Mach Everette      | Pvt.    | 7-16-18  | 11-25-18 |           |

|                           |         |          |          |        |
|---------------------------|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| Harris, Roy M.            | Pvt.    | 3- 5-18  | 4-16-19  |        |
| Harris, Walter S.         | Wag.    | 9-22-17  | 8-27-19  |        |
| Harris, William H.        | Corp.   | 3- 4-18  | 7-12-19  |        |
| Hawks, Ibie               | Pvt.    | 9- 2-18  | 12- 7-18 |        |
| Hawks, Mitchell H.        | Pvt.    | 9-22-16  | 4- 4-18  |        |
| Henderson, Elmer J.       | 2 Lt.   | 6-22-18  | 1- 7-19  |        |
| Herron, Lee               | Pvt.lcl | 9- 4-18  | 7-24-19  |        |
| Hilbun, Laban V.          | Sgt.    | 8- 1-17  | 3-28-19  |        |
| Hobbs, Clarence A.        | Pvt.    | 5-24-18  | 1-21-19  |        |
| Hallowell, Ernest C.      | Sgt.    | 3- 5-18  | 4- 7-19  |        |
| Jenkins, Chester          | Pvt.    | 9- 6-17  | 5-25-19  |        |
| Jenkins, Luther           | Pvt.    | 3-18-18  | 5-22-19  |        |
| Johnson, Cleveland Taylor | -       | -        | -        |        |
| Johnson, Hal Glenn        | 1 Lt.   | 2- 8-18  | 5- 3-19  |        |
| Johnson, Harry Orpheus    | Pvt.    | 8-13-17  | 1- 9-19  |        |
| Johnson, John J.          | Pvt.lcl | 5-24-18  | 8-15-19  |        |
| Johnston, Henry G.        | Pvt.    | 9- 2-18  | 12- 5-18 |        |
| Jones, Ira F.             | Pvt.    | 10- 5-18 | 12-11-18 |        |
| Jones, Robert D.          | Pvt.    | 5-24-18  | 11-29-18 |        |
| Journikin, John P.        | Pvt.    | 6- 4-17  | 11- 2-17 | (Died) |
| Kerr, Robert H.           | Pvt.    | 5-24-18  | 5- 9-19  |        |
| Kurtz, Julius F.          | Pvt.    | 5-23-16  | 10-15-17 |        |
| Lamb, John L.             | Pvt.    | 8-29-18  | 12-24-18 |        |
| Lamor, Thomas F.          | Corp.   | 8- 4-17  | 5-14-19  |        |
| Langston, Ansley P.       | Pvt.    | 5- 3-18  | 10-30-18 |        |
| Lauderdale, Edward B.     | Pvt.    | 8-31-18  | 12- 4-18 |        |
| Lauderdale, Robert L.     | Pvt.    | 3-18-18  | 7-25-19  |        |
| Laughter, Thomas          | Pvt.    | 3-18-18  | 3-26-19  |        |
| Laughter, Victor H.       | 1 Lt.   | 7- 9-17  | 7-21-19  |        |
| Lee, Joseph H.            | Pvt.    | 5- 3-18  | 7- 9-19  |        |
| Lee, Malcolm N. Jr.       | Pvt.    | 3- 4-18  | 7- 1-19  |        |
| Lowe, Claude              | Pvt.lcl | 5-14-17  | 7- 2-19  |        |
| Malone, James             | Pvt.    | 11- 9-17 | 6-28-19  |        |
| Matlock, Charlie B.       | Corp.   | 9-13-15  | 8-16-20  |        |
| Maxwell, Maurice C.       | Pvt.lcl | 9-24-17  | 8-18-19  |        |
| Mayfield, James Ira       | Pvt.    | 5-10-18  | 2-20-19  |        |
| Mayfield, Jesse J.        | Pvt.lcl | 5- 3-18  | 8-18-19  |        |
| Milligan, John            | Pvt.lcl | 3- 7-18  | 7- 9-19  |        |
| Mitchell, Andrew R.       | Mech.   | 9-22-17  | 2-13-19  |        |
| Mobley, Lamar G.          | Pvt.    | 6-25-18  | 5-31-19  |        |
| Moore, Dudley Rook        | Capt.   | 12-17-17 | 5-16-19  |        |
| Morton, Cecile G.         | Pvt.    | 9-22-17  | 5-31-19  |        |
| Mosby, Fred P.            | Corp.   | 9-22-17  | 3-15-19  |        |
| Munn, Ray Ed              | Pvt.    | 5- 8-18  | 12-16-18 |        |
| Myers, Walter M.          | Pvt.lcl | 3-18-18  | 5-31-19  |        |
| McCall, Ernest K.         | Corp.   | 9-22-17  | 4-11-19  |        |
| McCall, Marcus Henry      | Pvt.    | 8- 8-18  | 4- 5-19  |        |
| McCarge, Russell W.       | Pvt.    | 9- 6-18  | 11-30-18 |        |
| McDaniel, Lonnie          | Pvt.    | 9-19-18  | 12- 8-18 |        |
| McGhee, Herman L.         | Pvt.    | 9- 6-18  | 12- 6-18 |        |

|                           |         |          |                |
|---------------------------|---------|----------|----------------|
| McGowen, Robert Searcy    | Pvt.    | 11- 5-18 | 12-13-18       |
| McIntosh, Elton L.        | Pvt.lcl | 3- 5-18  | 5- 9-19        |
| McIntosh, Minor Frank     | Pvt.    | 8- 8-18  | 7- 3-19        |
| Nail, Harvey E.           | Pvt.lcl | 3- 5-18  | 1-11-19        |
| Nelson, James F.          | Pvt.    | 3- 5-18  | 6- 3-19        |
| Noe, James A.             | Pvt.    | 9-22-17  | 11-10-17       |
| Oswalt, Charles S.        | Pvt.    | 9- 2-18  | 7- 3-19        |
| Oswalt, John Thompson     | Pvt.    | 10-11-18 | 12-11-18       |
| Owens, John               | Wag.    | 3- 5-18  | 6- 3-19        |
| Owens, Walter R.          | Pvt.    | 5- 3-18  | 6- 7-19        |
| Palmer, William R.        | Corp.   | 3- 2-15  | 4-12-19        |
| Payne, Lindsey J.         | Pvt.    | 3-15-18  | 5-31-19        |
| Phillips, William T.      | Pvt.lcl | 12-14-17 | 12-24-18       |
| Pounders, Willie          | Pvt.    | 9-22-17  | 11- 6-17       |
| Proctor, Aubrey           | Pvt.lcl | 3- 5-18  | 6- 3-19        |
| Pryor, Jessie J.          | Sgt.    | 3-18-18  | 2-23-19        |
| Qualls, Christopher C.    | Pvt.lcl | 5-27-18  | 5-29-19        |
| Ragsdale, John L.         | Corp.   | 3- 5-18  | 6- 7-19        |
| Richerson, Herschel C.    | Pvt.    | 5- 9-17  | 10- 6-17       |
| Roberson, Canada H.       | Pvt.    | 5-31-18  | 6- 6-19        |
| Roberts, Richard T.       | Sgt.    | 4-24-17  | 12-19-18       |
| Robertson, Thomas Caffey  | 2 Lt.   | 10- 5-18 | 1-18-19        |
| Robinson, Bolivar G.      | Pvt.    | 5-15-18  | 2-26-19        |
| Robinson, Simon Powell    | 2 Lt.   | 7-10-18  | 10-16-19       |
| Rochelle, John L.         | Corp.   | 7-29-17  | 6-25-19        |
| Rogers, Robert H.         | Pvt.lcl | 2-19-18  | 1- 9-19        |
| Ross, Chester M.          | Pvt.    | 9- 2-18  | 6- 5-19        |
| Sanders, Jesse            | Pvt.    | 6-16-18  | 8- 2-18        |
| Sanders, Joseph W.        | Sgt.    | 8-22-17  | 11-26-18       |
| Sexton, Jim D.            | Cook    | 8- 3-17  | 11- 3-19       |
| Shackelford, Will Edward  | Pvt.    | 8- 8-18  | 4-16-19        |
| Shirley, Leon             | Pvt.    | 9-19-18  | 12- 8-18       |
| Sing, James Clarence      | Corp.   | 5-24-18  | 4-15-19        |
| Sivley, Elmer M.          | Pvt.    | 6-12-18  | 3-29-19        |
| Smith, James              | Pvt.    | 4- 1-18  | 7-14-19        |
| Snead, Hiram E.           | Pvt.    | 5-27-18  | 1-15-19        |
| Snell, Alfred E.          | Pvt.    | 9- 2-18  | 12-28-18       |
| Snell, Bryan              | Pvt.    | 10- 6-18 | 12-11-18       |
| Spencer, Albert L.        | Pvt.    | 3- 5-18  | 7-25-19        |
| Spencer, John E.          | Sgt.    | 5-27-18  | 3- 8-19        |
| Spillers, Clarence Eugene | Pvt.    | 7-16-18  | 9-12-19        |
| Stevens, Sam L.           | Pvt.    | 5-10-18  | 3-22-19        |
| Stevenson, Benson K.      | Cook    | 3- 9-17  | 1-21-19        |
| Stewart, Walter S.        | Pvt.    | 9-29-18  | 12-30-18       |
| Strickland, Drew D.       | Pvt.    | 8- 1-18  | 6-11-19 (Died) |
| Sweat, Charles N.         | Pvt.lcl | 5-24-18  | 4- 3-19        |
| Tanner, David C.          | Pvt.    | 9-26-18  | 12-30-18       |
| Tate, Andrew Jr.          | Pvt.    | 9-26-18  | 10-21-18       |
| Thomas, Barney W.         | Pvt.    | 7-16-18  | 10-18-18       |

|                        |         |          |                |
|------------------------|---------|----------|----------------|
| Thomas, James Van      | Corp.   | 3- 7-18  | 7-25-19        |
| Thomas, Martin S.      | Sgt.    | 4- 3-18  | 5-20-19        |
| Thomas, Oscar R.       | Corp.   | 3- 7-18  | 7-24-19        |
| Thurman, John R. Jr.   | Sgt.    | 4-24-17  | 4-12-19        |
| Toombs, John C.        | Pvt.lcl | 2-22-18  | 8-20-19        |
| Treadway, Herschel E.  | Corp.   | 5-24-18  | 4- 7-19        |
| Treadway, Vernon Ray   | Pvt.lcl | 5-27-18  | 8-18-19        |
| Treadway, Victor H.    | Pvt.    | 9-15-18  | 12- 9-18       |
| Tucker, Sanford J.     | Pvt.    | 6-28-16  | 7-11-19        |
| Turley, Shelby L.      | Pvt.    | 9- 2-18  | 5-28-19        |
| Vaiden, Emette S.      | Corp.   | 5-24-18  | 8-31-18 (Died) |
| Vaughn, Ben L.         | Pvt.    | 4- 1-18  | 10-12-18       |
| Vinson, Richard        | Pvt.    | 8-31-18  | 10-21-18       |
| Walton, Harry H.       | Pvt.    | 5-24-18  | 9- 3-19        |
| Ware, Herbert F.       | Pvt.lcl | 7-20-17  | 1-18-18        |
| Watkins, Earl L.       | Pvt.    | 2-22-19  | 5-25-19        |
| Watson, Robbie S.      | Pvt.    | 5-14-18  | 6- 9-19        |
| Watson, William W.     | Pvt.    | 8-31-18  | 11-30-18       |
| Way, Hugh B.           | Cook    | 6- 5-17  | 7-14-19        |
| Wheeler, A. D. Jr.     | Pvt.    | 8-31-18  | 8-31-19        |
| Wheeler, John F.       | Corp.   | 3- 4-18  | 7-28-19        |
| Wheeler, John F. J.    | Pvt.    | 10- 6-18 | 12-11-18       |
| Wheeler, Walter J.     | Corp.   | 4- 1-18  | 6- 4-19        |
| White, Clifton         | Pvt.    | 9-22-17  | 3-23-18        |
| White, Lucius O.       | Pvt.    | 3-14-18  | 4-30-19        |
| Whitfield, Nathaniel   | Corp.   | 10- 6-17 | 5- 7-19        |
| Wilkinson, Charles H.  | Corp.   | 8-14-17  | 4- 4-19        |
| Wilkinson, Edward T.   | Pvt.    | 9-19-18  | 11- 9-18       |
| Williams, Charles D.   | Sgt.    | 4-11-17  | 6-19-19        |
| Williams, William J.   | Pvt.    | 5-10-18  | 2-22-19        |
| Williamson, Donald M.  | Sgt.    | 12-15-17 | 1-25-19        |
| Winders, Hugh C.       | Pvt.    | 5-10-18  | 2-22-19        |
| Winders, Joe A.        | Pvt.    | 3- 5-18  | 3-17-19        |
| Womack, Clifford E.    | Pvt.    | 6-28-18  | 4-30-19        |
| Young, William Richard | 2 Lt.   | 6- 1-18  | 12-13-18       |

This roster was taken from the Adjutant General's office, Jackson, Mississippi.

Marines

|                       |                | ENLISTMENT<br>DATE | DISCHARGE<br>DATE |        |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Allen, Henry          | Seaman 2cl.    | 3-8-18             | 3-28-19           |        |
| Alsworth, Leslie A.   | Qmstr. 1cl.    | 6-5-17             | 1-15-19           |        |
| Anderson, Jonathan E. |                | 3-14-18            | 9-15-18           | Killed |
| Bolton, Whit. J.      |                | 6-30-18            | 10-20-19          |        |
| Campbell, John H.     |                | 6-29-18            | 11-25-18          |        |
| Cowan, Clyde          | Fireman 2cl.   | 12-4-17            | 12-10-18          |        |
| Davis, Charley P.     |                | 7-5-18             | 8-15-19           |        |
| Dickson, Jeff         | Fireman 1cl.   | 12-4-17            | 6-13-19           |        |
| Dickson, Lucius M.    | Fireman 1cl.   | 12-4-17            | 9-24-19           |        |
| Droke, Jefferson D.   | Mach.Mate 1cl. | 12-13-17           | 3-12-19           |        |
| Flowers, John         |                | 8-5-17             | 6-11-19           | Killed |
| Glenn, Clyde W.       |                | 4-6-18             | 6-16-19           |        |
| Gunnelle, Bill        | Pvt. 1cl. M.C. | 6-8-17             | 9-10-19           |        |
| Humphreys, Charles H. | Aprnts. Semn.  | 5-9-18             | 8-27-18           |        |
| Hutchison, John R.    | Yeoman 3cl.    | 12-12-17           | 1-23-19           |        |
| Lamb, Albert G.       | Engiman 2cl.   | 6-4-18             | 9-22-19           |        |
| Latham, John C.       | Lt. Comdr.     | 6-11-04            |                   |        |
| Lea, DeWitt C. Jr.    |                | 4-13-18            | 2-6-19            |        |
| Lowe, Macon W.        |                | 7-15-18            | 2-7-19            |        |
| McDonald, Herman D.   | Hosp. Aprnts   | 12-10-17           | 12-16-18          |        |
| McGowen, John F.      |                | 5-11-18            | 9-25-19           |        |
| O'Donnell, John N.    | Pvt. M. C.     | 5-7-17             | 8-13-19           |        |
| Owen, William D.      | Aprnts. Semn.  | 12-12-17           | 2-12-18           |        |
| Redish, Wilmer W.     | Q.M. Sgt. M.C. | 6-4-18             | 8-30-19           |        |
| Riley, Rufus G.       | Pvt. 1cl. M.C. | 8-5-17             | 2-28-19           |        |
| Robinson, William T.  | Elect. 3cl. R. | 5-1-18             | 6-11-19           |        |
| Smith, Charlie F.     | Water Tender   | 7-11-17            | 6-20-19           |        |
| Smith, George         | Cabin Cook     | 8-27-17            | 7-29-20           |        |
| Thompson, George A.   | Lt. E.M.C.     | 8-16-18            | 2-24-19           | Died   |
| White, Alfred W.      | Fireman 2Cl.   | 12-4-17            | 8-13-19           |        |

Negroes

|                     |          | Enlistment<br>Date | Discharge<br>Date |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Adams, Wisdom       | Pvt.     | 4-1-18             | 7-14-19           |
| Alexander, James    | Pvt.     | 3-7-18             | 7-26-19           |
| Alexander, Joe      | Pvt.     | 9-26-18            | 1-29-19           |
| Allen, Cornelius    | Pvt.     | 3-7-18             | 7-3-19            |
| Anderson, Ester     | Pvt.     | 5-3-18             | 12-12-18          |
| Anderson, James     | Pvt.     | 7-16-18            | 7-9-19            |
| Arnold, Wilburn     | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18             | 7-15-19           |
| Ashley, George      | Pvt.lcl. | 7-16-18            | 10-7-19           |
| Askew, Lee          | Cook     | 4-1-18             | 7-14-19           |
| Atkins, Ben         | Pvt.     | 3-7-18             | 5-16-18           |
| Bacchus, Lucius     | Pvt.lcl. | 7-28-18            | 7-22-19           |
| Banks, Fred         | Pvt.     | 6-21-18            | 4-14-19           |
| Banks, Jessie       | Pvt.     | 6-20-18            | 7-30-19           |
| Bankston, Anthony   | Pvt.lcl. | 4-1-18             | 7-24-19           |
| Barnes, Arch        | Pvt.     | 9-1-18             | 11-27-18          |
| Bankston, Willis    | Pvt.     | 5-3-18             | 7-18-19           |
| Bassett, Alexander  | Pvt.     | 7-18-18            | 12-6-18           |
| Battle, Willie      | Ck.      | 3-7-18             | 7-30-19           |
| Baucume, Oscar      | Pvt.     | 7-15-18            | 7-25-19           |
| Bedford, Charlie    | Pvt.     | 7-15-18            | 7-26-19           |
| Bell, Goldman       | Pvt.     | 8-21-18            | 2-14-19           |
| Bennett, Leon       | Pvt.     | 4-1-18             | 7-16-19           |
| Bennett, Mallus     | Pvt.     | 7-28-18            | 3-17-19           |
| Betts, Sandy        | Pvt.     | 3-7-18             | 9-11-19           |
| Bevely, Tilman      | Pvt.     | 9-1-18             | 11-27-18          |
| Boone, Claude       | Pvt.     | 9-1-18             | 7-18-19           |
| Bowen, Willie       | Pvt.     | 9-26-18            | 1-25-19           |
| Boyce, Adner        | Corp.    | 7-28-18            | 7-22-19           |
| Boyce, Will Spender | Pvt.     | 7-16-18            | 11-27-18          |
| Bradley, Clarence   | Pvt.     | 9-26-18            | 1-29-19           |
| Braxton, Lawrence   | Pvt.     | 9-26-18            | 12-30-18          |
| Brewer, James       | Pvt.     | 4-28-18            | 12-10-18          |
| Bridgeforth, Henry  | Pvt.     | 3-7-18             | 7-18-19           |
| Broadie, Milton     | Pvt.     | 10-6-17            | 9-12-19           |
| Broady, Dave        | Pvt.     | 3-7-18             | 7-30-19           |
| Brooks, Willie      | Pvt.     | 10-6-17            | 12-1-17           |
| Brough, Bennie      | Pvt.     | 7-16-18            | 11-28-18          |

|                        |          |         |          |
|------------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Brown, Albert          | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 11-27-18 |
| Brown, Butler          | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 8-2-19   |
| Brown, Eugene          | Pvt.lcl. | 5-3-18  | 3-15-19  |
| Brown, Frank           | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 10-18-18 |
| Brown, Johnie          | Pvt.     | 10-6-17 | 3-25-18  |
| Brown, Samuel          | Pvt.     | 8-21-18 | 12-19-18 |
| Bryant, Brady          | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 12-30-18 |
| Bryant, Frank          | Pvt.     | 8-21-18 | 12-14-18 |
| Bryant, Gilbert        | Pvt.     | 7-28-18 | 7-22-19  |
| Bryant, Leroy          | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 2-3-19   |
| Bryant, Sherman        | Corp.    | 9-1-18  | 8-11-19  |
| Bryant, William Cullen | Pvt.     | 8-21-18 | 2-15-19  |
| Bullard, William W.    | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 8-12-19  |
| Burns, Walter          | Pvt.lcl. | 10-8-17 | 6-18-19  |
| Burton, Wadell         | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 11-5-18  |
| Byas, Larmon           | Pvt.     | 8-21-18 | 7-30-19  |
| Cargo, Henry           | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 12-21-18 |
| Carpenter, Charlie     | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 5-21-19  |
| Carpenter, Dennis      | Pvt.     | 4-1-18  | 7-14-19  |
| Carroll, Lemp          | Pvt.     | 4-3-18  | 9-3-19   |
| Cathey, William Henry  | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-14-19  |
| Christopher, Carl      | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 7-10-19  |
| Clark, Charles Love    | Corp.    | 9-26-18 | 1-24-19  |
| Clark, Richard         | Pvt.     | 4-12-18 | 3-26-19  |
| Clark, Theodore        | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-24-19  |
| Clark, William         | Pvt.     | 4-1-18  | 11-28-18 |
| Clayton, DeWitt        | Pvt.lcl. | 6-20-18 | 7-7-19   |
| Clayton, Sam Jr.       | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-29-19  |
| Clayton, Silas         | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 8-26-18  |
| Coats, Johnnie         | Corp.    | 4-1-18  | 7-15-19  |
| Collins, Julius        | Pvt.     | 5-3-18  | 12-12-18 |
| Collins, Solomon       | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18  | 7-10-19  |
| Connor, Jake           | Pvt.     | 5-3-18  | 12-15-18 |
| Cotton, Johnnie        | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 6-24-19  |
| Cowan, Husley          | Corp.    | 4-1-18  | 7-14-19  |
| Cox, Cassie            | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 7-19-19  |
| Cox, Edward            | Pvt.lcl. | 4-29-18 | 1-22-19  |
| Craft, Earnest         | Pvt.     | 7-28-18 | 7-23-19  |
| Crawford, Carl         | Pvt.lcl. | 7-16-18 | 7-15-19  |
| Cross, David           | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 12-30-18 |
| Crutcher, Edinburg     | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 7-10-19  |
| Crutcher, Goldie       | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 2-16-19  |
| Crutcher, Walter       | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 11-27-18 |
| Crumpton, Will         | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 7-18-19  |
| Cunningham, Elton      | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 3-29-19  |
| Cunningham, Leon       | Pvt.     | 5-20-18 | 7-23-19  |

|                               |          |         |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Curtis, Rowan                 | Pvt.     | 4-1-18  | 6-27-19  |
| Dailey, James                 | Pvt.     | 6-20-18 | 11-20-18 |
| Dandridge, Doty               | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 12-16-18 |
| Davis, Arthur                 | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 3-25-19  |
| Davis, David                  | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 12-16-18 |
| Davis, Henry                  | Pvt.     | 3-12-18 | 4-25-19  |
| Davis, Robert                 | Pvt.lcl. | 6-3-18  | 2-17-19  |
| Davis, Wade H.                | Pvt.lcl. | 10-6-17 | 6-24-19  |
| Dennis, Alex                  | Corp.    | 9-26-18 | 1-29-19  |
| Dennis, Eugene                | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 11-23-18 |
| Dennis, James                 | Cook     | 4-1-18  | 7-14-19  |
| Dennis, Manzy                 | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-29-19  |
| Dishmond, Robert              | Pvt.     | 8-21-18 | 12-7-18  |
| Dockery, Johnson              | Pvt.     | 9-25-18 | 4-11-19  |
| Dotson, James                 | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 7-15-19  |
| Dye, Rythus                   | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-29-19  |
| Eason, Tom                    | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-29-19  |
| Echols, Teal                  | Pvt.lcl. | 10-6-17 | 7-25-19  |
| Edgerton, Ed                  | Pvt.     | 6-20-18 | 10-18-19 |
| Elkin, Sim                    | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18  | 7-29-19  |
| Ellis, Edgar                  | Pvt.     | 5-3-18  | 7-15-18  |
| Evans, Edgar                  | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 7-21-19  |
| Falkner, Joe                  | Pvt.     | 5-3-18  | 7-19-19  |
| Fant, Shellie                 | Pvt.lcl. | 8-21-18 | 1-15-19  |
| Farmer, Barron                | Pvt.lcl. | 10-6-17 | 7-25-19  |
| Fickley, Blain                | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 7-12-19  |
| Fitzgerald, Herman            | Pvt.lcl. | 5-1-18  | 8-1-19   |
| Foster, Clinton               | Pvt.     | 9-26-19 | 5-21-19  |
| Fox, Benjamin                 | Pvt.     | 8-21-18 | 1-28-19  |
| Fox, E. S.                    | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 10-9-18  |
| Freeman, Jim                  | Pvt.     | 4-1-18  | 12-24-18 |
| Garon, Auguster               | Pvt.     | 5-24-18 | 12-8-20  |
| Garrett, Lester               | Pvt.     | 9-21-18 | 1-14-19  |
| Gathing, Loucious Gartrell    | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18  | 6-17-19  |
| Geams, George F.              | Pvt.     | 8-21-18 | 12-10-18 |
| Gibbs, John                   | Pvt.     | 9-24-17 | 12-17-18 |
| Gillispie, George M.          | Pvt.     |         |          |
| Gillespie, Henry Williams     | Pvt.     | 6-20-18 | 5-23-19  |
| Glover, Frank                 | Pvt.     | 3-16-18 | 7-15-19  |
| Glover, Guy                   | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 3-11-19  |
| Glover, James                 | Pvt.     | 7-31-18 | 7-10-19  |
| Glover, Walter                | Pvt.lcl. |         |          |
| Goosby, George Washington Jr. | Pvt.     | 10-6-17 | 6-11-19  |
| Gray, Andrew                  | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 8-12-19  |
| Green, Nathaniel              | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18  | 9-4-19   |
| Greer, Eddie                  | Pvt.     | 7-15-18 | 8-22-18  |
| Grimes, Arthur                | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-14-19  |
| Guy, Frank                    | Pvt.     | 8-21-18 | 12-9-18  |
| Guy, Frazier                  | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 2-25-19  |
| Halloway, Nathaniel           | Pvt.     |         |          |

|                     |          |         |          |
|---------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Hamilton, Curley    | Ck.      | 7-28-18 | 8-2-19   |
| Hampton, Virgil     | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18  | 7-29-19  |
| Hankins, Golden     | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 7-18-19  |
| Hardaway, Joseph    | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 7-19-19  |
| Hardaway, Samuel    | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18  | 7-19-19  |
| Harris, Frank       | Pvt.     | 12-6-17 | 2-26-18  |
| Harris, P. H.       | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 7-15-19  |
| Hemingway, Archie   | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 4-10-19  |
| Herd, Handy         | Pvt.     | 3-18-18 | 7-28-19  |
| Hern, Joseph        | Pvt.     | 4-1-18  | 10-29-18 |
| Herron, John        | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 7-22-19  |
| Hill, Roscoe C.     | Sgt.     | 8-22-18 | 7-11-19  |
| Hill, Sam           | Sgt.     | 10-6-17 | 7-25-19  |
| Howloway, Albert    | Corp.    | 10-6-17 | 7-25-19  |
| Holman, Herbert     | Pvt.lcl. | 4-1-18  | 7-14-19  |
| Holman, Jesse       | Pvt.     | 6-20-18 | 3-26-19  |
| House, C. B.        | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 3-24-18  |
| Howard, Lewis       | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-14-19  |
| Howard, Vernilia    | Pvt.     | 6-27-18 | 12-12-18 |
| Hubbard, Will       | Pvt.     | 4-1-18  | 8-1-19   |
| Hunt, Arthur        | Pvt.     | 3-16-18 | 7-28-19  |
| Hunt, Ben           | Pvt.     | 10-2-18 | 10-24-18 |
| Hunt, Isaac         | Pvt.     | 7-28-18 | 7-21-19  |
| Ingram, T. J.       | Pvt.     | 6-27-18 | 8-5-19   |
| Ingram, Will        | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 7-15-19  |
| Jackson, William J. | Pvt.     | 6-20-18 | 12-29-18 |
| James, Charlie      | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 7-26-19  |
| Jarrett, Neal       | Pvt.     | 6-20-18 | 6-30-19  |
| Jenkins, Alcuin     | Pvt.     | 10-6-17 | 7-22-19  |
| Jenkins, Reuben M.  | Pvt.     | 6-20-18 | 7-29-19  |
| Jenkins, William    | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 9-26-19  |
| Johnson, David      | Pvt.lcl. | 10-6-17 | 8-3-19   |
| Johnson, Emmett     | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 3-18-19  |
| Johnson, Frank      | Pvt.     | 4-1-18  | 3-13-18  |
| Johnson, George     | Pvt.     | 7-28-18 | 6-26-19  |
| Johnson, Henry      | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 7-14-19  |
| Johnson, Homer      | Pvt.     | 4-1-18  | 3-26-19  |
| Johnson, John E.    | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 12-18-18 |
| Johnson, John L.    | Pvt.     | 5-13-18 | 7-8-19   |
| Johnson, Melvin     | Sgt.     | 6-3-18  | 4-21-19  |
| Johnson, Robert     | Pvt.lcl. | 10-6-17 | 6-18-19  |
| Johnson, Virgil     | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 11-27-18 |
| Johnson, Walter     | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 8-26-18  |
| Johnson, Willie     | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 11-28-18 |
| Johnston, Willie    | Pvt.lcl. | 10-6-17 | 7-25-19  |
| Jones, Clifford     | Sgt.     | 10-6-17 | 7-25-19  |
| Jones, Dealie       | Pvt.     | 5-3-18  | 11-22-18 |
| Jones, Eligah       | Pvt.     | 10-6-17 | 7-25-19  |
| Jones, James        | Pvt.     | 5-3-18  | 3-4-19   |
| Jones, Nathan       | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-29-19  |

|                      |          |         |          |
|----------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Jones, Sam           | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 9-16-18  |
| Jones, Thomas        | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 10-5-18  |
| Jones, Tom P.        | Pvt.lcl. | 4-1-18  | 6-14-19  |
| Jones, Virgile       | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18  | 7-24-19  |
| Jones, Willie        | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-9-19   |
| Jones, Wince         | Pvt.lcl. | 5-3-18  | 7-28-19  |
| Jordan, George       | Pvt.     | 6-27-18 | 12-13-18 |
| Kerney, Butler       | Pvt.     | 10-6-17 | 7-25-19  |
| Kimmons, Pulaski H   | Pvt.     | 11-9-17 | 11-24-17 |
| Kirby, William       | Pvt.     | 10-6-17 | 4-8-19   |
| Kirkwood, Jim        | Pvt.Mch. | 4-1-18  | 4-10-19  |
| Kirkwood, Klutus     | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 7-5-19   |
| Knox, Sam            | Corp.    | 9-1-18  | 5-28-19  |
| Lackey, James        | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 8-4-19   |
| Lane, Sledge         | Pvt.     | 8-21-18 | 8-2-19   |
| Lane, William        | Pvt.     | 6-20-18 | 3-18-19  |
| Lay, John W.         | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 7-17-19  |
| Leak, James          | Pvt.lcl. | 1-7-18  | 3-18-19  |
| Lee, John            | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 8-2-19   |
| Leonard, Claude      | Pvt.     | 4-1-18  | 6-14-19  |
| Lewis, Felix Jr.     | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 6-7-19   |
| Lewis, John Henry    | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-9-19   |
| Lewis, Moses T.      | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 6-12-18  |
| Long, Henry          | Pvt.     | 10-6-17 | 7-25-19  |
| Lowery, Houston      | Pvt.     | 4-14-18 | 7-26-19  |
| Luster, Nick         | Pvt.     | 6-20-18 | 2-6-19   |
| Lynch, Arthur        | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 6-25-18  |
| Lyons, Willie        | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18  | 7-31-19  |
| Mabry, Dock          | Corp.    | 8-21-18 | 3-8-19   |
| Madden, Willie       | Corp.    | 4-1-18  | 7-14-19  |
| Malone, James        | Pvt.     | 4-12-18 | 7-28-19  |
| Malone, William Jr.  | Corp.    | 9-26-18 | 1-29-19  |
| Mann, Paul           | Pvt.     | 7-28-18 | 7-23-19  |
| Martin, Henry Clay   | Pvt.     | 4-1-18  | 7-14-19  |
| Martin, Marvin       | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 8-4-19   |
| Massey, Herbert      | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 5-8-19   |
| Massey, Oscar        | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 11-29-18 |
| Mathews, Ed          | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 11-10-19 |
| Matlock, Charlie     | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 7-17-19  |
| Matlock, Luke L.     | Pvt.     | 7-28-18 | 8-2-19   |
| Matlock, Wilson      | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 1-24-19  |
| Maxwell, James       | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 1-18-19  |
| Mayes, John          | Pvt.     | 8-22-18 | 3-4-19   |
| Mays, George         | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 7-23-19  |
| Meriwether, Ed.      | Pvt.     | 7-2-18  | 12-13-18 |
| Merriwether, Ezekiel | Pvt.lcl. | 10-6-17 | 7-25-19  |
| Meriwether, George   | Pvt.     | 7-28-18 | 7-21-19  |
| Meriwether, Willie   | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 12-16-18 |

|                     |          |          |          |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Milan, Tom          | Pvt.     | 7-18-18  | 10-18-18 |
| Miles, Frank        | Pvt.     | 7-28-18  | 4-8-19   |
| Millbrooks, David   | Pvt.     | 4-16-18  | 5-9-19   |
| Millbrooks, William | Pvt.     | 6-20-18  | 3-31-19  |
| Miller, Edward      | Pvt.     | 10-6-17  | 8-7-19   |
| Miller, James A.    | Pvt.     | 10-6-17  | 6-7-19   |
| Miller, Johnnie     | Pvt.     | 3-7-18   | 7-9-19   |
| Miller, Wertie      | Pvt.     | 9-26-18  | 2-6-19   |
| Mitchell, Oscar     | Pvt.     | 8-25-18  | 3-25-19  |
| Mobley, Oscar       | Corp.    | 9-1-18   | 8-12-19  |
| Moore, Abe          | Pvt.     | 3-7-18   | 11-5-18  |
| Moore, Anderson     | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18   | 7-8-19   |
| Moore, Ed           | Pvt.     | 10-6-17  | 1-11-18  |
| Moore, Edgar        | Pvt.     | 5-7-18   | 8-4-19   |
| Moore, Garfield     | Pvt.     | 7-15-18  | 8-31-18  |
| Moore, Henry, M.    | Pvt.lcl. | 9-1-18   | 7-28-19  |
| Moore, Lorenza      | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18   | 5-26-19  |
| Moore, Rue          | Pvt.     | 4-1-18   | 7-9-19   |
| Morris, Eddie       | Pvt.     | 3-7-18   | 5-28-18  |
| Moss, Will          | Pvt.lcl. | 8-21-18  | 10-13-19 |
| Myers, Roy          | Pvt.     | 6-27-18  | 3-10-19  |
| McCargo, Albert     | Pvt.     | 5-3-18   | 7-8-19   |
| McDaniel, Rodell    | Pvt.     | 5-3-18   | 7-22-19  |
| McDonald, Pinkton   | Pvt.     | 9-26-18  | 1-29-19  |
| McGowan, James      | Pvt.     | 3-7-18   | 7-7-19   |
| McGowan, John       | Pvt.     | 11-26-17 | 3-17-19  |
| McKennie, Marshall  | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18   | 7-26-19  |
| McNiell, Napoleaon  | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18   | 7-26-19  |
| Nelms, E. D.        | Pvt.lcl. | 4-27-18  | 7-9-19   |
| Neloms, Sie         | Pvt.     | 5-3-18   | 12-20-18 |
| Nelson, Charlie C.  | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18   | 8-4-19   |
| Nelson, Lee         | Pvt.     | 3-7-18   | 6-29-19  |
| Newsom, Robert      | Pvt.     | 3-7-18   | 7-18-19  |
| Norwood, Hawkins    | Pvt.     | 6-20-18  | 10-28-18 |
| Odom, Milton        | Pvt.     | 4-1-18   | 7-14-19  |
| Oliver, Lee         | Pvt.     | 4-1-18   | 7-14-19  |
| Oliver, Telton      | Corp.    | 9-26-18  | 1-14-19  |
| Owens, Ernest       | Pvt.     | 7-16-18  | 2-18-19  |
| Owens, Joe Freeman  | Pvt.     | 9-26-18  | 12-30-18 |
| Page, Harry         | Pvt.     | 9-1-18   | 1-18-19  |
| Patterson, Obra     | Pvt.lcl. | 4-1-18   | 7-14-19  |
| Patterson, Sam      | Pvt.lcl. | 4-18-18  | 7-22-19  |
| Payman, Joseph      | Pvt.     | 4-1-18   | 7-2-19   |
| Payne, Alque        | Pvt.     | 9-1-18   | 7-23-19  |
| Payne, Charlie      | Pvt.lcl. | 4-1-18   | 7-14-19  |
| Payne, Henry        | Pvt.     | 7-16-18  | 6-27-19  |
| Payne, Jaily        | Corp.    | 3-7-18   | 2-28-19  |
| Perry, Dave         | Pvt.     | 10-8-17  | 6-19-19  |

|                       |           |         |          |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Perry, Earnest        | Pvt.      | 4-1-18  | 4-30-19  |
| Philips, Lonnie       | Pvt.      | 7-15-18 | 8-9-19   |
| Philips, Rubin        | Pvt.      | 6-18-18 | 12-11-18 |
| Pickens, Nelos        | Pvt.      | 9-1-18  | 1-14-19  |
| Pitts, Edgar          | Pvt.      | 4-1-18  | 5-7-19   |
| Pointer, Wilburn      | Pvt.      | 4-1-18  | 7-14-19  |
| Polk, John W.         | Pvt.      | 3-7-18  | 10-13-19 |
| Porter, Herman        | Pvt.      | 9-26-18 | 3-27-19  |
| Price, Jessie         | Pvt.      | 3-7-18  | 9-8-19   |
| Price, William M.     | Pvt.      | 7-16-18 | 10-25-18 |
| Pryor, Henry          | Pvt.      | 6-4-18  | 6-18-19  |
| Reece, James          | Pvt.      | 9-1-18  | 11-12-18 |
| Reed, James           | Pvt.l cl. | 3-7-18  | 9-4-19   |
| Reese, Herman         | Pvt.      | 3-7-18  | 7-24-19  |
| Reynolds, Walter      | Corp.     | 9-26-18 | 2-6-19   |
| Rice, George          | Pvt.      | 3-7-18  | 3-23-18  |
| Rice, Glover          | Pvt.      | 5-3-18  | 11-26-18 |
| Rice, Willie          | Pvt.lcl.  | 11-9-17 | 6-28-19  |
| Richardson, Ed        | Pvt.      | 3-7-18  | 6-26-18  |
| Richmond, Edgar       | Pvt.      | 8-21-18 | 10-2-18  |
| Ried, Earnest         | Pvt.      | 6-20-18 | 12-20-18 |
| Robertson, George H.  | Pvt.      | 3-7-18  | 10-13-19 |
| Robertson, Johnnie K. | Pvt.lcl.  | 3-7-18  | 8-7-19   |
| Robinson, Daniel      | Pvt.lcl.  | 4-1-18  | 7-14-19  |
| Robinson, Robert      | Pvt.      | 9-1-18  | 7-27-19  |
| Ruffin, Robert L.     | Corp.     | 10-6-17 | 7-25-19  |
| Rutherford, James     | Pvt.      | 4-1-18  | 7-14-19  |
| Rutledge, Peter       | Pvt.      | 9-26-18 | 12-30-18 |
| Rutley, Willis        | Pvt.      | 4-28-18 | 7-9-19   |
| Scott, Leonard        | Pvt.lcl.  | 8-21-18 | 2-12-19  |
| Self, Redden          | Pvt.      | 7-28-18 | 2-24-29  |
| Shannon, Tom          | Pvt.      | 4-1-18  | 3-26-19  |
| Shipp, Victor         | Pvt.      | 7-28-18 | 3-17-19  |
| Simms, Edward         | Ck.       | 3-7-18  | 1-22-19  |
| Simms, Leroy          | Pvt.      | 3-7-18  | 7-17-19  |
| Slate, Houston        | Pvt.      | 9-26-18 | 1-29-19  |
| Slaughter, Pete       | Pvt.      | 3-7-18  | 1-2-19   |
| Smith, Bright         | Pvt.      | 7-31-18 | 12-11-18 |
| Smith, Dana           | Wag.      | 9-1-18  | 6-3-19   |
| Smith, Dave           | Pvt.      | 10-6-17 | 6-6-19   |
| Smith, George         | Pvt.lcl.  | 4-1-18  | 7-14-19  |
| Smith, Jim            | Pvt.      | 7-5-17  | 8-1-17   |
| Smith, Lenard         | Pvt.      | 8-21-18 | 1-8-19   |
| Smith, Leonard        | Pvt.      | 7-16-18 | 12-27-18 |
| Smith, Strickland     | Pvt.      | 9-26-18 | 1-29-19  |
| Smith, Talmage        | Pvt.      | 6-20-18 | 7-21-19  |
| Smith, U. T.          | Pvt.      | 5-28-18 | 12-24-18 |
| Sprinkle, Calvin      | Pvt.      | 5-24-18 | 7-30-19  |

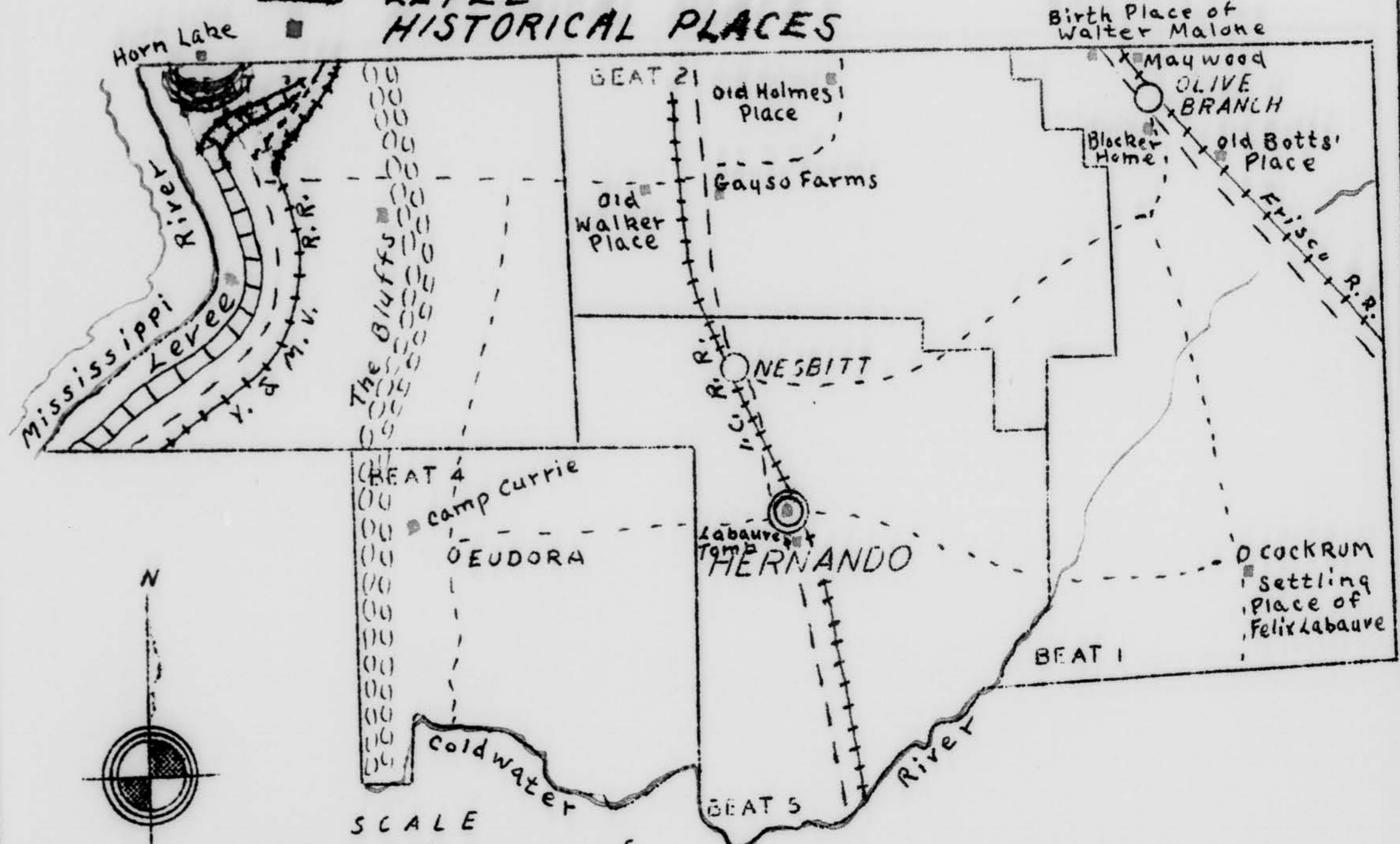


|                       |          |         |          |
|-----------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Starks, Will          | Pvt.     | 11-9-17 | 1-29-18  |
| States, Haywood       | Pvt.     | 11-9-17 | 1-29-18  |
| Stekes, Reedus        | Pvt.     | 11-9-17 | 6-28-19  |
| Stephens, Ernest      | Pvt.     | 5-3-18  | 1-27-19  |
| Stokes, Cullen        | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 12-30-18 |
| Strickland, Dan       | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 12-30-18 |
| Stuart, William       | Pvt.     | 9-22-17 | 2-5-18   |
| Tate, Emanuel         | Pvt.     | 9-22-17 | 8-6-19   |
| Tate, Ezekeil         | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 7-24-19  |
| Tate, Henry           | Sgt.     | 10-6-17 | 6-30-19  |
| Tate, James           | Pvt.     | 9-26-18 | 1-14-19  |
| Tate, John Edward     | Ck.      | 9-1-18  | 7-23-19  |
| Tate, Robert          | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 11-30-18 |
| Tatum, Jeremiah       | Pvt.     | 6-20-18 | 5-29-19  |
| Tatum, Will           | Pvt.     | 10-6-17 | 6-7-19   |
| Taylor, George        | Pvt.lcl. | 5-3-18  | 7-21-19  |
| Taylor, James A.      | Pvt.     | 10-6-17 | 6-7-19   |
| Thomas, Arthur        | Pvt.lcl. | 6-20-18 | 6-24-19  |
| Thomas, Davis         | Pvt.     | 9-22-17 | 11-4-17  |
| Thomas, Jessie        | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18  | 7-25-19  |
| Thomas, Norman        | Pvt.     | 4-3-18  | 3-20-19  |
| Thomas, Stephen       | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 7-24-19  |
| Thomas, Tank          | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 1-17-18  |
| Thomas, Will          | Pvt.     | 10-2-18 | 5-28-19  |
| Thomas, Willie        | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 12-4-18  |
| Thompson, David       | Pvt.     | 3-4-18  | 1-28-19  |
| Thompson, Henry H.    | Pvt.     | 2-7-18  | 5-28-18  |
| Thompson, Milton      | Pvt.     | 7-28-18 | 1-2-19   |
| Thornton, George      | Pvt.     | 5-3-18  | 7-26-19  |
| Toles, Charles        | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 8-19-19  |
| Towner, Eugene        | Pvt.     | 3-7-18  | 10-29-18 |
| Towns, Robert         | Pvt.     | 5-3-18  | 12-24-18 |
| Tucker, Francis       | Pvt.     | 4-1-18  | 7-14-19  |
| Tucker, Cornell       | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 10-19-18 |
| Vaughn, Marion        | Pvt.lcl. | 5-7-18  | 7-15-19  |
| Vaughn, Sam           | Pvt.     | 9-1-18  | 11-17-18 |
| Ward, Lucius          | Pvt.     | 9-24-18 | 1-18-19  |
| Warr, James           | Pvt.     | 7-28-18 | 12-14-18 |
| Watkins, Eddie        | Pvt.     | 3-22-18 | 3-22-19  |
| Watkins, William      | Pvt.     | 3-24-18 | 8-9-19   |
| Webster, Earnest      | Pvt.     | 6-20-18 | 10-16-18 |
| West, Will            | Pvt.     | 7-16-18 | 11-27-18 |
| Whitaker, Dave        | Pvt.     | 8-1-18  | 12-7-18  |
| White, Emanuel        | Pvt.     | 3-1-18  | 2-24-19  |
| White, George         | Pvt.     | 10-3-17 | 6-19-19  |
| White, Hannibal Stick | Pvt.     | 6-10-18 | 4-7-19   |
| White, Monroe         | Pvt.     | 3-3-18  | 4-30-19  |

|                      |          |          |          |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| White, Virgil        | Pvt.     | 3-3-18   | 7-16-19  |
| White, William M.    | Pvt.     | 8-20-18  | 1-11-19  |
| Whitfield, Clay      | Pvt.     | 4-1-18   | 7-14-19  |
| Whitley, Tom         | Pvt.     | 7-16-18  | 11-30-18 |
| Wiggins, Reuben      | Pvt.     | 8-11-18  | 12-10-18 |
| Wilkins, Robert T.   | Pvt.     | 7-16-18  | 11-30-18 |
| Williams, Arthur     | Pvt.     | 10-6-17  | 3-23-18  |
| Williams, Charley    | Pvt.     | 9-1-18   | 10-19-18 |
| Williams, David J.   | Corp.    | 7-28-18  | 8-14-19  |
| Williams, Horace     | Pvt.     | 5-3-18   | 7-18-19  |
| Williams, Isaac      | Pvt.lcl. | 9-26-18  | 1-14-19  |
| Williams, Junius     | Pvt.     | 9-1-18   | 11-27-18 |
| Williams, Kye        | Pvt.lcl. | 10-8-17  | 6-18-19  |
| Williams, Linsey     | Pvt.     | 9-1-18   | 11-29-18 |
| Williams, Leslie     | Pvt.     | 3-7-18   | 12-17-18 |
| Williams, Norman     | Pvt.lcl. | 8-21-18  | 7-15-19  |
| Williams, Nowland    | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18   | 7-24-19  |
| Williams, Oscar      | Pvt.     | 7-16-18  | 11-27-18 |
| Williams, Sam Rogers | Pvt.     | 9-26-18  | 12-30-18 |
| Williams, Sidney S.  | Pvt.     | 4-1-18   | 4-30-19  |
| Williams, Walker     | Pvt.     | 6-20-18  | 9-5-18   |
| Williams, Willie Lee | Pvt.     | 8-5-18   | 3-14-19  |
| Williford, Boone     | Pvt.     | 8-21-18  | 7-15-19  |
| Wilson, Dave         | Pvt.     | 9-1-18   | 8-11-19  |
| Wilson, Fletcher     | Pvt.     | 9-26-18  | 5-5-19   |
| Wilson, Samuel       | Corp.    | 7-16-18  | 9-13-19  |
| Wilson, Vol          | Wag.     | 7-15-18  | 6-23-19  |
| Winters, Truly       | Pvt.lcl. | 3-7-18   | 7-11-19  |
| Wolf, James          | Pvt.     | 4-1-18   | 1-18-19  |
| Woods, Bailey        | Pvt.     | 5-10-18  | 1-30-19  |
| Woods, Odie          | Pvt.     | 9-4-18   | 12-23-18 |
| Wooten, Leanous      | Sgt.     | 3-7-18   | 9-4-18   |
| Wright, Charlie E.   | Pvt.     | 10-18-18 | 1-11-19  |
| Young, Cyrus N.      | Pvt.lcl. | 4-17-17  | 6-19-19  |
| Young, Leslie        | Pvt.     | 9-1-18   | 11-29-18 |
| Young, Warren        | Pvt.     | 3-31-18  | 3-17-19  |

# DE SOTO

- LEGEND -**  
 --- HIGHWAYS  
 - - - COUNTY ROADS  
 + + + RAILROADS  
 ~ ~ ~ STREAMS  
 o o o BLUFFS  
 = = = LEVEE



SCALE  
 5 4 3 2 1 0 5  
 1 INCH = 5.29 MILES  
 AREA 475 SQ. MI.

- \*\*\*  
 Labauve's Tomb  
 Old Botts' Place  
 Birth Place of  
 Walter Malone  
 The Bluffs  
 Horn Lake  
 Maywood

\*\*  
 The Levee

- \*  
 Antebellum Homes in  
 Hernando  
 Old Holmes Place  
 Blocker Home  
 Old Walker Place  
 Settling Place of Felix-  
 Labauve  
 Gayaso Farms  
 Camp Currie