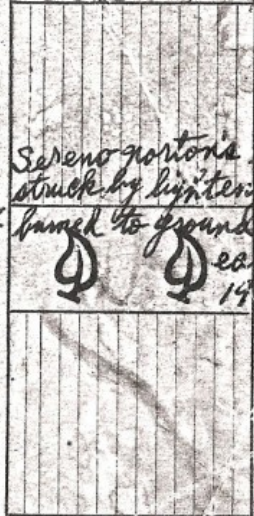
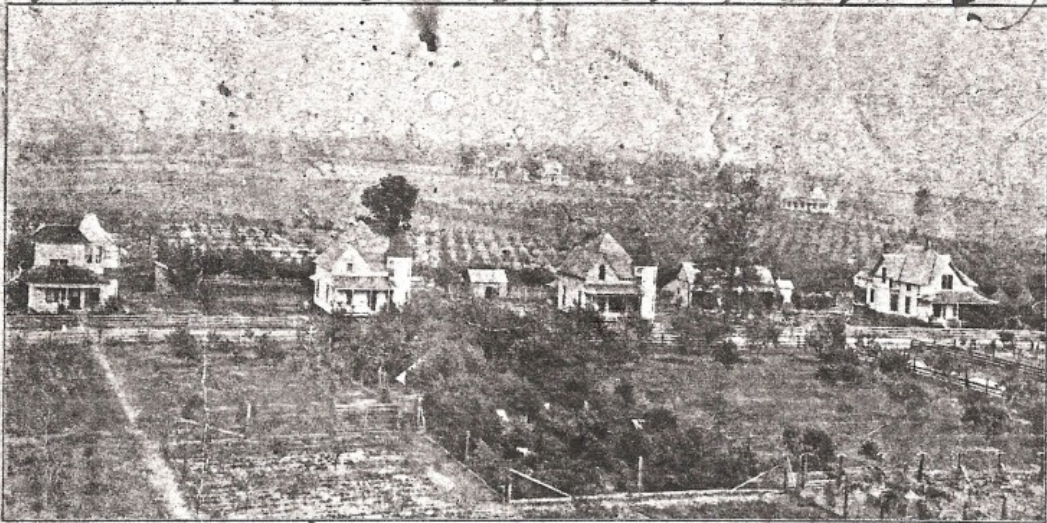


Mr. Conrad Carlson Thorsby



Sereno Horton's house
struck by lightning &
burned to ground in
early 1906

A VIEW IN THORSBY.

Charles Howard



THORSBY

A NORTHERN COLONY IN ALABAMA

THORSBY

IN THE development of the United States during the twentieth century, the section which is unquestionably destined to increase its resources and influence more than any other, is the South. During the last few years the South has awakened from the inactivity caused by the Civil War and the Reconstruction days, and has adapted itself to the new conditions. It is seeking to develop its latent resources and to induce capital and immigration from other states and foreign lands to find employment within its borders. Its immense productive and idle resources appeal alike to the capitalist, the artisan, the laborer and the agriculturist, while its healthful and pleasant climate invites all to come and remain. With the passing of sectional feelings, the new conditions, and the taking up of the last available lands of the North and West, a movement of the Northern people to the South has begun, which will greatly increase in the near future and will contribute wonderfully to the development of the South. Among the states which must benefit most by this movement is Alabama, which has resources more varied than any other state in the Union. With her coal, iron, lime, cement, stone, timber, cotton, corn, wheat, fruit, live stock, factories and other natural resources and industries, Alabama can, if necessary, supply all her own wants very well, without calling on any of her neighbors. She is well

furnished with railroads and navigable rivers and already fixes the price of iron in the markets of the nation. Though now most noted for her iron and steel manufactures, her agricultural resources are far greater and will soon be better known than they are now.

It is our fortune to be located in the central part of this great state, in Chilton County, a large county with varied resources. Though originally covered with pine and other timber, a large part of the land has been cleared and brought into cultivation, and now there are farms in every direction. Fine springs and beautiful streams are found in many places. In some parts the land is level, in others rolling, while other lands are very rough and hilly. A great variety of minerals is found in the county, and valuable deposits undoubtedly exist, though not yet found in such quantities as to be mined extensively. Timber is found in sufficient quantities to keep a large number of small saw mills in operation. The principal occupation, however, is agriculture, which is becoming more important each year, as more land is cultivated and the population increases. In the central part of the county, on a high and rolling plateau, a Northern colony was started a little less than ten years ago, and now the beautiful, clean, well located town of Thorsby attracts the favorable attention of all who pass by. In this place Northern

people have demonstrated that they can live and thrive, and their Southern neighbors have joined them in building up a town.

Many visitors who have travelled over the South state that it is the finest Northern colony they have seen. Certain it is, that the place has attracted the attention of people all over the State of Alabama by the work it is undertaking and by what it has already accomplished. In the following pages we shall try to give as clear an idea of the town and vicinity as can be given in a short description.

THE TOWN, or rather the colony, of Thorsby has a high, rolling, well drained location, 790 feet above the sea level. In every direction from the town can be seen orchards, vineyards and also the wild forest trees, pine, oak, hickory and others, that are still left standing. Bubbling springs, both freestone and mineral, are found in all directions, forming everflowing creeks which drain the country and supply an abundance of the finest water. The town is situated on the main line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, midway between Birmingham and Montgomery. It is a new place, comparatively, and has a population of about 500. Instead of being compactly built, it is spread over a considerable area, and on every hand can be seen fine dwellings surrounded by small orchards, vineyards and cultivated fields, while farther out from town larger farms are found. The place offers a pleasant contrast to many other small towns in the South,

THORSBY as the business buildings and dwellings are painted, no hogs or goats roam the streets, the residences are well built, comfortable and nicely painted, and there is an air

of thrift and prosperity about the place. The business interests of Thorsby are represented by ten stores, a woodworking factory, cotton gin, saw mill, canning factory, water works, blacksmith shop, meat market, bakery, hotel, bank, carnation farm, winery and brickyard.

A cotton warehouse and fertilizer factory, about to be erected by the Farmers' Warehouse and Fertilizer Co., will make Thorsby a much better cotton market and greatly increase the mercantile business.

The cotton warehouse weighs, samples and stores all cotton brought to it, and gives a receipt stating weight, quality, etc. The holder of the receipt can sell the cotton at any time by simply transferring the receipt. Warehouse receipts are very good and convenient security for money loaned, as the cotton is protected against weather, fire and removal by the borrower. The ability to hold cotton and borrow money on it is often of great value to the farmer when prices are low.

Thorsby Fruit & Truck Growers Association is an organization to promote the fruit and trucking interests of its members. The membership is sixty. The association ships fruit by express and in carload lots by freight to different markets. It is a great assistance to the small shipper by getting low transportation rates, finding the best markets, and distributing the crop to the best advantage.

The Commercial Club of Thorsby was organized in December, 1904, for the purpose of promoting the best interests of Thorsby and vicinity, and giving encouragement to all movements for its betterment. It occupies a tastefully finished hall on the main street. The club will be glad to correspond with



UNLOADING COTTON AT DEPOT.

homeseekers, business men, or any others wishing to obtain definite and reliable information. The Ladies' Auxilliary has been formed in connection with The Commercial Club, its object being to assist the club in such ways as it can, and especially to welcome and assist the ladies of new families settled in Thorsby.

There are five organized churches in Thorsby, the Baptist, the Swedish Lutheran, the Norwegian Synod (Lutheran), the Norwegian United (Lutheran), and the United Protestant, the last being a Union of English speaking Protestants of ten different denominations. There are two schools, the Public School, under the control of the City Council, and the "Thorsby Normal School."

The people of Thorsby are mostly from the Northern states, though quite a number are natives of the South. Thorsby is quite a cosmopolitan place, as many sections and nationalities are represented. Of the foreign born population, the Swedes, Norwegians and Danes are most numerous. There are also some Germans and Finns. All good people are welcomed here, without regard to nationality or sectional lines.

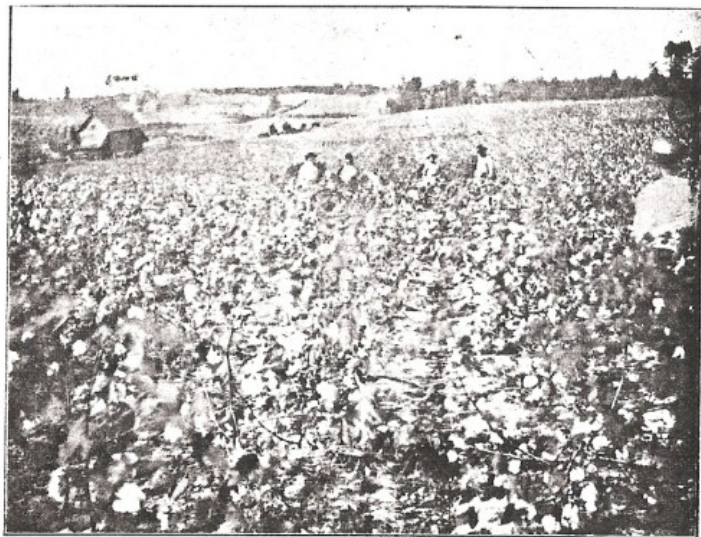
There are no negroes in Thorsby, though there are a few living near by who sometimes work in town.

AFTER NOTING the location and appearance of Thorsby, the first question in the minds of most people is: "Is it a healthy place?" To this we would reply, that we do not know of a more healthful climate and location anywhere. Residents of Thorsby, who have lived in all parts of the United States, unite in saying that Thorsby is a very good place for health. Many of them state that the climate has greatly benefitted them in cases of various ailments or diseases, with which they were afflicted previous to their coming to

Thorsby, especially asthma, bronchitis, catarrh and rheumatism. While there is sickness in **HEALTH** Thorsby, as anywhere else, the place can be truthfully said to be well favored in this regard. The altitude, water and drainage are all that could be desired, and other features, such as the odor of pine and the water of various mineral springs, are highly prized by some of the residents and tourists. If you come to Thorsby, you need have no fear that you are going into a place full of malaria, fevers, ague and the like, for such is not the case.

THE CLIMATE of Alabama is one of its most pleasant features. Of all the seasons of the year, the summer is, perhaps, the most pleasant, though the winter appeals most to the Northern people because it is so much nicer than the same season in the North. The winter is mild and agreeable, the temperature seldom going much below freezing point. In an ordinary winter, 15° above zero is about the coldest, though in very cold winters the temperature may go to zero or slightly under for a short time. Outdoor work can be carried on comfortably every day, except in rainy weather. Snow is rarely seen, and stays but a short time.

Spring comes earlier than in the North, and in a short time it becomes summerlike. The summer is considerably longer than in the North, and the average temperature is higher, but the hot days in the North are frequently warmer than the hottest days here. The thermometer frequently shows over **CLIMATE** 90°, but not often above 95°, and, even at the highest point touched here, the heat is not felt so much as in the North. The muggy, sultry, disagreeable days, so common there, are almost unknown here, and the heat is not so



COTTON FIELD IN THORSBY.

oppressive. It is always cool in the shade, even on the hottest days. Sunstrokes are unknown. A white man can work outdoors all summer without danger or much discomfort. On warm days, generally, a gentle breeze from the South begins to blow about nine o'clock in the morning and dies down in the evening. The breeze comes from the Gulf of Mexico and is cool and refreshing. The location of Thorsby at its high elevation secures the full benefit of this breeze, and its coolness and regularity are great factors in making the summer so agreeable. Hot winds are very infrequent. The summer nights are cool and agreeable and though never so cold as to be uncomfortable, are cool enough for sound, refreshing sleep and rest.

The fall is a delightful season, and the mild weather lasts until after Christmas, as a rule, so the winter is almost over before one realizes that it has come.

There are no such severe and sudden variations in the temperature as in the North. The changes here are not so great, and they come more gradually. Lightning and thunderstorms are much less frequent and not so severe as in the North, in spite of an impression to the contrary among many of our Northern friends.

No farmer or laborer need lie idle a long time in cold weather, for plowing, clearing and preparing for spring work can be attended to at almost any time during the winter. Various crops, such as winter wheat, rye and oats, strawberry plants, etc., grow at intervals all through the winter, being dormant in the coldest weather, and starting again when it becomes warmer.

We have no official reports of the weather conditions at

Thorsby. We, therefore, give below the maximum and minimum and mean temperatures at Clanton (7 miles southeast of Thorsby), for a period of four years, during which time some extreme seasons were noted. In comparing these reports of maximum and minimum with the temperatures in other parts, be sure to compare with the extremes for the same period, and not with averages or usual temperatures.

MAXIMUM.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1901.....	69	69	76	84	87	96	100	90	87	82	76	67
1902.....	67	67	75	80	91	96	99	99	88	83	76	69
1903.....	78	80	80	91	91	93	99	100	100	92	82	69
1904.....	64	75	89	85	95	98	98	100	100	100	80	80

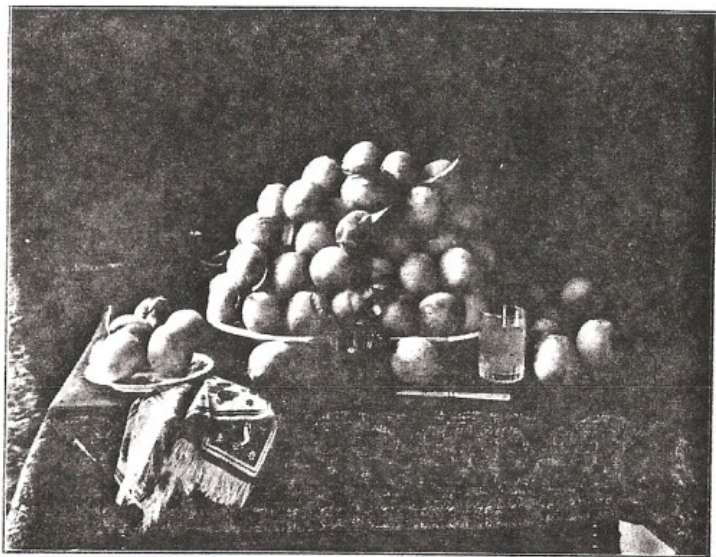
MINIMUM.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1901.....	25	21	23	38	48	51	62	60	48	37	24	10
1902.....	19	19	23	36	35	36	63	64	47	30	26	14
1903.....	40	30	40	51	60	64	45	32	18	20		
1904.....	19	28	30	35	45	52	57	60	49	38	29	20

MEAN TEMPERATURE.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1901.....	46.4	44.0	53.8	57.5	69.2	76.9	80.2	77.2	70.6	61.1	47.7	40.2
1902.....	43.3	41.3	53.8	61.4	73.7	80.7	81.9	81.4	72.4	60.4	55.4	43.6
1903.....	58.7	58.2	67.5	72.0	78.2	81.2	73.8	63.3	52.2	40.6		
1904.....	44.0	49.8	59.4	61.4	70.0	78.0	78.0	76.9	76.1	65.4	54.8	45.9

From the Annual Summary, 1901, 1902, 1903 and 1904, Alabama Section of the Climate and Crop Service.



THORSBY PEACHES.

The records of the rainfall at Clanton are not complete, and we, therefore, give below a statement of the rainfall at Birmingham, 48 miles north of Thorsby, and at Montgomery, 48 miles southeast. The rainfall at Clanton is a little less than at these two places.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—“The annual precipitation is 53.04 inches. * * * * March is the wettest month, * * * the driest month is October. * * * * The precipitation is usually well distributed throughout the growing season, being, as a rule, least during the season of gathering the staple crops.”—*Report for July, 1904.*

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—“Average date of last killing frost in spring, March 19; average date of first killing frost in autumn, November 5; giving an average growing season of 231 days. The earliest killing frost on record, October 22; and the latest, April 10. In winter the temperature seldom continues below freezing for more than three days, and snow occurs on an average of about two days each winter, and some winters not at all.”—*Report for June, 1904.*

MONTGOMERY, ALA.—“The average annual precipitation is 50.78. * * * * The precipitation is usually well distributed throughout the growing season, being, as a rule, least during the season of gathering the staple crops.”—*Report for March, 1904.*

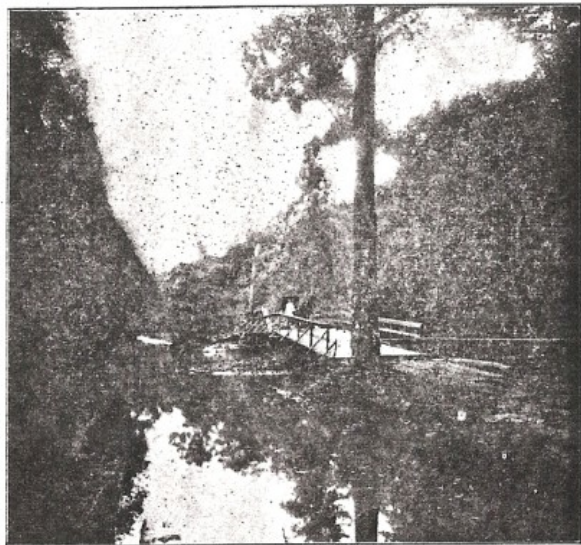
MONTGOMERY, ALA.—“In winter the temperature seldom continues below freezing for more than 48 hours in succession, and snow is a rarity. The transition from winter to summer is usually somewhat rapid, but the falls are, as a rule, long and pleasant.”—*Report for February, 1904.*

All the reports referred to above are reports of the Alabama Section of the Climate and Crop Service of the Weather Bureau.

THE SOIL in the vicinity of Thorsby is mostly a sandy loam, with subsoil of sand and clay mixed. In some places there is a plain, red clay subsoil. Considerable iron is contained in the soil. The texture of the soil is such that it readily takes up moisture and retains it a remarkably long time, when plowed deeply or subsoiled.

While not as black or fertile as the rich lands of the Northern states, this land responds very quickly to fertilization and manures, and is readily brought to a high state of fertility. One of the cheapest and most effective means of improving the soil is to grow leguminous plants, such as cow peas, velvet beans and the like. These plants absorb a large amount of nitrogen from the air and place it in the soil. At the same time their roots are wonderful sub-soilers and greatly improve the mechanical condition of the ground. The vines when properly cured make hay worth \$15.00 to \$20.00 per ton, and the crop is worth growing for the hay alone. Another crop, such as Irish potatoes, oats, rye, wheat, or other early crops can be grown on the land the same year that cow peas or velvet beans are used.

Besides the high lands described above, there are very fertile low lands with rich, deep, black soil. When cleared they are very productive, yielding large crops of cotton, corn, grasses, sugar cane and other products. They are also very desirable for pasture lands.



A WOODLAND ROAD.

yellowleaf Creek

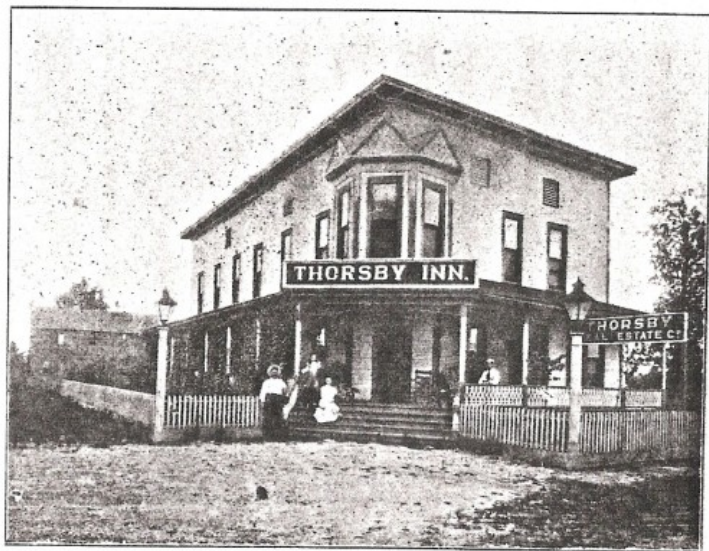
Ensign northrup

Built by Raspberry

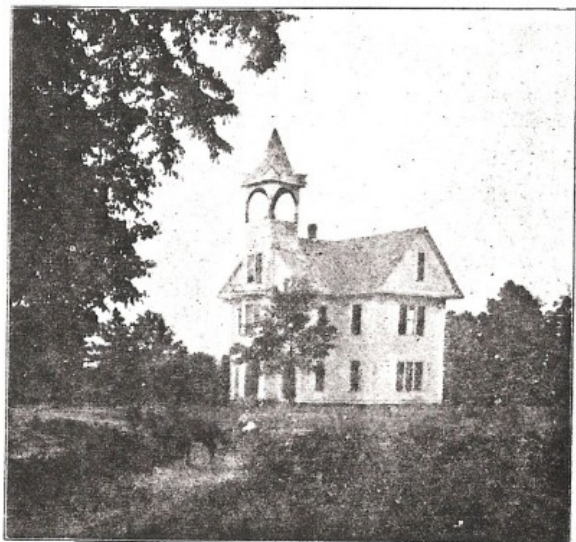


RESIDENCE OF SCOTT CAVERNO.

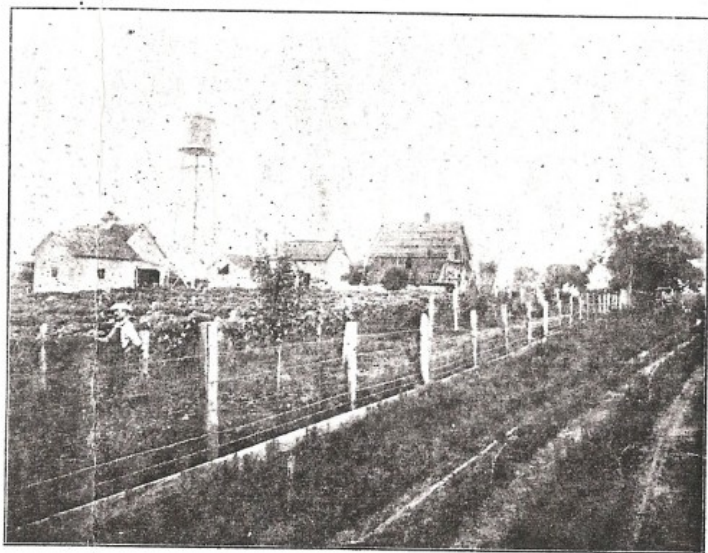
owned by Robert Johnson ^{upper story} removed by
and Reuben Foss
1969 Keith Litz



THORSBY INN.



PUBLIC SCHOOL HOUSE.



HOME OF GUST BERLIN.

AGRICULTURAL pursuits occupy the first place among the Thorsby colonists. General farming has been found to be profitable and is engaging more and more attention. Cotton, the staple money crop of the South, is grown extensively and pays well. Corn is one of the principal crops but is not grown much for the market. Peanuts, sorghum, sugar cane, Irish potatoes and many other crops are grown. Sweet potatoes are one of the best crops. They yield from 100 to 200 bushels or more per acre, and the price varies from about 40 or 50 cents a bushel in the fall, the time of maximum supply, to \$1.00 in the spring. They can be kept over winter without difficulty, by storing them in a suitable house or cellar and taking care to keep them at the proper temperature. One party in Thorsby has large potato cellars where he stores about 3,000 bushels of sweet potatoes for the spring

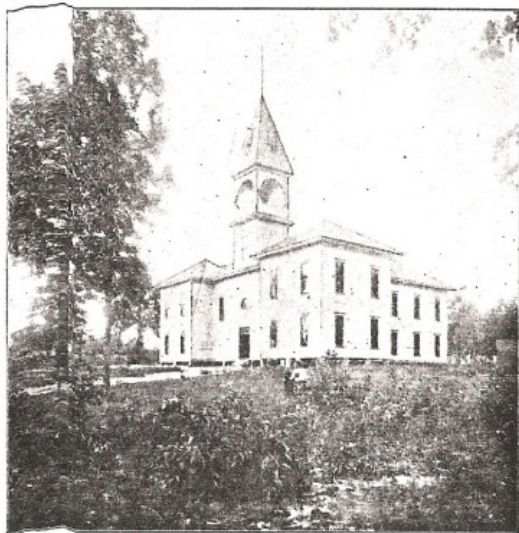
FARMING market. Two crops of different kinds, an early crop and a late crop, are frequently grown on the same land in one year, thus making use of the land all the time. Johnson grass and other grasses for hay can be made to yield good returns, though this branch of farming is comparatively neglected so far—in fact, a large share of the hay used in Alabama is shipped in from other states and sold at high prices, though it could just as well be produced at home. Good hay sells readily for from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per ton. Johnson grass can be cut from three to five times a year, and will yield nearly a ton to the acre at each cutting. Irish potatoes are worth from 50 cents to \$1.00 or more a bushel, according to the season. Peanuts yield from 25 to 50 bushels an acre and sell readily at \$1.00 a bushel.

FRUIT GROWING has been the greatest attraction for Northern people at Thorsby, and every farmer devotes some attention to it. Peaches are the principal fruit, plums and grapes coming next. Good fruit has been grown here for a number of years, but nothing except grapes in very large quantities until 1904, when a large number of trees came into bearing, and the total crop of fruit amounted to about 50 carloads. Elberta peaches, the favorite kind, yielded a crate or more to the tree, each crate containing three-quarters of a bushel. The average returns were about \$1.00 a crate, which, after deducting all expenses for freight, refrigeration, commission, crates and handling the fruit, netted about 75 cents a crate or \$1.00 a bushel. As there are from 135 to 170 trees to an acre, these returns are very remunerative. The early varieties of peaches did not yield such good returns, but, nevertheless, they paid very well when properly

Fruit Growing

fruit in the South was injured by unusually late frosts, and a smaller amount was shipped than 1904. The principal varieties of peaches are Snead, Triumph or Dewey, Carman and Elberta. Plums are an important part of the fruit crop. They yield very well and sell at better prices than peaches. The principal varieties are Red June, Abundance, Burbank and Wickson. Both peaches and plums attain a very large size, peaches sometimes weighing a pound and plums measuring 8 inches in circumference. Peach and plum trees are in bearing when three years old. They must be well cared for, but they repay the attention bestowed on them.

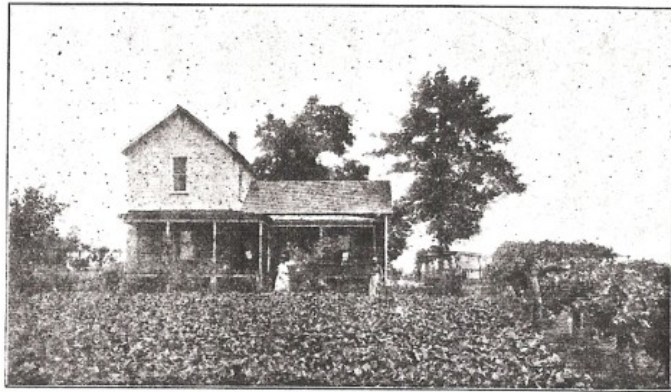
In grapes, the earlier varieties, such as Champion, Niagara,



"THORSBY NORMAL SCHOOL."



DORMITORY AND WATER TOWER



RESIDENCE OF M. J. BARRETT.

Delaware, Diamond and Moore's Early sell very well in the nearby markets, and in the North they sell for \$1.50 to \$3.50 a crate. Each crate contains from 25 to 30 pounds. They are sure and prolific bearers, large in size and of a very fine flavor. The late kinds of grapes, such as the Concord, have not been found to be so profitable, as they come into the market when there is more competition, and they are not so good shippers. Grapes bear when two years old. A vineyard can be set out at a cost of about \$15.00 an acre. After the vineyard is a year or two old, it should be trellised, and this will cost \$25.00

to \$30.00 per acre, for posts, wire and labor. There are from 400 to 500 vines to the acre, and each vine will yield 5 to 15 or 20 pounds of grapes a year, if well cared for.

Pears thrive but have not received much attention because they do not bear much until they are six years old.

Early fruits are marketed from the last days of May to the first of July, and later and better varieties mostly during July. The bulk of the fruit crop is shipped between the middle of June and the middle of July. Pears and some kinds of apples ripen later in the season. By a selection of the proper varieties of trees, an



DIGGING SWEET POTATOES.

orchard can be made to produce peaches and other fruits from May to October. An acre of land in a suitable condition can be set in fruit trees at a cost of \$15.00 to \$20.00 for trees, fertilizer and labor. By growing crops between the trees, there is little or no expense for cultivation during the first two or three years. The cost of pruning, spraying and other necessary work before the trees come into bearing amounts to but a few cents a tree.

Strawberries grow well, and about 75 acres are planted with them. They are a very profitable crop when given proper attention, the Alabama growers netting from \$100 to \$300 an acre a year. Thorsby strawberries, being grown on high land, are much firmer and better shippers than those grown on low, moist lands, and command a better price. They are highly colored and well flavored, this being due partly to the minerals in the soil. The Lady Thompson and Klondyke strawberries, the kinds grown here, ripen from April 15 to May 10, at the time when the Northern markets begin to demand large quantities of this fruit and good prices can be obtained. There is not much demand for strawberries until April, neither are there many shipments to the North before that time, except by express, which is a rather expensive way to ship. Carload shipments of strawberries from Thorsby are expected to begin in the spring of 1906. It is confidently expected that the strawberry crop will be the means of bringing many thousands of dollars to Thorsby each year and that the business will become very important here. To those interested in strawberry growing, we shall be glad to send, on request, a booklet showing what the strawberry growers in Alabama are doing and giving detailed reports of expenses and net profits.

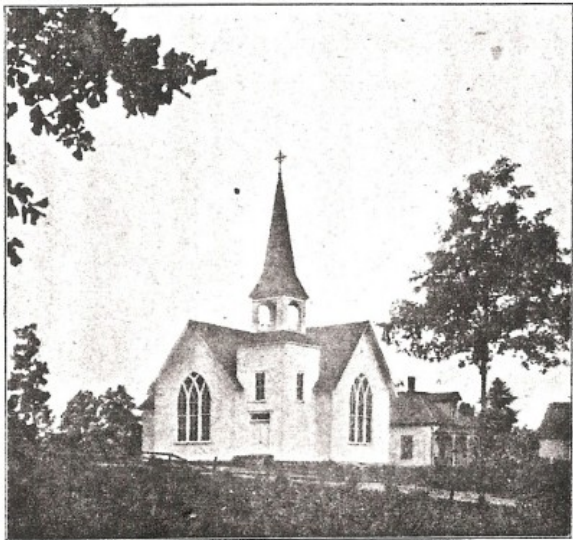
Besides the fruits already mentioned, figs and pomegranates are found to grow wild in immense quantities common.

The advantage of shipping fruit is that freight rates are much cheaper when carried by freight on flat cars and not being handled after certain times, when the Southern fruit is shipped in car lots to the North meaning anywhere by express means no good because we can ship wherever we wish.

The quality of Thorsby fruit is much better than that of other fruit grown on high land, the fruit is firm and well flavored while the iron and other minerals are passed flavor and color. The following is a list of the fruit sold by the Thorsby Fruit and Truck Growers:

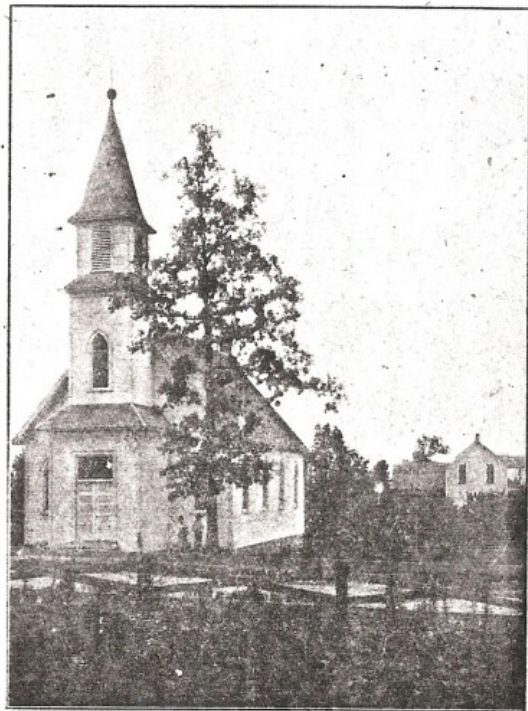
"As to the quality and relative value of the fruit and plums compared to the Georgia fruit, and speaking from our own experience, the Alabama peaches gave the competition than the Georgias. While the fruit is not so large in size, they were smooth and of good quality as the Georgias."

Facilities for the shipment of fruit from Thorsby by motor car loaded during the day is taken care of by the L. & N. R. R.'s fastest pro-



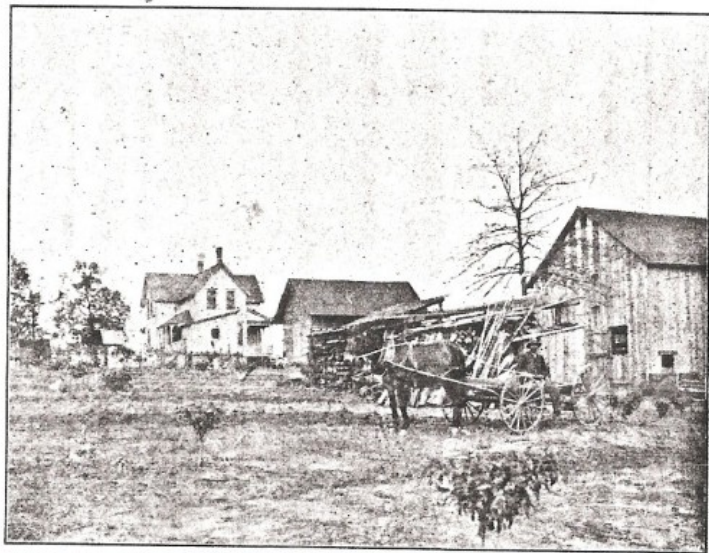
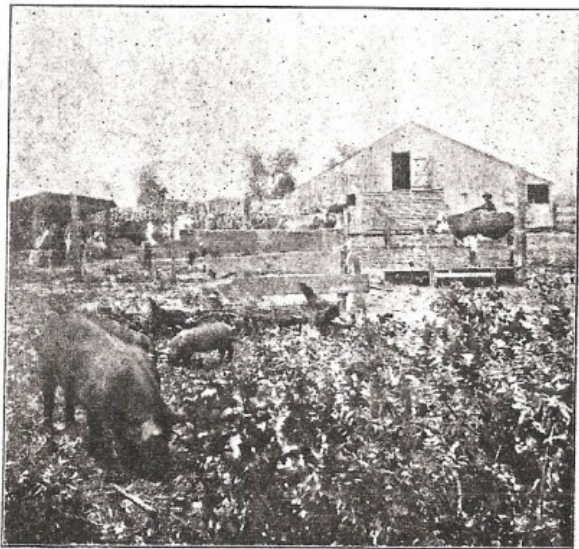
NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

1902



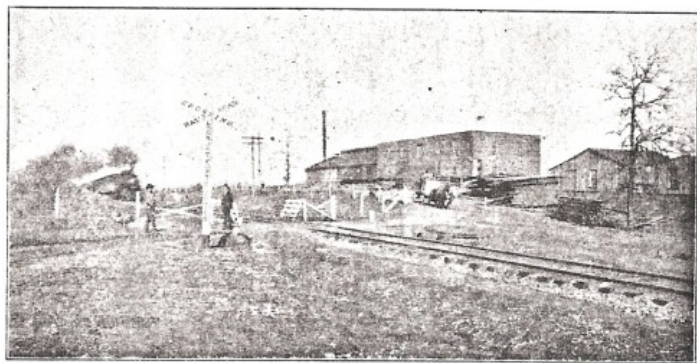
SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH.

1902





ON THE CARNATION FARM.



Part of Denison Lumber & Mfg. Co's. and Farmers Warehouse and Fertilizer Co's. Plants.

to the Northern markets. Connections are such that the car goes through without delay and without being handled by more than one railroad after leaving the L. & N.

On account of its location, Thorsby is able to get its fruits into the Northern markets at a time when they command very good prices. As they are shipped by freight, the charges are such that there is a very good profit left for the grower. Taking soil, climate, transportation facilities and other advantages into consideration, it would be difficult to find a better location for those who wish to engage in fruit growing. Many of these advantages would inure also to trucking for the Northern markets.

A BEGINNING has been made in trucking beans, onions, asparagus, squashes and other truck crops are marketed on a small scale. and musk melons grow well. Dairying is that ought to be greatly developed, and it is now receiving more attention than formerly. The price of dairy products is good butter selling readily for 25 cents a pound in the market. The dairyman can grow as much fodder on the land as in the North, and less feed is required for his stock on account of the milder climate, so expenses are small. One feature that reduces expenses is the small outlay for



RESIDENCE OF MISS J. C. KIRKBY.

buildings, as but little shelter is required, and building materials are cheap. Bermuda grass, which will grow almost anywhere and never requires reseeding or replanting, is excellent for pasture. Japan clover and other wild grasses furnish good

OTHER BRANCHES OF AGRICULTURE

pasturage in many places, and wheat, rye and oats are often used for winter pasture. In this vicinity there are many good locations for dairy farming, with good land, running water and good pasture. Stock raising and poultry farming are two other things that can be carried on profitably but have not received much attention.

Carnations and roses are grown on a large scale on the "Carnation farm," where 65,000 carnations are planted. The flowers are shipped to Birmingham, Montgomery, New Orleans and other markets. A large share of the carnations are grown under cheese cloth tents which prevent the sun from bleaching out the delicate colors.

Many farm products, not already mentioned, have been found to be profitable but receive little attention because we have not enough farmers. There are good opportunities here in many lines of farming, and good profits await those who will grasp them. The Thorsby farmer is sure of a good market for his products, for the home market takes a considerable amount, and Birmingham, a rapidly growing manufacturing town 48 miles away, uses an immense amount of truck and farm products, and the Alabama supply is not sufficient.

Building materials are cheap. Good dimension lumber can be bought for \$9.00 to \$10.00 per 1,000 feet, and finished lum-

ber, such as drop siding, flooring, ceiling for \$14.00 to \$19.00 per 1,000 feet. Neither dwelling houses or business buildings need be built so warm as in the North, thus saving considerable in material and labor.

Barns, sheds and necessary shelter for stock can be built very cheaply. Wood and coal are cheap. Cord wood is delivered in town at \$1.00 a cord. Good coal costs from \$3.25 to \$4.25 a ton. Coal and wood famines are unknown here.

Among the advantages of Thorsby may be mentioned the fact that mosquitoes are almost unknown. This is a blessing that should not be overlooked by homeseekers who desire comfort, and like to sit out of doors in the evening, or have occasion to be out at night or in rainy weather.

Mud is another thing that is lacking. Even after heavy and long continued rains the ground does not become sticky, and the roads remain firm. This is a very pleasant feature for those who are accustomed to wading in mud from an inch to six inches deep after a rain. Here you can walk on the roads or streets fifteen minutes after a hard rain without getting your shoes muddy or dirty. Good roads are easily made and easily kept up.

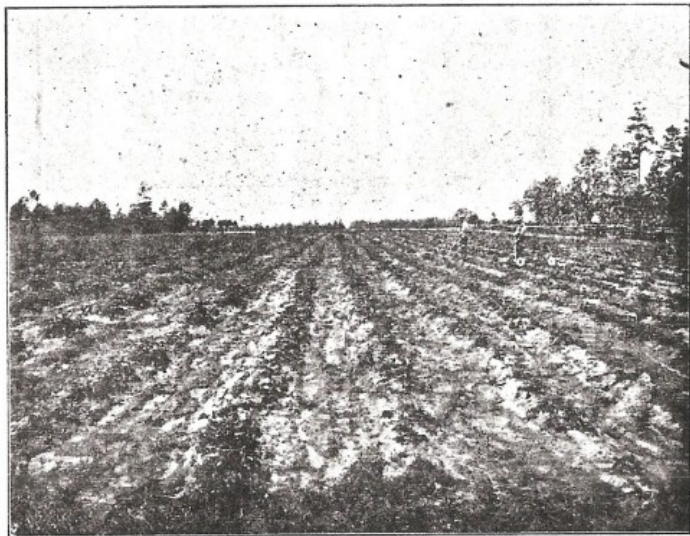
Good freestone water in abundance can be obtained almost anywhere at a depth of 25 to 40 feet. Dug wells are the more common kind, though there are many tubular or drilled wells. The drilled wells are generally 60 to 125 feet deep. The water is cool, but not cold, and can be drunk in large quantities without any unpleasant effects.

BUILDING MATERIAL

MOSQUITOES

MUD

WATER



A STRAWBERRY FIELD.



HOME OF S. E. NORTON.

Michigan Ave So. Street 2

Prices of land vary greatly according to character of soil, distance from town, amount in cultivation or cleared, and whether level or not. Some quite good land, not far from town, can be had for \$5.00 an acre, and prices range upwards to \$25.00 or more. Small tracts in town can be bought for \$25.00 an acre and upward. Our lists of property for sale will give the best idea of prices.

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Burned
There are various methods, or degrees of thoroughness, in clearing, from simply cutting off the trees and burning them to moving the trees and stumps and grubbing out the roots. The last method generally costs from \$12.00 to \$20.00 an acre, and is too expensive to be generally followed or advisable. The cheapest method, and the one that gives the best results considered, is to remove the trees, plant and cultivate a crop to cut out any sprouts that may spring up. In about two years the stumps become rotten and can be removed with ease. This is but one kind of stump that does not rot quickly—the long pine with a large amount of heart wood. This kind may be pulled up, dug out, dynamited or burned. Low lands along



THREE YEAR OLD PEACH TREES.

streams are best cleared by cutting down the timber, taking it off or burning it, and pasturing the land with cattle. The roots and stumps soon rot and leave the ground ready for cultivation.

To the farmer who has not enough capital to buy a farm in the North or West, to anyone who is seeking a pleasant home in a nice locality, and to those who cannot endure, or wish to avoid, the cold winters of the North, we say: "Come to Thorsby, we have the place for you." To you who live in the North, Thorsby offers the advantage over most Southern towns, that it has people from your own section of the country who may know many of your friends and acquaintances; it is more in connection and in sympathy with the North and your old homes and friends, and it has more of the ways to which you are accustomed. Thorsby has visitors from the North at all times of the year, and old acquaintances often drop in to see their friends. These connections with the North should not be overlooked by the prospective homeseeker, as they greatly assist the new arrivals in adapting themselves to the new conditions, and pleasantly bridge over the transition from the old surroundings to the new. At the same time, Thorsby is also in touch with the rest of Alabama and the South and offers you the advantages of the South and the opportunity of association with Southern people. We are glad to have people from both North and South come and take up their abode here.

Thorsby is also a good location for more business men, as there are good opportunities in mercantile business and other lines. We shall be pleased to give information on request.

Tourists are desired, too. Thorsby offers them a fine climate and a beautiful and healthy location. They can spend the time



HOME OF E. N. DYRHOVD.

EXCURSION RATES Thorsby, ask him the fare to Birmingham, and figure with that as a basis. The fare from Birmingham to Thorsby is \$1.44; from Montgomery, \$1 45; from Calera, 44 cents.

We advise anyone coming here to travel by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad from St. Louis, Evansville, Louisville or Cincinnati. The Louisville & Nashville is first-class in every way, and makes the best time and connections for those coming this way.

If you want any information in regard to rates and routes, write to us and we shall see that you get it.

We advise Northern people to visit the South in the summer time, when the trees and grass are green and fruit is ripe—when everything is growing, rather than in the winter, when leaf trees are bare and nature is resting. The summer is the time when you can really see how the country is. It is also the best time to learn whether the South is too hot or not. Our summer visitors say that the heat is not too great for comfort.

THIS COMPANY was organized and incorporated in April, 1905, to fill the need of a reliable, trustworthy and square-dealing company that would deal in real estate and make the advantages of Thorsby better known.

The incorporators are all reliable and responsible citizens of Thorsby. None of the officers or incorporators have ever been connected with any other real estate company in Thorsby.

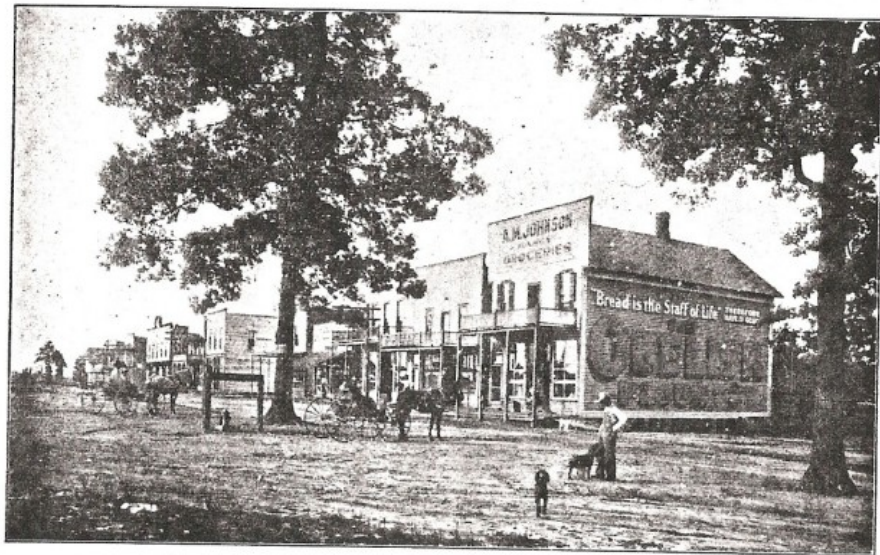
Our list of property for sale in Thorsby and vicinity contains dwellings, building lots, business property, five, ten and twenty acre tracts and larger farms. The lands are adapted to general farming, fruit, truck growing, dairying—in short, we have all kinds of land found in the vicinity, both improved and unimproved. We are also in touch with parties who have property for sale in other parts of Alabama and the South. If you want lands, timber, mineral or business opportunities, write to us. If

we do not have what you want, we'll find it for you. We are prepared to take care of small tracts here for non-residents. We can plant fruit trees or grapes, or whatever else the owner may desire, cultivate and care for the crops, build fences, clear land, or do any other necessary work, as the owner may desire. All work will be well done, and charges reasonable.

We are unable to give, in this booklet, all the information that may be wanted, and we shall, therefore, be glad to give further information on application. But remember that a personal visit is better than dozens of letters and circulars, and more satisfactory. If you think of coming, do not let any one dissuade you, but "Come and see" for yourself.

**THORSBY REAL
ESTATE CO.**





MONTGOMERY AVENUE.

Thorsby, Alabama.

August 18, 1905

To Whom It May Concern:-

This is to certify that we are personally acquainted with the officers and directors of Thorsby Real Estate Co., and that we have found them to be honorable and reliable men. We believe that they will deal fairly with anyone who may buy property from them and that they will carry out any agreements they may make.

E. F. Mead
Mayor

Scott Caverio
City Clerk

S. Howard
Alderman

Geo. Trangen
Alderman

J. R. Parrell
Alderman

J. D. Rice
Postmaster

Chas. A. Peterson
Alderman

M. A. Magnuson
Pres. Thorsby Fruit & Truc
Growers Assn.

J. S. Gerald
Pres. Thorsby Savings Bank

P. Smith
Agent L. & N.R.R.

Thorsby Real Estate Co.

INCORPORATED APRIL 21, 1905

Officers.

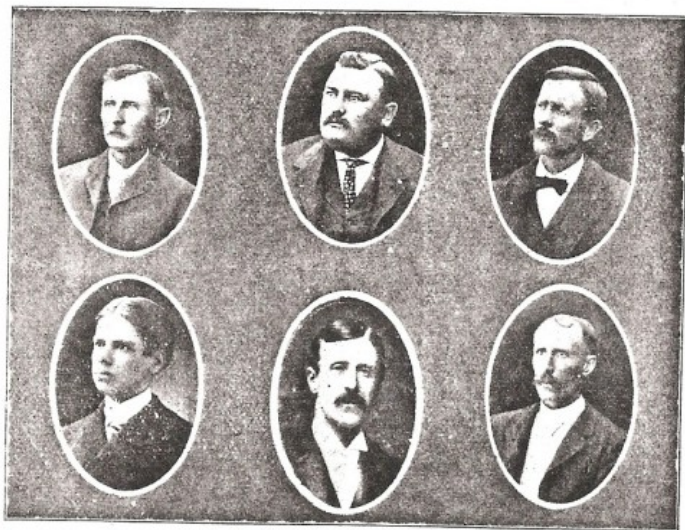
M. J. BARRETT,	President
M. J. SOBERG,	Vice-President
G. H. GERALD,	Secretary
G. C. MICHELSON,	Treasurer

Directors.

M. J. BARRETT,	GUST BERLIN,
JOHN A. CARLSON,	
☉ G. C. MICHELSON,	☉
M. J. SOBERG.	

THORSBY, ☉ ALABAMA

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS.



JOHN A. CARLSON
G. H. GERALD

G. C. MICHELSON
GUST BERLIN

M. J. SOBERG
M. J. BARRETT

This promotional booklet was recreated from scans made by Derric Scott in 2013 from copies owned by Mrs. Lucille McFarland. At the time she lived in second house from the left on the cover!

She did not have the booklet itself and the owner is unknown.

**Birmingham Public Library has a copy and
familysearch.org has it scanned into a PDF.**

**Pages after this are from the BPL document to
fill in missing parts of the copies.**

orchard can be made to produce peaches and other fruits from May to October. An acre of land in a suitable condition can be set in fruit trees at a cost of \$15.00 to \$20.00 for trees, fertilizer and labor. By growing crops between the trees, there is little or no expense for cultivation during the first two or three years. The cost of pruning, spraying and other necessary work before the trees come into bearing amounts to but a few cents a tree.

Strawberries grow well, and about 75 acres are planted with them. They are a very profitable crop when given proper attention, the Alabama growers netting from \$100 to \$300 an acre a year. Thorsby strawberries, being grown on high land, are much firmer and better shippers than those grown on low, moist lands, and command a better price. They are highly colored and well flavored, this being due partly to the minerals in the soil. The Lady Thompson and Klondyke strawberries, the kinds grown here, ripen from April 15 to May 10, at the time when the Northern markets begin to demand large quantities of this fruit and good prices can be obtained. There is not much demand for strawberries until April, neither are there many shipments to the North before that time, except by express, which is a rather expensive way to ship. Carload shipments of strawberries from Thorsby are expected to begin in the spring of 1906. It is confidently expected that the strawberry crop will be the means of bringing many thousands of dollars to Thorsby each year and that the business will become very important here. To those interested in strawberry growing, we shall be glad to send, on request, a booklet showing what the strawberry growers in Alabama are doing and giving detailed reports of expenses and net profits.

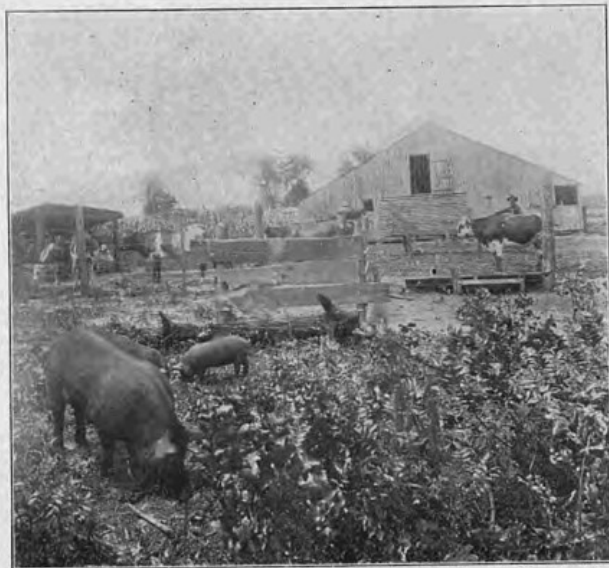
Besides the fruits already mentioned, apples, cherries, quinces, figs and pomegranates are found on many farms. Blackberries grow wild in immense quantities, and huckleberries are quite common.

The advantage of shipping fruit in carload lots is very important. Freight rates are much cheaper than express, and fruit carries much better by freight on account of its being refrigerated and not being handled after being put into the car. At certain times, when the Southern markets are full of fruit, shipping in car lots to the North means good returns, while shipping anywhere by express means no profit at all. Our market is good because we can ship wherever the prices are the highest.

The quality of Thorsby fruit is the very best. Being grown on high land, the fruit is firm and stands shipment very well, while the iron and other minerals in the soil give it an unsurpassed flavor and color. The following is an extract from a letter from F. Newhall & Sons, one of the largest commission houses in Chicago, to S. E. Norton, Vice-President of the Thorsby Fruit and Truck Growers' Association:

"As to the quality and relative value of the Alabama peaches and plums compared to the Georgias, we think they were superior, and, speaking from our own standpoint, will frankly state the Alabama peaches gave the consumers much better satisfaction than the Georgias. While they may not have been as large in size, they were smooth and of much finer flavor than the Georgias."

Facilities for the shipment of fruit are very good. A refrigerator car loaded during the day is taken out during the evening by the L. & N. R. R.'s fastest produce train, and goes directly



A FARM SCENE.



HOME OF A. AMUNDSON (Rear View)



Part of Den'son Lumber & Mfg. Co's. and Farmers Warehouse and Fertilizer Co's. Plants.

to the Northern markets. Connections are such that the car goes through without delay and without being handled by more than one railroad after leaving the L. & N.

On account of its location, Thorsby is able to get its fruits into the Northern markets at a time when they command very good prices. As they are shipped by freight, the charges are such that there is a very good profit left for the grower. Taking soil, climate, transportation facilities and other advantages into consideration, it would be difficult to find a better location for those who wish to engage in fruit growing. Many of these advantages would inure also to trucking for the Northern markets.

A BEGINNING has been made in truck growing, and beans, onions, asparagus, squashes and other kinds of truck are marketed on a small scale. Watermelons and musk melons grow well. Dairying is an industry that ought to be greatly developed, and it is now receiving more attention than formerly. The price of dairy products is high, good butter selling readily for 25 cents a pound in the open market. The dairyman can grow as much fodder on an acre here as in the North, and less feed is required for his cattle on account of the milder climate, so expenses are smaller. Another feature that reduces expenses is the small outlay necessary for



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very pleasantly in viewing the orchards and vineyards, the forests, the streams and springs, and in visiting points of interest in the vicinity. Quite a number of our visitors spend the whole winter here. Good accommodations and excellent fare can be found at the Thorsby Inn, while those, who wish to remain a considerable time and do not like hotel life, can rent a house at a reasonable price.

Good connection with the outside world is furnished by the telephone and telegraph and the main line of the L. & N. R. R. Three mails a day are received from the North and two from the South. Montgomery, the state capital, and Birmingham, the largest city, are one hour and forty minutes distant, Chicago 20 hours.

EXCURSION tickets to Thorsby and other points in the South can be bought from points in the Northern states on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The rate for these tickets is much less than the regular fare, being one fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip. See your ticket agent about tickets a number of days before you start, and then, if he cannot issue a ticket to Thorsby, he can send and get you one. These tickets are good to return not later than 21 days from date of sale. If you buy an excursion ticket to a point farther South, you can stop off at Thorsby. In such case, it is best to stop off at Thorsby on your way South rather than wait till the return trip.

On the same dates on which excursion tickets are sold, one-way homeseekers' tickets can be bought for about one-half the regular fare. If your ticket agent cannot tell you the fare to