

Upchurch and Related Drug Stores
By Derric Scott
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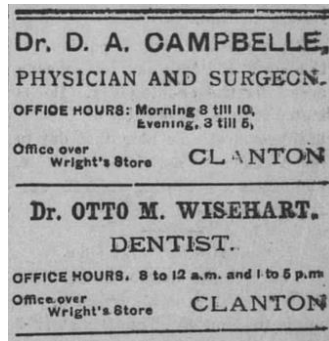
By Derric Scott

In 1897 Dr. J. S. Johnson, Jr. was running ads for **the Clanton Drug Store**.

Stanfield; Dr. Campbelle; The Hopkins Drug Co.; Upchurch Drug Co.

In 1898 there was a **Stanfield and Matthews drug store** advertising in the papers. Beginning in October, Matthews was dropped from the name and the ads just said **J. M. Stanfield**. In April of 1899 Mr. Stanfield had his store painted by W. H. Taylor. In August of 1899, Mr. Stanfield had been sick and was improving.

About the same time, in the year of 1899, Dr. D. A. Campbelle advertised that his office was over W. H. **"Billy" Wright's store** (likely SE corner of 2nd Avenue North and 7th Street area). Business was good and he expanded his office hours to 8-10 AM and 3-5 PM. **Dentist Dr. A. J. Massey** occasionally visited to handle dental appointments. By the middle of 1899, **Dentist Dr. O. M. Wisheart** was located upstairs as well.



Union Banner Nov 2nd, 1899 advertisements for Dr. Campbelle and Dr. Wisheart.

In February of 1900, Dr. Campbelle bought out **The Stanfield Drug Store** and moved his consulting room and office into the same building (location?). Dr. Campbelle was arranging to get an "A No. 1 soda fountain" installed "so all you young fellows can get your nickels and dimes saved up so that you can treat all your young lady friends when they come to down."

A year later, Jan 1901, Dr. D. A. Campbelle sold his store to his brother, Dr. V. O. Campbelle and by May he and his family had moved to Oklahoma.

The drug store changed hands again by the end of 1901 when O. E. Latham and Dr. P. I. Hopkins bought the business. Within a month (Jan 1902) **The Hopkins Drug Company** was planning to move next to **Banner** office. At this time, the **Banner** office was located in the middle of town, about where **Elmore's** will later be. Dr. Hopkins also maintained his medical office and practice in the building.

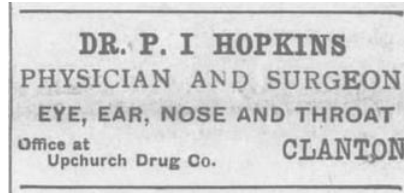


Oct 5th 1901, Long Bros. Circus parade, Banner office is the first 1-story building on left. Taken from 1896 Courthouse tower.

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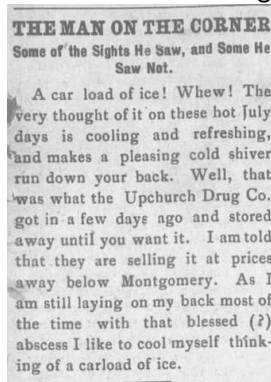
In June 1902 Mr. M. A. Kilgore sold his interest in the **Campbelle Drug Company** and he is returning to his farm.

Then the big change came, in October 1903, Dr. Hopkins sold his drug business to Mr. E. E. Upchurch. Mr. Upchurch moved from Tuscaloosa to Clanton to run his new business. Dr. Hopkins continued his medical practice and stayed in the office in the building. **Upchurch Drug Store** would continue to be a Clanton business for the next 70+ years.



Dr. Hopkins' Feb 18th, 1904 advertisement.

Ever wonder how folks stayed cool well before air-conditioning? **Upchurch Drug Co.** had the solution!



July 21st 1904 article from Union Banner. The ice was probably "harvested" from a lake up north in the winter.

Dr. D. A. Campbelle returned from OK, Mar 1905 and may stay decide to stay in Clanton.

The Banner moved to a new office due to their neighbor **Spigener & Jones** expanding, Sept 1906. The new office was probably the 2 story wooden building just behind the Courthouse.

Dr. J. S. Johnson, Jr.; The Clanton Drug Co.; The Florence Drug Co.

Another drug store saga was going on in parallel to the Upchurch one. Dr. J. S. Johnson, Jr. had run **The Clanton Drug Co.** for at least as far back as 1897. In Feb 1906 **The Clanton Drug Co.** was bought out by E. E. Hopkins and renamed to the **Florence Drug Co.**

By September 1906 the **Florence Drug Store** had made postcards of Clanton street scenes and were advertising them in the paper. Below are two surviving examples:

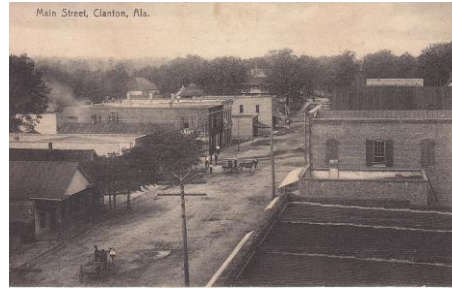


Union Banner Ad (left),

A small, rectangular, light-colored card with a double-line border. The text is centered and reads: "59859 Florence Drug Store. Printed in Germany" in a serif font.

edge of postcard back (right)

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Postcards printed for Florence Drug Co. ca 1906, left #59858 is the 1896 Courthouse, right #59859 is Clanton 2nd Ave N looking west, taken from the Courthouse tower.

An article in the Sept 20th, 1906 **Union Banner** seems to have roughly located these two drug stores, **Florence Drug store** on the south side of 2nd Avenue North (between 6th and 7th streets) and **Upchurch** on the north side, seemingly between the two banks and **Kanter's**. Abe Kanter is in the P. D. Wilson building at this time.

A very decided improvement to the appearance of the town is the cement sidewalk in front of Cannon & Sons' store to the Florence drug store corner, and on the other side of the street from Bill Mullins' corner past the two banks, the Upchurch drug company and Kanter's store. It looks neat and clean, is nice to walk upon, and adds largely to the looks of the stores, really attracts customers, who think there must be extra nice goods in those stores they look so neat outside. I understand the cement walk is to be laid up the hill west of the railroad. Mr. Hopkins, a resident of Clanton, is doing the work.

Sept 26, 1906 **Union Banner** article locates the Florence Drug Store on the south side of 2nd Ave N and Upchurch Drug Co. on north side, up from Bill Mullins' on the corner as far as Kanter's store (in the P. D. Wilson building since 1904).

In October of 1908 the **Florence Drug Store** proudly advertised that they had "both rural and town phones in our store" for the public to use, and you should be sure to telephone in your orders. In December, Dr. N. S. Johnson was building a "concrete building" for **Florence Drug Store** to move into.

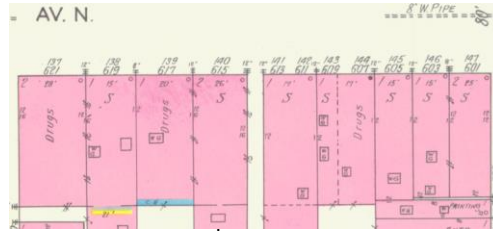
Upchurch Drug Store's New Brick Building

In February of 1914, Upchurch secured a lease for the new building that was planned for the southeast corner of 2nd Ave North and 7th Street being built by Dr. N. S. Johnson The wooden building on that corner had just been vacated by the **Clanton Millinery Co**. The new two story brick building was finished and **Upchurch Drug Store** held their opening on July 24th 1914. The event had large crowds all day and "delightful music was rendered by local singers and musicians, and this together with delicious refreshments furnished by the management, made the day one of greatest pleasure for the visitors."

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1928 photo of Upchurch Drug Store, in the 1914 building, on the corner of 2nd Ave N and 7th St.



1917 Sanborn Fire map showing 2nd Ave N. block, Upchurch is leftmost corner.
Next Drug store is Alreds/Wrights/
3rd Drug store is ...

Johnson Drug; Alred & Wright Drug; Farley Drug; Callen-Alred Drug

In April 1922 **The Leader** advertised it is next to **Johnson Drug Co.** in the **Baker and Taylor** "old stand."
In October 1930 the ad had changed to say "next to **Alred Drug Company.**"

Dr. J. Hance Alred opened a new drug store in about 1911. It was later owned by Mr. Farley. Mr. M. Astro Wright bought out Mr. Farley in May 1946. Mr. Wright combined the **Alred and Wright Drug Stores** into one.

In January 1948 Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Farley were operating their new **Walgreen Drug Store** on North 6th Street next to the new **A & P store** and were preparing for their grand opening.

In April 1954 the **Callen-Alred Drug Company** switched buildings with the **Family Shoe Store** so that **Callen-Alred Drug Co.** could expand into the next building as well.

References

Union Banner, many small items in many issues; too many to list.