

CHILTON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ARCHIVES

JANUARY 1984

MEETING

Sunday, 15 January 1984
2:00 P. M.-Clanton Library

PROGRAM

Speaker - Sarah Madge Mullins
Subject - History of Old Jumbo

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President-Linda Klinner
Vice-President-Betty Collins
Secy-Treas-Mary Richardson
Historian-Nell Thomas
Reporter-Wanda Hay
Cem. Census-John Klinner
Museum Comm.-J. M. Hay
Morris Moatts
Ocie DeVaughn

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The January meeting is of great importance. We will be electing officers for 1984. The nominating committee will present a list of nominations, and of course, nominations from the floor are welcome. All members are urged to attend.

QUERIES

Mrs. Evelyn Thomas, RR 1, 173
McDonald Street, Bisbee, Arizona
85603, would like information from any decendants of William M. Connell, who moved from Jasper County, Georgia, in the 1830's and settled in the Chestnut Creek area of Coopers.

Any requests from members should be mailed to P. O. Box 644, and will be printed in the next newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Present balance - \$1,676.73.
We have started receiving our grant monies for 1983-1984, and have requested another grant for 1984-1985. The working budget must be approved at the January meeting.

It is time to pay your 1984 dues. The fee remains \$5.00-student, \$7.00-single and \$10.00 - couple. You may pay at the meeting, or mail in your check to P. O. Box 644, Clanton.

CEMETARY CENSUS

Volume I of the Chilton County Cemetary Census is still available at \$15.00 plus postage. Order from: P. O. Box 644, Clanton.

Volume II is in progress and we need your help. Call John Klinner at 755-7306 or 755-4255 to volunteer and be ready when the weather warms up.

August 31, 1918

AT RISK OF HIS LIFE, CLERK GETS DRAFT RECORDS

J. B. Atkinson Crawls Into Second Story Room of Burning Court House at Clanton to Rescue Records

At the risk of his life, J. B. Atkinson, clerk of the Chilton county draft board, saved some of the most important records of the board in the fire that destroyed the Chilton county court house early yesterday morning. The board's docket, containing the name, classification and disposition of every registrant, and the registration cards of the registration of August 24 were rescued by Mr. Atkinson just as the flames had broken through the ceiling of the board's office. All other records were lost.

L. B. Lamont, acting adjutant general, told of the action taken by Mr. Atkinson upon his return to Montgomery early last night from Clanton where he went with other officials at noon to make an investigation of loss sustained to the military authorities.

Climbs to Second Story

Realizing the importance of securing the more important records, Mr. Atkinson secured a ladder and climbed to the window of the board's office on the second floor of the court house, and after smashing the window, jumped into the office. He threw the docket to the ground and put the registration cards of August 24 in his pocket. He was in the act of procuring more of the records when the ceiling began falling in and he had to leave the building to save himself from serious injury. All of the questionnaires and other documents of the board were lost.

Mr. Lamont indicated last night that no decision had been reached as to what course will be adopted regarding the loss of the Chilton board records, but he was glad, indeed, that the docket and registration cards had been saved. The docket he looks upon as the most important record of the board. Mr. Atkinson as clerk of the board has been a diligent worker, and his services have been recognized. Not only has he handled the clerical phase of the board's work, but he has been very active in rounding up deserters, quite often at the peril of his life.

State Officials Here

Soon after news of the fire reached the state capitol, several state officials motored at noon to Clanton to make an investigation. The party consisted of T. W. Sims, president, and H. C. Allen, consulting engineer, of the state board of equalization; David W. W. Fuller, assistant attorney general; and Mr. Lamont. The latter went particularly to look into the matter of the military records and upon reaching Clanton was in conference nearly all of his time with members of the draft board. Others in the party investigated the loss of records as they returned to their departments. Mr. Atkinson came back by rail, the others returning by automobile.

According to Mr. Lamont he understood that the main records on which the recent scathing report of State Examiner J. H. Craig against certain Chilton county officials was based were saved by these officials themselves. He understood that these officials went into the burning building with a determination to save these records and either succeeded wholly or in part. Mr. Lamont indicated, however, that he did not make any special inquiry into that part of the losses sustained, and that was only what he picked up from various conversations.

Started in Attic

The fire, it seems, started in the attic of the court house from an unknown cause. When discovered it had made considerable headway, and efforts to subdue the flames were unavailing. Only a few of the walls were left standing.

First tidings of the fire reached the Capitol at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning when J. P. Vandevier, chairman of the Chilton county board of equalization, called the state board of equalization and advised Consulting Engineer Allen that the court house had been burned and practically all the records destroyed.

The news created quite a stir in the state house and there was considerable anxiety as to whether the records were destroyed, his report, under the law, is regarded as prima facie evidence, the burden being placed on defendants, in a court, to prove the allegations of the report to be untrue.

Report was Critical

Mr. Craig's reports criticised severely the affairs of the probate judge, the county treasurer and the board of commissioners. It had been announced that the reports would be submitted to the Chilton county grand jury for an investigation when it convenes Monday.

Since the reports were published, Probate Judge Reynolds has replied in a caustic tone, but Examiner Craig did not indicate whether he would answer the statement of Judge Reynolds.

State Fire Marshal W. F. Fonville took no steps yesterday toward an investigation of the fire. He said that he does not investigate fires unless there has been some request for a probe, and in the absence of such a request yesterday, he did not initiate a probe.

POPWELL CEMETERY

CHILTON COUNTY, ALABAMA

Hwy. 31 South of Clanton, Ala., near Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

POPWELL, MOSES 15 Aug. 1852 - 23 Feb. 1928
 SIMPSON, L. 1901 - 1936
 POPWELL, LORENZO DOW 16 May 1871 - 24 Oct. 1941
 POPWELL, ORVILLE L., Sr. Sgt. US Army WWII 10 May. 1910-9 Feb. 1976
 POPWELL, WILLIAM 22 Sept. 1867 - 26 Apr. 1906
 CULVER, inf. son of W.G. CULVER no dates
 FORD, MARIE 5 Jan. 1933 - 5 Feb. 1937
 POPWELL, REUBEN DOW 17 July 1897 - 10 July 1974
 POPWELL, MINNIE S. 1882 - 1971
 POPWELL, ALFRED 7 Feb. 1844 - 23 Jan. 1931
 POPWELL, ANNIE H. 10 Oct. 1831 - 26 Mar. 1935
 DOWNS, ERVIN S., son of J.G. & E.J. DOWNS 21 May 1889-29 Nov. 1911
 HAND, PHYLA, wife of E.B. HAND, dau. of J.P. & LETTIE STONECYPHER
 17 Feb. 1880 - 25 July 1912
 DOWNS, EMMA, wife of J.G. DOWNS 1863 - 19 Feb. 1913
 DOWNS, JAMES G. 1854 - 1945
 FULMER, ERNEST A. 5 Nov. 1919 - 7 Oct. 1973
 FULMER, MARY F. 17 Apr. 1915 -
 WILSON, J.M. 5 June 1876 - 13 Feb. 1957
 WILSON, G.W. 23 Aug. 1851 - 2 May 1938
 WILSON, SARAH REBECCA, wife of G.W. WILSON 21 May 1851-17 Sept. 1935
 WILSON, ALONZO 11 Feb. 1892 - 8 Aug. 1908
 WILSON, ARRIE L., wife of W.H. WILSON 25 Apr. 1880 - 16 Aug. 1901
 WILSON, EMMETT M. 21 May 1900 - 6 Mar. 1951
 WILSON, LILLIE M. 28 Oct. 1905 -
 THOMAS, EUGENE 13 Jan. 1909 - 11 Nov. 1931
 THOMAS, HUBERT no dates
 THOMAS, BILLY no dates
 THOMAS, F.M. (FRANCES MISSOURI POPWELL) 1869 - 1950
 THOMAS, W.H. (WILLIAM HENRY) 1859 - 1930
 THOMAS, IDA BELL 16 Feb. 1896 - 20 Apr. 1925
 THOMAS, MILDRED, dau. of W.H. & FANNIE THOMAS 2 Dec. 1910-13 Aug. 1911
 POPWELL, inf. of L.D. & MILLIE POPWELL 25 Aug. 1908-5 Nov. 1908
 STONECYPHER, LETTIE, wife of J.P. STONECYPHER 25 June 1851-28 May 1925
 STONECYPHER, J.P. 24 May 1856 - 6 Apr. 1941
 DOWNS, WALTER L. 11 June 1880 - 12 July 1921
 DOWNS, CHESTER O. 23 July 1900 - 23 Dec. 1934

copied 6 June 1978

CHILTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 B. O. BOX 811
 2000 1/2 S. W. 1st St.
 CHILTON COUNTY, ALABAMA

Chilton County

Historical Society and Archives

March 1984

HISTORY -- "... a springboard from yesterday to a good today; a better tomorrow..."

--MMW

MEETING -- NOTE CHANGE IN DATE!

Sunday 25 March 1984

2 P.M. - Clanton Library

PROGRAM -- "Interesting Facts About THE CHILTON VIEW AND ITS EDITOR W.H. LAWRENCE"

An overview -- an indepth-insight:

SPEAKER -- Ben D. Roberts

OFFICERS

President	Ben D. Roberts
Vice President	Wanda Hay
Secretary-Treasurer	Sue Thomas
Reporter	Madge Mullins Wilbanks
Historian	Nell Thomas
Cemetery Census Committee	John Klinner

THE CHILTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ARCHIVES
WANTS AND NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF EVERYONE IN AND OUT
OF CHILTON COUNTY WHO HAS AN INTEREST IN AND CARES
ABOUT THE COUNTY -- ITS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE!

Address to remember:

Chilton County Historical Society and Archives
P.O. Box 644
Clanton, Alabama 35045

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: It is urgent that as many members as possible attend the March 25 meeting to voice their opinion and vote on at least two subjects. One subject to be considered is possible changes to the membership rates. Another concern will be the frequency of scheduled meetings. In addition, there are the matters of a microfilm reader, church histories and the sign to mark the site of the county's first courthouse at Grantville. Your attendance at this March 25 meeting will ensure a broader base in deciding these issues.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM
YOUR SOCIETY:

CHILTON COUNTY CEMETERY CENSUS,
VOL. 1, Sue Thomas, 1949.

A HISTORY OF CHILTON COUNTY,
Clanton Study Club, 1927;
reprinted, August, 1983.

QUERY: Anyone knowing the burial site of a Mr. Jefferson Kenney who died, Circa 1900, please contact Ben D. Roberts.

A THOUGHT TO PONDER:

"... Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history..."

--Abraham Lincoln
Second Annual Message
to Congress

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ever get the post-election blues? Not me! In fact, I felt quite honored to be considered, let alone elected. One factor which makes it even more gratifying is the cooperative spirit of all the new officers and the help we've gotten from those who preceded us. They deserve our thanks for a job well done. Speaking of jobs, we're hoping that the microfilming of THE CHILTON VIEW will have come to fruition by the second meeting of this year. A new microfilm reader is scheduled to arrive within the next thirty days which will make newspaper research much less difficult.

One of the most important projects facing our society is that of size! We NEED more members. While we are on this topic of needs, let's think about two others. Money is always a need of any organization. A particular need for historical societies which seems obvious to me is that of a museum. Therein you have the essence of our impetus for this year -- members, money and museum! Let's just call it our 3M Program for 1984!

We are intensely interested in making your newsletter as interesting as possible. To that end, you will find an extraction from the CLANTON PRESS about Thorsby in this issue of the NEWSLETTER. In future issues, we hope to provide the balance of Mrs. Whitson's articles.

Finally, we are providing a list of publications about Chilton County which are for sale and another list of publications available at the Clanton Library in their genealogy section. We will repeat these lists periodically.

That touches some of my thoughts for this issue. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on Sunday, 25 March. Bring a guest!

REMEMBER THE 3M PROGRAM FOR 1984 -- MEMBERS -- MONEY -- MUSEUM!!!

ANOTHER THOUGHT TO PONDER:

"... history is philosophy learned from examples..."

-- Dionysius of Halicarnassue Circa 54-7 B.C.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS ABOUT CHILTON COUNTY, OR PARTS THEREOF, IS SURPRISINGLY LONG. THE FOLLOWING ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CLANTON LIBRARY:

VERBENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1871-1981.

A HISTORY OF MULBERRY BAPTIST CHURCH, 1818-1968, U.H. Abrams.

CHILTON COUNTY AND HER PEOPLE, T.E. & Carlos Wyatt, 1976.

A HISTORY OF EARLY BIBB COUNTY, ALABAMA, 1820-1870, U.H. Abrams, 1981.

VERBENA, A TOWN BORN OF YELLOW FEVER, Sue B. McKinney, 1970.

A HISTORY OF THE CLANTON FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, Helen Parrish.

A HISTORY OF CLANTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 1983.

LAWRENCE FAMILY GENEALOGY (BIBB & CHILTON), M.N. Lawrence, 1977.

A HISTORY OF CHILTON COUNTY, Clanton Study Club, 1927; reprinted, 1983.

REMEMBER! DATE OF QUARTERLY MEETING CHANGED TO Sunday, 25 March 1984 -- 2 o'clock in the afternoon Clanton Library -- A meeting of importance to everyone in preserving the cherished history of Chilton County! BE THERE! THE WELCOME MAT IS OUT -- FOR YOU!!!

"History -- a refreshing research for the mind..."

A Preamble by the President, Ben D. Roberts: "Shortly after THE CLANTON PRESS came into publication by Editor F.M. Wood, a roving reporter made a stop in Chilton County. Mrs. Mary Whitson of Dothan wrote articles about different communities which she visited that provide interesting items of history. Mr. Wood absolved himself of any responsibility for anything which she wrote but published them nonetheless. We are happy to include the following extracted article for your reading and historical enjoyment."

25 May 1911 CLANTON PRESS

"A Few Facts About Thorsby and the Pleasant People I Met," by Mrs. Whitson:

"Thorsby, a hustling little village in Chilton County, is beyond a doubt the most cosmopolitan little town in the State. There are Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, Germans and Americans in Thorsby. Thorsby owes its existence to Mr. J.F. Peterson. Born in Sweden in 1860, he came to the United States in 1881 and located in Boone, Iowa. In 1895, Mr. Peterson came to Chilton County and founded the prosperous little town of Thorsby having bought the land from Mr. Jones in which enterprise he has been very successful. He has a beautiful home on a high eminence commanding a fine view of the town and country. After a little while, we will tell you about his splendid adventure in poultry raising.

Thorsby has a population of 500 and has one bank, fourteen business houses, two or three doctors, one resident dentist, a nice hotel, several dairy and poultry farms, strawberry plantations and Thorsby Institute, one of the finest educational institutions in the State.

Thorsby was incorporated March 2, 1901. The Honorable J. Bice, present mayor and postmaster, was one of the incorporators. Mr. Bice was born in Spartanburg, S.C. in 1848. He grew up in Georgia around Cartersville; has lived in Alabama for over twenty years; was appointed postmaster eight years ago; the office is fourth class and has one rural route. Mr. Bice has made considerable improvements in the office; has one hundred lock boxes. Mr. Bice is now serving his second term as mayor. The municipal tax rate is fifty cents. He is one of Uncle Sam's most efficient postmasters and has administered the affairs of the office faithfully and conscientiously; is a member of the United Protestant Church.

There are five dairy farms around Thorsby shipping cream to Birmingham and Montgomery. Thorsby has, this season, shipped between 15 and 20 thousand dollars worth of strawberries. The Union State Bank has a capital of \$50,000 with branches in Jemison and Maplesville. The Thorsby Institute under the able administration of Professor N.W. Henson has advanced along the lines of higher education and under his influence the pupils have striven for a high standard of excellence. The present enrollment is 111; seven teachers including the principal. The corps of teachers was selected with great care and all are graduates of fine schools; some of them having degrees of AB and LI. The Institute has a laboratory with 200 dollars worth of apparatus; also a good miscellaneous library of 2500 volumes which they expect to increase to about 4000 by winter. Mr. Henson is very polished as well as agreeable in manner; has taught successfully in several places, namely in Coosa County; three years was principal of Kaufman High School and one or two others. He was born near Charleston, West Virginia, graduating from the Peabody in Nashville with the LI in 1905; is a member of the Baptist Church. Let me remark that West Virginia is far ahead of old Virginia in progress and money.

Dr. Junkerman is the leading dentist of Thorsby. Mr. A.M. Johnson, born in Smolen, Sweden, came to the United States in 1868 and has been here 14 years. Mr. J.F. Peterson has built some very handsome brick houses and is going into the poultry business on an extensive scale. His mammoth incubator, one of the finest ever made, has a capacity of 3000. He will put 5000 layers on the grounds. He has the only mammoth incubator in Alabama. Mr. Peterson has spent thousands of dollars in equipments. He manufactures his own coops and brooders and has his own water works and sewerage and, if the town does not, he will have his own electric lights. In other words, he is thoroughly progressive and up to date in everything. Mrs. Peterson, though born in the north, is very southern in her ideas. Mr. Peterson has influenced twelve or fifteen families from Birmingham to locate in the Thorsby vicinity, in which city he is well known. He is a Lutheran.

Dr. Wooley has just bought a drug store and is filling it with new goods. He is a brother of Dr. Wooley in Atlanta. Mr. J.R. Parnell, general merchant, possibly related to Parnell, the Irish patriot, started into business in Thorsby ten years ago and is today one of the leading merchants of the town. He is a great big, good-hearted, jolly fellow always smiling and always ready to do a favor. He was born in Bibb County and grew up in Chilton; has a food business and handles cotton fertilizers; occupies two floors carrying heavy groceries and furniture upstairs. Mr. Parnell is a general favorite among the citizens of Thorsby."

BECOME A TRUE SUPPORTER OF CHILTON COUNTY! BECOME A MEMBER OF THE
CHILTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ARCHIVES!

Next meeting of Chilton County Historical Society and Archives --
Sunday afternoon -- 2 o'clock -- 25 March 1984 -- Clanton Library.

A FINAL THOUGHT TO PONDER:

From American writer, Willa Cather (1876-1947): O PIONEERS! (1913)

"... The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman..."

Chilton County

Historical Society and Archives

July 1984

History -- "... the greatest of teachers;
the consummate open book to learning...."
-- MMW

JULY MEETING SCHEDULE --
Sunday 22 July 1984
2 P.M. - Clanton Public Library

PROGRAM -- "Old Courthouses of Alabama"
SPEAKER -- Dr. Lucille Griffith
Professor Emeritus
University of Montevallo
Published author
Renowned authority/State of
Alabama
Historian extraordinaire

HISTORICAL CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!
Get your numbered edition of a limited
edition of February 1931 issue of
CHILTON COUNTY NEWS. Yours as a bonus
for becoming a Life Member of the Chilton
County Historical Society & Archives.
Contact Ben Roberts for more information.
Life Membership + a copy of a treasured
Booster edition.... all yours! All possible!
Become a member of a most special group --
those with Life Memberships in the Society!
A service to Chilton County! A joy to you!

ADDRESS TO REMEMBER:

Chilton County Historical Society and Archives
P.O. Box 644
Clanton, Alabama 35045

OF INTEREST: 8 October 1903
BANNER

"A novel sight was witnessed in
Clanton Wednesday afternoon.
Two automobiles carrying a party
of ladies and gentlemen arrived
in town at 4:30 o'clock. They
had left Birmingham at 8:00 A.M.
and were enroute to Prattville
expecting to reach there sometime
the same night. They had found
the roads pretty dusty but had
enjoyed a very pleasant run."

OF CONTINUED INTEREST:
17 September 1898 BANNER

"When you come to court next week
and want board and lodging you
can be accomodated at the old
favorite place, Uncle Patrick
Smith's. Rates are reasonable and
the fare is good."

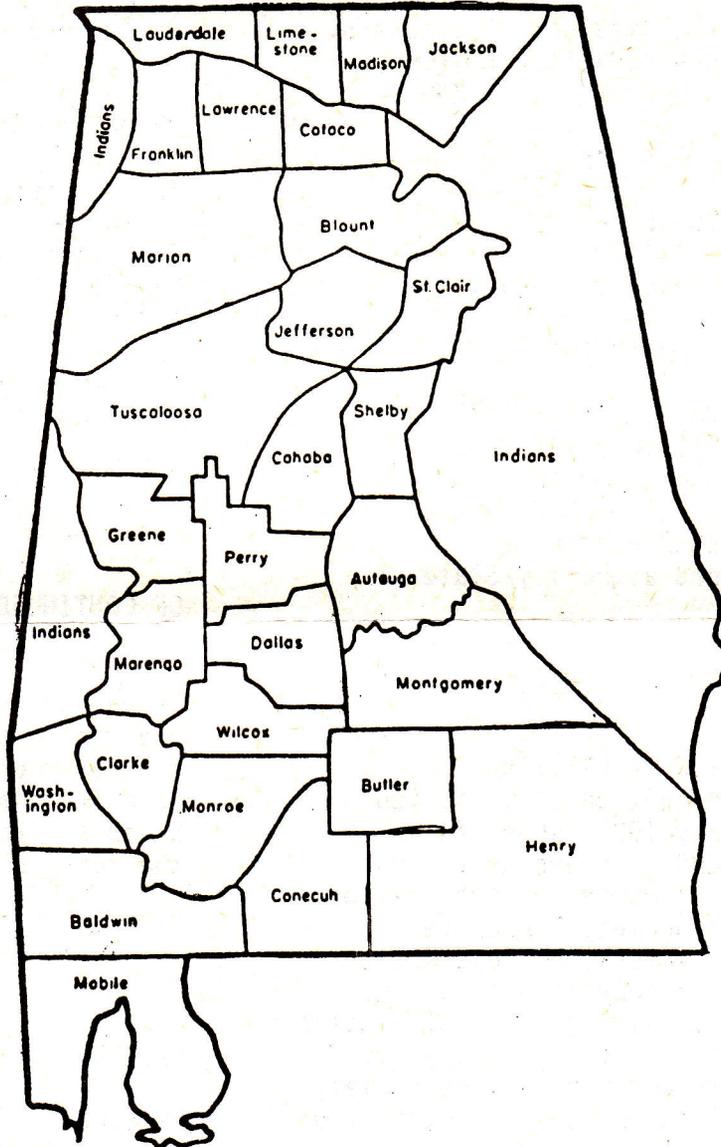
CHILTON VIEW, 8 March 1888:

"Mrs. Judge Chilton, widow of
the distinguished statesman and
jurist in honor of whom our county
was named, has removed from
Montgomery to Clanton, and will
occupy the Haden residence. In
behalf of our people the VIEW
extends her a most cordial welcome."

"Fellow citizens, man cannot escape
history..."

-- Lincoln

ALABAMA IN 1820



PRESIDENT'S CORNER -- Ben D. Roberts

Due to volume of information received for this newsletter, the promised "Whom I Met-Clanton" by Mrs. Whitson has been rescheduled for a future issue. Look for it in the October issue!

The advent of the CHILTON VIEW microfilm has yielded many interesting items some of which we are compelled to include in this issue. They, generally speaking, have value for historians and genealogists alike and we think you will enjoy and appreciate them as we did.

We also have included items from later eras which we felt would be of interest either to family searchers or as background information to know where you are as well as who you are. For that reason, we are presenting a series of sketch maps showing Alabama counties as the lines appeared in the census years 1820 through 1870. We are indebted to Betty J. Collins for providing these copies.

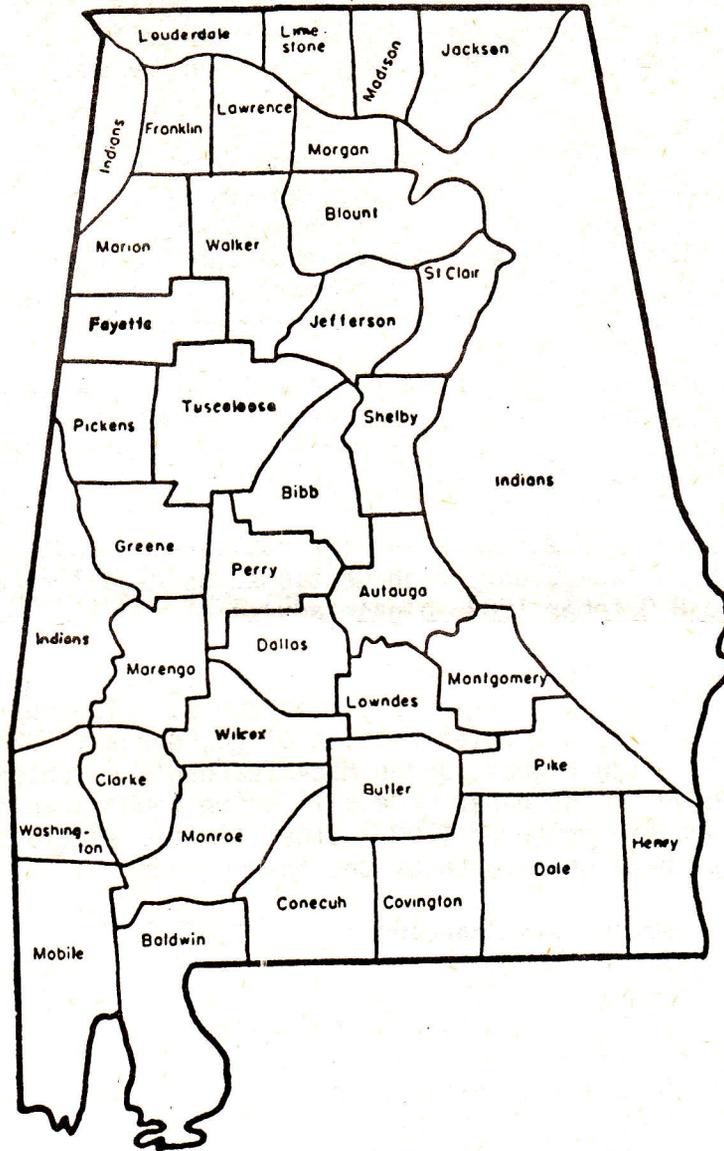
For so many times, I had wondered how Clanton came to have an "overhead bridge." We are providing one parcel of information from a complex but interesting subject. The whole story is quite fascinating but we are restricted for space in this issue. (See Page 4.)

If anyone knows of an earlier published account of the automobile's arrival in Chilton County than mentioned on Page 1 relative to a news note dated 8 October 1903, please advise.

That gives some idea of the content of this issue. Now we move on to the Society's interim accomplishments. The reprint of our CHILTON COUNTY NEWS Booster Edition of 26 February 1931 was launched 27 June 1984 with Probate Judge Mack Yeargan's purchase of Issue #1. With his copy of the paper came a lifetime membership in the Society for the purchase price of \$100. Other limited edition numbers and memberships have been taken by the following:

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Judge Mack Yeargan | Enterprise |
| 2. | Sue H. Thomas | Birmingham |
| 3. | Betty J. Collins | Birmingham |
| 4. | John and Linda Klinner | Maplesville |
| 5. | Sallie Johnson Roberts | Clanton |
| 6. | George and Jean Miller | Clanton |
| 7. | Eddy and Sarah Edwards | Clanton |
| 8. | Madge Scarborough Mullins | Clanton |
| 9. | Pauline Lawrence Taylor | Clanton |
| 10. | Tommy and Madge Mullins Wilbanks | Clanton |
| 11. | Dean N. Jordan | Jumbo |
| 12. | Bill and Jane Davenport | Thorsby |

ALABAMA IN 1830



PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued)

On the newspaper scene: At Samford being filmed currently is THE BANNER from 1892 through April 1912; THE CHILTON CALL for Year 1897; THE CHILTON COURIER for 1877; 22 issues of MID-ALA DAILY NEWS published in May 1897. Thanks to Helen Parrish and Betty Collins early Methodist church records are currently being filmed.

For the lack of volunteers, Chairman John Klinner is very nearly stymied with volume 2 of the Cemetery Census. Is there anyone within or without our membership who would volunteer to help with this project?

Speaking of volunteers, we hope to have our newspaper microfilm indexed at least in part. We consider obituaries being indexed as our first priority. If you know of someone interested, please put them in contact with us. We guarantee that anyone who accepts this challenge will be highly entertained and that they will provide a vital service to genealogists and historians alike.

Pursuant to our last meeting, efforts have been generated to clean up our rental office and get it into usable shape. Anyone who has an spare moment and would like to help, please stop by E.L. Klinner Furniture and pick up the key from Mary Richardson.

We are happy to remind our readers and members that the Confederate Memorial Park and Museum has a new curator and park ranger. He is a highly competent archivist by the name of Fritz Hamer. We hope to have him as our featured speaker at the October meeting. In the meantime, make a special effort to visit the park and museum and ask him to show you around or share his research progress.

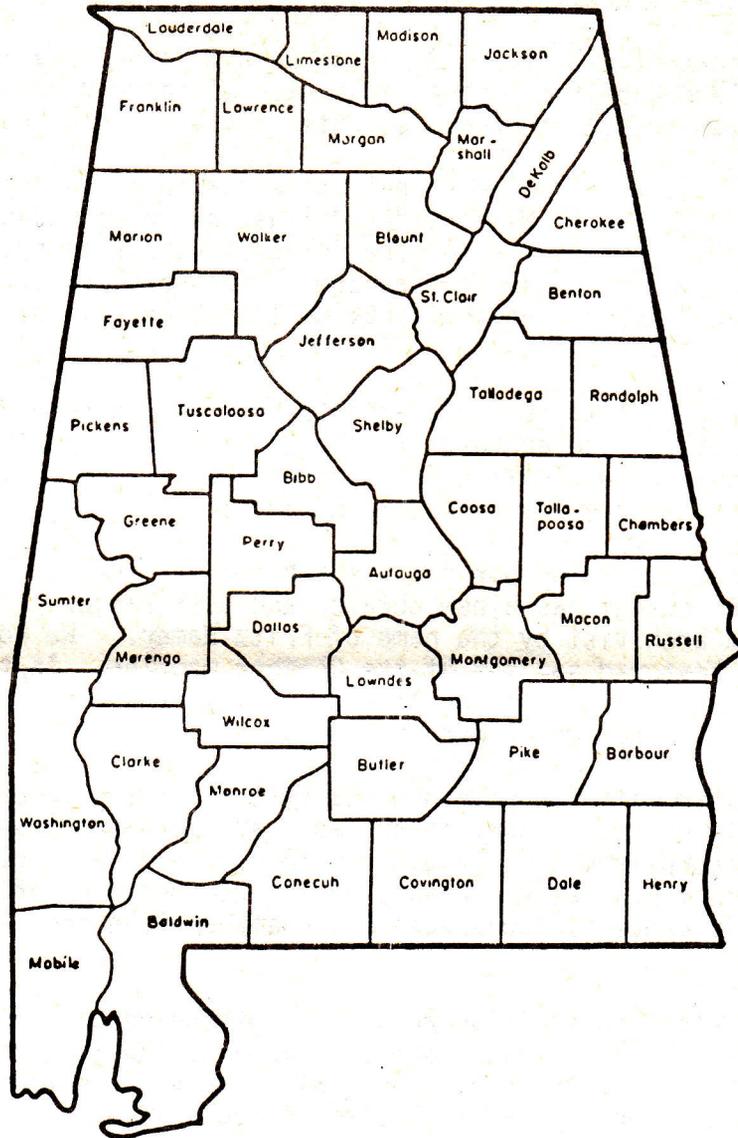
The polyester film has been ordered by the library to be used to encapsulate early Chilton County deeds found at the courthouse. When this has been accomplished, it is planned to put them on display at the library on a rotational basis. Anyone having documents or artifacts of historical significance is encouraged to donate or loan them to the Society.

The Maplesville post office recently contributed some out-of-date records which will be edited and made available at the Society office just over E.L. Klinner Furniture. Several library books from Thorsby Institute have been donated and will also be accessible.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday 22 July 1984 as Lucille Griffith tells us about the old courthouses of Alabama. It should prove to be a most enjoyable and informative occasion for one and all. Be sure to be present and bring a friend!

AN INTERESTING NOTE: Society members desiring census data, newspapers or periodical publications for genealogy purposes may order microfilm from Auburn University Library through the Clanton/Chilton Public Library. No catalogue exists for this transaction but the inter-library form can be used. Local members are urged to contact Librarian Jo Ann Wyatt.

ALABAMA 1840



PROGRESS OF NOTE: 24 December 1903,
"Overhead Bridge" BANNER

"At the call of Mayor P.C. Dennis, a meeting of the citizens of Clanton was held in the courthouse Monday night to consider a proposition to erect a bridge over the cutting at Fourth Avenue. For years a bridge has been deemed a necessity and now the L & N Railroad has expressed its willingness to build a bridge across their tracks free of cost to the town provided the town would build the approaches and grant the railroad certain privileges of blocking the crossing at Second Avenue and at First Avenue. Opposition to granting any concession as to blocking Second Avenue, the main street of the town and the principal highway of Chilton County, at once manifested itself and after a lengthy discussion the meeting passed a resolution authorizing the mayor and the Council to enter into negotiations with the L & N Railroad Company for the erection of the bridge without reference to granting any concessions as to blocking the crossings."

NOTICE: 8 September 1898, BANNER

"Visitors to court can find good accommodations at the Stevens Central Hotel, Garner Building. Board and lodging one dollar per day."

29 May 1930, UNION BANNER (M/O/C)

"Mr. W.H. Sartor gives a bit of interesting history about the first newspaper published in Chilton County. It was called THE CHILTON COURIER. W.A. Collier was proprietor. Robert A. Wright, brother of our Uncle Billy Wright, was editor. W.H. Sartor was (printer's) devil. The printing office from which THE COURIER was issued was in the northeast corner room of the old courthouse which stood in the spot where Second Avenue now crosses Sixth Street."

"... the history of the individual (is)... the individual..."

-- Von Goethe

TODAY IN HISTORY: INDEPENDENT
ADVERTISER 28 June 1984

IN MEMORIAM
by
Madge Mullins Wilbanks

"She lay there now in the awakening dawn
the first lights catching the old beauty of Willa Cather writing the old house of my youth, now a broken crab's back, hovering

cracked, splintered, squatted from its pride
into debris pushed into piles of roughly jerked wooden planks, sticking out as now ski equipment, scarcely recognizable as the splendour she once was

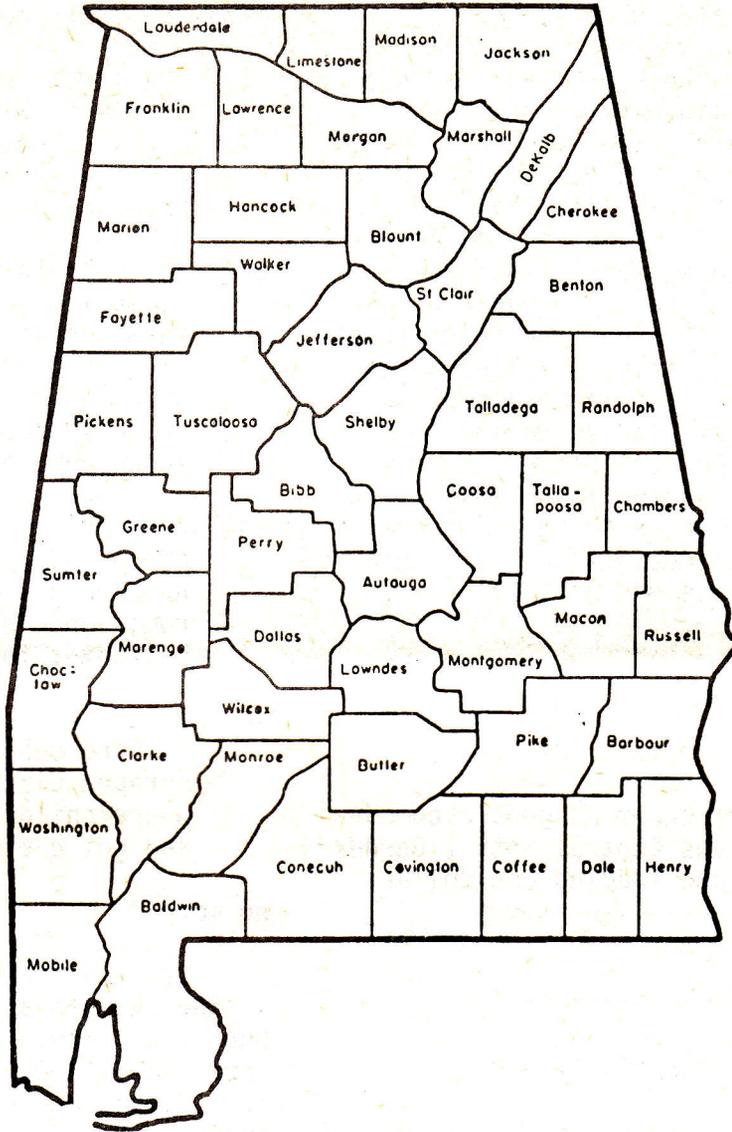
the gracious white columns holding a proud lady
now reduced to rubble, rooms once housing people bulldozed to oblivion

in the hurried pace of progress leaving behind only a freshly scraped dirt yard where children once hid Easter eggs and got bee stung in the grass

no more."

The Sophia Mullins Jones house facing Seventh Street on Highway 31 South, Clanton, has recently been torn down. The land once belonged to a W.C. Sampsey whose house on the land burned. He sold the land to a Mr. E.M. Pinckard who built a house in 1906. His wife died in 1916 and he left Clanton sometime soon thereafter. After that time, the house was purchased by Sophia Mullins Jones who lived there until her death in 1955. This poem is a memorial tribute to that house written by a niece of Sophia Mullins Jones who played in her aunt's house and gardens known and loved from her childhood.

ALABAMA IN 1850 and 1860



1888, CHILTON VIEW

"Jemison -- Its Population, Schools, Churches, Businesses and Improvements"

Jemison is located in Chilton County ten miles north of Clanton, the county site (seat) and midway between Montgomery and Birmingham on the L & N Railroad. It is surrounded by rolling pinewood's country which is well drained and is perhaps as entirely free from malarial influences as any section of Alabama.

The population is about 500 with the whites largely in the ascendancy. Including the population at the adjacent saw mills the number will be increased to about 1,000.

Our moral and religious influences are good. We have had prohibition now for several years and its good results are so evident that if the question were again submitted to a vote of the people it would be carried by an overwhelming majority.

We have a strong Masonic Lodge which is in good working order and exerts a telling influence for good. Jemison Male and Female Academy owned by stockholders and controlled by a Board of Directors is presided over by Professor G.L. Speer and his able assistant, Miss Kate Sherrill and has about 75 matriculates. The building is new, commodious, well lighted, ventilated and heated and provided with patent desks of the latest and most approved style. In short, nothing is left undone that will conduce to the comfort, and health or advancement of the pupils.

Within the limits of the town are three good churches; Methodist, Baptist and Cumberland Presbyterian each of which has preaching monthly and conducts Sunday Schools. Two of them conduct weekly prayer meetings. We have two blacksmith shops conveniently located and a brick-yard which supplies the local demand. To supply the wants and needs of the people, there are several stores of general merchandise and one drug store.

Mr. I.N. Langston has the contract to furnish the L & N Railroad Company cross ties from Montgomery to Birmingham. Besides this, thousands of crossties have been bought here for other railroads. Jemison

shipped during the past year about 100,000 crossties. Our shingle trade amounts to something but we have no data upon which to form an estimate. Good drawn pine shingles will sell at \$2.25 per thousand in lots to suit the purchaser. Lumber is our biggest item. There are within a mile of town, four saw mills in operation. Langston-Hand and Company have bought and are now putting down just south of town a fifth saw mill which will have a greater capacity than any of those in operation. The combined capacity of these five sawmills annually amounts to 23,400,000 feet of lumber. Within the past eighteen months we have erected all within a quarter of a mile of the depot two store houses, one church, one academy and thirteen residences besides the remodeling, painting and enlarging of others. Nearly all of these are within 300 yards and less of the depot and most of them are good substantial buildings. In the past two years Jemison has grown more and made less blow about it than any other town between Birmingham and the Alabama River. All we want is more material to aid us in building up society and the solid material prosperity of our town. We welcome all good men in our midst. XYZ.

OF INTEREST IN THIS 1984 -- NOVEMBER!

Junior League of Birmingham sponsoring its fall Antique Show... 17th, 18th, 19th century furniture, paintings, objects d'art, porcelain, prints, silver. General admission \$4.00; \$9.00 general admission, tearoom lunch; \$11.00 general admission, tearoom lunch, lecture.... 16-18 November 1984. For additional information, 252-7000 (day) or 939-0773 (evening) or write Pat Terrell, Antiques Show Chairman, 11 Montcrest Drive, Birmingham 35213

"... today is tomorrow's history...."

ALABAMA IN 1870



THE CHILTON VIEW

3 October 1889

Page 3, column 2

The Veterans Meet and Organize

According to announcement a County Confederate Veterans Association was organized at the Courthouse on last Saturday. The meeting was called to order by Mr. J.F. Maul, who explained its object. On motion Mr. Maul was elected President of the Association and Wm. J. Lambert was elected Secretary and Treasurer. All old Confederate soldiers were requested to come up and enroll their names, giving company and regiment; and the following is the list:

PRIVATES

L.A. Thornton, Co. A, Waddell's Art.
 R.H. Knox, 2d. Co., Washington Art.
 H.W. Herbert, Hughes' Battery.
 D.A. White, 56th Ala. Cavalry
 Willis Lowe, Home Guards.
 J.M. Dawson Co.F, 2d Ala. Cavalry
 M.A. Watts, Co. F, 2d Ala. Cavalry
 S.F. Devins, " "
 J.W. Cottingham, Co. A, 17th Ala.
 Isaac B. Bowden, Co. K, 24th Ala.
 G.W. Mims, Co. B. 44th [Ala.]
 J.J. McKee, Co. C, 31st. "
 W.D. Sartor, Co. K, 24th "
 A.C. Pool " "
 J.F. Stevens Co. H, 34th "
 R.C. Lenoir, Co. B, 20th "
 B.F. Robinson Co. C, 25th "
 B.W. Willis, Co. F, 39th "
 J.D. Maxwell, Co. G, 6th "
 J.T. Foshee, Co. E, 53d "
 W.M. Littlejohn, Co. D, 2d."
 R.M. Arvick, C. I, 8th " Cav'y
 Ira Campbell, Co. C, 31st. "
 M.M. Gore, Co. C, " "
 J.M. Jarrold, Co. H, 14th "
 H.C. Young, Co. B, 1st. "
 J.R. Kemp " " "
 W.R. Burnett " " " Bat'y
 Isaac Littleton, Co. C, 25th "
 W.A. Wells, Co. A, 12th Ga. "
 W.M. Willis, Co. I, 46th Ga. "
 Oliver Mullins, Co. D, 6th " Cav'y
 Edmond Hayes Co. H, 29th "
 J.A. Rollinson, Co. G, 44th "
 O.M. Mastin, Co. G, 53d. "
 Andy Smitherman, Co. D, 29th "
 J.O. Rutherford, Co E, 34th "
 S.B. McCary, Co. H, 63d. "
 T.J. Bolton, Selden's Battery,
 James Lolly, Co. H, 24th [Ala.]
 A.J. Marcus, Co. E, 44th "
 J.J. Green, C. D, 30th "

John Huit, Co. K, 12th (Ala)
 J.L. Knox, Virginia Army (Ala)
 G.W. Jones, Co. E, 44th (Ala)
 F.J. Smith, Co. E, 44th (Ala)
 V.J. Gragg, Western Army
 Lee Hayes, Co. D, 62nd (Ala)
 William Cass, Co. G., 53rd (Ala)
 William Lambert, Co. 6th (Ala)
 A.J. Brooks, WEtumpka Light Guards

OFFICERS

Lt. Col. Jefferson Falkner 8th Ala. Cav.
 Lt. Wiley Foshee, Co. D, 29th Ala
 Sergeant J.F. Maul, Jeff. Davis Artillery,
 Virginia Army

The total enrollment is 54. The following committee on permanent organization was selected: Jefferson Falkner, Oliver Mullins, Martin Gore, R.M. Williamson, W.D. Sartor, Lee Hays.

A motion was made and carried that the President appoint ten delegates to go to Birmingham to meet the delegates to the State Fair on the 28th October next. The following were appointed: Jefferson Falkner, Oliver Mullins, Martin Gore, R.M. Williamson, W.D. Sartor, Lee Hays, J.E. Kemp, H.C. Young, A.C. Pool, B.F. Robinson.

A motion to adjourn to the 2nd Saturday in November next was carried.

Oliver Mullins mentioned herewith was appointed Postmaster of Jumbo, Alabama, in 1886. He and his family were the last Mullins to live in the log house to be the mini-welcome center in Chilton County.

IN REMEMBRANCE -- THE MEN IN GREY

Names on a printed list over a hundred
years later
where flesh and blood had ruled,
ridden to the charge call,
hurried to march through the mire,

alive and breathing, leaving behind
a heritage like none other;
they fought from Bull Run
to Shiloh; Alabama to Virginia;

greatness was their armour sticking close
as natural skin;
valour their natural breath
carrying them beyond gallantry

into a Cause so believed in,
so cherished,
never forgotten now walking,
looking at rows upon rows

of white markers at Confederate
Memorial Park, Alabama,
with fading names
in the summer's heat

recalling battle heat,
fury,
dying
dead

but in remembrance recalled forever
through the bequest of yesteryear
to another generation and still another
wiping out the pathos of Gettysburg,

Appomatox as ghosts on horseback,
stomping soldiers move again
across today's horizon
the splendid, enigmatic

men in grey.

-- Madge Mullins Wilbanks

A REMINDER: July meeting of the Society
Sunday 22 June 1984 -- Clanton Public Library
Speaker: Dr. Lucille Griffith
Topic: "Old Courthouses of Alabama"
2 P.M.

THE CHILTON VIEW, 12 April 1888:
(Extracted by Betty Collins, 16 June
1984)

The following is a list of managers
for the elections to be held in each
voting precinct in the county on the
21st. inst., for electing delegates
to the county Democratic convention
to be held on the 5th of May:

- Beat 1 - Mims X Roads - Oliver Mullins,
B.F. Robinson, W.A. Mims
- Beat 2 - Jemison - J.P. Allen,
Dr. H.T. Caffey, Ira Campbell
- Beat 2 - Providence - Joseph Green,
S.A. Curry, Monroe Gentry
- Beat 3 - Benson - B.T. Raspberry,
G.W. Jones, T.J. Lenoir
- Beat 3 - Macedonia - J.T. Williams,
J.P. Nix, Z.J. Jones
- Beat 4 - Clanton - W.E. Stewart,
J.M. Ponder, W.L. Sampey
- Beat 5 - Cooper - P.C. Dennis,
J.L. Farr, J.D. Pinson
- Beat 5 - Verbena - W.N. Jones,
A. Thompson, E.T. Connell
- Beat 6 - Kincheon - J.R. Kemp,
W.I. Mullins, A.C. Pool
- Beat 7 - Maplesville - D.J. Waters-
worth, Monroe Ramsey, J.D. McGee
- Beat 7 - Latham's - R. Latham,
J.H. Shoults, R. Manus
- Beat 8 - Dixie - John Parnell

AN ADDENDUM - Sophia Mullins Jones
house -- After the death of Mrs. Jones
in 1955, the home became the property
of her sister, Ruth Kate Mullins
Taylor (Mrs. Hoyt L. Taylor) and niece,
Ruth Shepherd Jackson (Mrs. Hogan
Jackson). The house was sold in
March, 1982 to First Alabama Bank
which leveled the house in June, 1984,
leaving the "scraped dirt yard" (see
Page 4) as described in the poem
IN MEMORIAM.

Enroll in a Life Membership with the
Society and get a limited edition of
the special Booster edition of the
26 February 1931 CHILTON COUNTY NEWS!

A POIGNANT REMEMBRANCE:
7 March 1889 -- CHILTON VIEW

"Seven years ago Stanton, the subject of this communication, was among the unknown, there being nothing here except an old church (known) as Ebenezer, built in the year 1850 of which we will speak later. In 1882 a company was organized in the city of Selma under the name of Gregory-Coe Lumber Company who selected this place as a suitable location for a lumber business and during the same year had planted a large saw mill here and christened the place Stanton in honor of Mr. Stanton the prominent railroad man who lost his life in the fearful accident at Dunklin's Bridge on the E.T.V. & G. Railroad.

We have preaching four sabbaths in the month, prayer meetings twice a week and two flourishing Sabbath Schools. Also a day school which would do credit to any town. This school is conducted by Professor James A. Harwood who figured conspicuously in the late war as captain in the Confederate Army. Captain Harwood was one among those true and tried men belonging to the old 4th Alabama who led the famous and renowned charge at the Battle of Gettysburg known as Pickett's Charge.

Mention was made of Ebenezer Church in the beginning of this communication which recalls an incident of the late war related by a gentleman of this county which is worthy of note. In the spring of 1865, at this place, General Forrest formed one of the last lines of Confederate battles and it is known as the Battle of Ebenezer Church. The old church is well marked by the bullets from both armies and a few trees still stand on the surrounding hills whose bodies have been pierced by the flying cannon balls. There can also be seen, by close observers, traces of mounds scattered over the hills and valleys. These mark the last resting place of some of the brave boys who wore the grey. It was here that the gallant Forrest was surprised and cut off from his command by two Yankee soldiers. The General, never lacking courage, took in the situation, leveled his pistol and the one nearest him hit the dust. The other, with musket pointed at Forrest, with finger on trigger, was in the act of sending the messenger of death into his bosom. But the sharp report of a carbine was heard echoing over the hills and the man in blue fell with a bullet through his heart. As the curling smoke drifted away Forrest saw a beardless boy clad in a ragged jacket of grey and to whom he was indebted. About the (that) time the enemy was advancing in large force upon a few Confederates forcing them to retreat and no illusion to the remarkable occurrence was made either by Forrest or his rescuer and it was not until late in the evening of this same day that they met again. The brave General's heart was too full for words so leaping down from the saddle he rushed to the soldier boy, threw his arms around him and kissed him and said, "Sir, you saved my life. That is all."

NOTICE: A larger printing of this newsletter is being made to broadcast a special appeal. The Society is earnestly seeking help from corporations, associations, churches, schools, members and non-members in launching a search for photographs of historical significance to our county -- before as well as after its formation. It seems reasonable to expect that the railroad companies would have old photographs of construction and operation within what is now our current political boundary. The same would most likely be true of lumber associations or descendents of early lumber company owners. I could go on but I think you have the idea. We would like, at least, to borrow and re-photograph such scenes to retain as part of our archives. We would, naturally, be happy to have old photographs donated and will appropriately credit the donors. If you know of an old dusty file which might contain pictures of old time lumber mills, church activities, baseball or football games or just anything which pertains to the county, please search it over. This appeal is especially aimed at south and north Alabama railroads: E.T.V. & G, L&N, Southern, Gulf, Mobile and Ohio railroad companies, Alabama Power Company, Bell and General telephone companies, Western Union and anyone else we might have overlooked such as the State highway department, Birmingham, Montgomery or neighboring county newspapers. Ben. D. Roberts.

Chilton County

Historical Society and Archives

Vol. 4, No. 3

October, 1984

MICROFILM STATUS

Our preservation list grows with the addition of "The Banner" from August 17, 1892, through April 12, 1912. This project resulted in sixteen rolls of microfilm which are available for perusal at the Chilton/Clanton Public Library. Included in this project were 22 issues of the "Mid-Alabama Daily News" published in May, 1897. Also from that same year was the "Chilton Call" published for most of a year. Available issues of the "Chilton Courier" for 1877 completed the effort. Once again the folks at Samford University did a superb job in filming our newspapers.

QUARTERLY MEETING

The scheduled meeting for October will be held on the 21st instead of the 14th. All members are urged to attend and bring guests. The program will be entitled "Historic Selma District", and will be presented by Mrs. Elise Blackwell of Selma. Mark it on your schedule now!

October 21, 1984
2:00 p.m.

Chilton/Clanton Public Library
Mayor Jackson Conference Room

A lifetime membership in the Chilton County Historical Society will make an excellent Christmas gift. It is tax deductible and proceeds will help preserve county documents which have been neglected too long. The lifetime participant or recipient will receive a numbered, officially stamped copy of the reprinted Booster Edition of the February 26, 1931 "Chilton County News". Comments about this publication have been superlative as to its content and quality. Take time now to mail your check or money order for \$100.00 to: Chilton County Historical Society, P.O. Box 644, Clanton, AL 35045.

IN THIS ISSUE

We bring you our first printed quarterly with an intention to continue henceforth "in print". As previously stated, the "Whom I Met" Clanton version is included herein, and we hope you find it of interest.

The list of pensioners reprinted in this issue may not include your kinsman, but that should not be cause for alarm. Those veterans and widowers who were well enough off rarely ever applied for pensions. Some of our kinsmen lived in another county when this list was compiled, and so do not appear on the list. Others may not have known of the availability of the pensions for some reason or another.

Our remaining content is a mini-collection of quotations thought to be of general interest.

If you have information you think should be included in a future issue, please send it to us at the Society's mail address.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

It is with elation that we announce these new members who joined since our last edition. Please keep us informed of your address changes.

- . Mrs. John B. DeRamus -- Clanton
- . Mrs. Sarah M. Edgar -- Clanton
- . Mrs. Lora Jean Merrell -- Shelby
- . Mr. Scott Headley -- Denver, CO
- . Ms. Dianne Mohprasit -- Clanton
- . Mrs. Bonnie M. Cox -- Jacksonville, FL
- . Mrs. Ann F. Chestang -- Eight Mile, AL
- . Mrs. Dean Jordan -- Clanton
- . Mrs. Pauline L. Taylor -- Clanton
- . Capt. & Mrs. George Miller -- Clanton
- . Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Klinner -- Maplesville
- . Mr. & Mrs. C. Richard Moore, Jr. -- Clanton
- . Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Patterson -- Clanton
- . Mr. & Mrs. Mack Yeargan -- Clanton
- . Mr. & Mrs. John Hayman -- Clanton

WHOM I MET IN CLANTON

From the Clanton Press
25th August 1910

by
Mary T. Whitson

"Clanton, the capitol town of Chilton County, Alabama is one of the prettiest towns in the state. I've not met anywhere a more intelligent or more congenial people. The beautiful streets, the handsome business houses and the beautiful location impress everybody who sees it.

Clanton is growing all the time and the streets are being improved. Splendid cement pavements make walking a pleasure. Politically, Clanton, like Shelby, is very much divided. All the county officers, except the sheriff who was appointed, are Republicans.

Clanton has a good bar. Messrs. Adams, Mullins, Middleton and Curry are the leading lawyers. The population of Clanton is about 1500. Two banks, five lawyers, five doctors, two dentists, a fertilizer company, lumber company, three warehouses, four newspapers. 'The Press', 'The Banner', 'The Union', and 'The Socialist View' make a good showing.

Clanton has got the best hotel in Alabama, the Hotel Palmer. Mrs. Palmer sets before her guests the most palatable cooking I ever ate. The hotel is in the loveliest place in Clanton. The dining room is always full and the spacious galleries always crowded. She is a gracious landlady.

Honorable E. A. Matthews, Mayor of Clanton and cashier of the bank of Clanton, is one of the most progressive citizens in Chilton County. He is a whole theme within himself. Dr. Matthews is the foremost man in any enterprise that tends to the development of Clanton. He was born near Marion in Perry County, Alabama, September 4, 1857, and graduated from Howard College in 1880, and also from the medical department of the University of Alabama. He came to Clanton in 1886 and at that time he was the youngest doctor in Clanton. Now, he is the oldest.

The Clanton Bank, of which he is the cashier, was organized in 1901 with an authorized capital of \$50,000, \$15,000 paid in. The bank has declared an annual dividend of ten per cent. The deposits have gone from \$90 to \$100,000. The bank is amply provided against thieves by a burglar proof safe and steel vault and carries burglar insurance. W. I. Mullins is President, W. H. Sartor, Vice-President, and E. A. Matthews, cashier.

There are six directors including the officers: P. D. Wilson, N. A. Kicker, and Dr. I. P. Hayes.

The Upchurch Drug Company is the leading drug store in Chilton County and was organized in Clanton in 1903 and managed by Mr. E. E. Upchurch, native of Tuscaloosa, who graduated at Auburn in 1898. The drug store is elegantly appointed and the shelves filled from top to bottom with a handsome line of everything found in any drug store. The fountain was purchased at an expense of \$2500.

Paints, oils, varnishes, school books and notions of every kind, in fact, you can get almost anything you call for here.

One showcase is full of glittering cut glass, also a great variety of lovely jewelry. The arrangement of the goods and the immaculate cleanliness of the store appeals to people of refined taste.

Mr. Upchurch is a graduate in pharmacy and has made a success in getting the best class of customers.

The Forest Lumber Company started in business in Clanton six or seven years ago. The company handles yellow pine, oak, and poplar lumber. This is one of the biggest industries in all this section of Alabama. The company handles about 125 cars of lumber monthly; business accounts to about \$200,000 annually.

The company operates a modern planing mill plant and retail plant at Clanton which turns out all kinds of finished lumber for building purposes and gives regular employment to some twenty-five men.

Mr. W. H. Foshee is one of the popular traveling salesmen of the company and one of the best men in Chilton County. Mr. Thomas D. Woods, another salesman, is well and favorably known as a promising young lumberman. He is in charge of the office.

Mr. Guy Higgins, who is at the head of the business, has a high standing among the lumbermen in the South. He was reared in Blount County, Alabama, and is an expert in the yellow pine and hardwood lumber business.

The Chilton Warehouse and Manufacturing Company was organized in 1905. The company manufactures all grades of fertilizer, also operates a good ginnery and cotton warehouse. Capacity of the fertilizer company, 100 tons per day, and sold throughout every section of Alabama, handles about 6000 bales of cotton in a season. This is one of the biggest industries in Clanton.

Mr. Moses Robinson is President of the company; Dr. E. A. Matthews, General Manager; and, Mr. J. E. Robinson, Secretary.

(continued on page 4)

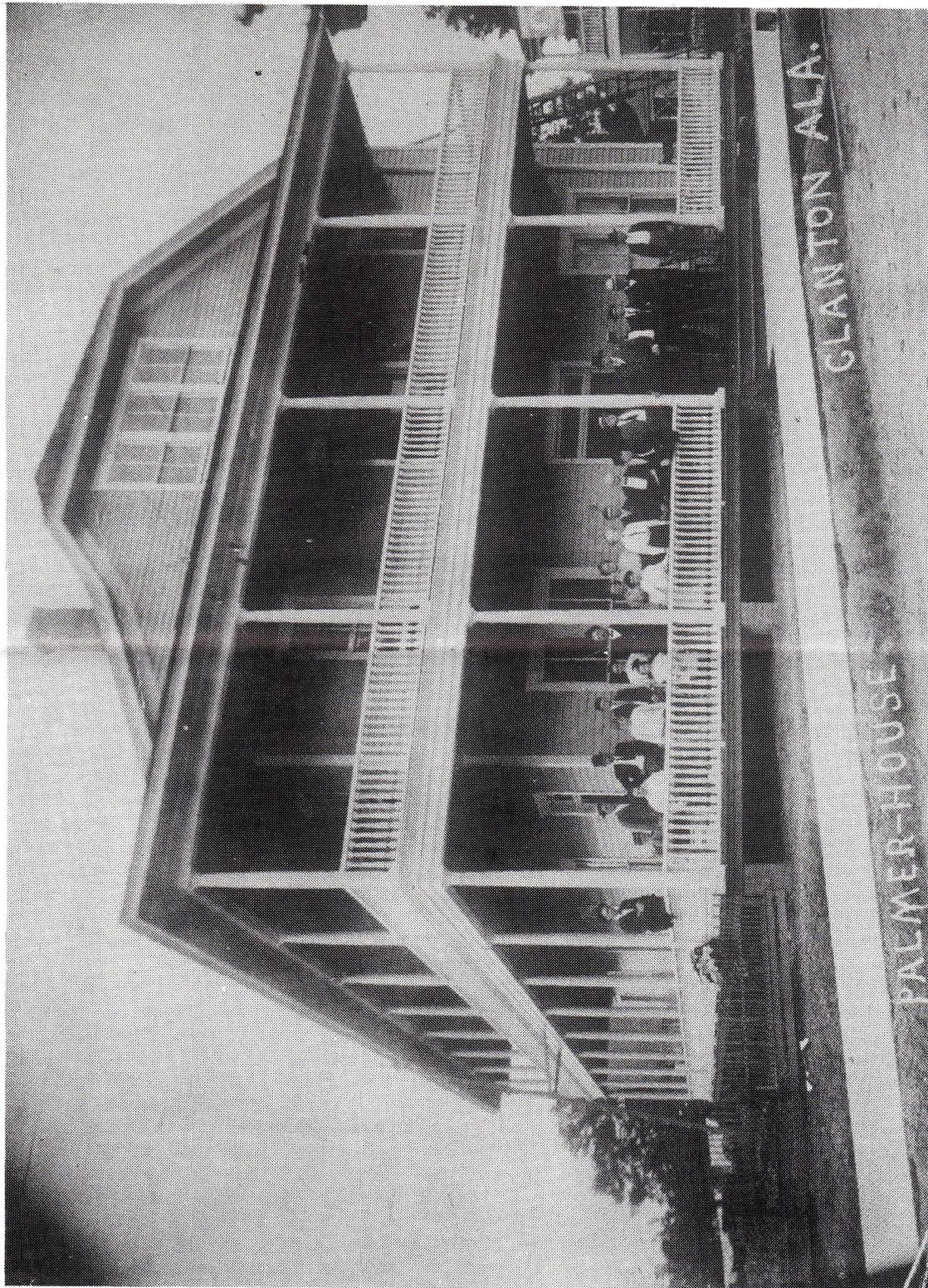


Photo April 1909 - Dr. & Mrs. J.E. Gowan are 14 & 15 from left
Photo courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. John M. Higgins

(Whom I Met, cont. from page 2)

and Treasurer.

J.E. Robinson is one of the twenty-two Shriners in Chilton County. He was born and educated in Chilton County, has a very comfortable office, also a vault -- the walls twenty-two inches in thickness -- built into the walls. Mr. Robinson married a young lady of McRae, Georgia, and has the prettiest baby in the county.

Conspicuous among the beautiful residences is that of Mr. Guy Higgins, near the courthouse; also, that of Dr. E. A. Matthews and Mr. E. M. Pinckard. These houses are as handsome as you will find in any city.

E. M. Pinckard and Company do a handsome business of from \$125,000 to \$135,000 a year and handle about half the cotton brought to Clanton. Dimensions of the store are 40 by 80 (feet), two stories. Carry as fine a line of general merchandise as you will find in all this section. He is personally very popular and one of Clanton's wealthiest merchants. Mr. Pinckard was born in Tuskegee and was a charter member of the Montgomery Elks.

If you ask who the leading merchants in Clanton are, they will answer Messrs. Pinckard, Sartor, Mullins, Jones, Hicks, and others.

The Clanton Millinery Company in charge of the fashionable milliner, Mrs. Clara Mullins, who has had a successful experience for the past six or seven years, was opened up one year ago.

Mrs. Mullins has exquisite taste and her bonnets and hats are creations of loveliness. She buys from the most fashionable houses in Louisville and St. Louis. The city of Louisville is known for its swell dressings.

Miss Mable Hall, a fashionable trimmer, will arrive soon to work with this establishment and the fashionable ladies of Clanton need not patronize Montgomery or Birmingham. Mrs. Mullins will show you as artistic decorations as you can find in either of those cities. Personally, Mrs. Mullins is a charming lady. She will have her opening early in October.

W. L. Mullins, general merchant, started about 1892, was at one time Mullins Brothers. Business easily runs to \$100,000, the very best class of customers, handles from three to four thousand bales of cotton.

Cotton receipts in Clanton are somewhere in the neighborhood of 10,000 bales.

Mr. W. I. Mullins is about fifty-five years old. No merchant in Alabama has a better name in the commercial world. The name of Mullins is one of the most prominent in Chilton County. Mr. J. R. Mullins, son of W. L. Mullins was born in Clanton in 1880. He

married the daughter of Mr. W. H. Foshee of Forest Lumber Company. Mr. Mullins is one of the most hustling businessmen in Chilton County.

The warehouse, where are stored wagons, buggies, etc., is 70 by 175 feet, of immense capacity.

I met Dr. P. I. Hopkins in his cozy office which was full of waiting patients. He does a good deal of special work. Dr. Hopkins was born in that far off country, Australia, at Melbourne. He came to the United States in 1884 and lived some years in Ohio, graduating from the Vanderbilt medical department at Nashville, Tennessee (where the writer was born). He lived two years at Bessemer near Brighton. He is a member of the state and county medical societies, and is the health officer here. He has a large practice.

Clanton has the nicest post office and the most elegant postmaster I have met anywhere in the state or out of it. Mr. Felix O. Dudley was appointed by President Roosevelt whom I think is an even greater man than King Edward was in 1903. This is a third class office. When Mr. Dudley took charge, the office was in an obscure corner of a grocery store. Now he has handsome quarters, spacious, and if you will call in his private office you will see he has the surroundings of a gentleman to the (manner born).

There are 170 lockboxes and seven rural routes. The government pays \$35 per month for the building with a ten year lease.

Mr. Dudley went to Washington and made an application to Mr. Hitchcock for a postal savings bank for the Post Office. Mr. Dudley is giving perfect satisfaction. He has the endorsement of the best people, Democrats and Republicans for reappointment. He is endorsed by the Republican state committee, Republican national committee and the two United States Senators, Bankhead and ex-Governor Joe Johnson. Felix Dudley is as perfect a gentleman as you will ever meet, young and unmarried.

Mr. S. W. Collins, the popular clerk of the circuit court, Republican, was elected six years ago, was born in Chilton County in 1881, educated at the Ninth District Agricultural School and at Massey's Business College, not a candidate for re-election.

Judge Reynolds, Probate Judge, was born in Macon County, Alabama, October 10, 1864, elected in 1904. Member of the Legislature 1896-97-98-99, 1903-04, elected to the state senate in 1910. Candidate for re-election to Probate Judge.

Sorry not to have met all county officers.

(continued on page 5)

(Whom I Met, cont. from page 4)

J.V. Higgins, jeweler and optician, has one of the swellest places in Clanton. His plate glass front shows off beautifully. Inside the store is very handsome; watches, diamonds, rings, chains, bracelets, silverware arranged with great taste and care — very attractive. Mr. Higgins is prepared to fit glasses to the most difficult eyesight. He has been here three years and has been very successful in building up trade from the best people.

He is going to put in a fancy metal ceiling, the kind you see in fine banks -- also wall cases and an umbrella stand in the middle of the store.

He was born in Coosa County, Alabama, and graduated in Optics at the National Illinois College in 1909 as Doctor of Optics. He is a member of the National Jewelers Association, headquarters at Birmingham, Alabama.

The beauty of it is he owns his house and lot. His business rooms are well equipped for any kind of work in his line.

He is a member of the State Optical Society and the American Association of Opticians.

Mr. Higgins owns a motorcycle which cost \$250.00, and can make a mile in twenty-six seconds.

He has three distinct departments: repair, optical, and jewelry."

FROM THE.....

CHILTON VIEW

28 January 1886

"We notice quite a number of elm and water oak have been set out along sidewalks on Court Avenue and also a few on Hot Well Avenue. If all the property owners in Clanton would follow the example of the few who have started the ball rolling in this direction and set out trees around their residence, they would not only add to the value of their property at very little expense, but in a few years they will have made Clanton the prettiest town in Central Alabama."

29 July 1886

"Colonel R. S. Lanier, of Macon,

Georgia, the father of Sydney Lanier, and of Mrs. J. C. Gibson, of Verbena, is visiting the latter at her home in Verbena."

31 October 1889

"Mrs. Falkner, wife of Judge Jefferson Falkner, died at the family home, Mountain Creek, this county on Friday last. She had reached the advanced age of 75."

30 September 1886

"We had a pleasant call from Mr. G.W. Adair of Verbena and one of the Justices of Beat 5. Before Chilton County was formed, Mr. Adair owned the land upon which Clanton is now located, and he sold it to Mr. Alf Baker, Sr. for \$650.00."

* * *

CHILTON COURIER

29 June 1877

"The well that was bored on the courthouse square a few days since is a decided convenience and comfort."

28 February 1877

"Chilton County has received \$250.00 to replace its records destroyed by fire when the courthouse burned in 1870."

* * *

BANNER

24 January 1901

"A few days ago I had a very pleasant trip to the thriving town of Thorsby. It was a beautiful spring-like day and the country looked wonderfully well. I'd always thought I knew Thorsby pretty well and so I did so far as the business street is concerned. But Mr. W. C. Edler piloted me around until I came to the conclusion that Thorsby was a far more important place than I had considered it. Why you have to travel around to see Thorsby, and I must confess you will see more substantial and elegant homes and well laid out streets within the confines of that new town than you

(continued on page 8)

State of Alabama
Chilton County

List of Confederate soldiers and
Widows of Confederate soldiers making
application for relief.

Soldiers

Allen J. H.	Jones W. O.
Armstrong G. W.	Jeffries J. O.
Auderson G. W.	Lawrence John E.
Barnes H. J.	Little John W. M.
H. W. B. arrow.	Marion Rosa
Bice Olisha	McCray J. B.
Bowden L. B.	McLean H. M.
Cooper G. M.	Mulford John
Davis John S.	Parish J. S.
" W. T.	Rawlin W. M.
Deans S. F.	Russ C. C.
Dirr James	Rawlison J. A.
Dudley James A.	Thomas George
Fox J. M.	" W. H.
Friday H. W.	Tung J. M.
Firth W. A. Jr.	Walker Rufus
Goss W. D.	Wallace James
J. M. Grove	Webb J. B.
Gullidge C. W. &	Wright A. J.
Hall L. R.	Wiley J. J.
Horsley G. R.	White W. L.
Hays Edmund	Widow
Hicks J. E.	Abrams Alice M.
Johnson W. H.	Aldridge Eleanor "
Hudmon H. J.	Anderson A. F. "
Jones J. G.	Barnes James Jr.

1	Childress Mary Ann	McGraw A. G. Mrs
2	Clecker Elizabeth	Marler Elizabeth "
3	Cox Amanda	Monroy Mattie "
4	Davis Elizabeth	Notes Elizabeth "
5	Derbin Marcia	McKee Nancy "
6	Decker Nancy	Powell Mary "
7	Duncan Sarah A.	Price Sarah A. "
8	Edwards Sarah	Roy Kuldah A. "
9	Eland Mary J.	" Louinda "
10	Farr Mary A.	" Mary "
11	Flower Nancy M.	" M. G. "
12	Franklin Mary J.	Rastrop M. A. "
13	Friday Margaret	Scott Mary M. "
14	Guthrie Rebecca	Smithman R. G. "
15	Hodgins Elizabeth	Thomas M. A. "
16	Hunlock Jane	Tucker Elizabeth "
17	Holden Mary	Thompson Birdie "
18	Hunt Elizabeth	Traywick Rebecca "
19	Ingram R. G.	Turner Mary S. "
20	Langford J. B.	Vinson F. G. "
21	Lockhart Virginia	Wilson Fry "
22	Mary	Whitworth Martha "
23	McCullough Ruth	Litha G. "
24	Mary	Waldrop J. G. "
25	McDowell Sarah	Wiggins Martha "
26

of Probate, of Chilton county, applications for the foregoing persons as disabled needy Confederate soldiers and widows under act approved February 13th 1891. This July 15th 1895. John Buford State Auditor

(From the..., cont. from page 5)

will see in the same area anywhere in Chilton County. And I was surprised to see so much land cleared and planted with vine and fruit trees. There's much more money invested in Thorsby than many of us imagine. Then, again, I was informed that quite a number of people from the Northwest have already purchased vineyard tracts here and have them now planted, but while the plants are maturing the owners retain their old homes in the Northwest. But as soon as the plants are old enough to bear, then the owners will bring their families and make their homes here. All of which means much to Chilton County. We had an excellent dinner at the Concordia Hotel where we were waited upon by the fair Misses Howard. Then I had a look in at the post office which was as neat as a new pin and is a credit to the town. The stores all seem to be well stocked and had a flourishing look about them. In fact, the whole town of Thorsby looks as if it were prospering. It was an eye opener to me. I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and learned a good deal and when you want a day's outing combining pleasure and instruction, take my advice and go and take a look all around Thorsby."

SPECIAL NOTICE

Anyone having old photographs or in contact with someone who has photographs pertaining to the "Old Soldiers' Home" at Mountain Creek, please notify Mr. Fritz Hamer, Curator of the Confederate Museum. Help increase interest in this Chilton County asset and consequently the park's attraction to local and non-local visitors.

Contact:

Mr. Fritz Hamer
Route 1
Box 3A
Marbury, AL
36051

or Ben Roberts
Route 5
Box 398
Clanton, AL
35045

755-1990

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Chilton County Historical
Society and Archives
Box 644
Clanton, Alabama 35045



HILTON

County Historical
Society & Archives

Vol. 4, No. 4

December, 1984

PRESIDENT' FAREWELL

It is with a marked sense of success that we bring to a close our tenure; there have been numerous shortfalls and shortcomings inherent in our office. We can only hope they were minor in comparison to our accomplishments.

To all the many members who have so generously contributed to our efforts we offer our sincerest thanks. Without your help we would have been unable to claim it as a successful year for the society or for us personally.

It is unfortunate that we must leave so much yet to be done by the incoming officers, whomever they may be. We trust that the coming year will offer even more of a challenge and the new executives will fittingly accept the charge.

— Ben Roberts

QUARTERLY MEETING

The quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 13, 1985, at the Chilton-Clanton Public Library. There will be no guest speaker as the meeting will be devoted to a business session. The election of officers, financial plans, future projects and committee assignments will be on the agenda. Those who are absent will be assigned to committees. You will need to be there to state your committee preferences.

IN THIS ISSUE

Old Folks as reported in the Chilton View in several 1889 issues.

Photo of the old Train Station, courtesy of John M. Higgins.

PHOTO DISPLAY AT RIVERVIEW DOWNTOWN

Dean Jordan, lifetime member of our Historical Society, has quite graciously provided a forum for the society to display its photographs and documents. The display was initiated November 2, 1984. Members are cordially invited to dine at the Riverview Downtown and while there to see the start of a promising venture. We extend our thanks to Dean for this excellent opportunity to broadcast our heritage and to encourage interest in our endeavors.

REPORT OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

by
Linda Kliner
Sally Moore

The architectural survey of Chilton County is progressing well. The incorporated cities of Clanton, Maplesville, Thorsby, and Jemison have been surveyed. The unincorporated communities of Verbena, Coopers, Stanton, Isabella, Mt. Creek, and Enterprise are also complete, along with the rural southern part of the county. We are presently working on the outlying areas of the central part of the county and will be working our way north.

The people in each city and community have been receptive to our efforts, and seem truly interested in preserving our architectural heritage.

When the survey is complete, we will need the assistance of all members of the Historical Society to determine what districts and structures are the most significant and deserve preservation.

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 \$100.00 Lifetime

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P.O. Box 644
Clanton, AL 35045

OLD FOLKS IN CHILTON

From the *Chilton View*, March 21, 1889

STANTON, March 9 - Complying with your request, I give instances of longevity in this and along the lines of adjoining counties. First we will start over and get old man

JERRY DONEVAN

who was born in Ireland, and is 90 years old. He has resided on the same place in this county for 50 years. He is the father of 16 children, and is about the only Catholic in this part of the country.

MRS. POLLY CHAMBERS

lives near this place. She is the mother of 12 children and grandmother and great grandmother of 65 children, making a total of 77 all of whom could be gotten together within

12 hours. One of her great-grandchildren has five living grandmothers. Mrs. McGinnis, mother of Mrs. Chambers, lives in east Perry county, and is over 50 years old. (Members, what age should this be?)

JOHN PARNELL

known as "Honest John," is 71 years of age. He enjoys perfect health and is a successful farmer, moderate swearer and a pretty good old man.

MRS. RODAH KLINNER

is on the shady side of 70 years and enjoys good health, with a team of 25 children to call her grandma.

"OLD UNCLE" CHARLEY INGRAM

is the best preserved man for his age in the county. He is 72 years old, lively, spry and a hard worker. Fifty years ago he removed from Cahaba to Old Maplesville, this county. He has a fine memory and knows a great many remarkable happenings "away back."

WILLIAM HARPER

is now in the 70s. Forty years ago he ran tanyard on Goose Pond Creek, this county.

R.B. ADAMS

a native of Tennessee, is 70 years old and has resided in this county since boyhood. He served in the Mexican war and now draws a pension from the United State government.

WASH FOSHEE

represented this county in the legislature a few years ago. He is over 80 years old, and is a substantial citizen, with prospects for twenty-five or thirty years more of life.

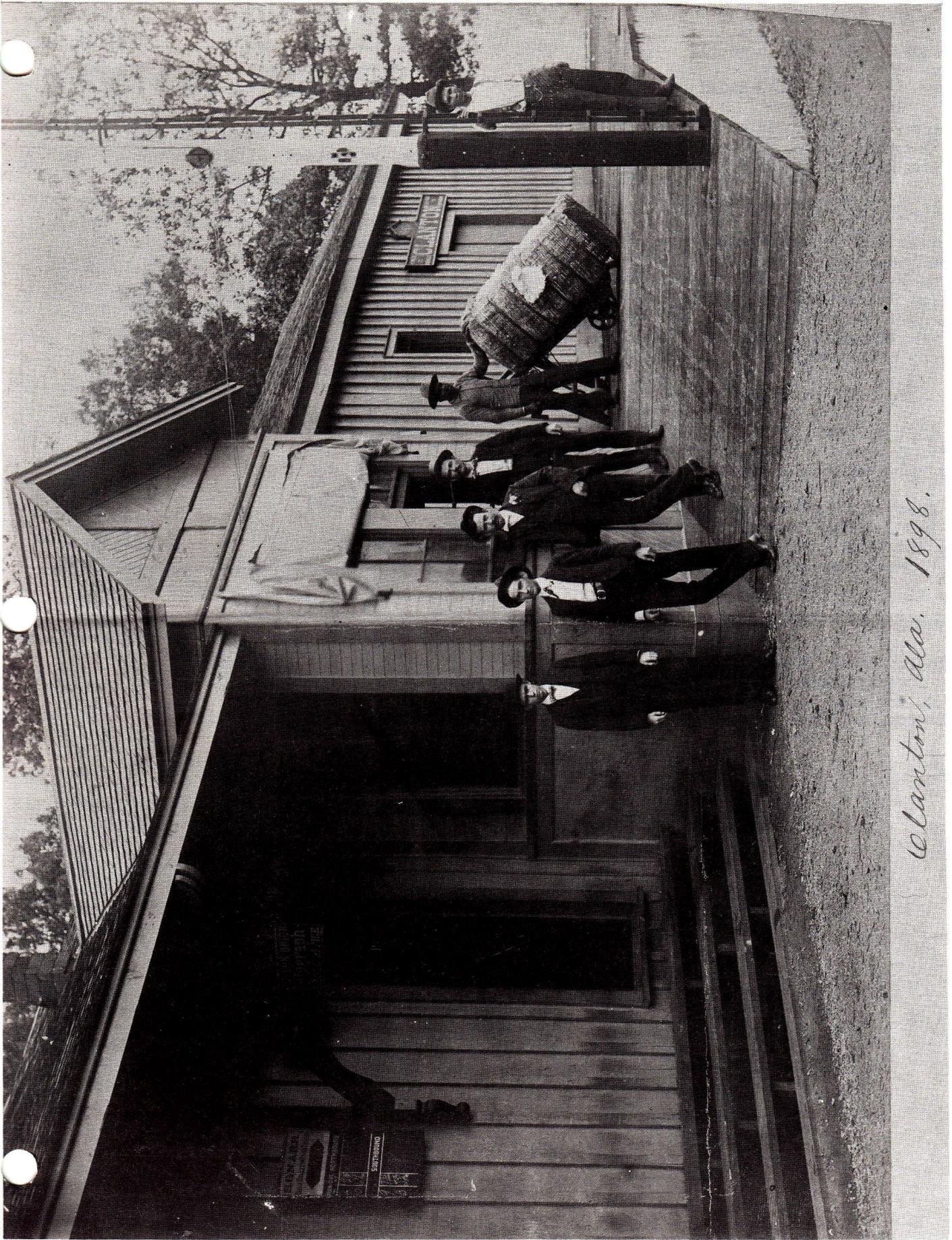
A.G. PATRICK

is a native of South Carolina, and has been living in this county forty years. He is a Baptist preacher, and his years number above 80.

J.A. MINOR

will be 70 years of age the 6th day of this month. He is a stirring farmer, and is as active as a cat. Upon the whole, a most remarkable man for his age.

(continued on page 4)



Wanton, Ala. 1898.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Jess Ray, Frank Pinkston, Jim Hester, Guy Higgins, Henry Larkin, Unidentified Bystander.
Photo Courtesy of John M. Higgins

(Old Folks, cont. from page 2)

MRS. J.A. BROWN

a sister of Mr. Minor's, resides at Vine Hill, Autauga county. She is 85 years of age, well preserved and in good health.

MRS. AMELIA SEXTON

known all over the country as "Grandma Sexton," was born in Camden, S.C., and on the day Mr. Harrison took the presidential chair "Grandma Sexton" reached the age of 84 years. She enjoys pretty fair health, and attends to all her household affairs. She lives at Clanton, this county.

WM. VINZANT

who died in 1887, lived in upper Autauga county. He was 108 years old, and the oldest man in that section of country.

There are many whose names I could not get. In all probability there are some living among the healthy hills of Chilton county who will "live forever and never die."

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