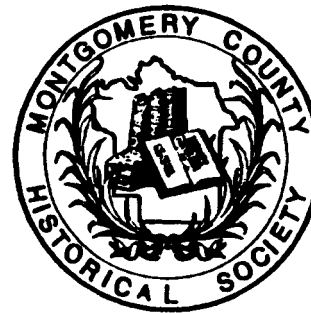


ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 662
Montgomery, AL



Montgomery County Historical Society HERALD



VOLUME 20 NO. 2

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

JULY 2012

THE HERALD

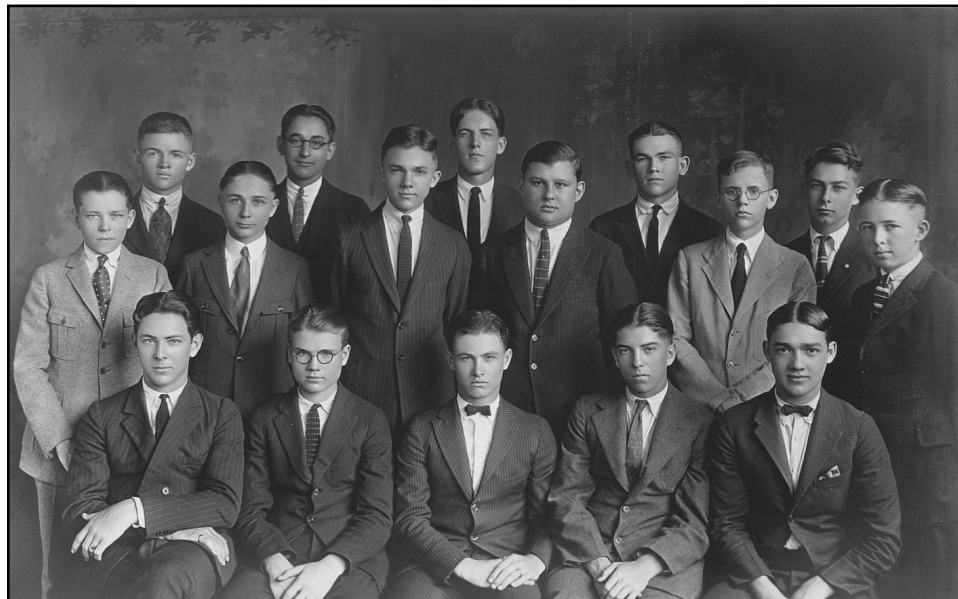
A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
P. O. Box 1829, 36102
512 South Court Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

PUBLISHED AS A SERVICE TO ITS MEMBERS BY EDITOR-STAFF

Phone (334) 264-1837 Fax (334) 834-9292

E-mail: mchs@knology.net

Web Site almost ready.



Barnes for Boys Graduating Class of 1922

Front row: Waverly Guy; Frank Henry Parker; Fred Cramton Bear;
unknown; Gatewood Jack Thrasher. Mid row: Irwin T. Hyatt; unknown;
unknown; Albert Loeb Seligman; Benjamin Jones; Haywood
Sommerville Bartlett. Back row: Ernest Franklin Tharp; Florian
Strassburger; Frank Kohn; Roy Edwards Hannon; Bowling Barnes.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REMINISCE OF MONTGOMERY - KOHN	1
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	6
MONTGOMERY CO. PLANTATIONS	7
IMMORAL HOUSES	10
NEW RAILROAD TO NOTASULGA	11
VETERANS ORAL HISTORIES	12
IDENTIFY PHOTOGRAPHS	13
HISTORY MUSEUM	14
IN HOUSE NEWS	15
BARNES CLASS GRADUATES OF 1922	16

Barnes Class of 1922

Of the graduating class pictures from Barnes School for Boys we had copies of all of the classes from 1905 to 1942 with the exception of 1921 and 1922. A grandson of **Professor Barnes, George Barnes** of Rowayton, CT recently sent us the missing photo for 1922. We know the names of the boys and have matched all to the photo with the exception of three: **Julian Parker, Clanton Williams, and Dick Goldthwaite.**

JOHN P. KOHN, SR.

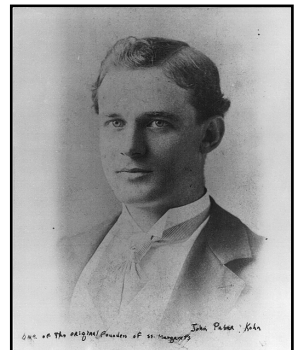
CONTINUES HIS REMINISCE

OF MONTGOMERY

Montgomery Advertiser

July 6, 1941

[Second of a series of three]



John P. Kohn, Sr.

Along about the middle of May Mr. John P. Kohn sent in to the Advertiser a body of reminiscences, accompanied by an apologetic note. It was of that rarely excellent copy that makes copy-reading a delightful chore. Following publication there were many favorable comments and we begged Mr. Kohn to write more. Hence the personal note on which he begins here. Montg. Adv. Editor's note.

Mr. Hatton, you and the drouth [drought] are responsible for this. You asked for more, and the black-out at home has cut me off from my reading hours, and the quietude of the shadows has induced more ruminating on the present and the past.

In ye olden time there was no power and little water. The well and the cistern supplied every need. All watering, including the trees on the sidewalk, was done by hand. The Saturday bath in the tin foot-tub was provided for in the same way. Then came the water-works with sure enough bathtubs. It was river water, and it was no uncommon thing to sit and wait for the red mud to run out of the pipes.

I think it was about 1889 that Mayor Warren S. Reese bought the old plant and

started the new one. For awhile the water was so muddy that Bob Taylor drove a one-horse dray around the town and peddled drinking water from the artesian well.

Way back yonder the city government was a simple setup. There was a mayor, a council, a clerk, a treasurer, a market clerk, a sexton, a lamplighter and a marshal. Their combined salaries would be hardly as much as the present mayor's. I often watched Jim Foster climb his little ladder and light the gas lamp on our corner. The territory lighted was not large.

The fire department was a volunteer organization composed largely of business men. They had up-to-date apparatus and fine horses. The fire companies were the center of much social activity. It was a proud day for the colored population when Grey Eagle fire company was given a hose wagon which had to be hauled by hand. It was all right down hill. A little later the city provided a pair of horses. Capt. Mose Pease was a happy Negro and a great fire fighter. And that reminds me of Sol Hightower and his colored band which probably played at more funerals and picnics than any other band in the country. In the Summer they played all night and nearly all day.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The police department outside the business district consisted of two mounted men, Payne and Reid, who for many years leisurely rode around the city. There was a police bell and when an officer was needed at headquarters, they tapped his number on the bell. Payne and Reid were rather heavy set and it was interesting to watch them gallop off to headquarters when the bell called them. Chicken thieves and drunks kept those guardians of the peace reasonably busy. It was a common occurrence to find nothing but feathers in your chicken yard in the morning.

When I was a boy if you wanted meat or vegetables you generally walked to the market after them. The market was next to the City Hall on Perry Street. There were half a dozen meat stalls and as many vegetable stalls as they were called. Adams Schuesler and Steve Schuesler and Hiram and Jacob Strauss scoured the city and the country for their supplies and did their own butchering. There were some ice boxes but no refrigerators or slaughter houses. The best pork sausage and the best ham could be had for 10 cents a pound. In those days bulk meat, called white meat now, generally sold at the same price as cotton. In 1903-5 Montgomery had an Irish Catholic Mayor, and an Irish Catholic President of the Council, an Irish Catholic Chairman of the Finance Committee all at the same time. Alderman Sullivan said one night that Jews owned Montgomery, the Irish ran it, and the Black folk enjoyed it.

There was a loud scandal one time when it was discovered the mayor was carrying his buggy boy on the city pay-rolls.

THE LITTLE SCHOOL HOUSE

Until about 15 years ago there was a little two-story brick house in St. Peter's church yard which was the first parochial school. The boys were taught downstairs and the girls upstairs. When the Sisters of Loretto came, they took over both. In 1876 Catholics the world over celebrated the golden jubilee of Pope Pius the Ninth. It was a memorial occasion in Montgomery. The civic services were held in the yard around that little school house. Col. Troy presided and the silver-tongued orator was Gen. Alpheus Baker, of Eufaula.

I remember Father Ryan, with his flowing curls, giving benediction. How he loved his South, and, I almost said, how he hated her oppressors.

Perhaps the oldest living pupil of those pioneer days is Mrs. Cal Devinney, who had lived on Heron [Herron] Street as long as I can remember and whose many friends I am sure will join me in wishing her years of health and happiness. When I was about 10 years old my father, Maj. Semple, and Col. Troy met every morning at 6:30 at the corner of Union and Adams Streets and walked to daily mass at St. Peter's. I

went along to serve.

In my opinion the outstanding home in those days was Mrs. Anna O. Knox's on Perry Street. It is now part of the Martha Stuart Apartments. It was a large, colonial mansion and the yard was half the square enclosed by a fine iron fence. I often admired the figures of lions and dogs which were said to be works of art.



KNOX HALL
EARLY PICTURE SHOWN PRIOR TO ITS BECOMING APARTMENTS THUS SAVING IT BY MR. MOSE STUART, SR.

Mr. Knox's pew in St. Peter's was just across from ours. As there was but one stove in the back of the church, we some times nearly froze. Mrs. Knox always brought her hot brick along to keep her feet warm. She was a very stately woman of highly intellectual attainments. When I was about 13 years old I was sent to school near Baltimore. Why I went by Cincinnati I don't know, but I remember when our train passed through Decatur the station platform was piled high with household goods and baggage of refugees from a yellow fever epidemic in Memphis.

BALTIMORE RECOLLECTION

The school I was sent to

In House News

Honors

Gen. Jim Drummond

Mrs. Jo McGowin on the Occasion of his 80th Birthday

Memorials

Mrs. Mary Black Arrington

Mrs. Olivia Arrington
Traywick Martin
Mr. Walter T. Ashurst, Sr.

Mr. Leo J. Drum

Seabie & Frances Kenamer

Mrs. Mimi Jones

Mrs. Mimi Jones Stamper
The Board of MCHS

Mr. John Thayer Voltz

Mr. James W. Fuller

Mr. Luther H. Waller, Jr.

Lee & Jim Beck
Seabie & Frances Kenamer

New Members

Mrs. Marion Thorington
Conover

Judge David Bagwell

Mr. & Mrs. John G. Willoughby

Special Museum
Donation

Mrs. Elmore B. Inscoe
Mrs. Betty Keyes
Mrs. Joan Loeb

The donations by our members as Memorial and Honors contributions to the Historical Society are genuinely appreciated by the families, those honored and the Society.

Support

We all have found it necessary to watch our expenses during these “slow” times. If you need to cut back, please do not let it be to the detriment of the effort to preserve the record of the past of Montgomery.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Officers and Board
Members

Executive DirectorJames W. Fuller
First Vice-pres.W. R. "Rusty" Gregory
Second Vice-pres.Richard Hodges
SecretaryChris N. Setzer
TreasurerRay D. Rawlings
Editor - The HeraldJWF

Directors:
Elizabeth S. Godbold Susan F. Haigler
Frances H. Hill Luther L. Hill
Seaborn Kenamer Mary Lynne Levy
Jo S. McGowin Charles C. Nicrosi
C. C. Jack Owen Robert E. Seibels III
C. Winston Sheehan Helen C. Wells

Directors Emeritus
Charles C. Hubbard Henrietta H. Hubbard

Office and Membership Mgr.
Mrs. Betty Pouncey

Collections Data Processor
Ms. Shara Green

Herald Copy Editors
Mrs. Julia P. Oliver Dr. Harold Weatherby

Archives Volunteers
Mrs. Billie Capell
Ms. Jeannine Keener

Montgomery Museum of History

A few of the Documents, Photographs, Books and Artifacts donated by members and friends to the future Montgomery Museum of History. Should you see an item below that reminds you of something you might like to donate, please give us a call. Thank you.

Mrs. Elizabeth “Missie” E. Cooper has donated a copy of her new book, *Southern Bypass*, a history of her Bibb family in Montgomery.

Mrs. Jo McGowin donated a collection of year books from The Pandora Club and The Junior Twentieth Century Club.

Miss Dorothy Fuller donated two “yardsticks” advertising Steiner-Lobman Dry Goods Co. and Montgomery Building Materials Co.

Mr. Robert E. Seibels III has donated a copy of *William Temple Seibels - Man and Legend*, a book about his great uncle written by Mrs. Fanny Marks Seibels, sister-in-law of the subject.

Mr. Leonard Skonecki of the **Fostoria Area Historical Society**, Fostoria, Ohio has donated three photographs taken during the Civil War Centennial in Montgomery in 1965.

Mr. Geoffrey Stough donated a copy of *Artwork of Montgomery, 1894*, preface, history of Montgomery. It contained the history by Mr. Thos. Clark only, without the pictures.

Jerry Elijah Brown’s book, *Alabama’s Mitcham Wars*, has been donated by **Gen. Will Hill Tankersley**.

Mr. George Barnes, a grandson of Professor Elly Barnes who was headmaster of Barnes School for Boys, now lives in Rowayton, CT and with his brother, visited us last year. He has donated a number of artifacts of **Prof. Barnes** and the school. One item donated is a photograph of the graduating class of 1922.

Pictures of all of the graduates from 1905 through 1942 were in our collection with the exception of 1921 and 1922, so this was a fine addition to our archives. A copy of this photograph appears on the back page of this issue along with the names of the graduates. Anyone who can match the last three names with the pictures is requested to write or call us.

Appreciation to the following for assisting in the identification of the Barnes Boys graduates on 1922: **Nootsie McCall, Dorothy and Dick Arrington, Meade Guy, Joyce Strassburger, Charles Humphries, Elmore Inscocoe and Dudley Perry**.

A copy of the final issue of the *Alabama Journal* published on April 16, 1993 was donated by **Mrs. Jo McGowin**.

Mrs. Peggy Hall Joseph has lent us a scrapbook that was assembled over the years by her lovely mother, Florence Charles Hall of Chantilly Plantation (1832). The scrapbook contained a number of interesting clippings relating to early history of Montgomery, many that will be included in *The Herald* in future issues.

Peggy also owns a copy of *Down South*, the book of photographs, the work of Rudolf Eickemeyer, published in 1900. This is the same man and book about which John Scott wrote in our last issue. It is interesting that Peggy’s and John’s books contain many of the same photographs but each has some that the other does not. Mrs. Hall’s copy has hand written notations by her of the real names of those in the photographs and the plantation locations or owners.

Mr. & Mrs. Seaborn Kennamer have donated a collection of publications, “Alabama Bible Society Quarterly” and printed material from the Highland Home Male and Female College including Alumni Programs and material from the Strata Male and Female School. The school material dates from the school’s beginning when the Barnes family was associated. Seaborn’s wife, Frances, was a granddaughter of Prof. Barnes.

Mr. Borum Bishop donated an advertising button evidently on the occasion of Rosemont Gardens moving to 116 Dexter Avenue, next door to the present location of Chris’ Hotdogs.



was opposite the Dahorregan Manor of Charles Carroll, the signer. A Tree was pointed out to us as one under which George Washington and Charles Carroll often met. Cardinal Gibbons, who later came to be regarded as one of America's most eminent citizens, was a frequent visitor. I never have forgotten a story I heard which the Cardinal had told on himself. He said he was buying a paper from a little Negro and he asked the boy if he was a Catholic, and he answered, "No, sir, it's bad enough to be black."

Clayton Tullis told me that when he moved from Eufaula to Montgomery he brought letters of introduction; one was to Father Savage whose first parish had been in Eufaula. While Union soldiers were still occupying Eufaula an unfortunate event took place that Father Savage’s influence settled. His testimony saved the day and it seems he went the limit. They always remembered him.

In 1897 13 people were victims of a yellow fever epidemic here and Father Savage stuck to his post visiting Catholics and non-Catholics alike, and from that time he stood in Montgomery as he did in Eufaula. When Father Savage returned from Ireland after the other World War had started, he came into my office to see me. I asked how he stood on the war. He said he was for the Allies. Knowing how many Irishmen felt they had cause to hate the English, I asked him why he was for the Allies, and he answered, "Oh the preservation of the (English) language, John." That was high sentiment! And

today children in Ireland are being taught Gaelic! Father Ryan and Father Savage were that happy blend of Erin and Dixie, and their hearts were in Alabama with Alabamians.

FIRST RACE CONFERENCE

I think it was about 1900 that probably the first race conference in the country was held in Montgomery. The Rev. Edgar Gardner Murphy, a prominent Episcopalian minister, sponsored the undertaking and was responsible for its success. The Irish Catholic congressman, Bourke Cochran, of New York, one of the most eloquent orators of his day, made the principal address.

Living so near the capitol and passing there so frequently I naturally had a personal acquaintance with many of the State officials. Ex-Gov. Watts on his way from his home to the Supreme Court Library always had a cheerful greeting for us children. The first watchman at the capitol I remember was Capt. Luke O'Brian, a Confederate veteran, who with his little black rat terrier was the sole guardian at night; there was none in the day.

One day there was a very near tragedy when the beloved governor, Tom Seay, was driving around the Court Square Fountain and a live street car wire fell and killed his horse.

JACKSON LAKE PICNICS

A couple of generations ago the Montgomery Shooting Club made Jackson's Lake famous throughout the State for the delightful picnics and

barbecues held there. Probably no other institution in Alabama gave so much entertainment and relaxation to business men, statesmen and politicians as Jackson's Lake, and today many men and women treasure the memory of happy hours spent there.

The Grey's balls were notable social events and the memory still lingers vividly of those graceful and beautiful dances. They were held in the armory on the third floor of the City Hall. [This is the City Hall that burned in 1931.] The armory was one of the largest halls in this section and was unobstructed by pillars or columns.

When I was about ten years old, my father took me to the home of Dr. Dawson's grandfather across the river at Wares Ferry. He went there to fix the fire insurance rate on the cotton gin house. We spent the night there and had dinner the next day and I remember someone saying that everything on the bountiful table had been raised on the place except the coffee. Dr. Dawson's father farms the same place today.

When I was a young man I was driving one day through the farm on the Washington Ferry Road, now part of Maxwell Field, and I stopped to speak to a long, tall Negro, named Jim Lee, who was standing at his gate with a broken glass tumbler in one hand and a pone of corn bread in the other. I said, "Jim, how you getting on?" "Not much, Mr. Johnny," he answered. Pointing to a raw-boned, flea-bitten horse in the lot, I asked Jim if the horse was his. "Yes, Sir, " he said, "but Mr. Zadek

holds a mortgage on him for \$75" (you wouldn't have given \$25 for him). Then I said, "Jim, how's your cotton?" And he said, "the worms done got it." I said, "Your corn crop looks mighty sorry," and he said "Yes, sir, it's a plumb failure". "Well," I said, "your sweet potatoes look mighty good," and he said, "Yes, Sir, they looks that way, but they ain't, they'se all vine and no taters". "Well, Jim," I said, "how do you manage to get along anyhow?" And his answer was, "Well, Mr. Johnny, I just lives on hard times." And that was a picture of so much of our country 40 years ago. [c1901]

Just after I joined the cavalry we were ordered to Sandy Ridge in Lowndes County with other troops to quell a Negro riot. When we left the train and marched through the black darkness of the woods, we were guided by Capt. Neil Robinson of the warehouse firm of Robinson and Ledyard, whose home was in Lowndes County.

NEW YORK EPISODE

About 20 years ago, I was in the office of one of the vice-presidents of a large New York bank who was a trustee of Tuskegee Institute. "Mr. Kohn," he remarked to me, "Mr. Washington tells me that in your section, the white men often let the women do a very heavy part of the work."

"Well, Mr. _____," I replied, "what Booker probably meant was that the man goes out at sunup and plows all day and comes in at sundown tired out and sits around awhile and watches the women do a good part of the barn yard work."

Then I said to that banker, "Mr. _____, do you know who saved the Union?" "Well," he answered, "I would say Mr. Lincoln and Gen. Grant." "No," I said. "You are wrong. It was the Southern men in the Northern armies who saved the Union. There were some 300,000 of them, nearly all sharpshooters from the mountains of North Alabama, East Tennessee, East Kentucky and the Western Carolinas, the hillbillies of the South. Southern people don't begrudge the Negro anything you would give him. I regret that the Mark Hanna nine million dollar pension bill for the ex-slaves failed to pass, but sometimes when people up here are feeling philanthropically inclined, remember the hillbillies who saved the Union."

While I was on the board of directors of the Birmingham branch of the Federal Reserve Bank, I made a trip to a group meeting in Anniston. On the walls of a shoeshine shop, I found the following truism which I commended to my banker friends:

To trust is bust,
To bust is hell,
To trust no bust,
No bust, no hell.

One of the most prominent merchants in Montgomery told me that he had been turned out of his church in Greenville because he had gone to a circus. Today, means of entertainment and diversion are unlimited; there are speakeasies, road houses, so-called tourist camps, honky tonks, pools, lakes, and life is a whirl. Fifty years ago life was more orderly and quiet, but there were many snares and pitfalls and youth was not

much safer than today. Then the nighthawk, Jesse, in his own horse hack, would take you anywhere for 15 cents. Brothels and gambling places were easy to find. There was the handsome courtesan, Fanny McIntosh, shopping from door to door from her elegant carriage, the cause of the shortage of a number of young men and the self-destruction of more than one business man.

GOLD METAL BREWERY

About where Metcalf's clothing store is on Commerce St., [just north of the Exchange Hotel] was a saloon called the Silver Dollar because there were supposed to be a thousand silver dollars laid in the floor. In 1907 there was organized the Good Government Club to oppose prohibition. There wasn't a liquor man in the club, it was composed of business men and property owners. I was elected president. Fortunately for me there was no general election. The Legislature took it away from us and passed the legislation. Few people remember that there were in Montgomery a home-owned brewery and a home owned whisky distillery. A delegation of brewing officials and others went to the Paris Exposition and brought back a gold medal for the brewery.

One afternoon a friend of mine and I drove a big white mule from one of his coal wagon teams out to Pickett Springs to see a chicken fight. A high-up aristocratic Black Belt State official pitted his cocks against Georgia and won for Alabama. He always carried a plug of Graveley's chewing tobacco in what we called in those days, his pistol pocket.

Look and see if you have any ancestors in these pictures.



May Day Exercises Hamner Hall School 1905

Girls pictured are:

Ella Hargrove - Queen, Senior
Katie Hails - Maid Of Honor
Elizabeth Andrews
Florence Davidson
Natilie Thornton
Mary McQueen
Mary Metcalf
Jeretta Taylor
Nannie Spiers
_____ Goodwyn

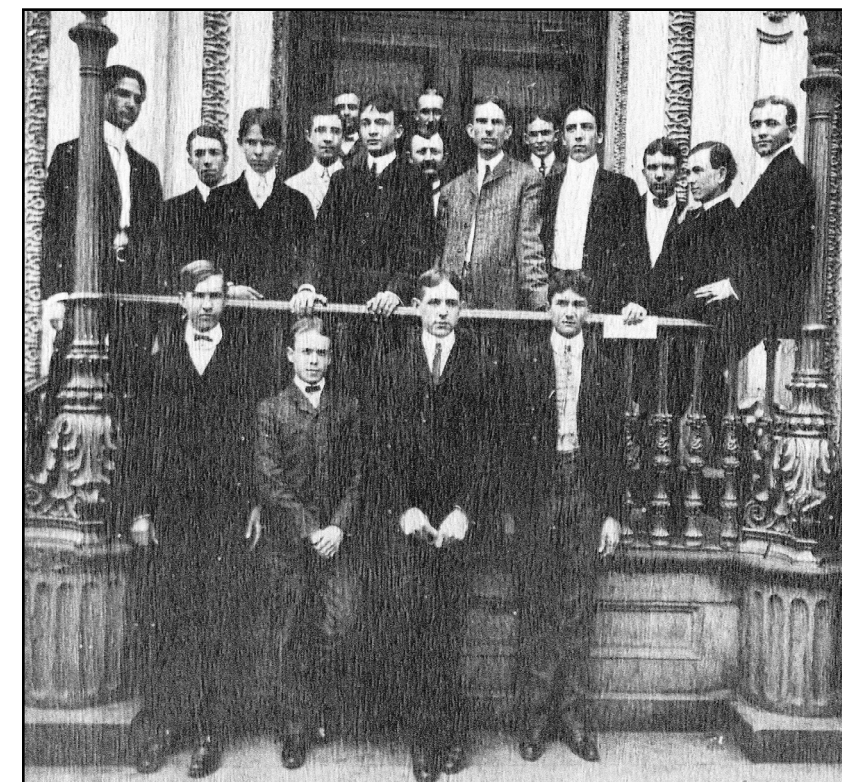
(Hamner Hall School was between Mildred and Clayton Streets, location of the present fire station.)

New Farley Bank and Merchants and Planters Bank

____1905____
1 Dexter Avenue
Old location of Kleins

The men in the front row are:
Joseph Ledbetter
Raphael Semmes III
Felix Clay
George M. Parks, Jr.

Does anyone recognize
any of the other
bank employees?



means, presented on the first day of June 1865, a very gloomy and discouraging future."

Then came the long struggle during and after reconstruction to provide the transportation needed. One old abandoned locomotive named "Abner McGehee" was brought in from Loachapoka and used to haul enough logs and timbers to repair some bridges.

More bonds were floated and gradually through the years after passing bankruptcy the road struggled to its later vital position as a link between North and South and East and West.

The Board of Directors of the Western Railway of Alabama today consists of : S. R. Young, president; C. McD. Davis, Wilmington, N. C.; J. E. Tilford, president Louisville & Nashville; Joseph L. Lanier, president, West Point Manufacturing Company, West Point, Ga.; F. H. Shroeder, vice-president Lee Higgins Corp., New York; R. E. Steiner Jr., general counsel, Montgomery; J. C. Mixon, general manager, Atlanta.

On May 29, 1893, The Western Railway of Alabama made great ceremony and published a special timetable for the funeral train bearing the remains of Jefferson Davis from New Orleans to Richmond for burial. The funeral train left Montgomery at 11 am, reached Mt Meigs 11 minutes later; got to Notasulga at 12:25 and reached Auburn at 12:48. Opelika at 1 pm, and West Point at 1:44. ❖

Note: Just as I was leaving to take this copy to the printer, Brad Norris came in with a stock certificate for the Montgomery and West Point Railroad 1860 signed by Charles Pollard. We will include a copy in the next issue. Editor

Oral Histories

Interviews of Military Veterans

Following the evening some months ago at which the Society entertained military veterans to honor them for their service, it was decided to invite veterans individually to be interviewed with recorded conversations regarding their experiences during war time starting with World War II.

Jo McGowin and **Charles Nicrosi** were the first team to begin the series. Their serviceman was **Allen Douglas "Dubo" Harper**. The two reported that they had a great time chatting and listening to Dubo and recording his memories of war time experiences.

Dubo was a senior at Georgia Military Academy in December of 1941, and following graduation, attended Auburn for a short time before joining the Army Air Corps. His training occurred in various bases in the States before he was assigned as a bomber pilot on a B-24 in southern Italy.

On one occasion when his and other B-24's were headed on a mission, he developed engine difficulties which resulted in abandoning his flight plan. After he radioed for instructions, he was escorted by protective fighter planes of the division of what is known today as the Tuskegee Airmen. He soon was able to correct the difficulties with his plane and told the fighter escort that he could carry on alone. He was told that the fighter escort had been commanded to provide him with protection back to base.

When the war was over he flew his bomber back to the States and landed at Savannah.

This is a small sample of the exciting and very interesting memories he had of the important stories of World War II.

Other board members are soon to start with interviews of the veterans who are on our list.

We would like to request members of the Society (other than board members) who would like to assist in these interviews to contact us. We will provide suggested questions as well as a tape recorder. You might do the interview in your home, in the home of the veteran or meet at the Figh-Pickett. The result of these interviews are three fold: it provides these men and women who served our country a way to tell their experiences with a feeling of our appreciation; it gives one a very warm feeling of pride to hear these veterans; and it gives us and future generations records of the true war stories. ❖

The road to Pickett Springs was made of oyster shells and was maintained from the toll-gate revenue. The first race horse I ever saw was Frosty owned by a sporting gentleman named Eugene Beebe, who made very fast time with him on the shell road.

The first baseball game I witnessed was played on the vacant square bounded by Adams, McDonough, Alabama and Hull Streets. I think it was played with a soft ball. The Babe Ruth of the day was Gus Dyer.

THE PLANK ROAD

When I first remember Mobile Street, it was called the Plank Road. It was the stage coach road and was paved with planks.

This end of what is now the Atlanta Highway was called the Red Bridge Road because the bridge over the Montgomery and Eufaula Railroad was painted red.

Between the Red Bridge Road and Mt. Meigs Road many interesting families lived. Some of those I recall were the Moltons, Vickers, Carraways, Goldthwaites, McLemores, Olivers, Ledyards, Nobles, Halls, Taylors, Wares, Walkers, Nicholsons, Mitchels, Lucases, Caffees, Wallers, Pinkstons, Rays. I well remember the beautiful shade trees of the Molton place where Mr. McFall lives on Madison Avenue. [North West corner of Atlanta Highway and Federal Drive, now commercial.] Tom Molton went to Birmingham and built the Molton Hotel. Birmingham was founded and largely devel-

oped by Montgomerians. My employer, Mr. Josiah Morris, Maj. Bolling Hall, Col. D. S. Troy and Mrs. Jane S. Ware were among the incorporators of the Elyton Land Company. The same people owned a large interest in the Birmingham Water Works, The Birmingham Trust and Savings Company, and the Highland Avenue and Bett Railroad. About the time I went to work in the bank, the dividends from the Elyton Land Company poured in and made the stockholders rich. The panic of 1896 paralyzed the company.

There is no telling how much money has been lost to Montgomerians through the years in cotton speculation. I recall in my early days a plunger who had \$200,000 profit in cotton futures and started for New York to better play his hand from there. When he got to Atlanta the market had collapsed and he was wiped out.

SPECULATION FEVER

I still remember the fever of speculation in north Alabama in the late eighties and early nineties. Many thousands of Montgomery's money were lost in Calera, Fort Payne, Anniston, Decatur, Sheffield and other quick-rich developments. The money lost over the wires in half a century could have made a paradise of Montgomery County.

When I was a little fellow many Negro farmers didn't make a whole bale of cotton but only a certain number of baskets. There was a lot of stealing of loose cotton and a law was passed prohibiting the sale of cotton between sun-

down and sunup. Change was made with paper money called shinplaster in denominations of 50, 25, 15 and 10 cents.

About 1888 or '89, the Montgomery Land and Improvement Company was organized to develop a thousand acres of land in North Montgomery. For a brief period there were flush times out there. It was to be a great industrial center. A vinegar factory, a soap factory, a tannery, chemical furnaces, and other enterprises were undertaken. There was a grand opening, a dedication of a monument to industry. Marking the occasion was a most eloquent oration by Senator John T. Morgan. Somehow it didn't pan out. Change in tariff knocked out the furnace and the tannery, and then the vinegar factory and the soapworks fell by the wayside. Later quite a number of fertilizer plants and other industries located out there.

In 1914, I was president of the Montgomery Clearing House and went to New Orleans to present the claims of Montgomery for the Federal Reserve Bank which was afterwards located in Atlanta. I read a brief before Secretaries McAdoo and Williams, and as significant of changed conditions I remember this statement: "That Montgomery was the largest wholesale grocery distribution point south of the Ohio River, except one; that Montgomery was next to Charleston as the largest fertilizer manufacturing center; that Montgomery was, next to St. Louis, the largest mule market in the country."

RENTS ARE UP

About 40 years ago my brother, Frank, took charge of a certain 25-foot store on the south side of the first block of Dexter Avenue and was pleased to secure a gross rental of \$100 a month. In 1930 I leased that same property with a new building for a rental of \$1,000 a month

Sylvian Baum [Max Baum's father] tells this one. In 1909 he and Bob Chambers, who was for many years manager of the Mont-gomery Light and Power Company, met in the office of a prominent banker to consider accepting an automobile agency which had been offered to them. They could not count more than nine prospects in Montgomery and turned down the proposition. Today there are more than 20,000 automobiles and trucks in Montgomery County.

I remember a hurried call in 1912 or 1913 for a meeting of the Commercial Club to protest against passage of the parcel post act and to wire Congressman Dent to oppose it. I apologized to Mayor Scews, for whom I had high regard, for setting my opinion against his, and to my retail merchant friends for advocating the bill. The club sidetracked the protest on the theory it might embarrass the congressman.

In 1909 I negotiated the sale of the Bullock Shoe Company, owned by Victor Hanson, to Nick Jones. How true that old saying "What was Montgomery's loss was Birmingham's gain." That transaction opened the road to Birmingham for Victor who is today the Magic city's outstanding citizen. ♦

Volunteers Needed

THE SOCIETY HAS A NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO:

1. Catalog a group of books with title, author, publica tion date and any other vital information.
2. Assist in sorting collected material.
3. Assist in scanning the burial records at Oakwood Cemetery.
4. Inventory collection of *The Alabama Review*.
5. Assist in Society's Facebook management.

Sportively Speaking

By SAM ADAMS

A 10-Pounder Jumps Into Boat

Gene Handy, Jr., 14-year-old Mt. Meigs youngster, may not be the best fisherman in these parts but, one way or another, he lands 'em—even the big ones.

Young Handy, equipped with rod and reel, went to a private lake near his home Saturday to see if he could get a "strike." He paddled his boat to the middle of the lake and was soon hard at work, casting hither and yon, like the well known patient angler. Then as Gene reeled in his plug, lifted it over the side of the boat, it happened.

A big-mouthed bass, trailing the lure, struck but missed and landed in the boat. Gene swung into action immediately and succeeded in getting the fish cornered long enough to get him on a string. Well, that was enough for our young hero and in a few minutes he was homeward bound.

Gene wanted to show off his catch, and for a good reason. The fish weighed 10 pounds, four ounces.

Perry Barnett, the Alabama National's paying teller, saw young Handy's prize Saturday night, five hours after it had been hauled from the water, and thought it would weigh at least 12 pounds until convinced that 10-4 was correct.



This is the story of a Mt. Meigs icon whom we lost a few years ago, generally known as "Genie Boy." His sons are Dr. George Handey and Nick Handey of Handey's Greenhouse in Waugh. His sister is Mrs. May Handey (Jack) Smith. They are direct descendents of the Mathews family in the eastern portion of the county.

New Railroad via Mt. Meigs and Notasulga

By C. M. Stanley
Editor, *The Alabama Journal*
June 13, 1954

Men of public spirit who sometimes get discouraged these days might well reflect upon their good fortune compared with the difficulties of the Montgomery men who undertook in 1833 to build a railroad from Montgomery on the Alabama River to West Point on the Chattahoochee River.

Everybody was enthusiastic about the railroad, something new in those days; everybody wanted to help; planters took stock and contributed land and slave labor. But it took more and more money; there were numerous discouragements.

The names of the incorporators of 1833 sound like they might all have come out of this year's Montgomery city directory. They were: John Scott, Jr., Abner McGehee, George F. Matthews, William B. S. Gilmer, Jesse P. Taylor, John W. Freeman, Thomas M. Cowles, Andrew Dexter, Thomas James, John Goldthwaite, Charles T. Pollard, William Sayre, Edward Hamrick, George Wragg, Benajah S. Bibb, Justus Wyman, Thomas S. Mays, George Whitman, Francis Bugbee, N. E. Benson, Joseph Hutchinson, W. P. Converse, John Martin, P. D. Sayre, C. Hooks, Green Wood, J. H. Thorington and S. W. Goode.

Any thirteen members of this group were authorized to act for the corporation.

Abner McGehee was the first president of the company and A. A. Dexter was principal

engineer. There was a lot of spade-work, literally and figuratively to be done. In 1836 President McGehee reported, "We with pleasure notice the proper feeling of liberality manifested by the landed proprietors on the route - as yet no claims have been advanced for damages."

The work of clearing and grading was begun March 1, 1837 with forty workman. The first train on this new railroad did not reach West Point until 1851, 15 years later.

After first troubles a mortgage for \$50,000 was placed on the road and in June, 1840 the line was completed to a place called Franklin, 32.4 miles east of Montgomery. Business was so bad that some of the incorporators dropped out and in 1841 the Montgomery Railroad Company was leased to Abner McGehee, and the following year had to be sold at auction under mortgage foreclosure. It was purchased by Charles T. Pollard and eight other men whereupon it took a new name, Montgomery and West Point Railroad Company.

Difficulties continued and aid was sought from the state. By 1845 there were only five stockholders left - Abner McGehee, William Taylor, Thomas A. Cowles, Charles T. Pollard and Alfred V. Scott, who had mortgaged their private property to secure the loan from the state.

In 1845 the state advanced \$116,000. With this

money the board decided it would be most economical to carry on the work with slaves. An agent accordingly went to Virginia and purchased eighty-four Negroes for the company at a total cost of \$42,176.20. A West Point Centennial brochure by J. Arch Avary, Jr., and Marshall L. Bowie, quoting from the president's report of 1850, recites:

With these Negroes, for several years the company had great trouble. At one time as many as ten had run off. Some were found in Kentucky, some in Indiana, some in the mountains of Georgia, and two have never been heard from. But of the purchase there still remains a valuable force of 53 men, 7 women and 11 children.

As the line proceeded toward West Point, Pollard began to look westward and visioned [envisioned] a line from Montgomery to Selma to be called the Western Railroad of Alabama.

In 1855 the West Point road was very prosperous but severe weather in 1856 called for heavy expenditures. In 1860 the line paid 14 percent on its capitalization. Some of the war years made heavy calls on the railroad and good dividends were maintained, and \$224,500 was invested in Confederate bonds. Wilson's troops drove the headquarters out of Mont-gomery, and federal forces in 1865 completely wrecked the railroad, and all operations closed April 16 of that year. Says President Pollard's report of 1866 :

"The severe losses sustained by the company in the destruction of depot buildings, and workshops, of every bridge on the road, of nearly the entire outfit of cars, locomotives and machinery, and a treasury left without one dollar of available

Arcadia were owned by Raoul of noble French lineage; the notable Lucas and Taylor families of Virginia, and the Carolinas; and by Gen. John Baytop Scott, who in 1821 authorized his lawyer, Sargeant, to donate 52 lots in the city of Montgomery for public buildings. He also gave to Oakwood Cemetery the section known as "Scott's Free Burying Ground."

Reuben H. Brewer was an antebellum planter of Mt. Meigs who gave two sons to the Confederate cause. The ancient Charles family was a notable one and gave many worthy citizens to both the city and county of Montgomery, while the old home, whose deeply hooded porch is a symbol of Southern hospitality and is occupied by Mrs. Dreyspring, is one of the most interesting landmarks of that section.

By the grace of God the plantation will survive. Though its enemies pound on it from every side there are many, animated by the exalted Southern spirit and a firm realization that its culture and kindly human ways are necessary to offset the exigencies of modern city life, who struggle to carry on. Some predict that the system will entirely succumb within a few years, but even if the worst comes it will not have lived in vain. For plantation life developed strength of character, whose chief attribute was high morale, and strength of mind whose softer side was the deep culture for which devotees of the old South achieved a world-wide reputation.



Your editor would be interested in learning how Mr. Hails was named for George Willoughby, my relative, of Mt. Willing, Lowndes Co.

State Wins Fight To Close Immoral Houses

Probably *The Montgomery Advertiser*
Author Unknown 1925-6

Immoral houses closed by a temporary writ of injunction issued in the Circuit court last summer must remain permanently shut, according to a decision rendered in the supreme court this morning. When the court decreed that the injunction issued to temporarily close the house of Bessie Ellis should be reinstated pending a final decision by the circuit court to which it will be returned. The high court reversed, rendered and remanded the decision of the Montgomery county court.

On the decision of the court in this case rested the fate of some twenty-five others of like import. The arrest of a score of women charged with maintaining houses of ill fame was brought about during a sensational series of raids last summer when W. L. Martin, then attorney-general, assisted by Solicitor Hugo L. Black of Birmingham, managed a "cleanup" campaign as a result of which numerous so-called "public women" were tried in the chancery court.

The court then held that the cases could not properly be tried in a court of equity and the state lost the first round of its fight, but demurrers were afterward filed, the places in question were treated as public nuisances, and as such, remained closed by an injunction. The bill filed by Attorney-general Martin quoted history which dealt with similar matters handled by English law. It

cited a Mobile case which touched upon public nuisances as menaces to community health and welfare and called attention to the immediate need for preserving the health of Montgomery citizens and men at arms in the adjacent cantonments.

The case of Bessie Ellis was appealed to the supreme court and pending consideration of the matter the injunction was retained. It is now permanent.

In the decision rendered this morning the court overruled the demurrer which, in the lower court, maintained that the bill introducing the case was without equity. Judge Gardner prepared an opinion which was endorsed by the other judges, in which he held that "it is scarcely necessary to observe that whether the maintenance of a public nuisance is or is not punishable in the law court as a crime is immaterial, insofar as the prevention jurisdiction of equity is concerned; for equity ignores its criminality and visits upon the offender no punishment as for a crime."



Any descendents of Bessie Ellis are welcomed to respond or provide more details on this article.

Capitalization in writing had different standards years back than we have today. Copy is reproduced as it was except for some punctuation changed for easier reading. Editor

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANTATIONS

By Miriam Brewer Richardson

The Montgomery Advertiser
Friday, May 17, 1935

Plantations of the softly undulating lands of Montgomery County are a part of that great social, political and economic system which extended from the eastern shores of Maryland and Virginia through the bayou country of Louisiana and the rich river lands of Arkansas. From Stratford, magnificent colonial estate of the Lees and birthplace of the Confederacy's best-known leader, and Mount Vernon, home of the Washington family that inter-married several times with the Lees, whose generous acres overlooked the broad Potomac, to Bellechase, home of Judah P. Benjamin, one of the Confederacy's ablest statesmen, and into the molding of whose plantation bell he is said to have flung two hundred silver dollars, the plantations were centers of a deep culture rarely equaled in modern times.

Even before Montgomery County was created by an act of the Legislature of Mississippi Territory, dated Dec. 6, 1816, settlers were claiming its fertile lands. Many of these came from the oldest families of Virginia and the Carolinas and they entered the territory, not from economic necessity, nor like fledglings pushed from the home nest, nor as those seeking an escape from unfavorable conditions, but they were fired

by the pioneer impulse to settle the wilderness and to build empires.

The name of William Graves, Revolutionary soldier, was linked with the history of the county at an early date. In 1821 he was appointed, with Edward Moseley, Benjamin Davis, John Hughes and William Leprade to select a site for the courthouse of the county. He owned extensive lands on the Alabama River at Graves's Landing, where he lived in a baronial manner. When Lowndes County was established by an act approved Jan. 20, 1830, from territory taken from Montgomery, Dallas, and Butler, the Graves Landing plantation fell within the Lowndes limits, not far from the Montgomery line. But though their original home was within the confines of another county, the Graves family, both in themselves and by marriages with other families, were still identified with Montgomery County plantations. Notable among these marriages were those to the McGehee and Bibb families, who owned great holdings at Hope Hull. The Bibb Place extended the length of its rolling prairie from the L. and N. Railroad on the south to the present paved Selma highway on the north, and from the Felder Road on the west to Dry Creek on the east. A house,

now demolished, which stood near the railroad, was the birthplace of Col. Bibb Graves, who has two gubernatorial distinctions, he is the first man to be elected governor of Alabama for eight years and the first World War veteran to be so honored.

East of the Bibb Place, lying across the railroad and the new Selma highway, is the old Jefferson Falkner place, which was noted for its fine breeds of cattle. Col. Falkner was a Confederate veteran and L. and N. Railroad official, and was largely instrumental in locating the Soldier's Home at Mountain Creek. His widow, Mrs. Lizzie Cameran Falkner, is a charming reminder of the old South, both in culture and personal charm, and a valuable member of Sophie Bibb Chapter, U. D. C.

South of the Bibb Place and joining it at several points is the romantic Cedars Plantation, one the most famous antebellum reminders in Montgomery County. It was formerly the home of the wealthy Knox family whose army of slaves and heavy silver with armorial bearings were only a few of their vast possessions. The Knox home was burned by Yankee soldiers of Wilson's Brigade and the site of its ancient beauty is now marked by a clump of myrtle on a hill overlooking Catoma Creek near the covered bridge on the old Hayneville Road. After the War Between the States, the place was purchased by Col. Warren Reese, a distinguished Confederate soldier and mayor of Montgomery for several terms. The dairy he established there was said to be the first in the county. Col Reese was fond of

entertaining in the hunting lodge he built at the Cedars, and his guests included not only his comrades of the Confederate Army, but distinguished officials from Washington. Senators, diplomats, and cabinet officers have been wined and dined under the ancient cedars. His best known monument is the MacMonnies Fountain on Court Square, one of Montgomery's few real works, which owes its preservation to the untiring efforts of Mrs. Nellie Gunter Elmore, a daughter of Col. Reese's close friend, Col. Charles G. Gunter, who was a real daughter of the Confederacy in body, mind and spirit.

Col. Willis Brewer, of Lowndes, purchased the Cedars Plantation from the Reese heirs in 1902, and resided there until his death in 1912. Col. Brewer is one of Alabama's most picturesque political and literary figures and served the State as legislator for 18 years, congressman, and auditor in the chaos of Reconstruction when he re-established the public finances after the confusion of carpet-bag misrule. He was strikingly handsome, possessed the vivid personality which moderns call "glamour," and was the personification of the spirit of the old South. His splendid mausoleum, which he built in the manner of the South in the midst of his cotton fields, is Montgomery County's, most famous literary shrine and is annually visited by hundreds.

Across the Richardson Road from the Cedars lies the famous old plantation of generous extent that was owned by Julius B. Gay, who left numerous descendants to play an honorable part in the life of

Montgomery of today. Mr. Gay, himself, late in life, entered business in Montgomery and became a member of the firm of Gay, Hardie and Durr. The old house is gone, but a clump of oaks still marks the spot where it stood. South of the Gay place is a plantation owned at one time by one of the most noted Montgomerians of his age - Judge Adam C. Felder, legislator, county court judge, chancellor, and Confederate veteran. His name has been commemorated by the naming of two much-used traffic arteries - the Felder Road extending from Hope Hull to the new link of the Selma Highway which runs through his old plantation, and a beautiful street in fashionable South Montgomery. At one time he owned considerable property in and near this street, including the present sites of the Whitfield and Bear homes. [This property is on the south side of Felder Avenue between Gilmer and Perry. The pecan trees in the middle of the block were evidently planted by Mr. Felder.] Catoma Creek on the old Hayneville Road divides some of his old county holdings. His daughter, Susan Felder, married Capt. Robert Hails. Among their children are Mrs. Minnie H. Bolling, Mrs. Mills Thornton, Mrs. Rob Hails Chandler, Mrs. Sue Cobb, Mrs. George Hails the third, and the late Mrs. Tom Scott.

* * * *

On the old Hayneville Road, now known as the (new) Selma Highway, extends the Gunter Place, which was entered from the government by Col. Charles G. Gunter, and extended to the Alabama River on the north. Here were born

his children, Col. W. A. Gunter, Sr., Harris Gunter, and Mrs. Frank H. Elmore. The younger generation were born in the city of Montgomery. At the close of the War Between the States, Col. Gunter sold much of his property and emigrated to Brazil, as did a number of other Southerners, including the Judkins of east Montgomery County and Macon County.

Near the Gunter plantation is the old Steve Schuessler place, with the old home situated on a wooded hill. Between this and the Selma highway is the attractive home of Mr. & Mrs. N. J. Bell, which is the scene of much delightful entertaining. On the old, or unpaved, Selma road stands the white-columned Stone home, a fine type of ante-bellum house. It originally stood in the midst of a vast plantation as did the second Ben Stone residence farther down on this highway. This section of Montgomery County was settled by South Carolina families, prominent among whom were the Cantelous, (ards) and Harrisons.

The Ashley family, identified with Montgomery since 1818, owned extensive plantations in the Maxwell Field section, the reservation itself being part of their lands. Just across Catoma Creek is one of the places formerly owned by the Ashleys, which is known as the Tom Watts Cobb place, which was operated for many years by his daughter, Mrs. Lila Cobb Gordon.

The beautiful home of Mrs. Kate McLean Stewart on the Mobile Road is built on the broad acres long identified with the Gilchrist-McLean-Stewart family. Mrs. Stuart's

father was Dr. Frank McLean and her mother was the former Elizabeth Gilchrist, daughter of Col. James G. Gilchrist, member of the Legislature from Lowndes, a Filmore elector in 1856, and a member of the secession convention of 1861. He had a distinguished Confederate record, having entered the C. S. A. in 1862 as colonel of the 45th Alabama and displayed signal bravery at Murfreesboro. He passed the last years of his life in Montgomery.

Near the Lowndes County line on this same road is the old Shackelford plantation held for many generations by this family who still reside there. Nearby is the Moseley plantation whereon live descendants of this ancient and numerous clan of southern Virginia. A young surgeon, Dr. Sam Moseley, worked valiantly to save the life of Mayor Anton Cermak, who was struck down by an assassin's bullet while riding through the streets of Miami with his friend, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, early in 1933.

George Willoughby Hails settled at Barachias where his extensive plantation remained for many years in the family hands. He was born in 1816 at Columbia, S. C., the youngest child of Capt. Robert Hails, who fought the British on the banks of the Santee during the American Revolution, his company being a unit of Col. Roebuck's regiment. He was one of the organizers of the Montgomery Blues, afterwards the Montgomery True Blues. He married his first cousin, Sarah Bozier, who had been reared by his mother, the former

Sarah Bozier, youngest wife of Capt. Robert Hails, who first married Albert Gallatin McGinney, an early settler of Lowndes County.

The old Hails house of hand-hewn timber is still standing though much reduced in size. The house as originally constructed had a front span of 100 feet with porches all around. It was occupied by Yankee soldiers of Wilson's Brigade in 1865, and an inscribed window pane bearing the legend, "Damn you, what do you think of secession now?" still remains, or did as late as two years ago. The blue-coat [from] above the Mason-Dixon line was a poor psychologist, he would have been surprised to realize the high estimation in which states rights were held then-and now.

* * * *

Children of George W. Hails, the first, and the second Sarah Bozier to marry into the Hails family were Sally, who married Capt. George O. Janney; Mary, who became the wife of Dr. Charles K. Duncan; Rebecca, who wedded Col. Vincent M. Elmore; Capt. Robert, who married Susan Felder; George W., Jr., whose wife was Susan Tyler Nesbitt; Charles E., who married Florence Troy, and Thomas Jefferson, who remained unmarried. All these descendants were worthy citizens of Montgomery. George W., Jr., was a beloved Confederate soldier, having been a member of the Cadet Company of the University of Alabama, Charles P. Storrs, captain, which served in Rucker's Brigade as a unit of Forrest's Cavalry.

George W., the third, who died recently, was a charming and cultured representative of the new South, and one of the most popular men who ever resided in Montgomery.

The Arrington plantation, near Pike Road, was owned by the historic Arrington family of North Carolina and Alabama, and for many years it was operated by the late Thomas M. Arrington, a member of the Legislature, and whose delightful personality still lingers in fragrant memory about the places he frequented in life.

The prairies around Pike Road were settled by the Gilmers, Marks and Matthews [Mathews], all from the Broad River settlements of east Georgia.

At Matthews [Mathews] Station lay the great domain of the Meriwether family. The writer's mother, Mrs. Willis Brewer, of Lowndes, visited this plantation while a schoolgirl in Confederate Montgomery, and she reported that their manner of living was truly baronial in the culture, wealth and lavish details of the daily life of home and plantation. A beloved member of this aristocratic clan was the lamented Bird Meriwether, Confederate veteran, who was severely wounded at Chickamauga while serving with Haillard [Hilliard]. Mt. Meigs was a stronghold of culture, political, social and economic influence. Among the oldest families are the Pinkstons, who are not only old and distinguished in themselves, but by marriage have tapped some of the great lines of American genealogy, including those of Hilton, Brewer, Lanier, Wyche and Saltonstall.

Other plantations of this