

THE HERALD

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This issue is especially for:



Montgomery County
Historical Society

HERALD



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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

WINTER 2014

FAIRS IN MONTGOMERY

By John B. Scott, Jr.

Since Medieval times, one of the most cherished traditions in England - and throughout most of Western Europe - was the town fair. These events drew all classes of town society and brought people flocking in from the countryside. The usual excitement was caught in an old Irish song that began:

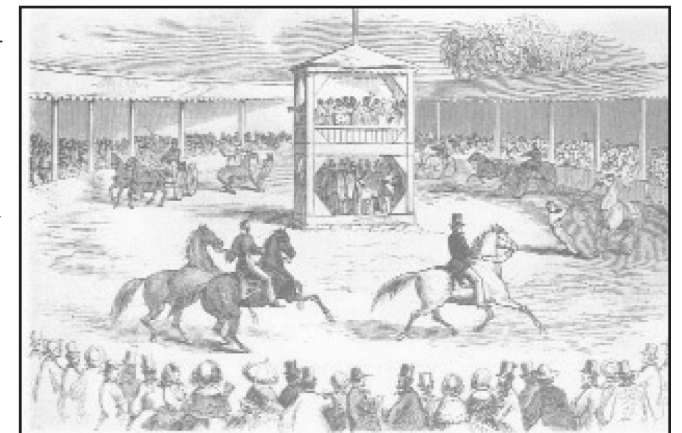
*THE SUN IS A-RISING TO
WELCOME THE DAY,
HEIGH-HO, COME TO THE
FAIR!
THE FOLK ARE A-SINGING SO
CHEERFUL AND GAY,
HEIGH-HO, COME TO THE
FAIR!*

The early residents of Montgomery heard, read and sang about these old fairs but the actual bustle and excitement of a big time fair first came to Montgomery in the flush times of the 1850s. The mainstay of the economy was then cotton, and during most of the decade Alabama led all of the other states in its production. The insa-

table demands of the cotton mills in New England, Britain and Continental Europe kept the prices high so Alabama in general - and the planters in particular - were becoming truly affluent. To celebrate this success, the Alabama State Agricultural Society put on a state fair in Montgomery in October 1855 with all the stops pulled out. It was an enormous success with over six thousand people attending from all over the state.

The thirty-acre fairgrounds, located north of the city on the Alabama River, contained exhibit halls, barns, stalls, amphitheatre and race track. One of the most popular features of the fair was the "premium list" where prizes were awarded by panels of judges for the best of each class of field crop, each class of livestock, and each kind of

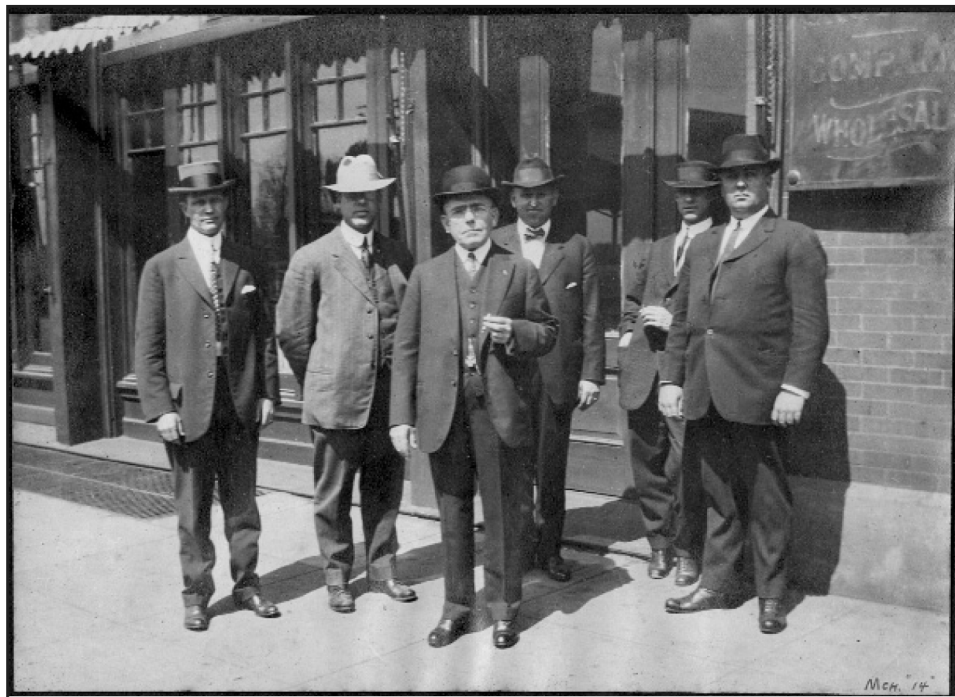
farm implement. In the domestic category there were awards for the best cake, the best jelly, the best wine and numerous other such homemade items.



Scene from 1858 Fair from
Harper's Weekly

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This photograph donated by Mrs. Minnie Lee Gill of probably the owner and his associates in front of a wholesale firm in Montgomery in 1914. It could be Mr. Henry Hobbie, standing in front like a boss and his salesmen in front of the Hobbie Wholesale Grocery Co. Can you identify any of these men?

of hippodromic performances, a commodious two-story edifice for the proper display of mechanical contrivances...and the fine arts" plus the latest model cotton gin.

The livestock exhibitions included many fine cattle, chiefly of the Devon, Durham and Ayrshire breeds. One of the stallions on display was valued at \$4,100 which was truly big money. Along with the glamour livestock there were the homelier farm animals such as hogs and sheep. For comic relief there were even a few donkeys (which the writer of the article referred to as "asinine quadrupeds").

In the fine arts department there were paintings and other art works by the young ladies of the Tuskegee Female College (which later moved to Montgomery and became Huntingdon College).

This was the era when William Lowdnes Yancey was fanning the fires of secession with his impassioned speeches on Southern rights. At the 1858 fair his wife won first prize for the "best wine of any variety" and perhaps this helps explain why her famous husband sometimes got a bit carried away in his orations.

The Fair continued to be held each fall through 1860 with increasing success. By 1860 the attendance had reached 12,000 visitors - twice the resident population of Montgomery. But, all good things must end, and after 1860, further editions of the fair were halted by the outbreak of the Civil War.

During the next four years the war preempt most

peacetime festivities - including the fair. Then, in the Reconstruction era after the war, the South fell on exceedingly hard times. In his classic study The Mind of the South, W. J. Cash wrote of this period:

THERE WERE NO RICH LEFT NOW... AT BEST THERE WERE ONLY LAND-POOR MEN SO HARRIED AND OVERBORNE... THAT THEIR NEIGHBORS WERE MORE INCLINED TO PITY THAN TO ENVY THEM. THERE WERE FEW PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH IN THOSE YEARS WHO DID NOT KNOW ACTUALLY WANT, FEWER STILL TO WHOM THE MERE MAKING OF A LIVING WAS NOT A PRESSING PROBLEM, NONE WHO COULD AFFORD LUXURY. PRACTICALLY EVERYBODY ATE POOR FOOD, WORE POOR CLOTHES AND WENT WITHOUT MONEY FROM YEAR'S END TO YEAR'S END.

Given such hard times, putting on a large scale fair would seem an unlikely item on anyone's list of priorities, but the human spirit is resilient and soon efforts had begun to revive the old state fair. In The History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, Thomas McAdory Owen, Alabama's first state archivist, relates that, begin-



HORSE RACE TRACK AT EARLY FAIR, BICYCLE RACE TRACK IN CENTER.

ning in the late 1860s, there were various editions of the fair successively known as the Alabama State Fair, The State Fair and Exposition, The Southern Exposition, The Alabama Agricultural Fair and The Alabama Agricultural and Industrial Exposition. Each of these fairs had different sponsors such as the State Agricultural Society, The Grange and several private corporations. Dr. Owen states that these successive editions of the fair were held at different locations in Montgomery including sites "...on the river near the old West Point Railroad Depot, a point on the Red Bridge Road east of the city, at Pickett Springs, at Clisby Park, at Riverside (Park) (near the first site) and at Vandiver Park." The exact location of some of these venues is hard to determine and any information that readers can furnish to the Society in this regard would be most appreciated.

By the turn of the century a good measure of optimism and prosperity had returned to Alabama and in 1906 a really classy edition of the state fair was launched. It had much the same format as old fairs held in the 1850s, but with many new wrinkles reflecting the advances in technology. At the State Department of Archives and History there is an excellent collection of the programs and "premium lists" of the fairs held in 1906 through 1914.

The organizers helped to fund the "front-end" expenses of the fairs by selling ads in the handsome program and the premium list booklets. These ads give a fascinating snapshot of the mercantile life of the city during those years. For

In House News

Memorials

- Mr. Fred M. Acuff, Jr.**
Mr. Stevenson T. Walker
- Col. Temple Bowling**
Mrs. Temple Bowling
- Mr. & Mrs. J. Y. Brame III**
Brig. Gen. & Mrs. John H. Napier
- Mr. Walter Byars**
Mr. James W. Fuller
Mr. Eddie Pattillo
- Mr. A. Sidney Coleman, Jr.**
Mr. Robert J. McCreary
- Mrs. Helga B. Finks**
Mr. Dudley W. Griffin
- Mr. Stephen Fox**
Mr. James W. Fuller
Mrs. Kathryn Goray
Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Nicrosi
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul B. Fuller**
Mr. James W. Fuller
- Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hawthorne, Sr.**
Mr. Frank H. Hawthorne, Jr.
- Mr. Holman Head**
Mr. James F. Fuller
- Ms. Stannie Lamar**
Dr. Marti A. Lamar
- Mr. Ralph Loeb, Jr.**
Mr. James F. Fuller
Mrs. Ralph Loeb, Jr.
- Mr. Jerry B. McCann**
Mr. Robert J. McCreary
- Mr. William H. McLemore, Sr.**
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Joseph, Jr.
Mr. Stevenson T. Walker
- Mr. Curtis M. Nordan, Jr.**
Anonymous (2)
Mr. James W. Fuller
- Mr. Oakley W. Melton, Jr.**
Mr. James F. Fuller
Mr. Stevenson T. Walker
- Mrs. Pauline Murrell S. Owen**
Mrs. Rae V. Calvert
- Mr. Arthur B. Patton**
Mr. Robert J. McCreary
- Judge Joseph Phelps**
Anonymous

Memorials continued

- Mr. William Pouncey**
Mr. Ray D. Rawlings
Mrs. Chris N. Setzer
- Mr. Wylie Poundstone**
Mr. James F. Fuller
Mrs. Kathryn Goray
- Mr. Frank W. Riggs, Jr.**
Mr. Robert J. McCreary
- Mrs. Sarah L. Robinson**
Mr. James F. Fuller
Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Jim Levy
- Mr. & Mrs. Warren T. Savage, Jr.**
Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Savage
- Mr. Luther H. Waller, Jr.**
Ms. Janet Waller
- Mrs. Betty Lane Westcott**
Mr. John A. Westcott

Welcome to New Members

- Mr. Bill Carnes**
- Ms. Ladine Collins**
- Mr. Louis M. Findlay, Jr.**
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph L. Fine**
- The Honorable Peggy Givhan**
- Dr. & Mrs. John Hackman**
- Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hargrove**
- Mr. & Mrs. Shon T. Lee**
- Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Mahan**
- Mr. Richard L. Moore**
- Ms. Penny Paterson Seawell**

- Honors**
- Mr. James W. Fuller**
Anonymous
Mr. William S. Craddock, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Sam Engelhardt III
Mrs. John Boswell Fuller
Mrs. Jay Ott
Mr. William G. Thames, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Tidmore
- Mr. W. R. Rusty Gregory**
Mr. William G. Thames, Jr.
- James & Staff**
Anonymous
- Mrs. Anne D. King**
Mrs. Judy P. Oliver
- Mrs. Betty Loeb**
On occasion of her birthday
Mary Lynne and Jim Levy
- Mrs. Jo S. McGowin**
Anonymous
- Mrs. Sallie W. Millsap**
Anonymous
- Gen. & Mrs. John H. Napier**
Mrs. Fairley L. Haynes
- Mrs. Judy P. Oliver**
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Seibles III
- Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Rawlings**
Anonymous
- Mayor Todd Strange**
Mr. & Mrs. Jere L. Beasley, Sr.
- Mr. Robert A. Young, Jr.**
Mrs. Betty Carnathan Keyes

Montgomery Museum of History

We are most grateful to all of you who have donated archives, books, genealogy, photographs, scrapbooks and other items that pertain to the history of our community. Without these contributions, much of this valuable material might be forever lost.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION OF MONTGOMERY MEMORABILIA.

Mrs. Melissa R. Jackson has donated a copy of *The Federal Road through Georgia, the Creek Nation and Alabama, 1806-1836.* by Henry DeLeon Southerland, Jr. and Jerry Elijah Brown.

Mrs. Gibbs Corwin Davis donated an article on Hon. Samuel Dexter in Woodstock; A clipping about the painting, "The Death of Gen. Montgomery at Quebec" the man for whom the city is named; Information of both Richard and Lemuel P. Montgomery, for whom the county is named.

Mrs. Margaret Day Craddock donated a copy of **J. Mills Thornton III's** book, *Dividings Lines - Muncipal Politics and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma.*

Mr. Bowen Hill III donated a book published in 1919 for private circulation, *Sermons Addresses and Papers of Rev. Luther Leonidas Hill* and Confederate and Historic; Eleven Addresses by Thomas B. Hill, Jr. from 1927 to 1980.

Elizabeth N. Robison donated Louisa Weinrib's interview with Betty Nicrosi Robison on the early organization of: "Montgomery League of Women Voter" and "The Pageant Book, 1926" program, "The Spirit of

the South", Peter A. Brannon, Editor; 8 issues of Dr. Cloud's *Southern Rural Magazine*, published in 1858-59.

Mrs. Sallie W. Millsap donated a brochure of the city of Montgomery published in 1899 "to serve to call attention to Montgomery as a field for investment and as a location for the home-seeker." (A Chamber of Commerce type advertisement.)

Mrs. Virginia Butler donated instruction booklets, many including recipes, from appliance companies, dating from as early as the 1930's. Included were: Waring Blendor - 1955; GE "The Silent Hostess 1932"; Sunbeam Products; Kelvinator - The Oldest Domestic Electric Refrigeration - The Miracle of Cold; Knox, Sparkling Granulated Gelatine from Mrs. Charles B. Knox, President; collection of labels for marking canned vegetables and fruits.

Mr. Gene Conner donated a MagniSight projector that will transfer images of written material or photographs onto a computer screen to be shown to a gathered group or to enable someone to copy the material manually if it is too fragile to be scanned. We are most pleased to have this piece of equipment to transfer old newspaper copy for publication in our newsletters.

Mrs. Minnie Lee Gill donated a photograph of a group of business men standing in front of a wholesale firm in 1914. Identities undetermined.

Ms. Janet Waller has donated the following: a pair of brass prismed candleholders; one brass prismed candle for three candles; a painting by Dr. Hildegard Buresch (who lived in Montgomery during WW II and being German, suffered from local ostracism); a china wash bowl and china potty w/o handle; two "Trash pictures" of "Duck Hunters", "Three Men Hunting" with oval mats; a large oak framed lithograph of Greek Dancers; a large oak framed lithograph of a Wedding Feast; a framed Couple with tree, house and lake; and five copies of *Favorite Songs of Ashmolean* - 1964. She has also donated a collection of antique toys.

Rail Road Time Tables

continued from page 14

difference in the rates from those of the present time. They averaged a little less than four cents per mile. The rates were not consistent. The fare to Atlanta from Montgomery was \$7.00. Today the rate over the same road is \$6.30. Some roads - the Interstate Commerce Commission did not control them then - gave rates lower than others. Fares over the Memphis and Charleston from Tuscumbia to Huntsville were less than at present. On the "mail train" they were less than three and one half cents per mile.

END

instance, the 1911 program carried a full page ad by Durr Drug Company, "Wholesale Druggists and Manufacturing Chemists" located at 212-214 Commerce Street, offering everything from pharmaceuticals and surgical instruments to Havana cigars and perfumes. For readers presently helping to put their children or grandchildren through Auburn University, perhaps the most wistful ad would be the full page spread by Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University) offering free tuition to Alabama residents with \$20 per year for out-of-state students. Hoping to appeal to out of town visitors, the Exchange, Gay Teague, and other local hotels always had ads listing the merits of their hostelries. The programs during this era also reflected the changing times. For instance, the 1906 program had a number of ads for buggies, wagons and carriages, but by 1914 these were giving way to ads for automobiles and mechanical farm equipment. In 1914, two motor car races were also added to the traditional harness races.

Apparently, the large scale fairs in Montgomery were discontinued by the onset of World War I and not revived in the late 1920s. In the meantime Birmingham had become an industrial hub and started an annual fair of its own that was billed as "The Alabama State Fair". In its early years the Birmingham fair was a big event. However, the 117-acre fairgrounds acquired by the City of Birmingham proved to be on the wrong side of town, and attendance began dropping off. By 2001 the principal sponsor, The Alabama Fair Authority, had gone broke and was dissolved, ending the big fairs in Birmingham.

Here in Montgomery, the euphoria of the 1920s led to an ambitious revival of our version of the state fair. The program for the 1929 fair was bursting with optimism. The principal musical entertainment that year was Stouts Military Hussar Band and the drawing on the cover showed this jaunty group strutting along, heads up and chests out. Underneath was the slogan - "It's Gonna Be Different". This prediction was true, but with an ironic twist. The Fair was held October 21st through the 27th, and while it was in progress, "Black Thursday" hit Wall Street on October 23rd, 1929, with a sharp decline that marked the start of the stock market crash and signaled the beginning of the "The Great Depression".

By 1931 the economic downturn had hit Alabama full force. Cotton was down to five cents a pound and the farming areas around Montgomery were on the ropes. The edition of the state fair that year was called The Greater Montgomery Fall Festival. The organizers put on a brave front but a glance through the program showed that a lot of air had gone out of the balloon. The ads were also smaller and much more subdued.

Large scale fairs in Montgomery petered out completely sometime in the 1930s and the concept was not revived until the fall of 1954 when, at the instigation of the late Jimmie Pruett, Sr., the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery launched the South Alabama Fair on the grounds of the newly constructed Garrett Coliseum. The club and several of its members crawled out on a financial limb to underwrite the endeavor with no guarantee of its success.



Cover for list of exhibits and prizes at the 1907 fair

However, things turned out well and the initial edition of the fair made \$20,000.

To operate the fair, the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery organized The South Alabama Fair Association, Inc., which is a separate corporation but remains under the auspices of the Club. Over the years, the fair has continued to grow in scope and attendance. To reflect this wider reach, the name has been changed to The Alabama National Fair. The 61st edition of the fair, held in October, 2013 drew 225,000 patrons.

The net proceeds from the fair are donated each year to the Kiwanis Foundation. Since its inception in 1954, the fair has passed on 6.8 million dollars to the Foundation which has, in turn, donated these funds to various youth, educational, and charitable projects. An additional 2.8 million has been given in prize money to contestants in the arts, crafts and livestock

shows. The city owes much to he members of the Kiwanis club for the many hours of volunteer effort they put in each year to make the Fair happen.

One of the most fascinating events in the long and illustrious history of the fair occurred one day in the early 1900's when a dozen couples were married on the Ferris wheel. The ceremonies were conducted individually with Probate Judge Walker Hobbie, his Chief Clerk, Bert Estes, and a couple of the sitting Circuit Judges officiating in turn. During the rites, the bride and groom would sit together on a double seat facing the officiant and a witness on the opposite seat. Mr. Estes remembers that it usually took five or six revolutions of the wheel to complete each wedding. Consider, Readers, what could possibly give a better preview of the ups and downs of married life?

Over the years the Fair directors have sought to balance the traditional agricultural and craft expositions with the midway and strictly amusement aspects. Many of traditional events would seem familiar to the organizers in the 1850s fairs but they could never have dreamed of the supporting technology, the midway, or some of the newer events, such as gator wrestling. Probably, in the future, new innovations in technology and changes in society will produce features that will boggle our imagination but let's

hope that the basic concept and excitement of the "fair" will always remain an annual highlight in the Montgomery scene.

The author and the Herald Editor wish to thank Norwood Kerr of the Alabama Department of Archives and History and Andrea Screws, Executive Director of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery for their help with this article.

END



2008
GRAND CHAMPION
COW/CALF

WINNERS WERE:

RAY ENAMEL AND
KENDALL NORRIS



COMPETITION: PIES, CAKES, FLOWERS, ART,
COWS, JELLY AND PIGS (4-LEGGED)
AND EVERYBODY LOVES THE MIDWAY



Special Year End Donations

Mr. Sam Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Anderson
Mrs. M. Phyllis Armstrong
Dr. & Mrs. John M. Ashurst, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jere L. Beasley, Sr.
Mr. M. Bowen Bishop, Jr.
Mrs. Betty S. Blow
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The Honorable Sallie Greenhaw
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Mrs. Josephine S. McGowin
Brig. Gen. & Mrs. John H. Napier
Mrs. Georganne S. Newman
Mrs. Jay Ott
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Parsons
Mr. Bruce Reid - Stamp Idea Group
Mrs. Myrtle P. Ridolphi
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Roughton
Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Savage
Mr. & Mrs. S. Adam Schloss
Mrs. Samuel L. Schloss
Mr. Edward B. Scott
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Mr. & Mrs. William B. Sellers

Mrs. Chris P. Setzer
Mr. & Mrs. C. Winston Sheehan
Mrs. Dillon Snell
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Mayor & Mrs. Todd Strange
Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Sweatt
Mr. William G. Thames, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Thomas
Mrs. & Mrs. Wallace Tidmore
The Tintagel Club
Ms. Janetta S. Trotman
Mr. & Mrs. D. Lynoid Vaughn
The Rev. & Mrs. Mark E. Waldo
Mr. Stevenson T. Walker
Ms. Janet Waller
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Dr. Harold L. Weatherby, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Alolph Weil III
Mrs. Helen C. Wells
Mr. John A. Wescott
Mrs. Ruthy Rapp Wilcox
Mrs. Bonnie B. Williams

Appreciation

The contributors whose names appear here are responsible for the continued financially sound operation of the Society.

These donations were made over and above our regular annual dues and this extra funding enables us to carry on our efforts in preserving the past of our community.

With sincere thanks.

Historical Society Projects



Oakwood Cemetery

Some months ago the Historical Society began an effort to make a thorough inventory of the burials in Oakwood Cemetery.

We found in talking with Mr. Phillip Taunton, Sexton of Oakwood, that there were over one hundred thousand burials in the entire cemetery. The cemetery is sectioned off for various groups and the oldest section, donated by Gen. John Scott, is known as Scott's Free Burying Ground and its earliest burial is 1818. The Jewish portions are in two areas. The older is known as Land of Peace in the Western section and Eternal Rest located in the rear of the Eastern section. There are sections for Blacks, Confederate and Union soldiers. The Catholic section is St. Margaret's and is located in the front part of the Eastern section. The newly acquired annex further east include the foreign military section from World War II for British and French cadets who were killed while in training in the States.

Our scanning of the records was moving along gradually until a computer breakdown stopped the work completely for a time. Now with the donation of funding for computer equipment that will better handle the strain of entering the vast earliest records of the dead in Montgomery, the speed is so improved that this project should be completed in 2014.

It was through a vice-president of the Society, Dick Hodges, that a donation from the St. Margaret's Catholic Association enabled the project to again progress.

At some point all of the records of these burials will be available on the Internet and may be accessed from anywhere in the world.

Appreciation is truly deserved and extended to Syble Newton, Dick Hodges, Phillip Taunton, Shara Green and Judia Green whose efforts will see this project through to completion.



Historic Structures Committee

Many of you will remember us mentioning our committee that has been working with the City in efforts to revitalize the lower blocks of Dexter Avenue. The members have consulted closely with Mrs. Christy Anderson, the Land Use Preservation Coordinator in the Planning Department of the City, and also formerly with Deputy-Mayor Jeff Downes before his departure to become city manager of Vestavia, and now with Montgomery's new Director of Business and Commercial Development, Mr. Mac McLeod, Jr., and with Mr. Steve Jones, Director of General Services.

Aside from the Dexter Avenue work in consulting with the city leaders and sometimes with prospective buyers of those properties, the committee also is closely involved in the preservation and future development of an 1840s brick cottage on Maxwell Blvd. known as the Chappell House. It is located on the right approaching Maxwell AFB and for many years was the location of the offices of Montgomery Housing Authority.

The house was built of brick made on location by the family. The last members to live there were Mrs. Louisa A. Chappell, widow of James Chappell. James died between 1906 and 1909 and Louisa between 1914 and 1919. James was listed as a farmer in city directories.

There is to be a planned agreement or contract between members of the committee who along with others represent: Landmarks Foundation, Alabama Historic Commission, and Montgomery County Historical Society with the City of Montgomery. This group will extend their efforts in showing and marketing the Chappell property to prospective buyers or possibly tenants that fit the criteria befitting a historic structure.

Members of this committee are: Robert Gamble, Elizabeth A. Brown, Bob McLain, Mary Ann Neeley, Anne Tidmore, Jeff Benton, David Braly, Jack Owen, Charles Nicrosi and James Fuller.

Selection of Articles By C. M. "Cash" Stanley Editor - *The Alabama Journal*

He Built A Church Whithersoever He Went

By C. M. "Cash" Stanley
February 5, 1950

ONE OF THE gentlest, sweetest and kindest characters that ever lived in Montgomery, and at the same time a strong and dependable shepherd to his flock, was the Rev. Dr. Charles A Stakely, pastor of the First Baptist Church for many years until his voluntary retirement in 1929. Dr. Stakely was born in Madisonville, Tennessee, in 1859, and died in Montgomery in 1937.

He lived a full and active life. He was admitted to the bar at LaGrange, Georgia, when he was 18 years of age and was the youngest man ever



Rev. Dr. Charles A. Stakely

appointed solicitor in that state. Taking up his studies for the ministry, he was ordained at LaGrange in 1880 and subsequently was honored with various degrees such as a master's degree from Mercer in 1884, honorary D.D., from Richmond University, and LL.D., from Furman University of South Carolina.

AS A BAPTIST minister during

his long life, Dr. Stakely served congregations at Elberton, Hartwell and Augusta, Georgia; at The Citadel in Charleston, S. C.; at the First Baptist Church in Washington, and the First Baptist Church in Montgomery.

He had the distinction of building a new church in every city in which he served, three of them imposing structures; that is, those which he built in Washington, in Charleston and in Montgomery.

DR. STAKELY was not only an active religious leader and preacher, but he was a prolific writer on many subjects, always ready to defend his convictions. For example, many newspaper readers of Montgomery will recall the theological debates in which he and the late Frank P. Glass, a Presbyterian and editor of the Montgomery Advertiser, carried on in the columns of that newspaper on an exceptionally high and dignified and scholarly plane.

Dr. Stakely was a long and valued member of "The Thirteen," a Montgomery literary and philosophical group which devotes its attention to nearly every subject under the sun. He was succeeded in 1937 as a member of "The Thirteen," by his son, Justice Davis F. Stakely of the Alabama Supreme Court.

THROUGH HIS children, their marriages, and the third generation, Dr. Stakely is related to an extensive portion of Alabama.

It is always interesting to examine Alabama family connections and ramifications, and to note the blood and marriage relationships that tend to make the state one great family of closely related people.

Dr. Stakely married Sarah Jessie Davis of Hephzibah, Richmond County, Georgia, granddaughter of Rev. William Davis, a Revolutionary soldier wounded at Yorktown and cared for by General Lafayette in his own tent. The Stakely children are:

- Judge Davis F. Stakely who married LeGrand Smith.
- Ann Stakely (deceased) who married Henry F. Martin (deceased).
- Frances Stakely who married James D. Willcox.
- Flora Stakely who married A. H. Cooldge, Jr.
- Charles A. Stakely, Jr., who married Harriotte M. Johnston.

JUDGE DAVIS F. STAKELY, eldest child of Dr. Stakely, entered a wide family connection through his marriage to LeGrand Smith who is the grand-

daughter of Dr. and Mrs. M. P. LeGrand. She is the daughter of J. Craig Smith, former Dallas County planter and state treasurer of Alabama, and Eloise LeGrand, daughter of Dr. M. P. LeGrand and sister of M. P. LeGrand, who married Mary Virginia Goldthwaite, and William H. LeGrand who married Kate Elsberry, recently deceased.

J. CRAIG SMITH was married a second time after the death of his first wife, to Mignon Comer, daughter of Gov. B. B. Comer. To this union were born J. Craig Smith, Jr., now executive vice-president of Avondale Mills, of Sylacauga; and Jane Comer Smith who married Francis H. Crockard, son of the former vice-president and general manager of the Tennessee

Coal, Iron and Railroad Company of Birmingham.

The present Mrs. Davis F. Stakely is therefore half sister of two of the grandchildren of Governor Comer, and J. Craig Smith, Jr., and Mrs. Francis H. Crockard are half brother and sister of the granddaughter of the original Dr. Milton Paul LeGrand who came to Alabama from North Carolina in 1837 and died in Montgomery in 1893 in the old LeGrand home at the corner of South Court and Clayton Streets.

DR. STAKELY, whose memory is still revered by the congregation he served as well as by thousands of people who knew and loved him was always thoughtful in little things and neglected no occasion to say a kind word.

Here is a letter from my files illustrating his thoughtfulness written in the clear, careful script so characteristic of him:

"Montgomery, Ala.,
Oct. 15, 1929.

My Dear Mr. Stanley:
"I am writing to thank you for your kind editorial of the 8th on the resignation of the pastor of the First Baptist Church. My children have each cut it out and laid it away for a perpetual memorial. Many of my people have also expressed their appreciation of it.
"You have my profoundest and warmest thanks.
"Very fraternally and truly,

"Charles A. Stakely.
END

Three Generations Officiate At Altar

C. M. "Cash" Stanley
July 19, 1953

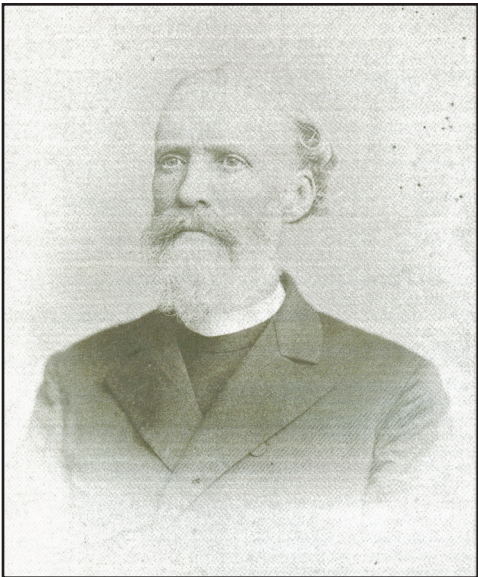
MR. MARSHALL B. KING, 553 South Hull Street, sends me this interesting item of other days:

"Years ago, in 1886 to be exact, as a choir boy in St. John's church here, I took a modest part in the most unique church service I ever knew of. At that time the Rev. Dr. Horace Stringfellow was the much beloved rector of St. John's. On the Sunday I speak of, the service was conducted by three generations of Episcopal ministers: Dr. Stringfellow, Dr. Stringfellow's father, and his own son, the Rev. Dr. James Stringfellow."

MONTGOMERY'S Dr. Horace Stringfellow was a son of the Rev. Dr. Horace Stringfellow of Spottsylvania Courthouse, Virginia, and the

son lived a most eventful and fruitful life. He was born in 1827 and died in Montgomery Nov. 7, 1893. He was rector of St. John's here from 1869 until his death. Much of the beautiful interior decorative painting in St. John's today is the work of Dr. Stringfellow's own hands.

His first charge as a minister was at Harpers Ferry, then at St. Paul's in Baltimore and St. Andrew's in the same city. After four years at St. James's, Hyde Park, New York,



Rev. Horace Stringfellow, Jr.

Church Memorial Windows

Where They Were Where They Are Today

After an inviting offer from the Federal Government to purchase their corner property on South Court and Church Streets, the congregation of the Court Street Methodist Church, I am sure with great reluctance and opposition by many, decided that they should answer the call to move and make a presence of Methodism in the reasonably new annex of Cloverdale, Alabama, by then a part of Montgomery.

The Government determined there was a need to build a new post office; the old one on the southwest corner of Dexter and Lawrence Street was the earlier location of old Montgomery Hall, a hotel popular in the 1800's. It was known as a "family hotel", many families with children living there.

When in 1931, the Court Street members sold their property, they abandoned a location they had occupied for a century, since 1830 when the church was built. The move necessitated a name change to The First Methodist Church.

To preserve its handsome stained glass windows of the Court St. church, they were crated and stored at the old building at the then defunct fair grounds located on the street of the same name. It was behind the Chisholm School in the vicinity of the present Montgomery Zoo.

Three of these windows were, through the efforts of Mr. Matt Johnson and Minister H. E. Wilson, Jr. of the St. Luke's Methodist Church, donated to their congregation to become a beautiful addition to their new sanctuary on Upper Wetumpka Road at Fairgrounds Road. This church proudly placed one of these windows on each side of the front entrance and the other third was located behind the choir at the front of the church.

Evidently their efforts to rescue these few windows from Court Street are all that have survived. Unfortunately the other windows in storage were lost when the building at the fair grounds burned to the ground.

Much of this information was given to the writer by the St. Luke's historian, Mrs. Frances Price, who operates a florist shop on Fair Grounds Road known as Flowers By Frances. St. Luke's secretary, Ms. Kay Knott, was most helpful in assisting with the photography. I thank them both for their courtesy and interest in preserving this bit of Montgomery history. jwf

These handsome stained glass windows shown are located on each side of the entrance to the sanctuary of St. Luke's United Methodist Church.



Building in background is thought to be the building from the fair grounds that burned. Photo by Mrs. Frances Price and her family, she is the girl on the left



What was later the main stem of the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad was completed from Selma to Montevallo on July 4, 1853, and the occasion was celebrated with a "grand dinner" given by the people of Shelby County. The time table shows the distance as 56 miles and the schedule was three hours from Montevallo to Selma and five hours from Selma to Montevallo. The train left Montevallo at 3 (8?) o'clock in the morning.

MOBILE AND OHIO RAILWAY

The Mobile and Ohio Railway had 57 miles of road-bed in Alabama and operated round trip daily service between Mobile and Citronelle. The "Citronelle Trains," as the full page advertisement of the road sets out, left Citronelle daily at 6:30 a.m., and arrived at Mobile at 9:15 a.m. They left the Mobile station at 5 p.m. to arrive at Citronelle at 7:45 p.m. Accommodation trains, "carrying freight and passengers only," for Scooba, left Mobile Station on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Passenger trains, which carried through-freight only, left Mobile on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 6:30 a.m., passed Enterprise, Miss., at 3:20 p.m. and arrived at Scooba at 7:45 p.m. Though-stages met the trains at Scooba to carry passengers to Gainesville, Tuskaloosa and Huntsville, in Alabama. Thence the route by Lauderdale Springs, Miss., was the "short route" from Mobile to Huntsville. All freight for up-country was required to be pre-paid and delivered to the depot "before sun-down." Down-freight could be sent collect on delivery.

ROAD OFFICIALS

Robert A. Hardaway, Chief engineer, of the Mobile and Girard Railroad, was a resident of Russell County. He had already distinguished himself as an officer in Seibel's Battalion in the War with Mexico, and he had a brilliant career in the War Between the States. Col. Hardaway's guns, the battery of the Third Richmond Howitzers, fired the last shot at Appomattox.

Judge A. P. Hopkins, president of the Mobile and Ohio R. R., was born in Danville, Va., in 1794. He began the practice of law at Huntsville, in 1816, and represented Lawrence County in the Constitutional Convention of 1819. He represented Madison County in the Legislature of 1833, and was on the Supreme Court in 1836. He was Chief Justice in 1837. After living in Missouri for 10 years subsequent to 1845, he retired to become president of the M. and O. R. R. and served as such for several years.

Charles T. Pollard, of Montgomery, president of the M. and W. P. R. R. was an active enthusiast on the subject of railroad building for some years. He was one of the stockholders of the Montgomery Railroad, incorporated in January 1824, and was chairman of the reorganization of 1843. He started the agitation for the road to the gulf, now the south line of the L. and N., and built the Western of Alabama to Selma. His descendants reside in Montgomery today.

Superintendent S. G. Jones of the Montgomery and West Point came to Alabama as an associate of Col. Pollard and surveyed not only the West Point route

but also the Columbus Branch. He had previously surveyed the Macon and Western in Georgia. After the War Between the States he was the chief engineer of the Alabama and Florida (now the L. and N.), and was for a time president of the Savannah and Memphis R. R. (at present the Opelika to Birmingham branch of the Central of Georgia). His son, J. Brevard Jones, resides in Montgomery today.

T. B. Goldsby, the president of the Alabama and Tennessee Rivers Railway, was born in Georgia in 1796. He was an early settler in Perry County and joined Col. Pollard, the Scotts, Sayres, Matthews, and others of the central part of the State in railroad promotion. Later, he was the financial backer of the road from Selma to Uniontown. He died and is buried in Dallas County.

STEAMER SAILINGS

The Guide shows weekly sailing of boats from Mobile to Montgomery, Mobile to Gainesville, Mobile to Columbus, Mississippi, Mobile to New York, to New Orleans and to Havana. Several boats were plying the two rivers, the Alabama and Tombigbee, and Alabamians owned and operated Mobile to New York steamers. The "Quaker City," commanded by R. W. Shufeldt, carried the U. S. Mail leaving Mobile on the 15 of each month. She was a New York boat. The Battle House in Mobile is shown in the Hotel lists.

RAILROAD FARES

Even if the time was slower than at present, there was very little

continued on page 18

where several generations of Roosevelts were parishioners, he was called to Indianapolis in 1859 by Christ Church. He went back to Virginia at the outbreak of the war, but when peace came his Indianapolis parish urged him to return, and during his second service in that city he built the cathedral. In 1869 he came to Montgomery's St. John's Church where stories are still told of his unique character, his deep consecration and his keen wit.

* * * *

HERE'S A STORY told me by Commissioner J. Haden Alldredge of the Interstate Commerce Commission about an old time Grier's Almanac which ought to be enjoyed by James J. Durr, of the Durr Drug Company, because Mr. Durr still likes to distribute copies of Grier's Almanac to his friends.

Congressman George Grant of the Montgomery district recently loaned Mr. Alldredge a little book written by a distinguished native of Georgia, Judge Arthur G. Powell. The book is entitled: "Can I Go Home Again."

Judge Powell was born in Blakely, Ga., more than seventy years ago. He had been back to his boyhood home and took occasion to travel over Southwest Georgia, Southeast Alabama, and part of West Florida.

Judge Powell was fascinated by what he saw and by the people he met. He naturally indulged in many reminiscences. One of these was about Grier's Almanac which used to be found nearly everywhere. These old almanacs contained many things beside weather predictions, including comic cartoons. This one Judge Powell remembered from boy-

hood. It was a drawing of a boy scratching his head, under which was this dialogue between the boy and his mother:

Mother: "Johnny, quit scratching your head."
Johnny: "Well, Ma, they bit me first."

* * * *

THE REV. DR. HENRY M. EDMUNDS, native of the Black Belt and former minister in Montgomery (First Presbyterian Church), printed on June 3, 1953 this item in his daily column in the Birmingham Post Herald:

"A Negro in a Chicago filling station, noting my license tag, asked me if I wouldn't bring him back to Alabama. He said that up there he couldn' make no 'rangements - he had to pay cash."

* * * *

THROUGH THE COURTESY of Mrs. Maude Winter Stuart, wife of Moses W. Stuart, I have a faded yellow clipping from the Montgomery Advertiser telling about the prowess of "Mose" Stuart as a bicycle rider when he was young and spry. The story was written by the late Maxie D. Pepperman, an oldtime Advertiser reporter who used to record reminiscenses. Here is what Mr. Pepperman wrote about the bicycle days of the 1890's:

"In the gay nineties the bicycle craze struck Montgomery and everybody bought a wheel and we had several 'built for two.' Various bicycle clubs were formed and road houses sprang up on the old Mobile and Prattville roads, the first ones that were graveled.

"This is about the time that bicycles with wheels the same size, known as safety bicycles, came into existence.

Prior to that time the bicycles had an exceedingly large wheel in front and a very tiny one in the rear.

"None of the streets or sidewalks were paved and if you did not watch your step to avoid striking a root or a brick you performed a somerset over the handlebars.

"Some of these relics had wooden spokes and wooden spools for pedals.

"ABOUT THAT PERIOD, Riverside Park, located on the river bank about three miles from the depot, opened up and the Southern Exposition, which was just a county fair, was held there for years. The main attractions were Speedy, the high diver, Pawnee Bill and his Wild West show, and Mose Stuart and his bicycle race.

"Yes, this is the same Mose W. Stuart, Sr. who every day is seen in front of the banks on Commerce Street talking with his friends. He had the first all-steel spoke bicycle in Montgomery, and it was highly nickel-plated, and he became a great amateur bicycle racer. Yes, you have heard of Lou Gehrig, pride of the Yankees. Well, Mose Stuart was the pride of all Montgomery.

"THAT BICYCLE of his was the most envied thing in town. At the county fair he issued challenge after challenge to all, but his modern Goliath never had a successful David to show up, for I have seen him from the grandstand many a time coming into the home stretch with his bicycle glistening in the sun, always crossing the wire with his nearest competitor a quarter of a mile behind.

"They did not have the facilities in those days, and just as well so, for no photo finish was necessary for those races."

A Butler County Gift
To Montgomery
C. M. "Cash" Stanley
February 19, 1950

AWAY BACK in the 1880's, barns and fences in Butler County were covered with "S. S. S.," the slogan of a patent medicine of the day. Col. J. M. Whitehead, who ran a newspaper called "The Living Truth" claimed in his columns to have discovered that "S. S. S.," did not mean what it purported to mean, but that the letters actually stood for Steiner, Steinhart and Stallings, three of the leading political "bosses" of Butler at the time. Col. Whitehead predicted that the S. S. S.



General Robert E. Steiner
Photo courtesy of ADAH

team wouldn't be heard from after elections.

Actually Mr. Steiner was elected to the state legislature, Mr. Stallings to Congress and Mr. Steinhart was made post-master at Greenville.

From those days until now Butler County has been supplying its full share of promi-

nent men to Montgomery, and names like Thigpen, Steiner, and Crenshaw have become household words.

GEN. R. E. (GENIE) STEINER, who will be 88 years old May 9 and is the son of Joseph Steiner, a Confederate veteran, and a long line of Methodists, was born at Steiner's store near Greenville and still maintains a country home there. The father returned from the war in the 60's to find everything in ruins and his wife and a large family almost without food.

The father had no mules to make a crop and came to Montgomery to see if he could find some. At that time the Lehman's were in business in Montgomery and one of them went with Mr. Steiner to West End where there was a cor-

ral full of mules which the federal troops had taken from Alabama farmers.

Mr. Lehman bought two of the mules and gave them to Mr. Steiner who took them to his place 12 miles from Greenville, a trip at that time requiring two days and one night.

AFTER MAKING a small crop, the ex-Confederate soldier moved into Greenville in 1865 and went into business with Col. J. H. Dunklin as partner and prospered greatly. He and many of his neighbors worked themselves into welfare status without any Marshall Plan or other aid from Washington.

GEN. R. E. STEINER was educated at the University of Alabama and Harvard. In addition to a flourishing law practice he has been interested in military affairs most of his life. He was captain of the Greenville Life Guards, and later major of the Second Regiment under Col. Thomas G. Jones. In 1916 he organized the First Alabama Cavalry, consisting of 13 troops, and as colonel of the outfit was sent to the Mexican border in 1917 under General Pershing. The lieutenant colonel of the regiment was Col. Bibb Graves, afterwards governor of Alabama.

Promoted to brigadier general in 1917 General Steiner went overseas in command of the 62nd Infantry Brigade of the 31st Division, now the Dixie Division. The famous 167th Infantry was taken from his brigade and put in the Rainbow Division. General Steiner returned from France in command of the 31st Cadre.

ONE OF THE longest, closest and most intimate friendships in Alabama political and military history was that between Bibb Graves and Genie Steiner. Formed while they were young men, the friendship was severed only by the death of Governor Graves.

GENERAL STEINER served in both the House and Senate from Butler County and in 1892 came to Montgomery and formed a law partnership with the late Capt. Edward Graham. After Capt. Graham's death he joined Judge B. P. Crum and Leon Weil in forming the partnership which still exists Steiner, Crum and Weil. [This firm name changed some years ago with the addition of Sam Rice Baker to become Steiner, Crum & Baker, then many years after Mr. Baker was deceased the name changed to Steiner, Crum and Byars. Sadly the end of that

Railroad Time
Tables in 1856
By Peter A. Branon
September 4, 1932

Last week I picked up at an auction for 10 cents, a copy of Appleton's Railway and Steam Navigation Guide for 1856. The little volume has all time tables for railroads and steamboats in America, but, even so, there is no great number as the country was not then so generally connected as at the present time. Alabama had then five railroads, and there are five boat lines advertised.

THE ALABAMA RAILROADS

The Mobile and Girard, the Mobile and Ohio, The Montgomery and West Point, the Memphis and Charleston, and the Alabama and Tennessee Rivers railroads were operating trains in the State.

The longest mileage was over the Memphis and Charleston. It was 126 miles from Tuscumbia to Stevenson. The shortest run was over the Mobile and Girard. The guide shows a schedule from Girard to Silver Run, but trains were going five miles further and on to Colbert. The entire distance was 23 miles. The termini of the Memphis and Charleston were Memphis in Tennessee and Stevenson in Jackson County, Ala. Passengers went by stage 75 miles overland from Pocahontas, Tenn., to Tuscumbia, but the schedule provided that close connection was made and travelers who reached Pocahontas, 74 miles distant from Memphis after a four-hour and 18-minute ride, at 11:03 a.m., could by

traveling all night in the stage leave Tuscumbia at 8:30 the next morning. The "mail train" went only to Huntsville, 57 miles further. The "accommodation" went through to Stevenson and stages connected from there to Chattanooga. The mixed, freight and passenger, train reached Stevenson at 10 a.m. of the second day out of Memphis as the night was spent in Huntsville.

Over the Mobile and Girard, now the Columbus and Andalusia branch of the Central of Georgia Railroad, trains left Girard at 2 p.m. "Hacks" carried passengers across the Dillingham Street river bridge at Columbus, as the railroad had no bridge. Colbert, at present a road crossing west of Seale (then Silver Run), was 23 miles west of the Chattahoochee River and the mail train required one hour and 30 minutes to make the distance. There were two stops, Fort Mitchell and Silver Run.

THE MONTGOMERY AND WEST POINT

There was direct connection between Montgomery and Atlanta over the Montgomery and West Point and the Atlanta and LaGrange Railroads. Leaving Atlanta at 3:30 a.m., the traveler could reach Montgomery at 2:30 p.m. of the same day, a distance of 175 miles in 11 hours. This was the fastest time of any train in the South. There was a 15-minute stop-over in West Point and a 26-minute stop in Opelika. Trains connected at Opelika with the Columbus, Ga., branch of the "Western," as it was originally called. The Montgomery and West Point was originally chartered by the Legislature of Alabama as the Montgomery Railroad. Trains were operating

to West Point in 1854. The old Montgomery Railroad was sold by foreclosure in 1842 and the "M. & W. P." was organized in 1843 as the successor. The "Columbus Branch" was an original section of the Montgomery Railroad, which, under the charter, must "build to the Chattahoochee River opposite Columbus, Ga." Salem and Dover were the two stops between Opelika and Columbus. At that date the railroad had a bridge and tickets were sold to Columbus.

The stations on the M. and W. P. Railroad were then about the same distance as at the present time, and, with three exceptions, bore the same names as they do now. The first stop out of Montgomery was Tippecanoe. The distance was 11 miles. Cook's Station is now 12 miles from Montgomery. The Ware's Ferry Highway crosses the Western of Alabama today 11 miles from Montgomery, and this is old Tippecanoe site. The first 12 miles of the road were finished on June 1, 1840. William Henry Harrison and John Tyler were campaigning for president and vice-present at that time and the slogan was "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." One needs little imagination to surmise why the name was selected. Clietts is shown 18 miles east of Montgomery. This is near Tysonville and about Brazzell's flag stop on Milly's Creek. Ft. Decatur was a stop in 1856. Now the train stops at Milstead where the Birmingham and Southeastern, one time the Montgomery and Tallassee Railroad, crosses. The other stations on the road are today as they were then, except the one four miles northeast of Opelika was the "Rough and Ready." On the Atlanta and LaGrange Railway, Gebbetsville of today was then Long Cane.

In 1910 a firm on South Court Street sold a "Secretary" to "Old Doctor Noa" (nobody else would have it) for \$3.50. Mr. Noa at that time had closed out his "Ark," but he disposed of it the next day at \$10 delivered. I saw the duplicate of it sold recently at \$275. What- nots of our grandparents day are "etageres" when the present collector goes after them, but to me they lose their charm when called by that name they were never known by. "Martha Washington" sewing tables were perhaps from the very first the most prized of all items of furniture, unless it was possibly the "Day-bed," as the favorite daughter claimed these. A piece of furniture I never hear anyone rave over today was the dining table which turned around, that is the central part did, where dishes of food were put. I have seen these of the finest of wood and workmanship, but when I went through the warehouses of a dealer in Clark County, Ga., two or three weeks since, in his stock worth easily \$100,000 he did not have one. I ate from one of these "Turn- tables" in 1916 at the home of Dr. L. W. Phillips at Crawford, and this piece would make a rare museum find.

SOME COLLECTING EXPERIENCE

I have a friend in Dallas County whose large old house is filled with choice pieces which have "come down." She does not collect and of course would not sell. Some two or three years ago the servant announced three ladies at the door. Instructing the servant to seat them in the left parlor, she hurriedly changed her dress. When she arrived in the

room the visitors were so engrossed in arguing over which one should have this chair and that table that she listened right in their midst for several minutes before she told them her furniture was not for sale. The ladies were professional "antiquers" and the incident is actually as it happened not 40 miles from Montgomery.

I was in a shop in the Southern part of the city some weeks ago when a lorgnette dressed prospective customer had the car stopped to ask the price of an "Ottoman" on the sidewalk. He told her "the little stool was \$14." Ten minutes previous to that he had priced it to visitors who came into the shop at \$3.

SOME HISTORIC PIECES

Visitors to Montgomery have a rare opportunity to see historic items of this character. The Jefferson Davis Chair and the Tandy Walker Table in the Department of Archives and History, the furniture at the White House of the Confederacy, and that in the Museum of Fine Arts, as well as the old Senate Desks installed in the State Capitol in 1850, have much historic interest. I have friends in a cultured old home in Montgomery where these things are just matter of fact and where delft ware and china, pewter, crystal, and real antiques are used every day, not saved to show guests. Not a piece in this house has been bought in 70 years, and if they were in the hands of an art dealer their value would run into many figures.

I have before me a copy of *The Mobile Daily Advertiser, and Chronicle* of Nov. 12, 1840. Chairs, furniture, and announcement of newly-arrived house furnishings, would delight the eye of a collecting reader.

The old Gaines bed at the landing on Tombigbee river where 'tis said that nine men could comfortably rest while awaiting the arrival of the boat, would be a novelty to the city collector. The Ebenezer Pond ladder-back chair at Rockford and the Daniel Crawford furniture at Socapatoy delight the eye of one looking for historic things.

There is a real joy in finding a piece now and then and in anticipating something to be had as means will permit, and to me there would be no fun in going to a dealer and telling him to furnish my home with strict adherence to a "period." Even if I had a million, I do not want to buy everything now. I am "old fashioned" but there is a tomorrow. Sir Flinders Petrie has found in the ruins of Palestine far more handsome beds than Europe or America ever saw. I have seen the gold candle sticks in the Field Museum of Chicago taken from the old city of Ur buried eight feet under the level of the Euphrates River by the flood which is told of in the sixth chapter of Genesis. So, reader, there is yet something to look for.

END

outstanding group of legal minds came to an end just a few weeks ago with the death of Mr. Walter Byars.- Ed.] This became one of the great law firms of the state, successively becoming attorneys for the Western Railway of Alabama, Central of Georgia Railway, Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad, Seaboard Air Line and Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, connections which have continued until the present time.

GENERAL STEINER'S long public experience and wide acquaintance have made him a powerful and influential figure in Alabama politics for many years. Governor Graves appointed him vice chairman of the State Docks Commission at which time the General said to his old friend: "It is my hope that I shall be as loyal and useful to you as you have been to me." During the first year of his administration the docks emerged from the red.

In spite of requests from General Steiner that the armory recently built in Greenville be named for some Confederate veteran, the building was named Fort Robert E. Steiner.

GENERAL STEINER has maintained close connection with Butler County and some years ago helped greatly in repairing and restoring Bethel Church at which his mother and other members of the family had been worshipers, and in the cemetery of which his grandfather, Thomas Manning Camp, and other early residents of the county were buried.

For many years General Steiner has been closely associated with affairs of the state university, his alma mater, having

served for a long time as a member of the board of trustees and upon his resignation being succeeded as a member by his son, Robert E. Steiner, Jr.

MY FIRST acquaintance with General Steiner was made at the time he was in command of Alabama guardsmen during a fierce coal mine strike in the Birmingham district. He as commanding officer, and I as managing editor of a newspaper, often established midnight contacts to discuss events and exchange news of things that had happened during the day.

General Steiner was married 65 years to the former May (Flowers) Steiner of Greenville and to them were born five children: Robert E. Steiner, Jr., Kate Steiner Baldwin, Helen Steiner Mason, Col. J. J. F. Steiner and May Steiner Coleman.

FOR MANY years a dashing cavalry officer, General Steiner has made a practice of having his picture taken on horseback every time another birthday rolls around. His next birthday will be May 9. He was born on that date at Steiner's Store, Ala., in 1862.

These thoughts are suggested for publication today by the marriage yesterday of General Steiner's grandson, Robert E. Steiner, III, to Merrily Gayle, daughter of the late Norman Gayle and niece of Col. Wm. A. (Tacky) Gayle whose wife is a niece of the late Gov. Bibb Graves. Gen. Steiner's grandson therefore becomes, by marriage, a grand-nephew of Gov. and Mrs. Graves.

END

Historic Society Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 4th
2:30

Speaker
Mr. Nimrod Frazer

In a few months and around the world, celebrations will start around the centennial of World War I. We are fortunate to have Rod Frazer, a member of the Alabama Business Hall of Fame, willing to address us on May 4th and speak about his forthcoming book, *SEND THE ALABAMIANS, WWI FIGHTERS IN THE RAINBOW DIVISION* to be published in late May 2014 by the University of Alabama Press.

In tradition of the great Southern writers, Nimrod Frazer will tell us the story of the 167th Alabama Infantry, a National Guard regiment in the 42nd "Rainbow" Division which served in France under Douglas MacArthur during World War I.

The son of a Purple Heart veteran who fought with the Alabamians in 1918, Frazer, himself a decorated Silver Star veteran of the Korean War, gives a voice back to all those young men from our beloved state who gave their life in the service of democracy by answering the call of service from President Wilson.

Selected Articles From Through The Years

By Peter A. Brannon
The Montgomery Advertiser

Some Antique Furniture

By Peter A. Branon
September 11, 1932

EARLY SOUTHERN FURNITURE

Most of our collectors of antique furniture proudly assert that they have no "old home-made stuff" but they little knew that the choicest, and by far the highest priced pieces were made in small private shops or in the "cabinet shop" of the wealthy plantations. The typical Alabama spool-bed, or as some call it, the button-bed, made of maple is the product of the shop right here at home, and, if you in Montgomery have a real genuine one, the chances are that it was made in Mr. John Powell's shop in the rear of No. 10 South Perry Street, sometime about 1840. Many of the yellow pine tilt-tables and chest-of-drawers of our more cultured families were either made at home or purchased in the neighboring market. All of our "Corner-cupboards" were home made. Most of the trundle-beds were home made, and some of the finest and truest to type drop-leaf tables were made by the slave cabinet maker on the plantation.

There is much French made furniture in Mobile, some British and Spanish, and in the hands of our more wealthy collectors quite a bit of that made in Philadelphia and in Richmond, Va. Remember, most of the families living in Alabama today are of Virginia

ancestry who stopped in North Carolina and Georgia on the way down. The average family of the old South, even of modest means, had a "dining-room set" and a "parlor suite" but much of the other furniture was made-to-order and not cheap to look at. There is only a small amount of New England furniture in Alabama, though Blakeley, Saint Stephens, and Claiborne were settled by Easterners and some of them were people of means. Of course we have some Duncan Phyfe, some Empire, some Early American and other true period furniture but most of our southern furniture is what the "high-brow" writers of the subject would call "rural" make. In England this kind or class, if you wish, is termed "yeoman furniture." It is frequently true to type but not true to time or date. It might be of the 1820 make and of a 1765 style. Even so, the quality of workmanship in the South and in Alabama in particular was not to be questioned. It was almost "the last word."

The artisan or expert mechanic in the South had served his apprenticeship in one of the regular factories in the North and he frequently influenced the style by turning out a piece of the type to which he had been trained.

JOHN POWELL'S SHOP

John Powell, born in Virginia in 1796, was "bound out" at an early age to a furniture maker in Richmond. At the end of his three years he finished his "high-boy," which he called a chest of drawers, and left the shop going to North Carolina where he stayed a few months and struck out for the Southwest. He reached Claiborne on the Alabama River in 1818 and started a furniture shop in the embryonic town. He ran that shop until 1824 when he married in Montgomery and settled here, to stay over two years. He was in Claiborne again from 1826 to about 1835 when he sold his shop and moved to Montgomery to open it at 8 and 10 South Perry. The store or sales rooms were in front and the shop in the rear yard. As time passed he had several expert workmen to come here to work especially as cabinet-makers. One Stuart of Edinburgh, Scotland, Gordon and Swend of the East, and Mr. Doran, the progenitor of the local family of that name, were artisans in his shop. When he conducted his shop in Claiborne, he bought his mahogany in New Orleans and rafted it barge-like up the Alabama River. This was what the trade knows as "Spanish" Mahogany. It was actually from Santa Domingo. Later, in Montgomery, it was sent by boat to him. Mr. Powell's shop burned in 1850. Several families in Montgomery have chests of drawers and other pieces made in his shop.

CHAIR FACTORIES

At Sand Spur, near the Old Jones Settlement in Russell County, was a chair shop conducted by a lone workman who stayed there from sometime in the forties to about the time of the War Between the States. He made 3-slat ladder-back hickory chairs and would make arm chairs with rockers when he had orders for them. Many of the families in that part of the State bought furniture of him. My chair made by him in 1846 has a shuck bottom. Originally it had a raw hide, hair-side-up bottom, but this wore off and I had a "woven shuck-twist" put in.

Tony Tarver, a slave of Mrs. Patrick H. Perry inherited from her father, Hartwell Bass, made chairs for all the Negroes on the plantation even as late as 45 years ago. He was expert with the lathe, and the old homestead in Russell County was fitted with six beautiful spool beds of maple and china berry. The three large "testers" in that old mansion, which still stands and in which I have often slept, were of mahogany and made by Tony right there in the shop. The drop leaf tables were of chestnut and of unsurpassed workmanship and finish. Mrs. Bass's sewing machine case was "store-bought." The two "parlor sofas" were "from the North." The "carved" chair--one of these "lean-way-back" with a dainty newly opened rosebud on the top rail -- and the brass fender and andirons were ordered in 1836 through the furniture man in Columbus, Ga. I have the original bill of sale for them. They were not expensive. The chair was \$35.

CLAIBORNE FURNITURE

All over Monroe County you will find beautiful old pieces. They are now in the hands of collectors, none are left for the "antiquers" to swoop down on. Many of these pieces are shop made. Practically all of that old South Alabama stuff has been saved, and of course part of it is John Powell's make. I know of a fine yellow-pine bed and bureau made by Perry Laslie of the former generation, and I have as one of my own choicest pieces a "small-button" maple wood spool bed which has inset wooden side locks. It is an early make. Age has hardened the wood, and, when recently refinished, it made up into a rare collector's item.

The old roll-back sofas, "Secretarys" and "canopy-posters," so aptly fitted to the big houses out of the cities, are quite in evidence in Alabama today. Of course at Huntsville and Mooresville and Athens, they are in the same houses in which they were placed more than 100 years ago. In Tuscaloosa and Demopolis they have been from the beginning. In many parts of the State they got out of the hands of the white folks into the cabins of the Negroes when "nice, yellowy, shiny" furniture became stylish. At the present time there is not a home of colored family in 20 miles of any city in Alabama which has not been invaded in the search for "antiques." Montgomery and Selma have been rich markets in recent years. The dealers in these towns have made much money in this field. I saw O'Hara on Monroe Street sell, less than 20 years ago, a rare mantle clock of a date in the 1700's for 10 cents.