

THE HERALD

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 1829, 36102

512 South Court Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

PUBLISHED AS A SERVICE TO ITS MEMBERS

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Montgomery County Historical Society - MCHS

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This issue is especially for:

Grove Court Apartments

Both *The Advertiser* and Channel 20 have gathered from neighbors and from officials recently, comments on the Grove Court Apartments and its future.

As an across-the-street neighbor, the future of these "at one time" outstanding, fashionable and popular quarters are important to the Historical Society.

One point we would like to add is that as long as the property is occupied by a building that carries with it some importance from the past, it stands to attract the attention of some future investor. It then has a chance of being turned around as a structure with pride and an appreciation for its recognition nationally in 1947 as well as a current desirable use.

If it becomes just another vacant lot, of which Montgomery

has an abundance, the chances of it becoming an ideal place to invest in a new building on Court Street would be pretty slim.

All of the turn-around buildings that have become lofts in downtown have been just that, not new construction, reuse of long vacant buildings of past prominence.

The present owner should either keep the building and grounds clean and neat or reduce the price to attract a buyer.

If the asking price is based on the property tax then the tax should be considerable, a situation that will be on going unless there is perhaps a contribution to a charity for a modest resale, a winner for all.

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Montgomery County Historical Society HERALD



VOLUME 22 NO. 3

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

SUMMER 2014

BAD BOYS GOT GOOD

When Veteran Payne About - Camouflage Not New - Negro Philosophy -
Market and Soft Drinks - Ants Clean House -
Gus and Luke - Smart Kids Turn Trick

By Albert Dillard
Montgomery Advertiser
Date unknown

With horns a foot long, glaring, blood-shot eyes, hack-sawed teeth, and who ate little boys alive, were my boyhood impressions of the veteran police officer, Wm. F. Payne, who joined the local police in 1866, and has seen continuous service.

The small boy then had no forms of amusement except such as he could make and, when such is the case, there is going to be some devilment on tap. Sling-shots, the river, crawling through sewers, tying cans to dog's tails, and other like diversions were about all we had to entertain us.



Typical scene of boys swimming in the river.

The two mounted men were W. F. Payne and Thomas Reid. They wore the "yankee blue" uniforms, and it fell to their lot to look after the doings of all the "gangs." Many were the thrilling stories of that day of being "chased by Old Payne."

MANY BOYS DROWNED.

There had been a number of boys drowned in the river and the two officers had instructions to break up bathing in the stream. On a beautiful Easter Sunday fully fifty of us were in the river just above the wharf when the two officers rode up on us coming from opposite directions. The gang was taken by surprise and the first we heard was -

"Don't shoot, Tom!"

"I will if he runs."

"Shoot him in the leg if you do - Don't kill him." - was the line of conversation. We knew they would kill us.

THE GANG CORALLED.

The entire gang was bunched

between the two mounted officers and marched to the door of the police station, where a parley ensued between Payne and Reid as to whether we should be put to scrubbing the police barracks or put to work on the chain gang. Tom Reid suggested that we be given one more chance, to which Payne objected, and, pointing to me, said: "I want him to tote water to the chain gang."

It was a terrible moment of suspense and more promises to be good, and lies were told in ten minutes than could be recorded in as many years. When it was finally agreed to give us one more chance, the human aeroplane came into being.

THE HANGMAN'S CONSULATION.

Mr. Payne never handled the boys by bluster or bluff, but had a soft, persuasive manner in which he could picture the enormity of our crimes and the terrible punishment that the law had provided, and that it was his

duty to inflict. The terrible seriousness of his speech was awful, and he gave us such consolation only as the hangman gives the condemned. He is still doing the same good work with the incorrigibles that was done with their grandfathers, and maybe live to regulate even another third generation.

MY FIRST CAMOUFLAGE.

Folks got the idea that all sharp practices and camouflages have come with modern ways. The old Negroes knew things that would make a Hindu snake charmer look like a dime with a hole in it. The hens were on a strike and eggs were scarce all about the plantation, and without a big dish of fried ham and a platter of eggs there could be no breakfast, and besides, the house, as usual, was chock full of guests. "Aunt Easter" imparted the egg situation to the hostess, who gave instructions to all the little Negroes to make a "rustle" and find eggs.

"Le'v dat to me, Mis," calmly replied "Aunt Easter."

With just a few eggs, a cup of sweet cream, a half to a spoon of cooking soda, Aunt Easter turned the trick. When the egg dish came on the table it resembled a huge yellow Zeppelin that was big enough to feed a multitude.

Camouflage. Just try it.

BEDS IN ANTS' NEST.

An original method of house cleaning practiced by the old Negro was to requisition the busy ant. Beds were taken down and scalded, then carried out and put around ants' nest. The little ant goes into every crevice and takes out every vestige of vermin life. The same practices were employed with mattresses,

pillows and quilts. It is purely a Negro practice but known to be a dead shot. Boiling water and poisons kill the living bug but the little ant destroys the egg. This custom is said to have been brought from Africa by the Negro and is still much in vogue.

SMART "KIDS" THEN, TOO.

The boy now who thinks his daddy didn't "know" things is in error. One of the sharp practices of the baseball clubs then was to select a prominent citizen and name the club for him. It was a just a form of "hold-up" for uniforms, bats and balls. One of my earliest recollections was when Mayor Faber got a "hold up" from the "Faber Tigers." He got tired of it, of course, and when he failed to produce, the club changed its name to the "Le-Grands." The wealthy merchant gave them an outfit (to the annoyance -----) and Bibb Street supplied drinking water for the entire downtown district. Huge cisterns in the back yards of the homes furnished cool, pure rain water.

The city water works were not built until 1873.

OLD JIM PORTER.

Old "Uncle Jim" Porter was a character as well defined as Falstaff or Iago. His mouth looked like it was made with a buzz saw and finished off with a garden rake. He wore his trousers padded and quilted like a football player, an osnaburg shirt and ragged shoes, with an old hat full of holes. But this old Negro had a cast of mind out of the ordinary. He drank a quart of liquor every day and ran a six mule farm. His credit was as good as a gold dollar and he could borrow money as high as several thousand dollars.

JIM'S FREE FEED.

When the Civil War closed he got John Dowe to back him and he was his banker for many years. When Jim came to town Mr. Dowe would send him back to the bakery kitchen and the old Negro would eat until he was loaded like a frog that had swallowed buckshot. This free feed went on for many years. On one visit Mr. Dowe was worried over some business matter and overlooked his usual courtesy. Jim says he sat around the store until he became furiously mad. He felt that Mr. Dowe had acted the inhuman monster. He got so infuriated that he went to a nearby baker shop and bought his dinner. Jim often told this story as illustrative of how one is rewarded for acts of kindness.

WHO JOHN DOWE WAS.

John Dowe was an Irishman who came to Montgomery in the early "O's." He opened a bakery and grocery on Montgomery street and made a fortune. He was one of the best men I ever knew. It was his rule to never go into court and he lost thousands of dollars by a refusal to ever bring suit no matter how just and fair the claim. He did lots of charity and the hungry never left his place without an abundance. His descendants are here and well known citizens.



John Dowe Home
Still standing at
Washington at Hull Streets

In House News

Memorials

Dr. Robert Adams
Mr. Charles A. Stakely

Mr. George F. "Bubber" Bailey
Mrs. Billie Claire Mangum

Mrs. Jane R. Cantey Edwards
Mrs. Jo McGowin

Miss Ansley Garrard
Dr. & Mrs. M. Bonner Engelhardt

Ms. Betty Grant
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Stakely

Mr. Richard R. Heinzman
Mr. James W. Fuller

Mr. Charles Humphries
The Hodges Family
Mr. James W. Fuller

Mrs. Carol Auerbach Jones
Mrs. Billie Claire Mangum
Mrs. Anne Richardson

Mr. McDowell Lee
Mrs. Anne M. Richardson

Mr. J. Fairley McDonald, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. M. Bonner Engelhardt
Mr. James W. Fuller
Mrs. Billie Claire Mangum

Mr. Mose W. Stuart III
Mr. John T. Dale
Dr. & Mrs. M. Bonner Engelhardt
Mr. James W. Fuller
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Hughes
Mrs. Billie Claire Mangum
Mrs. Jo McGowin
Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Nicrosi
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Rast
Mrs. Anne M. Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Stakely
Mr. & Mrs. Eucl A. Screws, Jr.

Mrs. Julia Parker Oliver
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Ball, Jr.
Ms. Eleanor Banister
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Boyd
Ms. Laura Crum
Dr. & Mrs. William B. Crum
Judge & Mrs. Joel Dubina
Mr. Ben F. Easterlin IV
Dr. & Mrs. M. Bonner Engelhardt
Mr. Arthur C. Fahlbusch, Jr.
Mrs. Emily Flowers
Mrs. Anita Folmar *
Mr. James W. Fuller
The Goizueta Family
Mr. & Mrs. Gary G. Grindler
Mrs. Fairley L. Haynes
Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Hester III
Mr. Ted Hester and
Ms. Amy Dunbar
Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. Hodges
Mrs. Anne D. King
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lawson, Jr.
Mrs. Mary Lynne Levy
Mrs. Carolyn S. Llorens
Mrs. James Loeb
Mrs. Billie Claire Mangum
Mr. Randolph A. Mayer
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest McConnell
Mrs. Jo McGowin
Judge & Mrs. Reese McKinney
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Owen
Mr. W. Ray Persons
Dr. & Mrs. McGavock Porter
Mrs. Sara D. Praytor
Mr. & Mrs. Michael M. Raeber
Mr. Ray Rawlings
Mrs. Anne M. Richardson
Mrs. J. M. Rittenour
Mr. Tony W. Rothermel
Mr. Richard A. Schneider
Mr. & Mrs. S. Adams Schloss
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Scott, Jr.
Mr. Robert D. Segall
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Stakely
Mr. & Mrs. Mason Stephenson
Mrs. Helen A. Till
The Rev. & Mrs. Mark E. Waldo
Dr. Harold L. Weatherby
Ms. Carol M. Wood

Mr. Harry Rives
Mr. Robbins Taylor

Judge John C. Tyson III
Mrs. Anne M. Richardson

Mr. Mason Watkins
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest McConnell

Commander Preston Watson
Mr. Dudley W. Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest McConnell

Mr. John A. Westcott
Mr. James W. Fuller

Mrs. Nancy P. Williamson
Dr. & Mrs. M. Bonner Engelhardt
Mr. James W. Fuller
Mrs. Jo McGowin
Dr. Harold L. Weatherby

Honors

Mr. James W. Fuller
Ms. Harriet E. Amos Doss
Mrs. Betty C. Keyes

Mr. Robert A. Young, Jr.
Mrs. Betty C. Keyes

Welcome to New Members

Mr. W. Boyd Anderson
Mrs. Jack Bryan
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Conner
Mr. William C. Goolsby
Mr. & Mrs. Barrie Harmon
Mrs. Dolores S. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Bonner Patrick
Mrs. Helen R. Rittenour
Mr. Philip Taunton
Mr. C. French Yarbrough, Jr.

Montgomery Museum of History Collections

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS OF MONTGOMERY MEMORABILIA, ARCHIVES THAT OTHERWISE MIGHT HAVE BEEN LOST.

Mr. Cecil McMillan donated a pressed glass compote that had been used at the Blue Moon Inn, a delightful and popular tea room that he operated for a number of years following **Miss Leila Dowe**.

Ms. Marjorie Wright donated a collection of **Col. Jeff Benton's** articles, "A Bit Of History"; articles on Montgomery from the 1990's from the *Montgomery Independent* and papers on Montgomery collected by **MS. Eva Mae Scott** and a collection of books and newspapers.

Mr. Jimmy Sellars donated a photograph of Miss Bab Anne Shepard, bride of Mr. Charles Harold Lawn with Matron of Honor, Mrs. Mollie Shephard Cottle and Maid of Honor, Miss Ida Belle Young, June 1, 1940.

Mr. Arthur F. Harman donated photographs of the Lanier band and ROTC in front of the school 1948-49; of George H. B. Mathews, the 1st; St. John's church 1852; and Jno. B. Fuller with Harman grandsons.

The Alabama Historical Commission has donated a water color by Tom Conner of the William Mathews Marks home, now razed, in the 500 block of South Perry St.

Mrs. Ann C. Reese donated a board game, "Lee vs. Grant, A Civil War Game."

Mr. Terry Ingram donated a phonograph recording of the Robt. E Lee H. S. Band with Johnny Long, Director.

Mrs. Helen A. Till donated a Jr. League of Mont. 1963 Las Vegas Follies program; 1926 Auto Road Map of Ala; War Ration books and tokens, among others.

Estate of Margaret K. McCall donated a large framed 1856 map of the State of Alabama.

Mr. Edward Godbold donated an article about Cadwallader Hawes Beale and "First Confederate Flag Ever, Floated on the Atlantic"

Mrs. Harold B. Nicrosi donated files and archives on Memorial Hospital in Montgomery, history of the Alabama Power Co. and other historical artifacts.

Mr. Michael Respass donated a photograph of Huntingdon College's first Men's Basketball team and the famous photograph of a sailor kissing a girl on VJ Day in 1945 in NYC that appeared on the cover of *Life Magazine*. The girl, was Madria Levy from Baldwin County, AL.

Mrs. Gibbs C. Davis donated articles on **Gen. Richard Montgomery** and **Major Lemuel Purnell Montgomery**; *A Guide to the City of Montgomery*, published by The Junior League of Montgomery; and a clipping of the replica of an engraving, *The Death of Gen. Montgomery at Quebec* in the Ordeman Shaw House in

Landmarks.

Jo McGowin donated a card invitation to a benefit by **Prof. G. F. McDonald** to be held at Concert Hall on Thursday Eve, Jan. 2, 1868. It was donated by **Mr. Frank Chappell** of Huntsville. She also passed on a copy of a story about **Prof. John M. Starke** donated by **Mr. & Mrs. Bolling Starke, Jr.**, the Professor's grandson.

Mr. & Mrs. William A. Hughes donated an interesting collection of photographs on the **Owen Ware Teague** House on the NW corner of Perry and High Streets. This fine house was cared for by the Alabama Chamber of Commerce under the leadership of **Mr. John Meriwether Ward**, Executive Director. It was furnished primarily with the antique furniture donated by **Mr. G. Arthur Cook**, Superintendent of the Boylston Mills. Much of this furniture remains there today as it is occupied by the Alabama Historical Commission, **Mr. Frank White**, Director.

EBay acquisition, *Report of The Treasurer of The State of Alabama for the Fiscal Year Ending Sept. 30th 1883 to the Governor.*

Mrs. Betty C. Keyes donated information on her uncle, **Robert E. Tidwell** who served as Alabama State Superintendant of Education from 1927-29.

Mr. Michael A. Falzone, Jr. donated two steel filing cabinets.

Donations to City Directory Book Binding

Mrs. Billie Capell
Mrs. Ladine H. Collins

Mr. Charles Humphries *
Dr. Marti A. Lamar

SOFT DRINK PLACES.

Only about three places in town sold soda water. The apparatus was a single goose neck fountain that connected with a charged carborated cylinder under the counter. The syrups were served from fancy bottles containing a pure fruit juice syrup made at home, and the serving glass was twice as large as those now in use. The whole outfit was worth less than a \$100, but the product was delicious. Mineral waters were in great favor and the druggists kept on tap waters from all the famous springs of the world. Quite a difference now with the \$5,000 fountain, which the public demands must be torn out every few years, and a new one put in, but well satisfied with chemical concoctions that would destroy the stomach lining of a bronze monkey. Modern progress, we call this.

MONTGOMERY'S HARDEST YEAR.

The hardest year that Montgomery has ever known was 1873 when both floods and drought hit it hard. From \$2.00 to \$4.00 an acre was a fair price for land and some of the finest black lands in the county were offered at \$5.00 with no takers. In that year the double building now occupied by the Sullivan Bank and Trust Company was on the market at \$6,000 and could have been bought for less. Interest on money about that time was from 18 to 25 per cent.

My recollection is that property on Bibb, Moulton, Catoma, Wilkinson and North Goldthwaite was valuable for residences and was the highest price property in the city. A home in that locality would have cost as much a half century ago as it would today.

[Today being in c 1916.]
END

The Bluestockings Ladies Literary Club

Article furnished by
Sallie W. Millsap

The Bluestockings was a ladies' literary organization that existed for a number of years beginning in 1923. The ladies were each responsible for writing and presenting a paper periodically to the group, somewhat like the men's organization, "The Thirteen," but perhaps on a more casual basis. A description of the group states that they "were organized to promote the discussion of literature and conversation." Below is a short paper by Mrs. George Mark Wood, Sr. (Mattie Pegues Wood) and the mother of George Jr. and his sister, Sallie Watkins Wood Millsap. Your editor has taken the liberty of identifying those mentioned with a more current relative or descendant. We are pleased that Sallie has passed this collection of memories on to us. Ed.

Dear Bluestockings:

I am sorry that I have to send my resignation from a club that has been for twenty-seven years a real part of life to me. I have loved Thursday afternoons. Who wouldn't enjoy the latest culture, and during tea discuss the latest gossip. I remember the first fall meeting when into a flower filled living room trailed Peggy Harris [Her father was Dr. Richard Wilkerson, Rector of St. John's, and she was the mother of Dr. Dick Harris] in ruby velvet, Nina Stone [mother of Mercer and Milton Stone] in black velvet and heirloom lace. Margaret Thorington [mother of Nootsie Kohn McCall] in a slinky black dress and a wide brim hat and Elizabeth Hooper [mother of Loyd Hooper, Jr.] in a power blue outfit that had a dramatic cape. I think of Corrie Hill's Isenbergs [Will Hill and Felix Tankersley's mother] with wonderful rhinestone clips. I remember the meet-

ing at Ethel Gayle's [Merrily, Gerry and Norman's mother] when Eleanor Williams read an erudite paper of the Paleolithic Age and was followed on the program by Mary McCall Henderson [Rivercomb from Troy and living in Virginia now] who tipped to the centre of the room in red slippers, loosened the chin strap of her helmet hat, held a long piece of fools cap paper out at arm's length and prefaced the reading of it with this announcement: "Copied word for word from the *Encyclopedia Britannica*."

There was a meeting in Mrs. Thigpen's parlor [Mrs. Charles Thigpen] - that year we were studying Southern literature - when Esther May [Holding, mother of Dr. Bruce Holding] had been assigned "Poetry of the Deep South" and she read a paper on Joan of Arc, explaining plausibly that she was doing so because she had already written it for the Sojourners. At another meeting Dorothy Cobbs [Bishop Cobbs' granddaughter] was to read a paper on Queen Victoria. I had written it for her and when she rose to read, the combination of bafflement in deciphering my hand writing and stage fright when she looked up and saw 68 eyes focused on her alone, caused her almost to faint. Weakly and in a little girl whisper she said as she handed it to me: "I can't do it." I started reading and then got out of breath. I was pregnant and air in the room had too many people drawing oxygen. I flung it in Elizabeth Thigpen's [Hill and daughter of Dr. Thigpen] lap and sat down disgraced.

I remember Dr. Hocking at Henrietta Hill's [Henrietta Hubbard's mother and wife of the Senator] predicting war would never come. We blandly agreed as we put on lip-stick or lighted cigarettes - except Margaret Curry [Mrs. John Curry] who quite disturbed the speaker dur-

continued on page 13

He Made First Bank Loan To Confederacy

By Cash M. Stanley

Editor, *The Alabama Journal (Montgomery Advertiser)* FEB. 6, 1949

SOME time ago Mr. G. Arthur Cook, cotton manufacturer and director of the First National Bank of Montgomery, showed me from his large collection a complete series of the bank notes issued by the Central Bank of Alabama, and signed "William Knox, President."

Later came a request to me from Mr. Knox Fitzpatrick, 1088 Rosewood Drive NE, Atlanta, for authentic facts about the life of his grandfather, William Knox, of Montgomery. This grandson, now 59 years old, is preparing a biography of his grandfather and descendants.

WILLIAM KNOX is one of the great figures of Montgomery history. Born Dec. 22, 1800, in Strabane, Ireland, he came first to Winchester, Tennessee, but in the 1830's came to Montgomery and established the Central Bank of Alabama. He erected a bank building on the corner now occupied by the Klein Building at Dexter Avenue and Court Square, and until his death June 9, 1869, was a man of distinguishing qualities.

He built an imposing mansion on South Perry Street where he lived for many years. In recent years the property was acquired by M. W. Stuart and the mansion was made a part of the structure known as Martha Stuart Apartments. The Knox mansion, called in its day

"Knox Hall", is completely surrounded and incorporated in the apartment building of today.

"I am enclosing," wrote Mr. Fitzpatrick, "a snapshot that I made as a boy of the Knox home before it was completely surrounded."

THE CENTRAL BANK OF ALABAMA of which Mr. Knox was president was one of the state's powerful financial institutions in the days before the Civil War. Mr. Knox made the first loan ever made to the Confederate government on February 26, 1861, the money being used to supply food and blankets to volunteers for the armed service.

Before the erection of his imposing home on South Perry Street Mr. Knox built a more modest residence at the corner of Bibb and Lee Streets. This was later occupied for a time by President and Mrs. Jefferson Davis during their residence in Montgomery and it became



The Central Bank of Alabama at 1 Dexter Avenue was later the Farley National Bank, Merchants and Planters National Bank and Klein & Sons Jewelers.

known as the White House of the Confederacy. It was afterwards moved to the state Capitol area and is now on the grounds of the Department of Archives and History.

MR. KNOX before coming to Montgomery had married Anna Octavia Lewis on Nov. 7, 1827 at Winchester, Tenn., and Mrs. Knox was a person of distinction in her own right. Her most notable charity and patriotic work in Montgomery was in the organization of the Ladies Aid Association for service in the Confederacy. She was a charter member of the historic Hospital Association of Montgomery and of the Ladies Memorial Association after the war. Mr. Knox was a heavy contributor to the causes which these organizations sponsored.

MR. and MRS. KNOX were the parents of 14 children, and their descendants, especially on the distaff side, have occupied prominent positions. One of their daughters, Myra Eulalie, married Thomas J. Semmes of New Orleans and became the grandmother of T. Semmes Walmsley, former mayor of New Orleans.

Older citizens of Montgomery relate many stories to illustrate the picturesque and original traits of some of the members and descendants of this numerous family. William Knox himself was a very strong and positive character. He was born and reared a Methodist but before his death he became a Roman Catholic.

The records which have been assembled by his grandson, W. Knox Fitzpatrick, show that Mr. Knox was a direct descendant of the first Lord Ranfurly dating back to the early part of the Thirteenth century.

AN EDITORIAL CLIPPING from a Montgomery paper, probably the *Advertiser*, of June 9, 1869, says:

the exact location of the residence in Montgomery which was occupied by Judge N. E. Benson in 1832. If the residence or its site were located we should have a fairly good line on the start of ivy in Montgomery.

Judge Benson was a very prominent man in Montgomery's early days. He was born in Spartanburg, S. C., in 1794 and died in Montgomery, Sept. 28, 1854 from an attack of yellow fever contracted in South Alabama on an official trip. For 25 years he was receiver of public money in Montgomery, was receiver of the land office, city intendant, member of the legislature, judge of the county court, and in 1847 he was elected mayor of Montgomery.

A NUMBER of men who read law in Judge Benson's office afterwards became prominent including Gov. Benjamin Fitzpatrick, Judge Henry Goldthwaite, Gov. George W. Towns of Georgia and U. S. Senator George Goldthwaite. Judge Benson was a brother-in-law of Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court John Archibald Campbell. Judge Campbell when he lived in Montgomery occupied the home on South McDonough Street near Grove Street, the residence of the late Col. Vince H. Elmore. Whether Judge Benson lived nearby is not established, but it is a section of the city where ivy flourishes.

JUDGE BENSON married Catharine Goldthwaite, and Judge Campbell married her sister, Ann Esther Goldthwaite. Both of these ladies were daughters of Thomas and Anne Goldthwaite, and sisters of Justice Henry G. Goldthwaite of the Alabama Supreme Court and United States Senator George Goldthwaite.

END

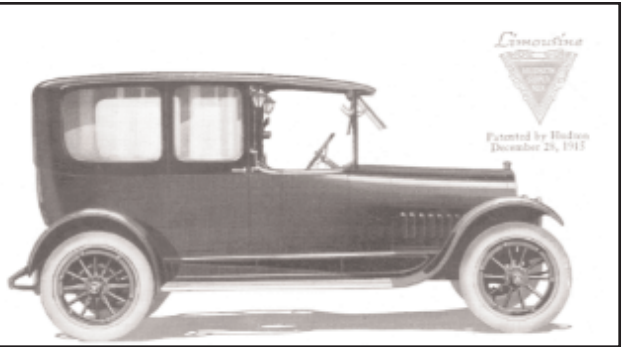
THIS FARMER SAYS AUTOMOBILE SOLVES MANY BIG PROBLEMS

Up-keep of Horse and Vehicle Cost More Than Does That of the Motor-driven Vehicle

The Montgomery Advertiser
AUGUST 6, 1916

"When we kept a horse and outfit," says a Montgomery county farmer who owns a Hudson Super-Six, "the first cost of which exceeded the cost of our car, the expense of maintenance of the horse outfit was more than a dollar a day right here on the farm.

"The horse had to be fed three times a day. It had to be groomed and exercised every day, whether we wanted to use it or not. Trips to the blacksmith were frequent.



Hudson Super-Six 1915
7 Passenger

Expense was never-ending.

"Added to this was our sympathy for the poor horse in very hot and very cold weather. Thought of our own comfort finally led us to purchase a Hudson Super-Six.

"Immediately our eyes were opened to the greater economy of the motor-driven vehicle. It did not have to be

exercised. It cost nothing when not in use. The upkeep was far less for a vastly greater amount of work than that of the horse. The car was always ready to go anywhere at any time and get us back home again, regardless of distance at fine speed. Where formerly a twenty mile drive was a hardship for the horse and ourselves, our Super-Six makes easy work of 100 miles or even 200 miles in a day. And we ride in perfect comfort.

"When we see our neighboring milkmen, butchers, fishmen and farmer friends speeding about on their trading errands in motor cars, doing their work quickly and covering much greater territory in less time and with less effort and expense than ever was possible with

horses, we congratulate ourselves on buying our trusty automobile. We wish we had realized its value long before we gave up our horse. We cannot look on the modern practical, useful, reasonably-priced automobile as a luxury. It has become the farmer's necessity for work and pleasure. Every farmer should own one."

END

When A Sprig Of Ivy Came To Montgomery

By C. M. Stanley
Editor-in-Chief, *The Alabama Journal*
April 21, 1957

IN SOME OF the older residence sections of Montgomery ivy has flourished for a longer time than our oldest citizens can remember. This is probably due to the big shade trees which protect the ivy from intense sun, for ivy doesn't like too much hot sunshine.

The original source of ivy in Montgomery is lost in the mists of the past, but some recent communications give an attractive clue.

It is possible that Montgomery's first ivy came from the grounds of Kenilworth castle, immortalized by the visit there of Queen Elizabeth I, chronicled in the stirring story "Kenilworth" by Sir Walter Scott. It is indicated that before any of this English ivy from Kenilworth castle reached Montgomery it resided for a time in Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott in Scotland, thence to the home of Washington Irving, in New York state, an original specimen reaching Montgomery through the hands of Washington Irving himself on a visit to Montgomery in 1832.

INFORMATION on the subject is contained in a recent letter to Robert Emmett Seibels of Montgomery from his cousin, Philip H. Trout, 502 King George Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia. This letter reads:

Dear Emmett:

"On page 70 of the November 1956 issue of the *National Geographic* magazine, there is an account of 'the charming little mansion... with its mellow stucco walls held in the green embrace of ivy brought from Sir Walter Scott's Abbotsford.' This describes the home of Washington Irving in Yonkers, N.Y.

"Family tradition as I have heard it, says that Washington Irving visited Montgomery and presented my grandmother, Mrs. Nimrod Earle Benson (Catharine Louisa Goldthwaite, 1800-1873) with a sprig of ivy which had been given him by Sir Walter Scott. The ivy is said to have come originally from Kenilworth Castle, England. When my mother built her new home in Staunton, Virginia, 1880, she brought a cutting of the ivy and planted it here. When I built a house in Roanoke, about 1914, I got a piece of the ivy

from Staunton and planted it at 502 King George Avenue where it is now growing. My two daughters planted cuttings at their home in South Roanoke.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT that cuttings from this ivy were planted at various places in Montgomery. In fact Irving apparently distributed clippings rather widely. If you can add anything to the above off hand, I would be glad for you to do so. Date of Irving's visit? Was he entertained at Judge Benson's house? Did he stay there overnight, etc? What is the street of address of where the Benson house stood, and what building is there now? Do you know of any published account of the occasion?

"Do not go to any trouble."
"Phillip"
(Phillip H. Trout.)

MR. SEIBELS in his efforts to answer some of the questions raised by Mr. Trout consulted Director Peter A. Brannon of the Department of Archives and History and established the date of Mr. Trout's ancestor's marriage in Montgomery and the date of Washington Irving's visit to the city. The information is embraced in this letter from Dr. [Mr.] Brannon:

"My dear Mr. Seibels:

"Referring to your request of several days ago, a notation in the *Montgomery Daily Post*, dated April 5, 1860, page 2, column 2, is copied from the Montgomery newspaper of 1821 which shows under the column, "Married," 'on the 19th day of January by William Graham Esq. N. E. Benson Esq. To Miss Catharine Goldthwaite, late of Massachusetts.'

"Another *Daily Post* entry, and this one shows Thursday evening May 24, 1860 is the statement: 'Washington Irving passed through Montgomery about the first of December, on his return to New York, from a tour of the west.' You will note the reference to 1832 as other statements show 1831. It so happened that we have the 1831 newspaper, and there is no mention of it, so the date [is] undoubtedly 1832. The paper does not mention Mr. Irving's visit to Mr. Benson and you will note that it states that he was returning from a tour of the west.

"With good wishes,
"Very truly,
"Peter A. Brannon, Director."

IT WOULD MAKE a very interesting historical sequel to this correspondence if we could state

"William Knox, who has been an invalid for a long time, passed away quite suddenly this morning. His loss will be regarded as a public calamity. Men like Willam Knox are scarce in any community, and when death removes such a man from a small city like this, the void is keenly felt...Mr. Knox long enjoyed the deserved reputation of being one of the ablest financiers of the South. He was the founder of the Central Bank, its largest stockholder and the only president it ever had. He acted for a long time as the agent of the Bank of Charleston. Before the War he was one of the wealthiest men in the South...

"The war broke his bank, and the loss of his slaves stripped him of affluence, but the loss of wealth is comparatively a small calamity to such men. Rich in the esteem of all men, who knew him, respected by all classes, and looked up to as a pattern for all men around him, he has borne the buffeting of fortune without depression, as he received its favors without ostentation or self glorification."

A LETTER written by Mr. Knox's granddaughter, Mrs. S. P. (Myra Semmes) Walmsley of New Orleans records these facts about him:

"He was brought to this country at the age of 19 by an uncle, John Henderson, who helped him financially to start his business career. He owned 17 plantations in the course of his life, but never less than five at one time. At the outbreak of the war he had sold all but two, Dunmore and Violet Hill. The latter his widow kept for some years after his death. It was always a show place. He was also president of William Knox and Company with a branch in New Orleans operating as Hill, McLean and Comany."

END

EFFORT TO KEEP DAVIS HOME ON PRESENT SITE PLANNED

Mrs. Belle Allen Ross Expresses Hope That Property Can Be Purchased; Hooper, Underwood and Dent Protest Against Destruction.

THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER
JULY 16, 1919



First White House
at original location Lee and Bibb St.
Built by Mr. William Knox

on right rear - Bibb St. Methodist
Episcopal Church

An effort to purchase the land on which the First White House of the Confederacy is located is expected to follow closely on the heels of the purchase of the building by the First White [House] Association of Montgomery. Following the announcement in *The Advertiser* Tuesday morning that the old home of President Jefferson Davis had been bought, hundreds of persons expressed the hope that the house could be kept on the property where it stood when the President of the Confederate States occupied it.

A joint committee of the House and Senate appointed Monday to prevent demolition of the house if possible found there was no work to be done along the direct line for which the committee was appointed because of the purchase of the house by the First White House Association. It is expected that the committee in conjunction with the First White House

Association and other public-spirited bodies will turn its attention toward the purchase of the property.

"The first White House of the Confederacy will not be demolished. It is now the property of the First White House Association of Montgomery. The land on which the house is situated is still owned by the heirs of the Render estate, but it is hoped that it can also be purchased and the building kept where it was originally built and now stands."

This statement was made by Mrs. Belle Allen Ross, secretary of the First White House Association, Tuesday night. A one-story garage is being constructed on the premises, but this building will in no wise cause the house to be torn down, Mrs. Ross said. The association has no limited time in which to remove the building.

A meeting of the First White House Association was held Tuesday afternoon but no information was given out regarding the business transacted.

CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY.

Senator Briscoe, chairman of the joint legislative committee appointed by the House and Senate to see what could be done toward saving the building, announced Tuesday night that his committee would meet with the First White House Assoc-

iation Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock to discuss the matter.

The committee was scheduled to meet with the Montgomery City Commission Tuesday, but owing to the absence of some of its members the meeting was postponed. Members of the committee said Tuesday night that so far no action had been taken.

The fight to save the historic building known as the "First White House of the Confederacy," has attracted attention all over the South and in many parts of the nation. The Confederate Veterans organization in Alabama has heartily commended, through General C. W. Hooper, commander of the Alabama Division, the movement and the Alabama delegation in Congress has also approved of the undertaking. *The Advertiser* received Tuesday night a letter from General Hooper of Selma expressing the sentiments of the organization on the subject, and of a telegram from Washington giving the views of the Alabama delegation. In his letter General Hooper said:

GENERAL HOOPER'S LETTER

"I have thought sometimes that the people of the South were sleeping on their right. The salvation of the world today is due to the principles promulgated by the Southern Confederacy. The South should not hesitate to claim that the cause for which she fought, was not and never will be lost. The first White House of the Confederacy, or rather, the first home of true democracy, should be saved as a monument to the patriotic wisdom of the noble men of the South, who not only first promulgated the principles of world wide democracy, but who fought, bled and died for the same form of government and same principles of life which the world finally saw were

just and right. The sons and grandsons of those who died and of those who lived and endured reconstruction, rallied as a man.

"The cause for which the Confederacy stood has finally prevailed. The patriotic freedom loving men of today should save this monument as an inspiration to all those individuals and to all those nations that are willing to sacrifice for the hope of humanity. This first White House was once the home of the greatest martyr the world has ever known, excepting Jesus Christ. This is heresy to the ignorant and to those who still hate the South. Mr. Davis was called unanimously against his will to the charge of a nation without one dollar, not a gun, no army, no ships, no quartermasters department, no commissary, no hospitals, no Red Cross. He held the confidence and love of all the people. In all the annals of history [no one has] accomplished so much with so little.

"When overwhelmed by unnumbered hordes, called largely from foreign countries, principally from Germany, Mr. Davis, like the man of sorrow and acquainted with grief, was crucified for his people."

"If I forget thee, oh Southern Confederacy, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth.

"Yours truly,
C. W. HOOPER,
Commander
Alabama Division
U. C. V."

SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN

The approval of the Alabama delegation in Congress was contained in the following special to the *Advertiser*:

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

July 15. - The report that a movement has been started to preserve the old Jefferson Davis mansion at Montgomery has met with a hearty response from the Alabamians in Washington. Senator Bankhead is not here, having gone to French Lick, Ind., for a few days, but Senator Underwood, who advocates the project, is sure it also would meet with the favor of his colleague.

"This old mansion," said Senator Underwood, "is one of the monuments around which the traditions of the people are grouped and without such traditions a people cannot grow great. I sincerely trust this old building may be preserved as an inspiration to the people of the South, by whom it is held in hallowed memory. It would be a great pity if it were torn down, as so many of the historic houses of the South have been, and I hope the movement to save it will prove successful."

"I know that old mansion well," said Congressman Dent, "and want to add my protest to the movement to tear it down. *The Advertiser* and the ladies are to be commended for the project they have launched. It is worthy of success and you may add that if a fund is to be raised for the preservation of this building, I will be glad to be one of the contributors to it. Not only should it be saved from destruction but, in my opinion it should be acquired, restored and preserved for future generations."

Congressman Oliver also urges that the building should be preserved, as does Congressman McDuffie, the belief being that other sections of the State would join with the people of Montgomery to attain this object.

END

BAR_B_QUE - continued from page 7

and requests for a repeat next year were heard. We were fortunate to have had a break from the sweltering heat to make a most pleasant evening for an outdoor function.

Listed below are hopefully a correct list of those attending. There were others who could not be with us but donated toward our fund raiser which we sincerely appreciate.

Christy & Rich Anderson; Jean & Mark Anderson; Georgia & Robert Armstrong; Betty Brislin, Marjorie Dubina & Helen Till; Rev. Gary Burton; John & Gypsey Capell; Bob Cope; Ladine Collins; Lanny & Julie Crane; Jeanne Drummond; Sam Engelhardt; Bonner Engelhardt; Guerry Edwards; Dae Miller; Leigh & Lewis Figh; Mary & Henry Frazer; James Fuller; Betty & Sue Godbold; Jean Goodwyn; Carol Goodwyn; Raye & Rusty Gregory; Susan Haigler; Dubo Harper; JoAnn & Lester Hall; Carol & Robert Henry; Luther & Katherine Hill; Dick & Carol Hodges; Pat & Thornton Clark; Justice & Mrs. Perry Hooper; Fletcher Hyde; Seaborn Kennamer; Lee Barnes; Sandra & David Larson; Mary Lynne Levy & guest; Valerie Lee; Carolyn Lightfoot; Mary Ella Marshall; John & Pat Moorehouse; Kathie & Mac McLeod; Jo McGowin; Steve & Lila McNair; Richard Moore; Sandra & Bonner Patrick; Judith Paterson & Mark Grable; Betty Pouncey; Terri & Jack Owen; Jack & Jerry Pickett; Ray Rawlings; Ann Reese; Burke Schloss; Bob & Cindy Seibels; Kitty & Winston Sheehan; Allen & Elizabeth Sheehan; Bill Stancik; Jeannine Svenson; Gerald Thompson; Anne Tidmore; Rena Alice Underwood & Robert Boyd; Helen Wells; Hal Weatherby; Chris Setzer; Ed Woodson; Glenda & John Yelverton.



Center: Bob Cope, Rusty Gregory, Winston Sheehan, David Larson. Right: Jack Pickett carving "A J P."

"BABY FOR SALE" MAY BE SEEN ON SQUARE

Shriners Take Charge of Little Fellow to Find Good Home For Him

THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER,
SUNDAY, MAY 8, 1921

There will be a novel auction sale at the Shrine Country Fair at which a young, winsome baby will be sold to the highest bidder. The infant's parents are unable to support it, and it has been placed in the hands of the Shriners for sale to some suitable party who will give it proper care.

Arrangements have been made with Nettles and Moorer, 2 Court Square, to take care of the baby Sunday so that those interested in obtaining it may have an opportunity to take a look and ask any questions which they may desire as to parentage or any other matter. All interested parties are requested to call in person and see the baby before making an offer.

The Shrine committee has already received a number of bids but they prefer to wait until everyone has had the privilege of seeing the baby, being anxious that it should go to a home where it will receive the best of care.

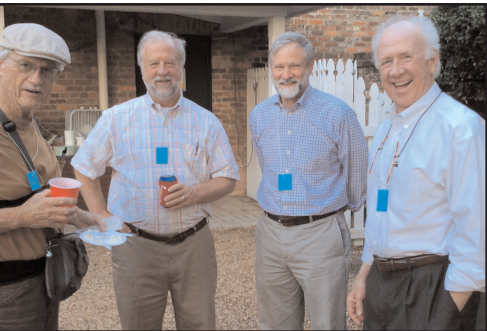
Work is being pushed rapidly in preparing the city auditorium for the Fair which begins Monday night and continues throughout the week and corps of carpenters were busy until a late hour Saturday night in getting things ready for the event.

As a result of their efforts, the auditorium has already taken on a new appearance and is perhaps more elaborately decorated than ever before.

There will be booths encircling the entire arena of the auditorium for the dispensing of red lemonade, ice cream and other good things to eat such as are in demand on these occasions.

A strong feature of the fair will be the concert to be given each evening by the 60-piece Shrine band. Various unique stunts have also been arranged for the amusement of the public.

Arrangements have also been made for a street parade which will be held each afternoon, headed by the Shrine band. The committee in charge is working to make the fair one of the most enjoyable affairs of its kind ever staged in Montgomery.



Montgomery to Control
Sea Resort
Plans big resort, St. George's Island
Montgomery Advertiser, 1916

Get'um while they're hot. Ed.

I take pleasure in announcing that the \$250,000 with which to purchase the entire St. George's island had been secured except for only \$30,000.

We are buying this magnificent sea island at only \$25.00 per acre, including about 30 cottages, club house, docks, board streets and other improvements, and there are 10,000 acres.

As soon as we secure subscriptions for the balance of \$30,000 necessary to purchase the island, we will incorporate, elect officers and establish headquarters in Montgomery.

We will subdivide into ten lots per acre and sell at \$100.00 per lot. Investor, figure the profit, and get in on the proposition quickly!

We will run a special train over the A. C. L. August 23, 1916, to St. George's Island that all interested in securing this year-round resort for Montgomery may visit the island personally.

Round trip fare will be at \$4.00. Be sure and take the trip, and your bathing suits, for the finest surf on the gulf.

Other cities have their own pleasure resort by-the-sea, why not Montgomery? This island will retail in lots for \$1,000 per

acre. Buy now, while on the ground floor at \$25.00 per acre. Take from five to one hundred acres and help to make St. George's Island Montgomery's play ground.

This will boost Montgomery as fifty-two week-end excursions will be run from this city to the island every year, bringing the sea pleasures in reach of all. Call on me at the Exchange hotel for free literature on the island, and let us talk it over.

WILLIAM L. POPHAM, promoter, author and lecturer, says that Montgomery is certain to gain control of St. George's Island, on the Gulf of Mexico, to be used as a resort.

The company proposed will incorporate under the name of the Montgomery Sea Island Company, and have a capital of \$500,000. Headquarters of the company will be in Montgomery. There will be fifty week-end excursions each year. Mr. Popham says he expects to take a hundred thousand of the stock of the new company and had assurances that he will be able to complete raising the remainder.

WILLIAM LEE POPHAM, Promoter
St. George's Island

ST. GEORGE ISLAND

The following is taken from the Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

St. George is a barrier island 28 miles long and 1 mile wide at its widest point. St. George Island is adjacent to Cape St. George Island, also known as Little St. George Island. It is connected to the mainland at Eastpoint, Florida, by the 4 mile long St. George Island Bridge over Apalachicola Bay. Nearby towns include Eastpoint, Carrabelle, and Apalachicola. The Island is informally divided into three regions: the Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park; a public strip of restaurants, bars, small businesses, homes and public beach; and a private, gated, highly exclusive housing community with its own airstrip that includes some of the most expensive multi-million dollar beach homes along the Gulf of Mexico.

The island was first inhabited by Creek Indians between the 10th and 15th centuries who were all killed off by disease. During WW II it was used as a practice range for B-24 bombers from nearby Apalachicola.

The island is composed mostly of sand dunes with sea oats and pine trees. The west end of the island is known as the St. George Plantation. It's over 1,200 acres with 24/7 security and accessible only to owners and their rental designees.

So what happened to this great opportunity? If someone knows, please let us know.

River Boat May
Return to Traffic
Peerless Suggested For Service
Between Mobile and Montgomery
*THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER,
MONDAY, JULY 16, 1917*

(Special to the *Advertiser*.)
MOBILE, ALA., July 15.

It is understood here that owners of the steamer Peerless are negotiating with the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce in respect to re-establishing boat service for passengers and freight on the Alabama River between Montgomery and Mobile, stopping for freight and passengers, of course, at Selma.

The Peerless was put out of commission some time ago through an accident to her wheel, which necessitated the boat laying up for repairs. The repairs are now finished and the Peerless is in condition to begin regular trips between Montgomery and Mobile, if the business men of two cities can make satisfactory arrangements with the owners of the steamer.

CONFERENCE IS HELD.

A conference recently was held in the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce between M. M. Caskie, the traffic manager of the chamber, business men of Montgomery, and representatives of the Peerless, in regard to putting on a river service at an early date, but no definite arrangements were made at that time.

It is said that the owners of the Peerless are now ready to put on the service if it can be established that the service would not be a losing proposition.

BURKE NOT APPROACHED.

There is one other line that might put a boat in service between this city and Montgomery, which is the Burke Transportation Company's Line, but Captain Burke has not been approached regarding the matter, he says,

"We have no representative in Montgomery conferring over rates incident to inaugurating a steamboat service between that city and Mobile," said Captain Owen Burke, manager of the Burke Transportation Company, today, when asked as to the proposition.

"Our boats are operated to Selma, and with the exception of one trip we made to Montgomery about a year ago, for a load of fertilizer, we have confined our operations to Selma. The Peerless has heretofore made the Montgomery service up to the time of the recent accident. I know nothing of the plans of those operating the Peerless."

SUMMER FUND
RAISER
BAR-B-QUE
IN JULY
BIG SUCCESS

July the 17th found a collection of over a hundred gathered at the Montgomery County Historical Society's Bar-B-Que Fund Raiser. An outstanding buffet of the perfectly prepared pork and trimmings were supplied by Smoking S Bar-B-Que of Wetumpka. Bluegrass music lent the perfect atmosphere for the occasion. Tables and chairs were spread from the back yard to inside for those wanting air conditioning in the dining room and Big Room upstairs.

A special feature of the evening included the attendance of three descendants of the three men who played an outstanding part in the history of the Figh-Pickett Barnes School House: John P. Figh, contractor, who built the house for his family in 1837; Col. Albert J. Pickett who purchased the house in 1858, known for his outstanding *History of Alabama* written in 1852 and Prof. Elly R. Barnes, prominent educator and his Barnes School for Boys, 1905 to 1942.

The roof of back porch of the house is supported by three columns and each of these men have had their initials carved by their descendant on one of the columns as a lasting recognition of their importance.

Representing Mr. Figh was his great grandson, Louis H. Figh III; representing Col. Pickett was great grandson Jack Pickett and representing Prof. Barnes were Seaborn Kennamer and Lee Barnes. The carvers did an outstanding job of their carving that will mark the names of these men preserving their contribution to Montgomery's history.

Prizes of copies of antique prints and historical paper weights were distributed to those with lucky numbers. Everyone seemed to enjoy himself

continued on page 15

Interesting Facts About the Hobbie Brothers

Contributed by Billie Capell and James Fuller

Several issues ago we published a photograph furnished by Minnie Lee Richardson Gill to find who might identify the men pictured. One was identified as Mr. John Burton, grandfather of Ken Upchurch, Jr. He was a salesman with H. M. Hobbie Wholesale Grocery Co. That identified the boss who was standing in front as Mr. Henry M. Hobbie, president of that business.

A man named, Asbury Martin was born in Columbia, S. C. and moved to Montgomery about 1849 following the death of his wife, Alice. He found that he was unable to care for his infant son, Henry, and the child was adopted by Simeon and Rebecca Hobbie. Mrs. Hobbie changed the child's middle name to Martin.

Henry was married to Leonora Jackson in 1872 in Montgomery. They were the parents of four children, Richard (1878), Henry (1880), Jackson (1884), and Nonie (1900), each with the continued middle name of Martin.

When young, Henry Hobbie was a well-known wholesale grocer, an extensive cotton planter, and a director of the Central of Georgia Railroad and the First National Bank of Montgomery.

All three of the Hobbie men were leaders in Montgomery and successful businessmen. A list of their companies is shown in the right hand column. As the Depression grew worse, they were forced to close several

companies but they retained many other interests. The Fourth National Bank was one of the organizations that closed in 1930. Jackson Hobbie was elected Tax Collector of Montgomery County in October 1935, an office he served for 23 years. Richard Hobbie was appointed State food administrator by President Woodrow Wilson during World War I and was manager of the Alabama State Docks in Mobile during Governor Bibb Graves' administration. He was also a director of the First National Bank of Montgomery and the Alabama Power Company.

It was a well known fact that after the failure of the Fourth National Bank in 1930, Mr. Jack Hobbie was one of the very few business men who paid back each of his creditors every cent the Hobbies owed. It would be difficult to find this kind of honesty and responsibility today.

The Fourth became the Alabama National Bank after the crash and many years later it became the AmSouth Bank of Alabama.

* * * * *

The following are the listings from the Montgomery City Directories roughly for the years from 1923 to 1931 showing the employment for the three Hobbie brothers. Their involvement with these various businesses probably indicates investments in assisting those firms during a difficult time or as a new venture.

HENRY M. HOBBIE 1880-1944

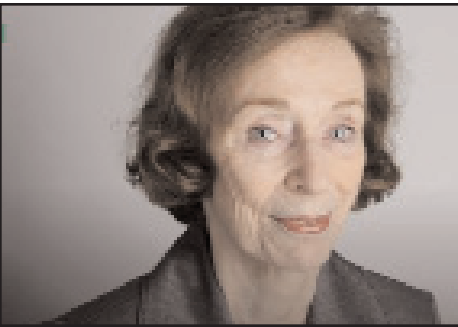
President
Montgomery Buick Co.
President
Hobbie Motor Car Co.
President
H. M. Hobbie Grocery Co.
President
Fourth National Bank

JACKSON M. HOBBIE 1884-1959

Vice President
H. M. Hobbie Grocery Co.
Vice President
Interstate Oil Co.
Vice President
Capital Chemical Co.
Vice President
Empire Laundry Co.
Vice President
Hobbie Motor Car Co.
Treasurer
S. D. Winn Cigar Co.
Secr.-Treas.
Southern Bldg. Supply Co.

RICHARD M. HOBBIE 1878-1940

Secr.-Treas.
S. D. Winn Cigar Co.
President
Hobbie-Flowers Motor Co.
Secr.-Treas. -
H. M. Hobbie Grocery Co.
Vice President
Southern Bldg. Supply Co.
Secretary
Roquemore Gravel Co.
Secr.-Treas.
Buick Cars & White Trucks
Secr.-Treas.
Hobbie Motor Car Co.



Julia Parker McDonald Oliver
1928- 2014

Judy was a long-time childhood friend of mine and her passing was difficult to accept.

I visited her within the last weeks of her life and we laughed and talked about old friends that she is probably visiting with now. We talked of her maternal family, the Davids, their connections and her father's successful business. It was a bitter sweet visit, each of us knowing it would probably be our last. Good memories.

She was a true friend of the Historical Society as was her late husband, Tommy Oliver. They both served in many capacities that contributed positive benefits to the organization.

She was a long-time member of the Board and lent her sound advice and council to many meeting discussions.

When she first kindly agreed to read and find the many errors that your editor missed in *The Herald*, with her academic talents as an accomplished writer, I felt that perhaps "proof reader" was not the title following her name. The next issue found her name under "Copy Editor."

Having met Producer Richard Zanock's assistant, Brenda, on set

at "Big Fish" movie filming, I asked Judy for copies of her novels to pass on for exposure to one of the big names in the film world. Sadly those efforts were unfruitful.

It is hard to believe that she is not in the beautiful and comfortable house on Fernway.

Her talent and personality will be missed.

Our deepest sympathies go to her daughters, her son, sister and grandchildren.

jwf

Bluestockings

continued from page 3

ing tea but not the rest of us who left her with him as we drifted into little groups to discuss our flower beds and our children.

Do you remember the meeting in General Curry's home when Miss Margaret [educator, Margaret Booth, a frequent European traveler] talked of "The Great Adolph Hitler" and how Eleanor Curry [moved to California] sat hypnotized listening to the antithesis of what her husband said? -- I see Myra Bell [Mrs. Walter Kennedy, Carol Johnston's mother] like a little boy in a navy suit and white blouse with a Peter Pan [son of Copper Pan] collar and a little turned down hat: Elizabeth Stevenson [mother of Priscilla and Susan Fritz] in her Philadelphia gray suit, her eyes twinkling and wit about to spill: Elizabeth Crommelin Nicrosi Gunster [mother of Charles and Bill Nicrosi and their sister, Betty Robison] usually late arriving but quick with repartee: Virginia Bragg Tyson [mother of the twins and John C.] with her lush pink blouse and amethyst jewelry. I hear Emmie Danziger's [mother of Anne King and Rebecca Snell] beautiful voice singing as it talks.

All about these pictures drift varied perfumes and the remembrance of chicken salad sandwiches and mocca cakes. The remembrance too of shifting moods. For example when Esther [Esther Mahoney, Mrs. William, social columnist] entered, herself a leading lady to write romance - we all turned into actresses rehearsing for the Sunday show. May Stringfellow [Mrs. Horace Stringfellow, granddaughter-in-law of St. John's rector] giggled, moistened her lips, then turned her perfect profile. Ellen Gunter's [wife of Charles Rogers and mother of Ellen Trotman, wife of Bubba Trotman] blue eyes became winsome violets under tulle. Will Aileen [Mrs. Capers Perriman] drew in her breath and became the figure in a show case exhibiting the best costume. Juanita [Mrs. Boyd McGehee, mother of Melissa Hodges] was a smiling Madonna.

"Skinny" Elizabeth Anderson [Screws, John and his sister, Jo Screws McGowin's, mother] leaned over the precipice and Julia Garland ["Skinny's" sister, daughters of Chief Justice John C. Anderson] tossed her head as she caught the ball. --Then Julia Dozier [Jane Harris and Pat Dozier's mother] read the minutes and again the club became individuals each defined as eccentricity. We forgot to pose. --Later years we hungrily listened to Mrs. Murphy [local fortune teller] predict careers and fortunes for us who were lifted for the moment out of lethargy and half believed we yet would startle the world - or Montgomery and I looked around at "the girls," each with a specimen camellia pinned on her shoulder. -- So many memories pass in pictures through my mind - happy ones, funny ones, and sad ones, fussy ones. For all these which add up to a life time of Thursday pleasure, I thank you. Sincerely, Mattie Pegues Wood.

knew! but so loving and gentle. We went to school together, every morning; she would come slipping along like a little mouse, around the corner into Perry street, where I lived then, and away we would travel to the institute. Anna married, Dan Robinson, Mr. Seth Robinson's son. They lived in that quaintly pretty house on the northwest corner of Perry and Alabama. You know the edge of the brick foundations to the front porch are flush with the sidewalk, and the porch is away up above your head. Yes, I believe Dr. Lamar Law owns the place now.

Here I am, following Anna Crommelin up Perry street - and school had been out this many a day! About the old Crommelin home. It is a fine example of the basemented house. The gate swung open between hedges of snowy spirea, and the wide walk, bordered with every flower that would grow - and they all grew! - led up to the wide porch, level with the walk, a fancy lattice screened this lower porch while wide easy stairs within the hall, led upward to the real apartments. This, you know, was borrowed from our friends and neighbors down in New Orleans and Mobile. I must admit there is a touch of sadness that comes over me, when I think of that dear old home; all are dead and gone, the "young birds" have flown the nest, and now it is a desolate relic of a mighty past.

A past of conquest, of achievement, of splendid hospitality, of a regime as unique and brilliant in its way, as that of France, under the Louises, yes, one may roll one's eyes about the horrors of slavery, but I have seen the freedmen much more agonized in his freedom than in those days when the Crommelin

house was in its prime. Oh, no, I would not restore conditions, but I have lived though the storm and stress of violent revolution, which is opposed to God's plan. I love to think of the prayers and hymns and happy laughter that have gone up, like incense, from that old home. The merry voices of children and children's children - Robinsons and Crommelins, and always the undertone of the deep, rich voice of the slave or his descendants!

But, the old house looked weary and worn by the years; so am I; Old Home ! Let us go to rest!

END

HOME BUILDING BOOM
IS REPORTED IN
CAPITOL HEIGHTS
The Montgomery Advertiser
August 24, 1919

Home building in Capitol Heights, on a big scale will begin this week, according to Clyde F. McLendon, real estate dealer of that suburb. His page ad which appeared in *The Advertiser* Thursday told of the plan he has inaugurated to meet the demands made for good homes that can be built at just a little more than what it used to cost to build homes.

The majority of the homes will be built on Madison Avenue, the main boulevard leading from Morningview Floral Gardens direct to the heart of the city, though some of the homes will be built elsewhere in Capitol Heights, according to statements of Mr. McLendon. This boulevard is now being made more beautiful, and it will be re-graveled at

a very early date, a crew of workmen now being engaged in preparing the avenue for graveling.

There are very few first class homes in the city on the market, as there has been unusual buying this year, nearly all those houses that are for sale needing repairs to such an extent that the price of the house plus the necessary repairs totals the price for the property too high in face of the fact that a new home built where you want it to suit your own individual plans can be constructed at a very reasonable cost on the plan of building ten or more.



In the foreground is the Pinckard House, now the location of the Louis Armstrong Park, beyond is the VanPelt home now at Madison Avenue. Florida Street not yet cut through. Street car track on right, Madison Avenue gravel street.

According to his statement in the advertisement, those families who have not all the required cash to pay for their homes, the McLendon Realty concern has arranged to carry deferred payments at 6 per cent interest and for as long a period as may be desired. This plan will enable many young couples to begin home owning in a new home built as the young Madam may wish and enable them to convert rent money into their own home.

The article below from a Montgomery paper, July 1916, relates to another of the Hobbies' enterprises, one that is still obvious at our popular River Front Park.

UNIT OF ELEVATORS
FOR HOBBIES WILL
BE BUILT AT ONCE
Permit Issued for \$20,000
Construction Near Union Depot:
Will Be 16 Units When Completed

A permit was issued at the city engineer's office at the city hall Wednesday to Hobbie Brothers for the erection of a \$20,000 grain elevator near the Union depot. The architect will be Fred Ausfeld, and the contractors are Burrell Construction company of Chicago.

This is one of sixteen units that are to be built. The total costs of the elevators when finally complete will be approximately, a hundred thousand dollars, and they will be of sufficient capacity to accommodate all boats that may dock with grain at this point at any one time.

This first section of the elevators will be completed in time to handle the grain crop of this season. With such facilities for handling grain, Montgomery is expected to become the center of distribution for the grain of this section of Alabama. With an open water way to the gulf and cheap freight rates, it is believed Montgomery will be one of the largest grain centers in the South.

Henry Hobbie said Wednesday night that when the sixteen units of the elevator are finally put in, no ship would hold too much grain for handling here. He further said that it may be some time before all the sixteen units will be built, much depending on the demands made on the first unit.

End

Eighteen Victims
Of Rabid Dogs
Arrive

Ten From Dothan, Seven
From Enterprise and One
From Headland

The Montgomery Advertiser
July 23, 1919

A total of eighteen patients, 10 from Dothan, 7 from Enterprise, and one from Headland, Ala., arrived for anti-rabies treatment at the Pasteur Institute Tuesday morning. A majority of the victims of rabid dogs were little children ranging in age from 6 to 12 years. The limited facilities at the institute, are greatly crowded, but the most careful attention is being given each individual. Some of the little folks were inclined to be frightened, but Dr. Salter soon had them all reassured.

TEN FROM DOTHAN.
The names of 10 Dothan children, all of whom were attacked by the same dog, follow: Ralph Hart, Douglas Harrison, Ralph Holland, J. V. Jordan, Mary Saliba, Russell Wynn, Laurence Wynn, Carlton Harrison, Freddie Brown and J. W. Hart. Miriam Granberry of Headland, also arrived during the morning hours. It is stated that children who were bitten at Dothan were all playing in the street when the crazed dog ran among them, snapping, biting and tearing at them as they fled in all directions. Most of the children were bitten on the legs and arms while the flesh of others is torn in several places.

SEVEN FROM ENTERPRISE.
Practically all of the children arrived on the same train, accompanied by their parents or other relatives.

End

Mad Dog Stirs
Dexter Avenue

Bites Small Boy On Leg

Pedestrians on Avenue Chased
into Stores and up Stairways -
Policeman Kills Animal

The Montgomery Advertiser
date unknown

Attacked by a big Newfoundland dog, supposedly mad, the calf of his legs severely torn by the animal, and thrown from the bicycle which he was riding down Dexter avenue at 8:30 o'clock Monday morning, was the experience of the 12-year-old son of Comer Wilson, a railroad engineer, who lives on Columbus avenue.

As the boy picked himself up in front of Spann's drugstore, the dog leaped for others passing, chasing several into stores and up the nearest stairways before he was finally killed, near the corner of Decatur and Dexter by Mounted Officers Sledge and Marshall. The head was cut off by Motorcycle Officer Coker and taken to the Pasteur Institute to be examined for signs of hydrophobia.

The police are now looking for the owner of the dog. It was a handsome specimen, which wore a collar but bore no tag, or name of any sort thereon.

That Montgomery is overrun with worthless curs, which are a menace to the lives of the citizens, especially the children, is the opinion of the officers at police headquarters. Almost daily the officers are called upon to shoot a dog in some portion of the city and as the warm days approach, danger of hydrophobia increases.

It is declared that there is no tax on dogs in Montgomery now and no requirement regarding them for the protection of citizens.

End

Below is a copy of a very interesting letter I received from Eddie Pattillo regarding the article by Hannah Cozart in the last issue of *The Herald*. I appreciate his comments and am pleased with the additional related historical facts he shares with us.

Thank you, Eddie, for your kind comments and additions. They are appreciated. Ed.

Edward Pattillo
Antiques and Fine Arts Consultant

15, July 2014

Mr. James Fuller
P. O. Box 1829
Montgomery, Alabama 36102

Dear James:

I was fascinated by the memoir by Hannah McIntyre Cozart in the Spring issue, for several reasons. Her daughter, Toccoa, worked as a “finder” (that’s as good a word as any) for Dr. Thomas M. Owen when he was building the collection for the Archives and History. Her letters and notes are all through its files. She would hear of a historical treasure and then plant herself on the doorstep of the owner, asking questions and taking notes and then finally begging the item as a gift to the collection. Many of the rarities there are due to her. Katharine Elsberry Steiner and her generation called Toccoa “Miss Tucky.”

And regarding the article itself, please note on page 5: “ . . . to the Norman Bridge Road, and out to the fine new mansion of Mr. Peter Mastin, called Fairview, the avenue leading up to the house was a quarter of a mile long and set with cedar trees.” This house was at the end of what is now Mastin Lane, and there are pictures of it all over town, a striking neo-classical building. Mastin had bought the property, 160 acres of farmland, from the early settler John Gindrat, who had a residence there, likely a pioneer “I” house, plus a house downtown. Mr. Gindrat abandoned Montgomery altogether in the 1830’s and moved to Franklin, Macon County, where, with Andrew Alfred Dexter, he had a vision of making Franklin into a commercial center on the railroad, which did not go through the nearest towns, Tallassee and Tuskegee. Many have declared that the Mastin house was the Gindrat house, but once again Mrs. Cozart asserts that it was built by Mastin, as does Robertson’s *Recollections* and so has Bob Gamble for years, though unheard. This ought to settle the matter.

She moves on to the “home of Mr. Percy Gilmer, the brother of ‘Aunt Sophie Bibb,’ . . . still standing . . . south of the Woman’s College.” This was actually Peachy Gilmer, not Percy, and his house indeed still stands, today called Edgewood. It has been reported that the house was built in 1821 for Zachariah Watkins, but that is surely the first land acquisition, not the date of construction. The property was bought by Peachy Gilmer in 1855, who likely built the house. Peachy Gilmer was married to the widow of Col. Jet Thomas, who later married her great-nephew, John Gregory Thomas, thus the house’s association with the Thomas family, on whose land (inherited from Peachy Gilmer) are Huntingdon College and Thomas Avenue.

Mrs. Cozart speaks on page 7 of the property (facing Felder and across from the future site of Trinity Presbyterian Church) being bought by Mrs. Elsberry “and daughter, Mrs. Maggie Patterson [correctly Patteson] . . . the old James Powell place, the quaint, beautiful old colonial house.” Deed records show that this house was owned in the 1850’s by Gen. James Holt Clanton, for whom Clanton Ave. is named. Its columns are on the Jack Thorington house on Hull Street, around the corner from the old house and now owned by Marvin Campbell. Mrs. Cozart has given new life to early Montgomery.

Thank you,

Eddie Pattillo

This second article by Mrs. Cozart written in her fascinating style and loaded with details regarding early Montgomery, were first found in a scrapbook kept between 1911 and c. 1929 by Miss Marie Dowe, sister of Mr. John Dowe. As a result of efforts by Mrs. Billie Capell additional articles of the same quality and was equally rich in facts, have been found in *The Montgomery Journal* files. These will appear in future issues.

The Lady of The Old Arm Chair

No. 19 - Other Old Homes

The Montgomery Journal
November 5, 1916
By Hannah McIntyre Cozart

That awful fire, the other night, that destroyed the Cramton Lumber Company's plant, reminded me that down in there was quite an aristocratic group of old homes in the old days. On the southeast corner of that block, facing south, was Jessie Taylor James’ home. A long rambling, delightful old house, quite with the individuality of its owner, standing in dignified reserve, as the street and the factories and the railroads steadily encroached upon its sacred preserves of home. Finally, the sidewalk impudently peeped in at the windows, while the front steps were but a few feet from the gate. But, on the side of the house, that part of the old flower garden still rioted in fragrance and blossoms. Confederate jasmine, cape jasmine, pinks of every color, great Giant-of-Battles roses, dark velvety cinnamon roses, LaReine, and most a hundred others! Then, the borders of single white and blue hyacinths how dear they were ! How over powering their fragrance, down there, after the trees were all gone, nothing left but glare, noise, dust, smoke, more noise - and what you people seem to rejoice in calling "Progress." Maybe it is, but to my vision, it is vanity and vexa-

tion of spirit!

Porr [poor] Jessie ! they certainly vexed her spirit, until she was forced to sell her home, and it was quickly absorbed in the Cramton Lumber plant. Jessie and her daughter, Mary Baldwin, moved up on Lawrence street, not far from me, but - I could no longer walk. The Old Chair had, somewhat, become my prison. But we exchanged messages often, and then - the plant, whose roots of loving association had been torn from their native soil, withered, and directly they told me that Jessie had slipped away to the Garden Above. When my eightieth birthday came near I wanted several of the old friends with me, that day. Jessie and I had been born on the same day of the month of the same year, and had gone to Dr. Lipscomb's school together. She was no longer with us, but Mary was to come as her mother's representative. Again the summons from the On High came, and Mary left us to join her mother. Oh, yes, you young things may think this sounds sad; that is foolish; when one slips through the Friendly Door, it is to take up a higher and finer life; then, why look on the going with feel-

ings of apprehension?

Oh, yes, I forgot to say that in the earlier days, before Jessie and I were grown, that place was known as the Washington Taylor place; and I well remember that beautiful Mary Charles lived there. She was one of my admirations, and now I have no recollection of how she came to be living there, only still delight in the thought of her beauty. That Taylor family, from South Carolina, was a very large connection - Hailes, Bellingers, McGinneys and others, oh, I can't keep up with it all!

Now, right across the street - Lawrence, but facing south on Columbus- just like the Taylor-James place was the Scheussler place. Such elaborate brick fences, and a great two-story brick kitchen and servants’ house! and the out-houses the same - smokehouse and chicken houses, scattered over nearly half a block! Why, yes, the Scheusslers sold it and Dike Bibb finally owned it, and when I last saw it, in the spring of 1910, before Dike died, some of the grand old water oaks, a few of the hardy shrubs, and thousands of bulbs were still bearing witness concerning the old days. Ha, ha, ha! Yes, Cramton owns that place too, I think. Anyway, I know he wanted it before her death.

Down there, on Columbus street, was another old residence, very interesting, I think. The Crommelin home. Oh, I have forgotten how many children there were in that family! There was Mr. John Crommelin, afterwards mayor of Montgomery; Miss Mary, Dike Bibb's great friend; Henry, who married beautiful Lucy Metcalf; and Anna, my friend. Anna was the queerest, shiest girl, you ever