

THE HERALD

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Montgomery County Historical Society - MCHS

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This issue is especially for:



Photograph showing Dexter Avenue looking West
Photograph donated by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Noble.
date about 1900.

Attached caption: View of Dexter Avenue showing Jesse French Piano Company, Knabe Drug Store, Knowles Dry Goods, (Now Woolworths), old Exchange Hotel, and The old Alabama Hotel.

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Montgomery County Historical Society HERALD



VOLUME 22 NO. 4

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

FALL 2014

Beginning of Human Flight

BY WILBUR WRIGHT

The Montgomery Advertiser
August 27, 1916



Wilbur Wright

Date, December 17, 1903. Time 10:30 a. m., 12:00 m. First flight, twelve seconds. Longest flight, fifty-nine seconds. Wind velocity, twenty to twenty-five miles per hour. Weight of machine, 605 pounds. Total weight with operator, 750 pounds. Power of motor, ten to twelve horsepower. Weight carried per horsepower, sixty-three pounds. Speed of motor in flight, 1,020 r. p. m. Speed of propeller, 340 r. p. m. Spread of wings, forty feet four inches. Length of chord, six feet six inches. Total area of wings, 530 square feet. Area of elevator, forty-eight square feet. Area of vertical rudder, twenty square feet.

The first flight ever made by man was made upon the machine now exhibited for the first time on the occasion of the dedication of the new buildings of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. On December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright made four successful flights with this machine. The first lasted only twelve seconds, a flight very modest compared with those of today, but it was nevertheless the first in the history of the world in which a machine carrying a man had raised itself into the air in free flight. The second and third flights were a little longer; the fourth lasted fifty-nine seconds covering a distance of 852 feet over the ground against a twenty-mile wind. The Wrights continued their experiments in 1904 and 1905 with another machine and increased the time to 38 minutes and the distance to over 24 miles.

When the report of these flights went abroad, sportsmen and scientists the world over feverishly took up the subject of human flight; but it was not until nearly five years that these first flights of December 17, 1903, were equaled by others than the Wright brothers themselves and then only on a machine based upon draw-



First Flight on December 3, 1903

ings of the early Wright machines published in 1904 in France. It is interesting to note that every practical flying machine of today uses the system of control invented and employed by the Wright brothers in the first machine of 1903.

After the last flight on December 17, 1903, while standing unguarded on the ground the machine was struck by a sudden gust of wind, which lifted it from the ground, and rolled it over and over. The rudders were badly damaged and some other parts broken; but the machine has suffered most from going through the flood that swept through Dayton in 1913. The greater part of the machine, still in the boxes in which it was shipped from Kitty Hawk to Dayton, lay several weeks in the water and mud. In assembling the machine for exhibition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology the front and rear rudders had to be almost entirely rebuilt. The cloth and the main cross spars of the upper and lower center sections of the wings also had to be made new. A number of other parts had to be repaired but most of the other parts excepting the motor are the parts used in 1903. The motor now in the machine is a close copy of the 1903 motor, but was built about a year later and developed much more power than the original one. The motor in 1903 developed only ten to twelve horse-power. The parts of the 1903 motor are still at hand, excepting the crank-shaft and flywheel. These were loaned some years ago for exhibition at one of the aeronautical shows, and cannot now be found.

Technical and scientific men such as assembled to celebrate the dedication of the magnificent new buildings of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, may be interested to know of the technical work that led to the building of this first successful flying machine. The mind of man had been occupied with the problem of flight for many centuries, but the great part of the work done was not of a scientific character. When the Wrights took up the subject in 1896, only a few aero-dynamical works of scientific interest were in existence. Engineers at that time in calculating air pressures used the tables of Lillenthal and Duchemin. The work of Langley seemed to verify the Duchemin formula. But after two years of experiments with machines based upon the tables of Lillenthal and Duchemin, the Wrights became convinced that these tables were so far in error as to be of no value in the designing of an aeroplane. They therefore, in 1901, constructed a small wind-tunnel in which to make measurements of the pressures produced by various original shaped surfaces when exposed to the air at different angles. For making the measurements they used a type of instrument which they thought would almost entirely eliminate the factors which had spoiled the measurement of their predecessors. During the winter of 1901-1902 they tested altogether more than one hundred different surfaces in this tunnel, and tabulated the results of the measurements of about fifty of them. They made measurements of square and rectangular surfaces in order to determine the

effect of varying the ratio of the length and breadth of the surfaces. They also made measurements to ascertain the effects of and possible advantages in using curved instead of plane surfaces and the effects of varying the depth of curvature as well as the location on the maximum depth of curvature. They measured thick and thin surfaces to determine the effects of thickness and also surfaces with maximum thickness at different points. They determined the effects on surfaces when one followed the other. They measured the travel of the center of pressure on curved surfaces when exposed to the air at different angles. No tables of the travel on curved surfaces were in existence at that time.

With the results of these laboratory experiments at hand, and with a system of content already developed by themselves in their gliding experiments of 1900 to 1902, the Wrights were in a position to design and build a power-driven aeroplane, with hope of success. This first machine of 1903 was designed entirely from the tables of air pressures worked out in a laboratory. At that time there was no published data on air propellers. The Wrights designed these first propellers on a theory of screw propulsion worked out by themselves. The result was the development of over sixty-six per cent efficiency, an efficiency which has been rarely exceeded either in marine or air propellers today.

End

It is assumed that our readers are familiar with the fact that the Wrights conducted a flying school in Montgomery in March 1910.

In House News

Memorials

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Mr. James W. Fuller
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Mrs. Julia Parker Oliver

Mrs. Laura T. Cottle
Mrs. Kate Jordan Goode
The Pandora Club

Mr. Edwin Ted Parker

Mr. James W. Fuller

Memorials

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Mr. Henry Ufford

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Mrs. Susan Riggs Walker

Mr. James W. Fuller

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Mr. & Mrs. T. Bowen Hill III
Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Nicrosi

Mrs. Carolyn Turner Young

Mr. James W. Fuller

Honors

Mr. James W. Fuller

On occasion of his birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Gregory

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The Hobbs Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Inscoe
Ms. Judith Paterson -
Mr. Mark Grable**

**Mrs. Chris N. Setzer
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Tidmore**

Welcome to New Members

Ms. Priscilla Hobbie Griffin

Mrs. Marie E. Majerick

Mr. Fred B. Matthews

Mr. & Mrs. Stan Phillips

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Poundstone

Why not a

Christmas Gift Membership

In The Historical Society

for Your Historic Friend ?

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Sustaining | 250.00 |
| Contributing | 100.00 |
| Supporting | 50.00 |
| Family | 35.00 |
| Individual | 25.00 |

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Letter written in 1860.

Montgomery, Alabama
Jan. 6th, 1860

Dear Father,

I arrived here yesterday and found the city of Montgomery just as I expected. It is quite a lively place and is pretty large. I have felt at a great loss though for company for you know where there is a great deal of energy and improvement a loafer is nowhere.

I have hunted the city over for Mark Vickers and can't find him. I don't think that he ever worked here. I can't find one man that knows him. One man said there was a man called there to get a job by that name and he thinks he went off and I have found no one that knew McNut yet but probably I will find his tombstone as I intend going to the cemetery before I leave.

I shall take dinner today with our cousin Mr. Essel. I was awakened this morning by the booming of cannon as it is the 8th of January in Commemo-ration of the Battle of New Orleans.

I went down to the river yesterday to see a steamboat and so I saw one of the floating palaces, the Saint Nicholas with 400 passengers on board and then I saw the Legrand come up with 150 on board.

I have not been to the state house yet. I shall go though before I leave. I stop at the Montgomery Hall as it looks like an old house. Probably it is where you have stopped at.

Love to all,

Yours Affectionately,

G. H. Mooney

Montgomery Museum of History Collections

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

Ms. Elain C. G. Houston donated spoons from the Exchange Hotel which were passed down in the family by her grandmother, **Sarah Frazer** who was the hostess at the hotel. It was there that she met her future husband, **Foster Hays** when he was visiting Montgomery. They married and continued living here.

Mrs. Sallie W. Millsap donated year-books of members in The Sojourners' Literary Club, The Antiquarian Society, and a season of Montgomery Chamber Music 2012-2013.

Mr. Sam Adams has donated a City of Montgomery flag that belonged to long time **Mayor Emory Folmar** who always flew the flag in front of his residence.

Ms. Ann P. Suih of Clayton, GA donated a beautiful walnut wood case with theater bill-heads scrapbook, mostly of Montgomery, dating back to 1900. These were collected by **August Linkenberg**, brother of **Ottillie L. Hugger**.

Mrs. Phyllis Armstrong donated a Bell & Howell movie projector with several reels of film taken of communities in South Montgomery county.

Mrs. Melissa R. Jackson donated a copy of **Dallas Read's** book, *Deep Family*.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Noble donated a collection of photographs of old Montgomery, a family album from the 1800's, scrap-book of home remedies for illnesses for humans and animals from the past century, map of Montgomery with photographs,

Mrs. Cynthia Izquierdo donated a collection of photographs, documents relating to organizations in Montgomery in the past, such as Montgomery Memorial Hospital, Alabama State Chapter, War Mothers of America 1918, The Montgomery Infirmary, 1897, The History and Membership of The Secession Chapter U.D.C., Alabama Division, organized in 1900.

Mrs. Phyllis Armstrong donated a gold plate on a brass Collector's ornament, 1995 of the Union Station. Also a Soldiers' New Testament given to **John Stanfill** by his mother as he was going overseas in WWI. In the flyleaf she wrote: "Read carefully the contents of this little book & study what you read. Truth, faith & hope & much comfort is to be found in its pages."

Mr. Preston Edward Phillips donated a book written by his father, **Eddie Phillips**, *The Other Side of Montgomery - Growing Up White in The Birthplace of The Civil Rights Movement.* 2009. Preston is one of our employees who enters into our computer base many articles found in newspapers of the past to be inserted in *The Herald*.

TALLAPOOSA BRIDGE GIVES OPPORTUNITY

Kellyton Citizen Says Electric Railway Will Open Up a Vast Territory BRING TRADE TO THE CITY

THE MONTGOMERY JOURNAL,
Sunday, November 26, 1916

The opportunities offered for the development of the country between Montgomery and neighboring counties with the building of a bridge over the Tallapoosa River are pointed to in a letter to the Journal, by H.R. Robbins of Kellyton, Ala. Mr. Robbins draws a vision of an electric car line between Montgomery and Wetumpka and believes the building of a bridge over the Tallapoosa will open a great deal of rich territory which is now undeveloped.

His letter is as follows:

KELLYTON, Ala., Nov. 24.

To the Montgomery Journal:

I see the agitation of a bridge over the Tallapoosa river between Montgomery and Wetumpka, which is a flashlight to the future.

I see later an electric car line from Montgomery to Wetumpka is agitated.

This is all in the direction of opening up a trade line for the farmers of Elmore, Coosa, Tallapoosa, Clay, Talladega and other counties. (I speak for Coosa.)

We are situated fifty miles from the railroad benefits between the Coosa and the Tallapoosa rivers. We can get our freight from Alex City, Kellyton or Goodwater, but the rates are doubled. All we can do is to take off our hats and submit.

Montgomery is entitled to this trade and the people of said territory are anxious to trade in Montgomery.

Put a bridge over the Tallapoosa River and a car line from Montgomery to Anniston, or even to Goodwater. This would send thousands of dollars to Montgomery where it now drifts to Birmingham.

I can buy a barrel of flour in Montgomery for one dollar less than in Birmingham. Birmingham is a market for miners. Montgomery is a market for farmers. That's the difference: Birmingham is a commissary for the mining people, and Montgomery is a market for agriculturists.

We of Elmore, Coosa, Tallapoosa and Talladega counties and others, want to trade in Montgomery and Wetumpka, but transportation cuts us off. Get your bridge; get your electric car line to Wetumpka, and on through the above counties. We all want to trade in Montgomery, but the Central of Georgia cuts off from Montgomery at a high freight.

The route is graded (every foot of it) nothing to do but lay the cross ties and the rails. Look into this, a great territory, wanting an outlet and willing to help Montgomery and ourselves. Will you meet us halfway?

At Kellyton the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers are about sixty miles apart. The above described line would be at least one hundred miles long north and south, and sixty or seventy miles wide east and west.

Make your start in Montgomery. There are thousands of dollars ready to be subscribed to such an enterprise. We have the finest farming territory in the state if we only had transportation facilities. A road from Wetumpka via Central, Equality, Nixburg, Lauderdale, Goodwater, and on North if desired would be a paying trunk line, much less an electric car line. Thousands of dollars are now idle which would be put into action if an opportunity was presented.

Grasp the opportunity, Montgomery, or you will cry in the future for the lost opportunity.

Yours truly,
H.R. ROBBINS

End

Woman Writes Interesting Story of Red Eagle, Chief of Alabama Creek Indians

- - - - -

Wife of Grandson of Famous Warrior Recalls Exciting Days Around Montgomery Years Ago

By MARTHA V. WEATHERFORD

*THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER,
OCTOBER 15, 1916, p. 7*

This interesting account of the home of his later years, of William Weatherford, the famous "Red Eagle" of the Alabama Creek Indians, and the most noted figure of the early Alabama pioneer life was written by Mrs. Charles Weatherford, the wife of the grandson of the Indian war leader, who is now in her 87th year.

It will be recalled, that after the final defeat of the war-like Creeks, at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa river, William Weatherford, who was more than half white, retired to a plantation on Little river, in Monroe county, across from Baldwin. He was a land owner and a slave owner, and lived until his death in 1824, the life of a well-to-do Alabama planter of those early days. His death resulted from over-exertion in a bear hunt in the swamps of Monroe county.

From that day to this his descendants and his rela-



William Weatherford
aka Red Eagle

tives of Indian and white blood have lived along Little river, between Baldwin and Monroe counties. The attached reminiscences were written by the request of George N. Bayzer, of Montgomery, who assisted two years ago in republishing Alexander Beaufort Meek's noted poem, "Red Eagle," which gives a romantic account of the exciting events of "Red Eagle" who led the Creek, in the first Indian war in Alabama - 1812-1814.

BORN NEAR MONTGOMERY

Weatherford's life was closely identified with the populous Indian settlement around what is now Montgomery. He was born shortly after the Revolutionary war on a farm between Pickett Springs and the old Indian and pioneer town of Coosada. His father Charles Weatherford was a Scotch horse trader, who lived with the Indians when Coosada was a large Indian town. The remains of the old Indian town about a mile east of the present town of Coosada on the Alabama river, is about the best preserved of the sites of all the Alabama Indian villages and is well worth a visit, because of its historic interests.

Weatherford, or "Red Eagle," who was about three quarters white, was not properly a chief of the Creeks, but his intelligence and force placed him at the head of the Creeks, when they arose

Update on What Happened regarding Montgomery's Opportunity to buy property on St. George Island

You may remember the article in our last issue on the great opportunity presented to Montgomerians in 1916 to get in on the ground level in purchasing lots for \$25.00 each on St. George Island located in the Gulf just off Apalachicola, Florida.

The charming William Lee Popham was a promoter, author, lecturer, real estate developer, and sometimes minister whose romance novels were used to help promote the sales of the property on St. George's, an undeveloped island with no access other than by boat. No sooner than he had gotten started with the sales, the first World War squelched the interest in vacation property.

When the sales began to fail he decided to invest in oyster beds and bought oyster bottoms but this too was destined to failure. His plan was for his new investment to promote land sales.

He attracted the attention of the IRS and they found a considerable amount of back taxes resulting in a lien on his bank accounts. Then came an indictment for mail fraud. After a forced four year vacation in an Atlanta facility, he again proceeded to push forward in his development plans only to be faced with the Great Depression.

He was forced to cede his property on the island to his lawyers as payment. He was always convinced that just around the corner he would find success. He moved his family to California where he died in 1953. Many noble ideas would have had great successes but for the lack of capital.

* * * *

When new members, Mike Poundstone and his wife, Louise, received a copy of our last newsletter, Mike, a former Montgomerian, was attracted to the article on St. George's. Mike, being in the real estate business, was familiar with the history of the island and was kind enough to send me Wikipedia information from which we compiled "the rest of the story."

Thank you, Mike.

The Historic Society is
Planning a
Fun Event
for February or March
Stay Tuned

Our faithful, long-time Board
member of the Historic Society
and Secretary for many of those
years just celebrated her
95th birthday.
Happy Birthday, Betty Godbold !

Merry Christmas

Why not give a friend
interested in
Montgomery's History
a membership in

**The Montgomery County
Historical Society**

Call 264-1837
Monday or Wednesday

loving visitor, and how we did love to renew our youth and recall those happy days spent in Dr. Lipscomb's school! Yes, she has left me, too, and joined the "innumerable throng." Well, the days of the Old Chair and its Mistress cannot be many, and I must tell you as much of the past as I can truly remember. By the way, here is a joke that the Confederate soldiers, who emigrated from Montgomery to Texas told about the Winter Iron Works. One Texan was boasting about his section and describing the phenomenal growth of vegetation there. "Why," said he, "we raise cabbages so big, down there, that, when the Kentucky hog drovers come down, they shelter a drove under one cabbage." The Alabama man was appalled at the stupendous - well, you know what; then loyalty to Alabama urged him to meet the occasion, so he exclaimed, "Shucks!" "That's nothing. In that Winter's Iron Works back yonder in Montgomery they made a pot so big that when they struck it with a sledge-hammer on one side you couldn't hear it on the other!" The Texan was excited: "What on earth did they want with such a pot?" "To cook your cabbage in!" laconically responded the Alabamian. I never heard whether they fought it out or whether the Texan was too prostrated to fight! Now, that is enough, good night.

End

TEACHERS TO WAGE A BETTER ENGLISH PURITY CAMPAIGN

MISS DELLA MOHR HEADS MOVEMENT IN THIS CITY

Members of the Alabama Association of Teachers of English rapidly are completing plans for the organization of societies for the improvement of English speech throughout the State. Miss Della Mohr of the Sidney Lanier High School has been made chairman of the movement in Montgomery, and she is preparing for the organization of speech controls in the schools of the city.

Employers will be urged to encourage the use of better English among their employees, and conferences looking to this end will be held during the fall and winter. It is probable that classes in oral English will be organized at the Young Men's Christian Association and Young Women's Christian Association. All classes of workers will be used in the campaign, which will be carried to every section of the State. Teachers, ministers and newspaper representatives will be called upon to lend their influence in the movement and every citizen of Alabama, already has been called upon to adopt this motto as his own: "Let everybody use his best English always."

The Farmer's Union has been called upon for assistance and its members have assured the association they will assist the campaign in any way possible. Teachers of the Alabama Girls Technical Institute are directly responsible for the campaign in this State, while Miss Claudia Crumpton of Montgomery, a teacher in that school, has been the prime mover.

Those interested in the work believe little effort would be necessary if employers would insist upon the proper use of English by their employees who know how it should be used and if all persons who are capable of speaking it correctly should set the example for others who may easily gain the power by absorption.

Miss Della Mohr will be remembered by those at Lanier in the 1940s as a regular substitute teacher evidently having retired from the full-time staff. I feel a bit embarrassed today thinking of the hard times we gave substitutes in those days.

No comment is necessary regarding what they would think of grammar usage today.

Editor

against the steady encroachments of the whites from the east and north. Weatherford commanded the Indians at the famous massacre at Fort Mims, in Baldwin county, where more than three hundred men, women and children were killed with rifle and tomahawk. Weatherford, in after life, declared, and the evidence seemed to wear [bear?] him out, that after directing the taking of the fort he rode among his Indian braves and tried to restrain their murderous fury. Finding that he could not control them he rode away so as not to be witness to the slaughter. Weatherford also commanded the Creeks, when they were badly defeated by the militia and settlers at Holy Ground in Lowndes county near the site of the present town of White Hall.

Weatherford was not at the decisive battle of Horse-shoe Bend where "Old Hickory" Jackson for all times broke the power of the Creeks. At that time the Indian war leader with the women and children of the Creeks and a few warriors were in hiding on the islands in the Alabama river just below the city of Montgomery and in the swamps of Autauga county. After the battle, Weatherford rode into Jackson's camp, which was located at the junction of the Tallapoosa and Coosa, nine miles from Montgomery, where he surrendered and asked the protection of Jackson for the women and children.

In his after life - he survived this war ten years - he enjoyed the friendship and the respect of the white settlers of

South Alabama.

Following is Mrs. Weatherford's letter: Jeddo, Monroe County, Ala., Oct. 3, 1916.

Mr. George N. Bayzer: Dear Sir: In fulfillment of a promise made to my daughter, Mrs. Chas. Deaux, whom you met on a recent trip up the Alabama river, I will endeavor to recount from memory some of the facts connected with the early life of her great-great-grandfather, Billy Weatherford the Muscogee chieftain, as told to me by my father-in-law, Charles Weatherford, Sr., the elder child of the chieftain.

I will state in the beginning, however, that, though having no personal recollection of Billy Weatherford, I have from my earliest childhood lived in close touch with those of his blood kindred and many others who knew him intimately before and after his people rose in arms against the whites, and afterward when he became an honored citizen.

MARRIED GRANDSON I was married to his great-grandson, Charles Weatherford, Jr., on Feb. 28, 1861. Just two months afterward he enlisted in the Confederate service, and from that time on for more than twenty years, his father's house was my home. Under its humble roof in the "piney woods" of South Alabama, most of my children (ten in number) were born and reared, and through all the hardships and sorrowful

changes which came into my life he was to me and to my children more than a father. We loved him tenderly and his memory will ever be cherished as a rich heritage.

Living thus in daily intercourse with him for so many years, I learned from his lips many, many interesting facts concerning his own life and that of the chieftain of the Indians of the so-called Creek Nation.

To my mind, my father-in-law was physically, and in principle, one of "Nature's Noblemen." Reticent by nature, dignified and modest to a degree, it was only in the bosom of his family, when gathered around the huge old fireplace of his home, that he laid aside his reserve and talked to us of his boyhood days passed until he was fourteen years old in close association with his tribe. Of his mother he often spoke in terms of great tenderness. To use his words: "My mother was the prettiest and best woman I ever knew. She died when I was only four years old and I remember that they buried her after the custom of her people, uncoffined, in a grave made on the side of a little hill just outside the Indian village where we lived."

CHIEF'S FIRST WIFE She was the first wife of the chieftain, and I inferred from my father-in-law's remarks that she was the chieftain's first love. After her death, the motherless boy, having no very near relatives, made his home with an aged Indian woman, coming and going when he chose, and became an Indian in the truest

sense. He spoke their tongue, dressed as they did, and joined in all their games and sports. He said he had no recollection of having ever learned to swim, and that he had seen Indian mothers toss their babes of only a few months old into the water, and when they arose to the surface jump in after them.

After the death of his mother he saw his father only occasionally. The chieftain had been brought up in the home of his father, Charles Weatherford, a wealthy trader and horse-dealer, at the junction of the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers. Occupying a prominent place among the leading men, both red and white, Charles Weatherford exercised great influence with each. Naturally, therefore, his son, though uneducated, was thrown with men of affairs and intelligence, and learned much which was destined to be of use to him in his future life. He was at this time in the first flower of his manhood, and I have been told by those who knew him that he was a model of manly strength and beauty and an especial favorite of the dusky maidens of his own race. Even at that early period of his life, in the councils of his people he was noted for his eloquence and daring.

SAW LITTLE OF SON

I have already remarked that after the death of his young wife, he saw but little of his motherless boy for the war clouds, so long hovering over the once peaceful valley where the Indians hunted and roved in undisturbed freedom, grew more threatening, and when-

ever the chieftain came to visit his boy he was followed by a group of warriors. "Big talks" grew frequent.

Lomachattee, the "Red Eagle," as he was called by his people, was a conspicuous figure among those of his race who were eager to start on the war path to avenge the wrongs of the red men. At the beginning, Weatherford advised them against the war, for he mingled too much with those of his palefaced kindred not to know that the odds were against them. In the end however, the ties of his own race proved stronger than those of his white kindred, and Weatherford cast his fortune with the red men.

They went down in defeat, but with spirits unconquered. Their lands were divided among strangers and their women and children became fugitives. The events which followed are matters of history, and therefore I need not dwell on them. However, some of the facts recorded by historians of the personal traits of our ancestor, Billy Weatherford, I beg leave to correct.

GOOD HABITS

By some of these, he has been described as coarse, licentious, and gluttonous. While not claiming him to be a moral saint, he was far superior to many reared by savage kindred. My grandmother, who married Col. Tate, and whose house he often visited, said that Billy Weatherford was one of the most temperate men she ever knew in both eating and drinking and was never known to indulge in intoxicat-

ing drinks. My own mother, the step-daughter of Tate, said that as a child she had often sat on his lap and played with the silver mounted hunting knife he always carried. She said further, that he often talked with my grandmother Tate about the terrible Fort Mims massacre, and that she had seen him shed tears over it. In that dreadful tragedy, my grandmother's two sisters perished, one of them being slain while standing near the well, trying to shield herself from the arrows by holding a feather bed before her face. One of the warriors who knew her personally took a pair of gold earrings from her ears and a ring from her finger, after she was killed, and afterward gave them to my grandmother. I remember handling these relics with solemn awe when I was a little girl. Among others, those relics were lost during the civil war.

FRIEND OF JACKSON

After securing peace for his people and surrendering to General Jackson, the chieftain made a visit to his motherless boy who was living with relatives on the Tallassee [Tallapoosa?] river, and brought him to the home of his half-brother, Colonel David Tate, then living in the northern part of Baldwin county. Colonel Tate gave him a home in his own family, sent him to school, and on his reaching manhood, made him foreman of one of his large plantations on the Alabama river. In the meantime, General Jackson took quite a fancy to the Muscogee hero and on his return to his home in Tennessee induced him to go

yard to the west, why, it was standing, the last time I was over at Fannie Merritt's - Oh, I forget how long it has been since I could come and go! -- I must be a more patient prisoner. Well, well, you say Mrs. Tyson still cherishes the big laurel tree? I am so glad. Its leaves are as fragrant as our memories of our youth. What happy days they were! We were going to school to Dr. Lipscomb, and felt the thrill of the romance, the marriage of the beloved lady to her former husband's partner. How much romance young folks do manage to create out of the unrealities of life!



Theiss - Tyson House
Mildred St. at Goldthwaite St.

Speaking of Fannie Merritt reminds me that she was the step-daughter of Frank Gilmer and now lives in the Jimmie Nick Gilmer house, on Amanda Street - "Morgan Avenue?" - Oh, go away! I'm too old to remember all that foolishness, why couldn't they have honored John Morgan by giving him a brand new street instead of upsetting Montgomery traditions and giving him the "leavings?" Amanda was just as worthy of commemoration as any man, even if he was John Morgan! That reminds me of a joke Mrs. Daniel Sayre, John Morgan's sister, loved to tell at his expense. It seemed that John Clisby, who was an ardent admirer of that witty woman,

was in the habit of taking all the great ones of the earth who visited Montgomery out to call on Mrs. Sayre. Mr. Clisby took them, really, to meet the "brightest and wittiest woman of Montgomery," but they only thought of her as the sister of the distinguished Alabama statesman, John Morgan. On one occasion, a visitor said to her, "I understand, Mrs. Sayre, that you are a sister of the great senator, John Morgan?" Mrs. Sayre, who had grown weary of this "reflected light," answered very demurely, "Yes, sir, Senator Morgan has the honor of being my brother!"

John Clisby was delighted with her and assured her that he would not bring any more "stupid people" to call!

But I wanted to talk a bit about Amanda Street [now Morgan Avenue]. You know, I always wanted the city to buy that lot with the grand old oaks on it for a play-place for the children of that neighborhood, and

call it "The Amanda Playground." Oh, I suppose the trees are down and the lot "improved" out of all self-respect, by now! You don't know? I wish you would ask Fannie Merritt, if she ever does come home from Yankee land; she is getting mighty fond of going up there and associating with those people. I don't believe Aunt Sophie or Dyke Bibb either would approve of her prolonged stays up there! Oh, seeing to their education? Teaching them the truth in regard to Southern history? Well, she has a large task! What with the buying and using of histories written by Northern people who neither know nor care to be well-informed before they make

statements. Yes, I fear there is quite a lot of illiteracy in the South, but, from my observations, the worst of it is prevalent among those who select our textbooks!

Here I am wandering all over Yankeedom and into the sacred preserves of the educators, instead of talking about Amanda Street. Did I tell you, that the Cheneys, when they moved from their plantation, lived up there, near Fannie Merritt's? Yes, they did, and from their front porch they watched Wilson's Raiders come down the Selma road into Montgomery. You know Mrs. Cheney was a sister of our friend Dr. Bellinger and the mother of your great friends, Gussie Cheney and Lou Hewlett. Then, just down the street, a little way, was the old brick residence of Col. William Henry Taylor, after he sold his McDonough residence to the Ponders. I had married and gone to Georgia, so I don't know where Sallie Taylor and Mary Jane were married, whether from the McDonough home or the Amanda Street home. Mary Jane married Albert Elmore and Sallie married Col. John W. A. Sanford, of Milledgeville, Ga. If I don't get too weary, sometime I'll tell you about Sallie's romantic meeting with Colonel Sanford, only he wasn't "Colonel" then, he had to earn that in our awful war.

I only remember about one other place on Amanda Street, and that was the Janney home, where dear Sallie Hails was the chatelaine; you know she was Sallie Taylor's first cousin, and, when she married George Janney, she went over there to live near the William Henry Taylor family. Yes, as long as she could climb my stairs, she was such a faithful,

The Lady of The Old Arm Chair

No. 15
More Old Homes

The Montgomery Journal
Sunday, October 8, 1916

By Hannah McIntyre Cozart

Thinking of Frank Gilmer has set me thinking also of another man, whose work for Alabama has scarcely been preserved as it deserves. Up on Goldthwaite Street, today stand the beautiful twin houses, back under the great trees, with a goodly lawn protecting them from the impertinence of the street, the houses built by Col. Joseph Winter. One he occupied himself, the other was for his son, John G. Winter. The Winter homes have for many years been showplaces, curiously eyed by strangers, who have tried to comprehend the antebellum life of the South. The wide verandas, many halls, spacious kitchens and pantrys, the servants' houses, all meaning so much work to keep in order, appalls the average Northern person. They cannot understand the happy life led by the numerous servants, whose duties were so shared by the many, that no one was oppressed, and all shared in all "the fun" of the family. I have watched anxiously, the encroachments of "progress" as it bit here and there, curtailing the splendid grounds and furnishing sordid environment for that picture of a former day, so splendid. Yes, Col. Winter was the "Iron King" of Montgomery, as Frank Gilmer was the "Cotton King." For many a day, before the war, Winter's Iron Works were the pride of

Montgomery, working in this product of our own great state, Col. Winter grew interested in the sources from which his material had to be brought, and how brought. Now, do you know that he was one of the first men to "demonstrate" the richness of the mineral region where Birmingham now flourishes? Well, he was. And furthermore, he did not desert Montgomery, as did so many others, neither did he exhaust his Montgomery resources to build other places. Don't you think such faithfulness is commendable? I do. Do you know that Col. Winter built a "Plank Road" from Montgomery to within ten miles of "Talladega Town?" Well, he did, and it is one of the curiosities of the "Before the war" time. There is a little town at its terminus named "Winterboro" in his honor. Col. Winter's daughter, Mrs. Thorington, lives in her



The Two Houses Known as
Winter Place on Goldthwaite St.

father's beautiful old home. The John G. Winter family has left the other home since his death. Mrs. John G. Winter makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. J.S. Pinckard. About the plank road? Why, Col. Winter built it to bring coal and iron over to Montgomery for his big works. And during the war, many was the fine piece of work turned out of the Montgomery shops for the Confederate government. Yes, the Yankees tore up that plank road, just as they destroyed the mines and burned all the furnaces that had furnished Col. Winter with material.

Right across the street, on the Mildred Street side from the Winter homes is the old Theiss Place. Oh, now, that was surely one of the pretty places of Old Montgomery! Everybody was interested in its building, for there was quite a romance attached to it. You see, Theiss and McBride were the big druggists of Montgomery, in their day, and that was before we came to Montgomery. Dr. McBride married a daughter of faithful old Mr. Wade Allen. Their son is our faithful old druggist, Mr. Wade A. McBride, a great friend of ours. Now, Dr. McBride died and his widow married Mr. Theiss, and he built the beautiful home on Mildred Street for her. Now those were the beautiful grounds! All terraced down to the street, with every sort of evergreen and flowering shrub and rose and annual that could be procured. That arbor Vitae hedge, that framed the

with him. For a number of years Weatherford made "Old Hickory's" home his own, and when he finally decided to return to his home and kindred, General Jackson gave him quite a sum of money, and presented him with one of his blooded mares as a parting gift.

Eventually, he settled down to an honored and peaceful life amongst his kindred in South Alabama, and married a woman of fine mind and character who throughout their married life proved a devoted wife and mother. Five children - four sons and one daughter, were the fruits of the marriage. Three only of these survived him. Quite an interesting fact concerning his death was told by his wife. Just a few days before his return from the bear hunt where he contracted the illness which resulted in his death, his wife, while sitting in the hallway of their home and thinking of him, happened to raise her eyes in the direction of the road leading to the gate and saw him dismount from his horse and fasten it to the post. She rose and went inside the room before greeting him, but on coming back out into the hall he was not to be seen anywhere. She waited for a moment, thinking he had gone to the barn. But he did not come, and strange to say, did not return for several days, and when he came he was very ill. He never recovered from the illness, which the doctor said was brought on from over-exertion in the bear hunt. His wife, although not in any way fanciful or superstitious, always regarded the circumstances as an omen of

his death.

RELICS OF HOME

On the site of the old Weatherford homestead in southwest Monroe, which is still in possession of the chieftain's descendants, some of the old landmarks are still in existence. A cool bubbling old spring, overshadowed by venerable oaks and poplars, still furnishes a musical murmur as it makes its way down among the rank grasses and ferns. By digging deep down in the sand about the mouth of the old spring the foundation timbers of the old milk-house which stood there when the chieftain made this his home over seventy years ago, may be reached. Doubtless he often stooped to slake his thirst in the waters and to take a draught of buttermilk from the hands of the old black mammy who had charge of it. My own mother told me that Billy Weatherford was exceptionally handsome. She described him as being over six feet tall, straight as an arrow, graceful in his movement, pleasant and courteous to everyone. His complexion was rather fair than dark, his brow broad and high, with dark hazel eyes and hair of dark brown color, very soft and inclined to curl. The traits which marked his character still crop out physically and mentally in his descendants.

Just a short distance from the spring, shaded by a lovely magnolia, is the resting place of three generations of his name. His oldest son, Charles Weatherford, Sr., my husband, Charles Weatherford, Jr., and a little great-grandson, Alexander McGillavary

Sizemore.

READY TO SETTLE

The chieftain rests in the upper part of Baldwin county, about two miles from the Alabama river. The writer would like to write more at length on the subject, but the infirmities of age debar me from the task. Before closing, however, I will recite an incident told by a lady who was a great friend and admirer of Weatherford. The lady in question was Mrs. Boyles, who for many years kept a wayside tavern just a short distance from what is still known as Little River Bridge. The chieftain and his wife were frequent visitors in the home of Mrs. Boyles, and one day when there was quite a crowd of strangers assembled at the table, Weatherford being present, a loud talking braggart who monopolized the conversation asked among other things if "that black heart Injun, Billy Weatherford, didn't live in this part of the country?" Some one replied that he did. "Well, d--- him, I only wish that I could meet him--- I'd settle with him for his Fort Mims massacre." Weatherford finished the meal and then rose and facing the stranger said: "Sir, I am Weatherford, and I am ready to answer anyway you wish." Mrs. Boyles said that before Weatherford could finish the man had darted from the room and mounted his horse, leaving without settling for his meal.

MARTHA V. WEATHERFORD,
Weatherford, Ala.,
October 3, 1916.

End

"The Thirteen" Has A Golden Anniversary

By Cash M. Stanley
Editor, *The Alabama Journal*
January 13, 1952

THURSDAY evening, Jan. 10, "The Thirteen," a literary and philosophical group in Montgomery observed its 50th or golden anniversary, having been established in 1902. The annual meeting is also "Ladies Night" and [the] anniversary dinner was the occasion for annual election of officers. A feature of the 50th anniversary meeting was a paper read by one of the old time members, Peter A. Brannon, on "The First Half Century of The Thirteen."

THE organization is limited to thirteen members, each elected by unanimous vote. Since its founding The Thirteen has had seventy members and Mr. Brannon has known all of them personally except one. The founding members in 1902 were:

Dr. Chas. A. Stakely, Rev. Wm. D. Gay, Robert Tyler, Robert Tyler Goodwyn, Dr. Hamilton Weedon, Dr. Thomas McAdory Owen, Louis B. Farley, Rev. Stewart McQueen, Abraham J. Messing, W. Hardwick Ruth, Andrew J. Miller, Alexander B. Kennedy and Robert S. Teague.

The Rev. Stewart McQueen was the first presi-

dent, being succeeded by Michael Cody, Judge William H. Thomas and Algernon Blair.

MR. BRANNON related amusing incidents in the Thirteen's history as well as re-stating the cultural and intellectual purposes of the organization and emphasizing its "university" character because each member chooses his own topic for discussion and comment once a year. In addition to preparing one paper a year each member gives one dinner for the other members and guests, but all dinners are usually confined to thirteen at the table.

For the first five years of its life The Thirteen always attended their dinner meetings in formal evening clothes. Then one day the home of Dr. Thomas M. Owen burned to the ground and his dinner clothes as well as his library and everything else in the house were destroyed. Members, knowing that Dr. Owen had but one dinner suit, after the fire probably couldn't buy another, went to the dinner the next evening in business clothes in order to be dressed like Doctor Owen and business suits have been

worn ever since except for the annual affairs when the ladies are present.

IT IS CUSTOMARY for the member dinners to be given at their homes to preserve a homelike and intimate atmosphere, but modern conditions have forced frequent departures from that old practice.

In the early days the dinners were much more elaborate and ornate than today and Mr. Brannon related some unique features. One such was when a host wheeled in a huge cake of ice hollowed out in the center and full of raw oysters from which oyster cocktails were served.

On rare occasions in modern times wine is served, an example being a previous anniversary when Judge William H. Thomas, then president, served an imported wine in tribute to one of the old Boswell and Johnson clubs in London upon which The Thirteen was patterned.

DR. McQUEEN while president was a martinet and a stickler for every propriety including prompt and regular attendance, a practice which has been maintained through the years. When Mr. Cody succeeded Dr. McQueen, he filled the presidency for a good many years and Mr. Brannon recounted that when the president remodeled his Perry Street home he designed the dining room of special size to accommodate a round table which would seat comfortably The Thirteen's members.

JUDGE THOMAS as president always carried on

the tradition that The Thirteen is "university" in that it is a place for study on every subject under the sun and where all opinions may be freely aired. Debating however is not practiced.

When a member reads his paper after dinner members are called upon for five minutes discussion, and each member has two weeks notice of the member's topic. While at the table each member presents also once a year a book review or comment upon any current topic.

THE NAMES of the past members of The Thirteen include so many well known citizens that it is probably of interest to review them on the occasion of the 50th anniversary.

Dr. Charles A. Stakely, one of the founders, was succeeded by his son Justice Davis F. Stakely.

Rev. William D. Gay was succeeded by George W. Jones, Judge William H. Thomas and Judge Walter B. Jones.

Robert Tyler was succeeded by Michael Cody and John T. Clarke.

Robert Tyler Goodwyn was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Henry M. Edmonds and Algernon Blair.

Dr. Hamilton Weedon was succeeded by M. P. LeGrand, B. C. Ehrenreich, Albert C. Sexton, John W. Durr, Charles Henderson, Edward G. Branch, Joseph Brevard Jones and Judge Alex A. Marks.

Dr. Thomas M. Owen was succeeded by M. W. Swartz, Judge Lucien D. Gardner and Judge Robert B.

Harwood.

Louis B. Farley was succeeded by S. C. Starke, Frank Stollenwerck, Clayton T. Tullis, Fitzgerald Salter and Dr. Clarence M. Dannelly.

The Rev. Stewart McQueen was succeeded by the Rev. Peerce N. McDonald and Dr. Henry E. Russell.

Abraham Messing was succeeded by Jacques Loeb, Simon Gassenheimer, Dr. Gaston J. Griel, Devid E. Beatty, Dr. B. L. Parkinson, Dr. T. B. Hubbard, W. C. Bowman and Frank L. Grove.

W. Hardwick Ruth was succeeded by Hervey W. Laird, J. Manley Foster, Dr. George Wheeler, Judge William H. Samford, Judge Virgil Bouldin and Cassius M. Stanley.

Andrew J. Miller was succeeded by Franklin P. Glass, W. T. Sheehan, William A. Bellingrath and Dr. Walter D. Agnew.

Alexander B. Kennedy was succeeded by Leon Weil, W. W. Brandon, Dr. Paul S. Mertins and Peter A. Brannon.

Robert S. Teague was succeeded by William T. Sheehan, Hartwell Douglas, Armstead Brown, James S. Pinckard, J. M. Jenkins, W. B. Nelson, Col. W. E. Persons, Benjamin W. Lacy, Col. W. E. Persons and John Merriwether Ward.

PRESENT members emeritus include: Dr. Edmonds, Mr. Brevard Jones, Mr. Laird and Judge Gardner.

Upon motion of Judge Stakely on the 50th anniversary the same officers were elected for the coming year. They are: Algernon Blair, president; Clarence M. Dannelly, vice president; John T. Clarke, secretary.

POLICE MAKING WAR ON WOMEN WHO ARE NOT WANTED IN CITY

The Montgomery Advertiser,
July 15, 1917

Saturday night Chief of Police Long reported he had just raided the hotel "Dixieland" on Commerce Street, and ejected [from there] three alleged prostitutes.

"You can say for me," said the chief, "that the hotels must take notice and not permit these women in their places. I shall certainly bring before the grand jury the keepers who tolerate the presence of the prostitutes."

At a meeting recently in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce it developed that the United States district attorney and the marshals may be used freely in order that the cities, towns, and territory near military camps may be protected.

It was the sense of a recent meeting, too, that Montgomery intends to be a clean city, and Chief Long says he is going to break up all forms of lawlessness and disorder.

End