

THE HERALD

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Montgomery County Historical Society - MCHS

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Coming Event

October 11th
Sunday, 3:30

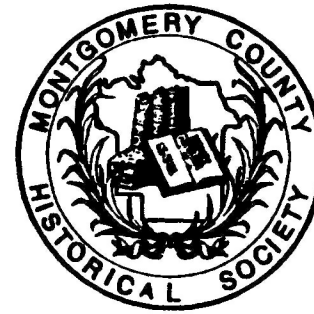
A Retrospective Exhibit of the work of the late Warree LeBron

Mrs. LeBron, a cousin of Kelly Fitzpatrick, was influenced by his style and they were both members of the Dixie Art Colony. Her work has been very popular over the years and is most appreciated.

There will be a few pieces of her work for sale.

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Montgomery County
Historical Society

HERALD



VOLUME 23 NO. 3

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

SUMMER 2015

Do You Remember This? Glimpses of Old Montgomery

Montgomery Alabama Journal

July 25, 1929

THE OLD-TIME PLAYHOUSES

For many years the old Montgomery Theater theater was leased by Hiracher Brothers, who maintained an office on Dexter avenue near the middle of the first block. Road shows were numerous then and people used to come to Montgomery from the neighboring towns and spend the night here just to have an opportunity of seeing a good show.

Hiracher Brothers were nice to the public, and especially were they always considerate of the newspaper fraternity. Everything possible was done by them to guarantee the happiness of all visitors to their show house regardless of whether or not the visitor used a complimentary ticket or went in after spending hard cash.



The Montgomery Theater
N. Perry at Monroe Sts.
Picture from before 1900

I might add right here that cash was much harder to secure in those years than it is today, but when you did get hold of a dollar it would pay for a great deal more than it does today. Prices at the theaters changed with almost every show, and along with the advertisement of any particular show the admission fee was always stated.

Most of the great political gatherings of that time were

also held at the old Montgomery theater, and many of the noted political worthies of those trying years were heard there in hot political speeches.

The old McDonald Opera House was another popular playhouse of Montgomery in the early 80's and from that time through the first ten years of the present century.

(The McDonald Opera House was located on the North side of Bibb St. between Commerce and Lee Sts.) After the advent of the



McDonalds Opera House
Was located on Bibb St. between
Commerce and Lee Sts.

movies, that old theater, like most of the other old-time playhouses, had to give way to the newer developments in the world of entertainment.

The McDonald opera house usually appealed to the repertoire aggregations and prices there were generally much lower than at the Montgomery theater. When there was a good show running at McDonald's it seemed that just everybody wanted to see it, and it was necessary to secure seats sometimes a week or more in advance of the date of one's attendance. Many of the older Montgomerians held season tickets to the opera house and theater much as people now hold season tickets to the vaudeville shows, the movies and the baseball park. Money was not so plentiful as now, but not all the people were poor by any matter of means. There was really more show of wealth by the richer classes than there is today. There was not as much real democracy among the people then as now, and "class" was talked and practiced much more than it is today.

Many of the old-time actors and theatrical aggregations are well remembered to this very day by the older people of Montgomery, and throughout all of central Alabama as well.

One of the old-time actors who always pleased, and who drew a crowded house at each performance, regardless of the weather, was Ed. L. Huntley. His aggregation always consisted of the best players of the day, and he almost always followed the repertoire idea in his entertainments. Sometimes the Huntley company would play at

McDonald's opera house for ten days or longer. On various visits, that show would run for almost a month at one visit before moving to another city.

Then there was the minstrel show of Primrose and West, and later of Lew Dockstader, and still later of the almost immortal Al. G. Field, who came to Montgomery many times as an actor in the company of someone else before he became chief owner of a great minstrel aggregation in his own name.

This writer remembers that the very first time he ever saw Rip Van Winkle played it was in his boyhood and it was by Ed. L. Huntley and his splendid aggregation. Since that time it has been the privilege of the writer to see the quaint old Dutch villager portrayed many times by some of the best-known actors of the world, including the late Joe Jefferson, but never has anybody excelled Ed. L. Huntley in the art of acting the happy-go-lucky Rip, in this writer's estimation. When Huntley came through the southern cities there was always a rush for the box office and he never played to scanty houses.

Very Few Theaters

In the days of the old legitimate stage theaters were not half so plentiful as they are today, but the public has always had its share of pleasure as the years have sped by. There were as many social clubs in the old days as there are today, and people had just as many different ways of being entertained as they have today.

While the mind of the writer is running in this particular channel time will be taken to say that this writer is

not one of the many living today who thinks that people are becoming less considerate of one another. It is the opinion of this scribe that people today are generally much more considerate of the feelings of others than were the people who lived 40 or 50 years ago.

It was the custom in those days for the policeman to be a rather conspicuous part of the audience in each section of the theater or public entertainment hall. Sometimes fist fights would start in the crowded houses and the participants would have to give account of the trouble to the mayor or the magistrate.

Then, too, with money scarce and hard to get, it often appeared that those who had it were hated and dreaded much more than they are today. We often hear people of this age criticizing others and speaking in terms of hate, but such people have always been with us. This writer cannot remember a time when there appeared to be a greater appreciation of real democracy than there is today in every section of the country. There are a few fop-pish fools, of course, but they are largely in the minority, and their number is growing less each day.

Who shall say that there is not coming a day very soon when the very last snob and hater shall have gone to his last reward and left the world all the better for his going? We should work and pray to that end.

End

In House News

Memorials

Mr. James R. Cantrell, Sr.

Mr. James W. Fuller
Mrs. Susan F. Haigler

Dr. William Barton Crum

Mr. James W. Fuller

Mrs. Marion Hill

Mr. James W. Fuller

Mrs. Christine L. Hornady

Mr. James W. Fuller

Mr. A. Bonner Patrick

Mrs. Kathryn J. Goray

New Members

Mr. Clarence H. Brannon, Jr.

Mr. Thomas Crews

Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Hails, Jr.

Mrs. Katharine V. C. Milton

Mrs. Elizabeth Crommelin

Pennewill

Honors

Mr. Lee Copeland

On his election as president of the Alabama Bar Assoc.
Mr. Charles A. Stakely

Dr. Hamp Green

Mr. Charles A. Stakely

Montgomery County Historical Society

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Coming in October

**Sunday, October 11th
3:30PM**

*A Restrospective Show of
Artist Warree LeBron*

She,with her cousin, Kelly Fitzpatrick painted with the Dixie Art Colony in the mid 20th century and her work has been widely acclaimed and respected.

There will be select pieces of her work offered for sale.

History Archives
Collections

Thank You For
Saving These Bits of Montgomery
Memorabilia,

Mrs. Missie Edmundson Cooper donated a copy of a essay on the life of **Henry W. Hilliard** written in 1904 by **Miss Toccoa Cozart** for The Alabama Historical Society. It is personally signed by Ms. Cozart to Missie's great great grandmother, **Martha Dandridge Bibb** who lived in the old Bibb house at 117 (111) Moulton St. It is interesting how the same names from the past continue to come up. Some of you will remember that Miss Cozart as a child was a passenger on the first run of the streetcar in Montgomery in 1885 and in her later years was again a passenger on the last run of the Montgomery streetcars when they were pulled out of service, changing to gasoline operated buses.

Also Toccoa was the daughter of **Mrs. Hannah Cozart**, author of "*The Lady of the Old Arm Chair*" articles that have been published in *The Herald*.

Gen. John H. Napier has acquired a copy of a portrait of the **Marquis de**

Lafayette from the mayor of Charleston and presented it to our archives. The original was painted as a miniature on ivory in Charleston, S. C. in March 1825 on the occasion of the visit of LaFayette to that city just a few weeks



Marquis de LaFayette
1825

before he visited Montgomery. The George Washington Badge of the **Society of the Cincinnati** was presented to the Marquis by Mrs. Fielding Lewis and it is shown on his jacket. John Napier is also a member of the SOTC and it was though his influence that this copy was secured from Charleston.

Mr. Ken Ward donated a copy of *Official Guide to The City of Montgomery, Albama* by The Tintagil Club 1948.

Mr. & Mrs. Seaborn Kennamer have donated a collection of memorabilia from Barnes School and a handsome silver punch bowl and tray.

Miss Jane Marks donated a four volume set of Dr. Thomas Owen's *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography* dated 1921.

Mrs. Gracie Mussafer Hanchrow donated a photograph of the laying of the cornerstone of the new Jewish Temple, Etz Ahayem on May 19, 1927. Included in the picture are many of the members for the celebrations. The temple was located on Sayre Street in the middle of the first block. In the same block on the corner was another synagogue, Temple Beth Or.

Gracie also donated a copy of the *Bell and Pomegranates* for 1911, the annual for The Woman's College of Alabama (Huntington College).

Membership
Meeting
Sunday 2:30
November 15th

our speaker will be
Mrs. Kathy Gerachis

Landscape Architect
who will speak on her work on
The Cypress Creek Project

Different Location

We will be meeting in
old Pizitz Department Store
at Court Square
behind the fountain.
(Look for the balloons marking
the entrance.)
Parking on Dexter, Court and
Montgomery Streets

Do You Remember This?
Glimpses of Old Montgomery

Montgomery Alabama Journal & Times
August 1, 1929

Before the railroad was built from Montgomery to Prattville there was no means of reaching that prosperous little town from Montgomery except over the old wagon roads.

To make the round trip from Montgomery then required the best part of an entire day, and sometimes the roads and river were in such condition as to make the trip impossible.

Two of the main roads then connecting Montgomery with Prattville were the upper road crossing the river at Edwin & Co.'s ferry above Montgomery, and the lower road by way of the old Washington ferry.

But after the Louisville & Nashville railroad was built into Prattville Junction the trip required only a short time.

The Mobile & Ohio railroad was built through Prattville about the end of the last century, since which time the trip has required only thirty minutes.

Splinters and Shingles

Autauga county has been one of the chief feeders of Montgomery for more than half a century past. For many years after Montgomery began to expand her borders into what we now call the old-time suburbs there was a constant demand for pine shingles. It fell largely to the share of the thrifty farmers of Autauga County to supply those

shingles.

For years it was a most uncommon sight if one viewed historic Court Square during business hours and did not see one or more wagons loaded with pine shingles waiting for some buyer to come that way.

Another commodity which became identified with Autauga County's thrift and Montgomery's needs was that of lightwood kindling. There is even yet some of this latter business being indulged in here. The splinters were split from rich pine and tied in small bundles with corn shucks or white-oak splits and sold at so much per bundle to Montgomerians to be used for kindling fires in winter.

Oftentimes a farmer's wagon would have on it about half a load of shingles and a half load of kindling. This practice became so common that Montgomerians laughingly referred to either shingles or kindling as "Autauga currency," an appellation which can often be heard to this very day. But the sale of those commodities have helped to make the prosperous farmers of Autauga County more prosperous and have gone far towards identifying the business interests of both sections as common to all.

The Old Erwin Ferry

For nearly a half century the old Edwin ferry on the Alabama river north of Montgomery was one of the

most familiar sights around the city. That old ferry was just as much a part of Montgomery's business life as was any bank in the city, and just about as profitable to its owners.

Some days hundreds of dollars would be collected from travelers coming into or leaving the city of Montgomery. A strong wire cable spanned the river and the old ferry boat was so arranged that by shifting the ends up or down the river the current would push it across. It would seem a slow process now, but at that time it was such a common sight and had come to be looked upon as so necessary that the time required to cross the river was not taken into special consideration by travelers.

The ferry was owned by the firm of Erwin & Co., which firm was composed of Henry F. Erwin and the late Judge C. W. Buckley. These gentlemen bought the ferry from the late Bolling Hall in 1886, but Hall had operated it for some twenty years before selling it to them.

Funny Dip - Almost Serious

While writing about the old Erwin ferry the mind of the writer goes back to a funny little incident which came near to being quite serious back in the long ago.

The late Judge Frank C. Randolph and the late Sam Metcalf, two bosom friends, both good sportsmen, betook themselves far up the Alabama River one Sunday during the late winter months for a day's duck shooting. They were in a large skiff and had a trusty Negro servant to propel the boat, gasoline outboard motors

continued on page 12

Through The Years Montgomery In 1887

By PETER A. BRANNON

THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER,
SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1939

KIRK Munroe, a Harper's Weekly correspondent, in the July 16, 1887 issue gives a 52-year-ago picture of Montgomery which proves claims that have been advanced for us - our first electric railway, our enormous river transportation industry, and some other data not now generally acknowledged. Set out here below is just exactly what Mr. Munroe said and concluding this I have commented. Mr. Munroe had published previous articles on Petersburg, Danville, Atlanta, Augusta, Birmingham, Knoxville, Nashville, and a story of North Carolina. These were under a general title, "The Industrial South."

The statement for Montgomery is: "The pure air, the absence of din and clatter, and the evidences of a long-established prosperity that form distinctive features of Montgomery, the capital city of Alabama, are in refreshing contrast to the smoke, noise, and feverish bustle of the more recently founded coal and iron towns of the State. It is most beautifully situated on the high bluffs that slope gently back from the east side of the Alabama River, four hundred miles from its mouth in Mobile Bay, and forty below where it is formed by the junction of the Coosa and Tallapoosa. That this site was approved by the aborigines is shown by numerous pre-historic evidences of mound-builder occupancy, and the flourishing Muscogee Indian village that was found by the first white settler, MR. ARTHUR MOORE, who moved here in 1814 from Georgia. At a sale of public land held three years later Mr. Andrew Dexter purchased the larger portion of the site now occupied by the city of Montgomery, for the purpose of founding a town upon it; and with an intuition born of implicit faith in its future he reserved its highest plot of land for the State Capitol, which he believed would ultimately be erected upon it. He also took measures to perpetuate his own memory by laying out a broad straight avenue from the market-place to the Capitol site, and calling it after himself. To this day Dexter Avenue is the

finest and most important of all Montgomery's beautiful streets. The town was named after the hero of Quebec, and was incorporated as a city in 1837. In 1846 the expectation of its founder was fulfilled, and it, instead of Mobile, became the seat of government; while the Capitol, a massive domed building with a many-columned Grecian portico, was erected in 1851 on the very spot reserved for it more than thirty years before. In this building, on Feb. 4, 1861, the Constitution of the Confederate States of America was adopted by delegates from six seceding states; and two weeks later, on the front steps of the portico, looking down the broad length of Dexter Avenue, Jefferson Davis took the oath of office, administered by Howell Cobb of Georgia, and was inaugurated president of the Confederacy.

"Before the war Montgomery was the wealthy and charmingly old-fashioned centre of one of the most productive cotton districts of the South. She lost heavily by the war, and for many succeeding years made little perceptible progress toward recovering from its paralyzing shock. With firm faith in the resources of their State and their ultimate development, her businessmen invested what scanty capital remained to them in mineral lands and founded Birmingham and several other places that have recently become important iron producing points. Montgomery suffered with them from the financial depression of 1873 and the six or seven subsequent years, and with them rejoices in and is profiting by the good fortune that since 1880 has swept over the State in constantly augmenting waves. Today money is flowing into Montgomery from all directions, and it is consequently one of the busiest and most cheerful cities of the South. Every dividend declared by the Elyton Land Company adds thousands of dollars to its wealth, and brings joy to hundreds of its citizens, while every ton of iron produced in a Birmingham, Anniston, or Sheffield furnace sends a throb of new life through its business arteries. The effect of this inflow of prosperity is apparent on all sides, for while in 1880 the population of the city was but 16,813, it is now nearly 30,000, and since that date over 2,500 new dwelling houses have been built and occupied within its limits.

"Montgomery has not been content with merely following the example of other progressive cities, but has already begun to take the initiative in certain directions. Thus one of the

Pictures from the Bar-B-Que



BILL TO TIGHTEN SUNDAY LAWS TO BE INTRODUCED SOON

THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER
JULY 10, 1919

No Fishing on Sundays If Measure Proposed by Baker Passes

To further enhance the unpopularity of the Sunday laws as written in the State code of 1907 is the object of House Bill 379, introduced Tuesday in the Alabama House of Representatives by Mr. Baker of DeKalb, and ordered reported favorably to that body by its temperance committee after a session Wednesday afternoon.

The measure is an act to amend section 7814 of the code relating to Sunday violations and is designed to meet and nullify a decision of the Supreme court relating to the opening of drug-stores and what they might sell on the Sabbath. As it now reposes dust laden, moth-eaten and [oftentimes] un-enforced upon the State's statute books this section after prohibiting merchant or shopkeepers to open their places of business on Sunday, excepts drugstores. The vagueness of this feature, inasmuch as proprietors of drugstores had no restrictions thrown around them as to what they might sell on that day, the Supreme Court's decision followed the natural line that being permitted to remain open, perforce they were to conduct their usual business.

Circumventing this decision therefore, Mr. Baker's bill makes it possible for the druggists to open their stores on Sunday, but they are to sell drugs, compound prescriptions and dispose of surgical dressings only.

The new bill will prohibit the sale of soft drinks, cigars, cigarettes, and also strikes at the sale of periodicals, newspapers, etc., as handled by drugstores.

But Mr. Baker didn't stop at "man-handling" the Sunday smoker or pedestrian who cools off with a nifty cold drink - he has invaded the field of the Isaac Waltons of the State and his little bill if it reaches the Governor's desk and gets a signature there makes it unlawful for Ike to stroll off to a quiet nook, on some creek bank, pond, pool or stream, with hook, line and sinker on Sunday there to enjoy the piscatorial sport of angling the members of the finny tribe. Heretofore it has been unlawful for one to shoot, and hunt, game, play cards, dominos or race horses - Mr. Baker's bill inserts the word fish between "shoot" and "hunt".

End

Annual Summer Bar-B-Que a Big Success

Threatening weather moved the event indoors and we were pleased to have almost 100 hungry friends who seemed to have a great time. The Bar-B-Que from" Smoking S" in Wetumpka (BEST IN THESE PARTS) again made a perfect feast.

Col. Jeff Benton did a fine job of introducing our honored guests, veterans of WWII. His remarks are included below:

"The WWII generation has been called the 'Greatest Generation.' I can think of no other generation of that caliber, except, perhaps, the Founders of the United States. This evening we have seven of the Greatest Generation men who served in the armed forces during WWII.

- " John Bullard, US Navy V-12 Program
- " Allen Douglas Harper, Lt Col, 15th Army Air Forces Brigade, 464th Bomber Group
- " Perry Oliver Hooper Sr., US Marine Corps, Pacific Theater
- " Woodward Durham Lamar, Lt, torpedo bomber pilot, US Navy
- " John Hawkins Napier III, Sgt, US Marine Corps, Pacific Theater
- " Jack Smith, US Army Air Forces
- " Gerald Thompson, US Navy, Pacific Theater
- " Mary Lynne Levy's, late husband, Jim, was in the second wave to land on Omaha Beach

No matter where those who served in the armed forces came from, and no matter what their class and educational backgrounds were, they had all experienced the Great Depression, and they would all be mixed together in the armed forces and experience the war together, almost always with strangers who became like family.

The United States tried to stay out of the war. The war had been going on for several years before we realized we could not avoid participation. To have stayed out of the war would have doomed democracy and Western civilization. We would have doomed ourselves.

These six men not only had experienced the Great Depression, but they also shared a common story with 12 million other Americans in uniform. With the exception of the Civil War, no American soldiers have so closely represented the general population as did the service members of WW II. They all submitted themselves to the so-called ultimate contract, the contract that could lead to the ultimate sacrifice if their missions required it. As it was, 407,000 in American uniforms made that sacrifice, the last full measure of devotion.

The Greatest Generation's contributions to this country and, in fact, to the entire world, continue today. They remained steadfast during the Cold War and in the limited, little hot wars. General Chick Cleveland, who is with us this evening, served in one of those limited wars; he became a Korean War ace with five kills and one probable.

Having experienced the Great Depression and WW II, the Greatest Generation remade the US and exported our values of democracy to much of the world. Having learned that punishing the vanquished after WWI had led to WWII, we co-opted our former wartime enemies (most importantly Germany and Japan) and made them our allies economically and politically.

At home, the Greatest Generation created both political democracy and socio-economic democracy. The GI bill for higher education and VA home loans were crucial to building equality and a huge middle-class society.

The Greatest Generation men and women, rich and poor, privileged or not, educated or not is characterized by having been deprived of material things as young people, being oriented toward the greater good, and being more likely to be selfless than self-serving and self-absorbed.

In the very dark days of 1940 (more than a year before the US entered the war), Churchill said of the Royal Air Force: "Never was so much owed by so many to so few." Seventy-five years later this sentence is applicable to the Greatest Generation, and especially to those who served in WWII."

most interesting objects to a stranger visiting the city is its electric street railways, the first of the kind to go into practical operation in this country. Two years ago it had no street railways; now it contains fifteen miles of track, upon which cars are run regularly at an unvarying speed of six miles an hour, up grade as well as down or on a level by electricity, which is furnished in quantities of twelve horsepower to each car. Two engines of 150-horsepower each supply the motive energy of the entire system, and it is transmitted through overhead cables suspended from poles, and connected with the several cars by flexible wires. One end of a wire is attached to the motor that occupies the front platform of a car, and the other is made fast to a small two-wheeled truck that runs along the cable above. When two cars meet on a runout, they do not attempt to pass their respective trucks on the single line of cable; but the drivers exchange wires, and each truck takes a back track. It is estimated that the saving effected by the substitution of electricity for mule-power is 33 1/3 per cent of the operating expenses, and that the earnings of the roads are largely increases by reason of the assured regularity of schedule, and the greater number of trips made per day.

"Although Montgomery contains a number of manufactories, and offers exceptional advantages for the establishment within its limits of as many more, it is emphatically a mercantile city, and the mainstay of its business is cotton, of which its merchants handle 130,000 bales annually. In passing through their hands from the producer to the consumer this is a source of wealth in the shape of commissions, drayage, compress, warehouse, and weighers' fees to the amount of \$1.85 per bale. When to this is added the profits of the same merchants upon the goods which they furnish to the planters in exchange for their crops, it can readily be seen that the commercial business of the city rests upon a very substantial basis. Its seven great storage warehouses have a capacity of 73,500 bales, and its two powerful compresses are well able to handle all the cotton that is likely to come within their terrible clutches. The transportation facilities afforded to the business of Montgomery are unexcelled, for besides the six lines of railway centering in the city and extending in every direction from it, the great river flowing at its feet, navigable during every month of the year, and furnishing

a direct outlet to the sea, also acts as a constant check upon the freight rates of land routes, and forces them all to a water level. The bulk of the river business between this point and Mobile is in the hands of the Montgomery Trade Company, who own or control the five steamboats that ply regularly between the two ports, and transport an immense amount of freight at all seasons.

"The manufacturing industries of the capital city comprise one cotton-mill, two car shops, two cotton-seed-oil mills, a soap-works, fertilizer factory foundry, ice factory, three iron-works, five brickyards, and other establishments to the number of forty in all, which pay \$550,000 annually to 1,500 men and women operatives, and produce \$2,500,000 worth of manufactured goods. In round numbers the total business of the city, commercial and manufacturing, amounts to \$30,000,000 annually, and is transacted upon an invested capital of \$13,530,000. In addition to those just mentioned, Montgomery is the headquarters for a number of industries that utilize the magnificent waterpower of the Tallapoosa River within forty or fifty miles of the city. The most important of these is the Tallassee Manufacturing Company, who own and operate the largest cotton-mills in Alabama. Their office is on Bibb Street, and the Capital City reaps great benefit from their extensive transactions, but the mills are located at Tallassee, thirty-five miles from Montgomery, beside the great falls of the Tallapoosa. Here, in commodious factories built of stone, equipped with machinery of the most recent invention, and comparing favorably with the best in the North, the company gives employment to 500 operatives, and consumes 6,500 bales of cotton annually. Their products are sheetings, shirtings, Osnaburgs, duck, yarns, thread, and twine, for which they find a ready market throughout the entire South.

"Among the public buildings, and other objects of interest in Montgomery, the historic State Capitol, of course, ranks first. A few rods to the South of it is the foundation of what is to be a noble monument to the Confederate dead, the cornerstone of which was laid last year by Jefferson Davis. In the very heart of the city, ornamenting Court Square from which the principal business streets radiate, stands a bronze fountain which costs \$7,000, and is a copy of

continued on page 11

PEARL HARBOR BASE TO BE U. S. TOWER OF STRENGTH IN PACIFIC

The Montgomery Advertiser

August 3, 1919

22 Years, 4 months and 4 days to Dec. 7th, 1941

HONOLULU, July 14 -- (by Mail) - War against the United States will be made almost prohibitive for any Oriental nation through the establishment of Pearl Harbor base here of the great part of the new Pacific fleet, according to naval authorities. The arrival of the fleet late in August, it was declared, would make Pearl Harbor one of the greatest naval bases in the world and the most important to the United States.

Naval authorities have said Hawaii affords the only possible location for a strong naval base in the Central Pacific ocean for a distance of 4,000 miles. It lies approximately 2,500 miles off the American coast. If Hawaii were in the hands of an enemy, according to local authorities, that nation could harass and threaten the entire Pacific coast. To guard the Pacific coast against an enemy occupying Hawaii, the United States would be compelled to keep a fleet many times the size required with Hawaii as an American base, it is declared.

With the United States in control of the islands an Oriental nation moving against the United States would be compelled to work from the American coast instead of the Hawaiian coast only 2,500 miles off.

Pearl Harbor, where the base is situated is considered one of the best, if not the best natural harbors in the world. It has an area of ten square miles and a depth of more than 60 feet. It is landlocked and ships within the harbor are out of view from the sea. The great new drydock just completed will be officially opened by Secretary of the Navy Daniels when he arrives with the fleet. It is 1029 feet long, is 138 feet wide and can handle any ship afloat or contemplated.

The war department also has ample sites at the channel entrance and already has engaged on the construction of protecting defenses. A considerable army force also is maintained in the islands.

End

Alabama Many Different Flags

Birmingham Ledger.

Date unknown.

Alabama was part of Florida after the Spaniards came and part of it belonged to **Spain** till after 1812.

Alabama belonged to **France** and was part of Louisiana for a time, and Mobile was the capital of Louisiana until 1786 when it was ceded to **England**.

Northern Alabama was **part of Illinois** for a while, that is, from Montgomery to the northward. Then this land belonged to **Georgia**, then to **Mississippi**, then to the national government and then it became a State.

In January 1861 Alabama seceded from the United States and became an **independent nation**, but joined the other states that left the Union and became part of the **Confederate States of America**. When the war closed in 1865, Alabama was out of the Union, out of the Confederacy, and was simply a military province governed by a military ruler. We had a rather queer and unsettled kind of government, sometime by our own people, sometime by Northern soldiers and Negroes. Then came reconstruction and we were put back into the Union, but still had Northern soldiers to govern us and actually two Northern generals were put into the **United States** Senate from Alabama.

So Alabama has had a varied history and has belonged to several nations, was admitted to the Union twice and is now in "for keeps." She took a long time to settle down. The Ledger will tell the full story someday.

End

these neighboring towns will be given in subsequent articles.

THE OLD ALABAMA TOWN

Col. Hawkins, in his "Sketch of the Creek Country," thus describes the old Alabama town at the present site of Montgomery, as it was at the beginning of the present century. "E-cun-chate; from E-cun-na, 'earth' and chate, 'red.' A small village on the left bank of the Alabama, which has its fields on the right bank in the cage swamp. They are a poor people without stock, are idle and indolent, and seldom make bread enough, but have fine melons in great abundance in their season. The land back from the settlement is of thin quality; oak, hickory, pine, and ponds. Back of this, hills or waving. Here the soil is of good quality for cultivation; that of thin quality extends for nearly a mile (from the river)."

This is an excellent description of the country extending south of the old town as I remember it in 1839. Within my earliest recollection the town-site itself was a level, uncultivated field, hard by the bluff of the river. The surface was strewn with the remains of the former Indian occupation. The schoolboys of Montgomery, for whom it was in those days a famous place of resort, used to call it "Old Town." There were plenty of doves, larks, and partridges in the old fields, and under the shady bluff good fishing in the river. The two Indian mounds found here in the earliest settlement by the whites had been dug down before my day to make bricks for the old Planters' Hotel. To reach "Old Town," the boys used to go out on what I suppose is now called Bell Street, then known as the Washington Road. At the brow of a small hill about one mile from Court Street stood the old Bell mansion, long the residence of Bushrod W. Bell, a noted citizen of the town, and

Sheriff of Montgomery County in 1840. Turning to the right at the foot of the hill a short walk brought us to the old Alabama town. There are several of the old boys yet living in Montgomery who can tell of those schoolboy excursions to "Old Town" and of our search over the field for arrow-points and other relics of the ancient inhabitants. There are James W. Powell and his brother John, George R. Sayre and Calvin Sayre, Robert H. Sommerville, Dr. John Hazard Henry, B. Leon Wyman, and a few others - alas how few! Of the rest some are scattered here and there in the world; many repose on yonder hill that Andrew Dexter set apart in the beginning, as the last sleeping place for the people of his town. There are excellent reasons for believing that the

First White Men

who ever saw the woody slopes on which Montgomery is built were the intrepid Spanish adventurers, who followed Hernando DeSoto in his wonderful anabasis. DeSoto in his Southward journey through this region in 1540 crossed the Tallapoosa at a town called Talise. It can almost be demonstrated that in his march from Talise he crossed the Alabama not far below the mouth of the Cahawba. This conclusion, it is gratifying to note, has been reached in recent years by several scholarly gentlemen in Alabama who have studied the itinerary of DeSoto in the original sources. Colonel Willis Brewer of Hayneville, Col. R.A. Hardaway of the University, Major J.W.A. Wright of Livingston, and Messrs. Clifford A. Lanier and Edmund P. Morrisette of Montgomery, each studying for himself have reached the conclusion that DeSoto crossed the Alabama not far from Cahawba, thus differing from the older students of the

route, Meek, Pickett, and Theodore Irving, who thought that the crossing place was lower down in Wilcox County.

If the recent conclusion is true, a glance at the map will show anyone who bears in mind the fact that the Indian towns were nearly always situated on the banks that DeSoto in his march from Talise to the mouth of the Cahawba following the Indian trails from town to town must have passed hard by the old Alabama town at Montgomery. For my part I venture to go farther and to conjecture that the giant chief, Tushka-loosa, and his son, Aktahache, whom DeSoto encountered in this quarter, were the head men of the Alabama town. Why not? The word Tushka-loosa, meaning "Black Warrior," abides to this day in the language of the Alabamas. The Spaniards must have met the Black Warrior not far from the place where Montgomery now stands. The names of two of the towns traversed by the Adilantado in this region - Ullibahalli and Towassa - have a familiar sound to those who are versed in the ancient lore of this vicinity. The little band of Spaniards sent out from Pensacola Bay in 1559, twenty years after DeSoto's time, by Don Tristan de Luna, in search of the Indian town of Coosa, passed by the river and town of Ulliballe or Olaballe. Towassa, a name venerable for its antiquity, was the appellation of the Alabama town on the bluff three miles below Montgomery.

With the permission of the editors of *The Advertiser*, I shall in an article soon to follow this give some new facts concerning the first settlement of Montgomery by the whites.

End

EARLIEST TIMES

IN AND AROUND MONTGOMERY

An Interesting Communication from Dr. W. S. Wyman
of State University

THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

June 1893

For the historic associations that cluster around it, one of the most interesting localities in the neighborhood of Montgomery is the level plain on the top of the river bluff, about one mile below the wharf - once an old field, but now, as I am informed, included within the premises of **Mr. James Chappell**. On this spot lived as far in the past as history or tradition gives us information about this region, a band of that remarkable tribe of Indians known in our history as the Alabamas. By the Indians who lived here the town itself was called Alabama - an interesting fact which has escaped the notice of all our local historians.

Colonel Albert J. Pickett tells us in his history of Alabama that the name of the town situated on the Montgomery bluff was Ecun-chate. This information is derived from a "Sketch of the Creek Country," written about the year 1800 by Colonel Benjamin Hawkins, United States Agent for the Creek Indians, and published by the Georgia Historical Society in 1848. Ecun-chate was, it is true, the name given to this town by the Creek or Muscogee Indians. But the Alabamas who lived on this spot called their town Alabama. The name Ecun-chate is pure Creek and means "The Red Bluff" - a name fairly descriptive of the town site. The name Alabama is not Creek at all, and the Indians who lived here were, in language and customs, quite distinct from the Creeks. The people of Montgomery may, with just pride, claim that their flourishing city is built in part on the site of the Indian town that gave the name first to the river and afterwards to the State.

The Homes of the Alabamas

The Alabama River formed by the junction of the Coosa and the Tallapoosa flows first in a westerly direction across a series of strata chiefly sandy belonging to the Cretaceous Formation and underlying the rotten limestone of the prairies. To these strata our geologists have given the name Eutaw Group or Eutaw Sand. The river, in cutting a channel for itself across the dip of the Eutaw strata, has formed a series of lofty and picturesque bluffs, composed for the most part of beds of coarse red and yellow sand, extending from Coosawda Bluff in Elmore County, as far, perhaps, as House's Bluff in Autauga County.

On the tops of these high bluffs were situated, in the oldest times of which we have any record, the towns of the ancient Alabamas. Along the river on both sides indications are still found here and there of the former habitations of this aboriginal people -

mounds, shell-heaps, broken pottery, and flint arrow-points.

Who Were the Alabamas?

In the absence of written records or concurrent traditions we have the right to infer from kinship in language a kinship also in race. Following this clue we are warranted in saying that the Alabamas were a segment of the Choctaw-Chickasaw stock of Indians cut off from the main stock and living on these river bluffs long years, perhaps centuries, before they ever saw a white man. We should bear in mind the fact that the language of the Choctaws and the Chickasaws is substantially the same, and that these two tribes according to their own traditions were in the distant past one people. An examination of the language of the Alabamas proves that theirs is a dialect of the tongue spoken by the Choctaws and the Chickasaws. According to the tradition of the Creeks, the Alabamas had been subjugated by them and incorporated with the Creek Confederacy many generations before the white people ever reached this country.

Within historic times there were six towns of the Alabamas in the region contiguous to Montgomery. I name and number these in the order in which one would have found them in descending the river from the junction:

First - Tuskegee.

Second - Coosawda.

Third - Alabama or Ecun-chate.

Fourth - Towassa.

Fifth - Pauwokte.

Sixth - Autauga.

I should like here to give some details of all these towns, but this would lead me too far away from my present purpose, which is to give some account of the old Montgomery settlement. If these sketches turn out to be of sufficient interest to the readers of *The Advertiser*, a description of

A LETTER FROM GOVERNOR WATTS

The Montgomery Advertiser

June 7, maybe 1932

Through the kindness of a good friend I have been privileged to read some letters from a distinguished son of Alabama, and a great Confederate leader, Governor Thomas Hill Watts (b. 1819 - d. 1892), written to his second-wife, who was, at the time, visiting her kinfolk in New York City. At the time of their marriage in 1875, Mrs. Watts was the widow of the distinguished Alabama lawyer, Jefferson Franklin Jackson, who died at Montgomery in 1862, and who had been a law-partner of Gov. Watts.

A Thanksgiving Dinner

Writing from Montgomery, December 1, 1884, Governor Watts said: "On last Thursday we had a Thanksgiving dinner. Mr. Frank Reese, Cols. Tom Seay of Greensboro and Brown of Tuscaloosa, and Judge Clayton dined with us. We had a nice dinner and all seemed to enjoy themselves, and we enjoyed their company. Today, Governor O'Neal was inaugurated, and all the new officers took their places. There was quite a crowd of ladies out. It has been a beautiful day, the thermometer this morning at 41. I gathered figs, butter-beans and tomatoes this morning - but this is the last. We have had no freeze, but several frosts, still the vegetables have not all been killed yet."

Opposed Secession

In another letter, under date of Nov. 15, 1884, the Governor says his friends "will present my name to the President at the proper time for the position of Attorney General." He suggests that Mrs. Watts get some of her influential friends to write to Daniel S. Lamont, a close friend of President Grover Cleveland, and secretary of war in his second cabinet. Writing of his qualifications, he tells Mrs. Watts that the friend "may say that I have had and argued more cases in the Supreme Court of Alabama than any lawyer who ever lived in the State. The fact that I was appointed the Attorney General of the Confederate States, without asking or suggesting it, and without any previous knowledge of it, shows what reputation I had as a lawyer in the Southern States twenty-two and a half years since. ...He may state that before the War I opposed Secession - wanted Bell and Everett elected because they would have preserved the Union without any attempt at Secession."

Makes a Midnight Speech at Columbiana

Governor Watts was at home on the stump and thoroughly enjoyed speechmaking. No crowd ever called for him in vain. In a letter dated Nov. 9, 1884, he says that he had

been to Shelby County to try a lawsuit. "The election excitement has been so great everywhere," he writes, "that law business was much interfered with. On Friday the news seemed so certain that Cleveland was elected, that a crowd at Columbiana came to my hotel after I had gone to bed, and with drums and noise called me up. I put on my shoes without socks; coat and pants, and without any collar went out and made the crowd a speech of twenty minutes. I rang the curfew and liberty bells with rapturous applause. On the same night the folks here (Montgomery) 'painted the town red' (if you know what that means.)

"I reached here (Montgomery) last night at 8, and expected to find a demonstration going on, but everything was quiet. I intended to make my curfew-bell speech &c."

Rejoices at Grover Cleveland's Election

In the same letter the Governor says: "I am rejoiced at Cleveland's election. It puts the Southern States fully back into the Union. We have never been recognized in the administrations since the War. Cleveland ought to have at least two members of his cabinet from the South, and he will have, perhaps, four Supreme Court Judges to appoint. ...It is to be hoped, as Cleveland has been elected by 'a Solid South', that he will recognize the South in his administration, and he will proclaim that the future contests will be fought, not on the hates of the past, but upon the hopes of the future. We

continued on page 11

The Lady of The Old Arm Chair

No. 2

4th of July

Reminiscences of a Montgomery Woman

The Montgomery Journal, Sunday July 9, 1916

By Hannah McIntyre Cozart



Hannah Cozart
and daughter,
Toccoa

"Fourth of July", said the lady, as she greeted her visitors, who had come to tell her of the wonderful parade through the principal streets of Montgomery, which had stirred the city to its heart. "Fourth of July" always makes me think of the first celebration I remember, after we came to Montgomery to live. We came in 1849, in the fall, and I think this was the year following, though I am not at all certain about the date - it might have been in fifty-one or fifty-two, as I remember how excited the people were over California and its admission as 'a Free State', and I don't know whether they were too busy with politics to celebrate or too mad with the Congress.

"Anyway, away out on the river bank, just west of where the old Cowles house used to stand - the pitiful old wreck was recently pulled down, you say? Well, out there was a garden, a beer-garden, known as Bemer's Garden; I do not know whether ladies were in the habit of frequenting the place, I only know that my own mother's associates did not; and up to that Fourth of July, I had never been there. However, this place was chosen for the assembling of the citizens and their families for

the very biggest celebration Montgomery had ever known.

"That garden was a curious place. Smooth grass-plots crowned the high bluffs of the river, the view was very beautiful, with the high hills of Prattville blue in the distance, while smiling plantations and handsome homes with their surrounding Negro-quarters, dotted the landscape every direction. There was far more land down next to the river -below the bluff than now, and quaint stairs led down there. There were not only sanded places for tables and chairs, out in the open, but there were caves hollowed out in the bluffs large enough to hold a table and its complement of chairs. Huge trees - gone long years ago - afforded a delightful shade, not only on the river banks, but they stood bravely against the winds up on those high bluffs.

"Well, as I was saying, the committee in charge of the celebration of that Fourth of July, chose that garden for its assembly-place, and all Montgomery was agog with excitement concerning the details of the giant entertainment. There was to be a parade through the streets, bands playing, and the orator of the day was to head the procession and speak to the

multitude after reaching the garden.

"Strange, but I have no recollection of that parade - I am not certain that I saw it, I have the impression that my party went out to the garden before the parade started, to get good seats in the immense circus tent, that had been erected 'out of deference to the ladies'. I remember that Jim Clanton - afterwards the Confederate hero - was the orator of the day. This excited me wonderfully, for he was the intimate friend of my brothers, and in and out of our house all the time. I could scarcely realize that Jim Clanton could be sufficiently 'grown up' to warrant such honors! But you say that Jamie Parrish led the great parade today? Well, well, these children will slip out from under our hands and grow and grow and the first thing you know it's 'Mister this and Mister that', when all the time you are dreaming of a day long gone by.

"I suppose youngsters like me could not comprehend the significance of Jim Clanton's fiery utterances - all about California, Southern blood and heroism in Mexico; some price or other that the south had paid for territory - now all I knew of 'territory' was what the geography had told

A few books you might find interesting on the subject of the history of Montgomery or Alabama.

Books by Col. Jeffrey C. Benton:

Respectable and Disreputable: Leisure Time in Antebellum Montgomery. New South Books, 2013, 130 pgs. This is a documented study of how antebellum Montgomerians spent their leisure time.

The Very Worst Road: Travelers' Accounts of Crossing Alabama's Old Creek Indian Territory, 1820 - 1847. The University of Alabama Press, 1998, 157 pgs. Sixteen Americans and Europeans describe travel on the Federal Road between the Chattahoochee and Montgomery.

Through Others' Eyes: Published Accounts of Antebellum Montgomery, Alabama. New South Books, 2014, 210 pgs. Twenty-seven American and European visitors to antebellum Montgomery describe steamboat and train travel, the surrounding countryside and the town itself, hotels and food etc.

A Sense of Place: Montgomery's Architectural Heritage, 1821-1951. River City Publishing, 2001, 272 pgs. The Book is composed of entries on 79 private houses and public buildings. Each entry includes a black and white photograph and a description of the building's architecture.

Books are available at: Capitol Book and News, Old Cloverdale; Old Alabama Town; New South Books, Court Street; Goat Hill Shop, Alabama Capitol Building

Books by Carol King and Karren Pell:

Montgomery's History of Neighborhoods, photographs of life in Montgomery's historically designated neighborhoods, mostly from private photo collections.

Montgomery, Then & Now, historic photographs of Montgomery with a current image of each as well.

Images of Modern America-Montgomery, photographs of Montgomery from the recent past (post World War II) to the present day.

Books are available at: Capitol Book & News and Old Alabama Museum Store.

Book by Charles Ellison Norman

Norman Bridge Road, This account of the migration from North Carolina in 1818 and the settlement of the Normans in the Alabama Territory was based on authentic genealogical and historical research and actual events of the three generations of the family who homesteaded on land north of the Catoma Creek in Montgomery County.

The book is available through Amazon.com.

Book by Dr. Clinton Carter, Kerry Palmer, Roger Stifflemire and Jim Vickery.

Echoes of Lee High School, The First Decade, 1955-65. This book is an anthology about the first decade of Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, AL, written and compiled by persons who shared their unique personal experiences at the school. Available from Dr. Carter or at Stonehenge.

Book by Nimrod Frazer

Send the Alabamians, Recounts the story of the 167th Infantry Regiment of the World War I Rainbow Division University of Alabama Press 2014. Book is available from the Author or at Stonehenge.

not then being in use.

The river was considerably swollen from the late winter rains and the long cable across the stream at the ferry was submerged in the center, due of course, to its great length and intense weight.

Late on this particular Sunday night the skiff of Judge Randolph and his friend, Sam Metcalf, came drifting down towards Montgomery. The occupants had consumed just about all of the liquid refreshments which they had carried on the trip and were lying flat down in the boat allowing the craft to drift as it would in the strong current.

When the boat reached the spot where the long cable was submerged the keel in some manner touched the cable and the strong current swept the craft around quickly and dumped its occupants into the turbulent waters, together with every article it had contained.

A hasty scramble for life immediately started and it was with considerable difficulty that all parties were rescued from the swift and almost icy waters. The fine shotguns of both gentlemen were lost in the river along with a number of other valuables. They entered suit for damages against Erwin and Co., which suit ran for several years in the courts.

The defendants finally lost the case and had to pay for loss of the guns and other valuables. However, the incident of the flop-over into the river of two of Montgomery's

prominent citizens was the cause of many hearty laughs, even of the participants themselves.

A MONTGOMERY TRAGEDY

Several years later than the time of the above incident one of the well-remembered tragedies of Montgomery occurred. It was on a night in early November while the votes from a hot state and national election were being flashed on a screen over Knabe's drug store by a Montgomery newspaper. Excitement ran high and the streets in that vicinity were thronged with people. Two pistol shots rang out from the sidewalk in front of a Dexter Avenue drug store.

The crowd thickened at the spot of the shooting immediately and police reserves had to deal rather roughly with several people before the sidewalk could be cleared.

A prostrate man was borne into the drug store and given first aid. But within a few minutes the crowd that was thronging the streets in front of Fowler's had to be pushed back to make room for a corpse to be placed on an undertaker's wagon. Sam Metcalf was no more. He had been shot and killed by his erstwhile best friend, Judge Frank C. Randolph.

The two men had met and joked for a moment, according to witnesses, then came to blows with the result that one was later carried to the cemetery and the other was freed by the courts.

END

Ongoing
PROGRESS ON
OAKWOOD CEMETERY
PROJECT

As you may have heard we are in the process of digitizing the records at Oakwood Cemetery, Montgomery's oldest burying ground, so that these records will be readily available for researchers on the Internet.

We are pleased with the progress of our volunteers. We got a call from Alice Carter who reports she has completed those in the letter "O".

If you would be interested in assisting, we can give you a demonstration of the process on the computer to see if it appeals to your interest. We would suggest that you begin the work here at our office and then after you are comfortable with the process, you might transfer it to your home computer.

The completed letters are:
O, P, Q, R, T, W, X, Y, Z.

Those working on other letters are:
Preston Phillips = P and V
Jean Bradley = S
Ken Upchurch = D and E
Claire Fordham = C
James Fuller = U
George Howell = B

Shara and Judia Green are working on the Excel program that will contain all of the information. This leaves 9 letters not yet started.

END

me, and that was not interesting. Anyway, right in the midst of his most fervid utterances, a great cloud came up, the wind rose and caught that tent with a mighty grasp and everybody thought it was surely gone! The people must have moved violently, on the raised seats, in their fright, for, suddenly without warning, those seats with their human freight went down with a crash! Men shouted, women shrieked and fainted, children sent up their shrill cries for parents, and pandemonium reigned until rescue was accomplished. I never once thought of the fact that anyone could feel a responsibility for men. I was too busy looking after my little sister, who had come out with another party and then sought me out and attached herself to me. Fortunately, our tier of seats gently subsided to the ground, and hundreds of us merely stood up and viewed the scene in bewilderment. After our fright had subsided, we could grasp the ludicrous features; you must try to understand that was the day of hoopskirts and the most voluminous of flounces, while, underneath were twinkling slippers and snowy stockings! You must also try - try hard as ever you can - to understand that 'woman' compromised her modesty in those days, if she 'wantonly' showed her foot! Her skirts were to modestly hide the fact that she, along with male human beings, possessed 'lower extremities'! Well, they went violently and suddenly into exhibition, and it is to the high credit of those gentlemen of that high-school-of-good-

manners, that no matter how funny the situations were really, they kept the gravest and most solicitous faces!

"From what you girls tell me of the free and easy ways of this day, I suspect that if you had a similar experience, 'the boys', not 'the gentlemen', would have 'hailed' you out by your feet, or 'any old way' as I hear you say! Ay, nay, those were the statesmen who held Alabama to her high place in America's history! Those were the young men who were to follow Jim Clanton into his famous military organization in 1861. They were gentlemen first, then patriots in every sense of the word. Those were the men, some of them, who followed Lee into Pennsylvania and back again without a charge being preferred that they had looted a single farmyard! I hear that some of our boys have already raided some outlying stores and drunk up all the supplies of bottled drinks! And this without paying the poor storekeeper for anything! But I am digressing; I am telling you about that Fourth of July. We were to have had a grand barbecue dinner - but Jim Clanton's speech was never finished, neither did we get to taste all those good things! The barbecue pits were somewhere in the background, and in charge only of a committee of the most famous of Black cooks of the country around. They knew best when mutton was done to a turn; they could disguise beef until it was food for the gods! Then, as ever, their deepest affections clung to 'the hawg' and so barbecued pig was a dainty dish to set before a king!

There were pits devoted to "roas'n' years" and a savory odor from their slip shucks was already being wafted to Jim Clanton's audience, when things calamitous began to happen.

"The tables stood in a long, long row, hollow formation, open on one side for the white-aproned Black waiters to reach the guests. They had stood burdened with great piles of delicious bread, pickles (homemade), salads (homemade), relishes, peaches, nectarines, 'muskmelons', and everything else that warm hospitality, prosperity and plenty could shower upon the occasion. Farther back were hogsheads of lemonade, piles of huge water melons, and tables with coffee arrangements while the incense of such coffee as we know not now, in this day of 'blending', arose even unto heaven! Oh, yes, it was incense, from happy homes and a land teeming with plenty, happy Blacks - carefree and sharing in all the fun and happiness! Oh, yes, I am more than glad that there is no more slavery - never wanted it, it was thrust upon us, with its awful responsibility, by our forefathers; we were the victims not the aggressors, and of course I still resent that bloody war was the destructive measure used for cutting 'the barbed wire entanglements' of the question of slavery. You see, I along with Jim Clanton and his soldier boys lived through that unnecessary bloody strife; oh, I've talked it all over with him since that day! And, we

who survived its awfulness, learned in its dreadful school, that war only made our case more complicated - even unto this day!

"Well, just as we were finding ourselves, as Kipling is so fond of saying, and were turning our thoughts toward those tables out there, down came the rain in torrents! There was yelling from the crowds outside that couldn't get inside the tent! They were being drowned. Such wails of despair as went up from those barbecue cooks, as their pits slowly filled with rainwater and all that brown gravy disappeared beneath the mud. Black waiters grabbed the first thing they could think of to rescue and disappeared under the tables, where they were quickly followed by the drenched crowd that gracefully took the hint.

"We who were dry and safe were unreasonably ungrateful, we were hungry! But all the dinner we got that day was what grumbling cooks prepared for us after we got home. Anyway, the fruits and melons were not hurt by the downpour, and our carriages were loaded by the apologizing committees and our cooks were placated by the sight of the huge water melons - those old-time Darkeys always did turn up their noses at a 'muskmelon', when they could sight a watermelon!

"Truly it was a wet and bedraggled host that sought the city, but an amiable and still patriotic Montgomery that sat on its porches in the twi-

light, and discussed the happenings of that eventful Fourth of July, so long, so long ago!

"And we were under the same flag then as now! But, oh, how much has come in between! How dear has another flag grown. How proudly and defiantly did we wave it against this one! I still love it and always will - Jim Clanton and my brothers fought under it and gave it their blood, yet, when it was furled, we accepted everything but 'Reconstruction' - that I never will! I'm glad I'm old, so old, and am not called on to take any part now, I've done my part by my Southland, and it is now the day of you young men folks. I am glad, however, that you love me well enough to come and tell me of your great day, but, don't let your soldier boys go to Mexico - it isn't worth them! Goodbye."

END

Electric Current Downtown Jan. 8, 1883

The electric current was turned on for the first time in the four lights that decorated the tower at the Basin (later the Court Square Fountain). The Advertiser commented: "The lights attracted much curiosity and there is no reason to believe they will not be successful."

Roof Garden of Beauvoir Club Ideal Place to Spend An Evening

July 20, 1919

The Beauvoir Club has several hundred members, and yet many of them are unaware of the charm of the roof garden, an ideal place to spend the hot summer evenings. The roof garden which was recently opened, is a beautiful place, with its boxes of petunias, in rich and varied colors, scarlet geraniums, and other blossoms vying with each other in an effort to claim the attention of the flower lover.

Numerous informal dinner parties are given at the club, guests enjoying the delicious meal, and lingering long after it is served, because of the charm of the roof garden, which is delightfully cool, and gives a splendid view of the city.

Suffice to say, that any member of the club, and any guest who may be so fortunate as to enjoy the hospitality of a member, has a treat in store for them, when they visit the roof garden of the Beauvoir Club.

The Beauvoir Club was a men's club downtown for meetings, lunch with perhaps a nap following. It was located in various houses and downtown buildings such as the Exchange and the Gay-Teague Hotels.

It eventually became a part of the Montgomery Country Club.

The article does not identify the building with the roof garden but research indicates it was the Bell Building.

Is it still there, John Scott?

Montgomery In 1887 continued from page 5

one built for the wife of Flood, the bonanza millionaire. The United States Building, recently erected by the general government at a cost of \$130,000, stands at the corner of Dexter Avenue and Lawrence Street, and is a handsome structure admirably fitted to its uses. The city buildings are spacious and substantial. A brick building standing at the corner of Bibb and Commerce Streets, and now occupied as a grocery store, was the first headquarters of the Confederacy, and contained all the government while Montgomery remained its capital.

"Montgomery is a city of homes, and surrounded by luxuriant gardens, these border miles of its broad, three-shaded streets, with pleasant suggestions of domestic comfort and prosperous contentment. Not the least interesting among them are the homes of the city's colored population, which in most cases are small but neat cottages owned, with their adjoining bits of land, by their occupants. In this city, the colored people apparently form a contented, prosperous, self-respected portion of the community.

"The attractions of this place, to those seeking new homes in the South, may be summarized in a sentence. It is a city possessing all the advantages of long establishment, most healthfully located in a latitude of genial climate, offering all the inducements of a newly awakened and thoroughly progressive communi-

ty, and so situated as to reap a rich harvest from the tide of prosperity that is sweeping over and revivifying the great State of which it is the capital."

Note Mr. Munroe's statement that there were fifteen miles of track on which electric cars run at the unvarying speed of six miles an hour. Each car was a twelve horse-power vehicle.

"Fifty Years Ago"

The writer's reference to the foundation of the Confederate Monument, the cornerstone of which was laid by Mr. Jefferson Davis, is like one which makes "fifty years ago" comments interesting. Note likewise what he says about the fountain. I do not know exactly how to identify a "bonanza millionaire", but Mr. Flood may have been a mine operator. I rather like the writer's reference to Montgomery as a "wealthy and charmingly old-fashioned center." I must insist, however, that according to present-day records Col. Andrew Dexter did not name Dexter Avenue for himself. The date of the change from Market Street to Dexter Avenue preceded by only a few months the visit of Mr. Munroe.

As an accompanying feature of the issue, a larger two-page group of illustrations show Montgomery of that time. The Pollard House and the Yost home are illustrated, a Dexter Avenue view, a steamboat scene and two other pictures make an interesting group for one who would clip them as old Montgomery prints.

END

Due to space limitations we are not able to include the aforementioned pictures.

Gov. Watts continued from page 7

will rejoice and the whole country will rejoice, if it can be truly said that the 'great people of the North', in the recent contest have folded up the bloody shirt and laid it away in some secluded spot, with no headstone to mark the place of its eternal rest. There, with the constitution rights of all the States, as separate, independent, and co-equal, we may hope the Flag, the emblem of our Union, may float in triumph over the most distant of our posterity."

Cleveland's Southern Appointments

And Grover Cleveland, great American that he was, did recognize the South, and Governor Watts' hopes were realized. In his first cabinet he had L. Q. C. Lamar, Mississippi, and Augustus H. Garland, Arkansas. In his second cabinet were John G. Carlisle of Kentucky, Hilary A. Herbert of Alabama, and Hoke Smith of Georgia.

Cleveland also appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States from the South; Lamar of Mississippi, and White of Louisiana.

End

HISTORY QUOTES

"History is a set of lies agreed upon."
-Napoleon Bonaparte

"We learn from experience that men never learn anything from experience."
-George Bernard Shaw