

THE HERALD

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Montgomery County Historical Society

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This issue is especially for:



COLONIAL MOTORS

Colonial Motors is shown here when it was located in the **Figh-Pickett-Barnes School House** in 1949-50. The house was originally at #2 Clayton St..

The automobile business was owned by Mr. William A. McWaters who sold Kaiser- Frazer, Henry J., Packard, and Federal trucks.

At other times Edsels were sold in this building. Notice that through the windows and doors automobiles were displayed inside, testimony to the substantial construction of the house from 1837.

One could guess that it is Mr. McWaters and his wife pictured as passengers and their son, Bill, driving, who finished at Lanier in 1948. The McWaters lived on the SE corner of Hull and Clanton now a vacant lot on the hill. I believe the family relocated to Memphis.

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Montgomery County Historical Society THE HERALD



VOLUME 26 NO .1

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

ISSUE 1 - 2018

Cornerstone Laid At Confederate Monument in 1886

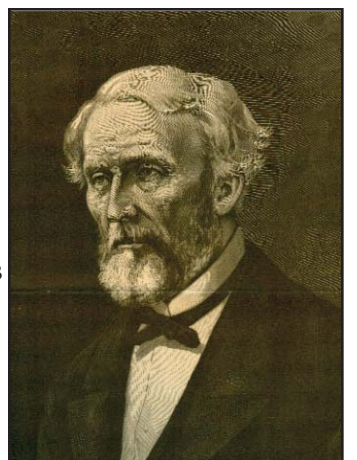
Letter written by Priscilla Cooper Tyler Goodwyn to her 14 year old son who was away in school in Virginia. Letter dated April 28, 1886.

My darling son,

I am in Montgomery at your Uncle Gardner's. It is after ten o'clock and I am all alone in the sitting room. Your Aunt Lizzie and Uncle Gardner have gone to a party with Uncle Robbie and Cousin Lizzie Waller. I have just come down stairs from singing Grandmother to sleep. And everyone had gone to bed but myself. Robert Scott and Henry - and Willie Waller, who is about your age are sleeping in the parlour, which is not furnished this Winter. Oh how I so wish you could have been here for the last two or three days !! You never saw such a demonstration of joy in your life, I do not suppose you ever will. Mr. Davis arrived on Tuesday night. We went to the Hotel [Exchange]; and I think Lizzie Waller was the first person to take his hand. When he landed from the elevator to the parlour floor, Gardner took it next and then Robbie. I stood back. He did not come from his room that night and only a few persons were allowed to see him. But before entering his room he said a few words from the balcony of the Hotel, to the crowd below. You never heard such cheers and yells. The city was grandly illuminated, and the most beautiful fireworks were playing - and great guns firing - and altogether it was the most exciting scene I have ever witnessed.

The next morning I was fortunate enough to see him in his room quietly for about ten minutes. He and Gen. Gordon addressed a large concourse of people the next day at the Capitol. The crowd would have been twice as large if the weather had been clear. But in the morning about the time trains were leaving the different stations, the rain was falling in torrents. Your dear father came over yesterday and remained until this afternoon. He saw the laying of the cornerstone today and wore a veteran's badge. After Mr. Davis had finished his remarks, when they were preparing to lay the stone, there was a short recess, and Mr. Davis was conducted to the Governor's room and the veterans of the old army were the only ones allowed to enter the room to see him. I will send you the badge he wore, a piece of blue ribbon as a memento of the day, or shall I just keep it for you until you come home?

I was so sorry your father had to leave this



President Jefferson
Davis

Don't forget the Bar-B-Que Fund Raiser Thursday

afternoon, for Mr. Davis had promised he would come to see your Grandmother Priscilla Cooper Tyler. We were anxious to have him to tea, but Col. Reese, the Mayor, took such absolute possession of him that he could do nothing he wanted to. He told Col. Reese in quite a determined way that nothing must interfere with his paying a visit to your grandmother; and so this afternoon he came. He did not stay more than half an hour. There were so many things for him to do. The only visits he paid were the one here - and from here to Aunt Sophy Bibb's, where he stayed about five minutes. He kissed all the children, and the grown people too, all of us who were your grandfather's children, and told him about your being at school in Va. and that you had sent your love to him.

I must send you his remembrance and love. He is the most courteous gentleman I have ever seen. His daughter came with him. She has a dignified graceful demeanor, like her father's. I was exceedingly attracted towards her. I send you copies of the *Dispatch* and *Advertiser*, they are full of interesting reading. I suspect Mr. McCabe would like to see them. If you can, preserve them. I will try to get some others tomorrow but am afraid I will not succeed. I have been "on the tramp" so continually in the last two days that I am very tired, so will stop writing and say good night to my darling.

Ever with fondest love your,

Mother; P.C.G.
End



First Exchange Hotel
Built in 1847, as it appeared in 1886

Mr. Frank Rosa, Sr.

was in management with S. H. Kress in Nashville when he came to Montgomery to run the Kress here in 1934. He attended Maryville College and met and married Lillian Jackson from Birmingham. They had three children, Betty, Jane and the oldest was Frank, Jr., an architect in Montgomery.

After the death of Mr. Green, Mr. Rosa became the manager of May & Green.

Their business along with many others struggled during WWII with the rationing of many items that were staples such as Boy Scout uniforms, school team uniforms, athletic equipment and other items affected by the war effort. The tennis racket scarcity resulted in much restringing of old rackets.

Surprisingly as late as those times, modern conveniences had not reached Montgomery businesses and the buildings there did not have the conveniences of indoor bathrooms. The building is still standing at 35 S. Court St.

The family decided to close in the 60s and Mr. Rosa became the Executive Director of the Montgomery Development Board.

End

May & Green



Tom Conner said:

.... little children, all over the world didn't know it, but there was but one real honest to goodness, genuine Santa Claus? In those days of the late 30s, his permanent address from about this time of year, right up to Christmas Eve, was at May & Green's on South Court Street. [I remember distinctly the exciting Ho, Ho, Ho.] The sporting goods store turned into a toy shop of the finest variety with everything from dolls to electric trains, from Monopoly games to football equipment. And probably even more spellbinding than seeing Santa in person, was listening to him every evening on the radio. There were no TV's, and the sound effects surrounding Santa's deep voice were electrifying even to the adult audience. May & Green's was founded shortly after the turn of the century by Mr. W. A. May whose son-in-law, Cliff Green, joined him, and ran the business for years. Mr. Green was the father of Lanier's beloved teacher, Susie Green. The last 2 decades May & Green's was operated by Mr. Frank Rosa, Sr. The business closed in 1964.

Tom Conner

Montgomery County Historical Society

Announces Addition of Two New Board Members

Invitations to join the Board have been extended and accepted and

May Lamar Donnell

and

Anne Henry Tidmore

are our new members of the
Board.



May L. Donnell



Anne H. Tidmore

Contributions to Archival Collections

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Historical Society, we express our deepest gratitude to the following for their donations to our collection.

Charles and Judy Norrell of Tallassee: Rose Valley Whiskey bottle circa 1900. This was from saloon keeper Charles Brady, who operated his establishment in Montgomery from 1893 until the early 1900s. The 1900 Census lists him in Montgomery with a salon at 139 Commerce Street.

Mrs. Nan Rosa: Five scrapbooks of the P.E.O., Montgomery Chapter, containing photographs, articles and memorabilia of the organization's Montgomery members from 1950 to date.

Ms. Mickie West: Jenny Lind Crib with signature spindle posts. This baby crib was formerly owned by Mrs. Alton Cumbus.

Mrs. Jo Young: Framed photographic print entitled "Loading Cotton Bales on Alabama River Boat." The print formerly hung in the office of Donald Loftin, Optician.

Montgomery County Historical Society

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In House News

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By Mr. Cecil C. Spear, Jr.

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- Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bushman
- Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle Chandler
- Mr. & Mrs. Mark Davis
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- Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. McGowin
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- Mr. & Mrs. Don Rickard
- Mr. & Mrs. Peter Waldo
- Mr. Robert H. Wieland

Special Donations

- The Montgomery Genealogy Society
- Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Mahan
- The Sojourner’s Literary Club

The First [Street] Car Propelled by Electricity

Montgomery Advertiser
1916

A paragraph taken from *The Advertiser* of March 28, 1886, and reproduced in Tuesday's *Advertiser*, chronicles a historical event which at that time attracted no attention from the outer world, but which nevertheless marked the beginning of one of the greatest of modern developments, perhaps the greatest. As published in "Today, twenty-five years ago," *The Advertiser* notes that, "At 2:30 this morning a Court street car made the round trip by the electric motor system. The car went around the curve at Court Square without a hitch." The date should be kept in mind--March 28, 1886.

At that date in Montgomery for the first time the immense possibilities of the transmission of the electric power was indicated. This, perhaps, was more significant than that the same occasion marked the first electric street car run in the streets of the city by transmitted electric power to a meter on the car.

Montgomery's claim to have been the first city in which electricity cars were run rests solidly upon that date, March 28, 1886. For nearly a year previous, Montgomery capitalists and Charles Vanderpoel, the discoverer of this great principle of emergency, had been at work equipping the surface street car system for electricity.

On March 28, 1886, a round trip was made from the first power house ever built, on Tallapoosa near Commerce street across Court Square, up Court street, which includes a steep hill, turned east on Grove street, and back north on Hull street. The car was then reversed and returned over the same route to the car barn. There are several men yet living in Montgomery who took that epoch-marking trip.



The first street car was mule drawn and had the nickname of Jingle Bells. You notice the first electric car shown above, was smaller than its successor.

Vanderpoel, who first found this marvelous power of applying it to practical use, was a Swiss engineer, who had been trained in the best polytechnic institutes in Paris. At the time of the discovery of the power which would run street cars, he was living in Detroit, and was experimenting in an old barn in an endeavor to improve the Brush arc light, the invention of which had created a national sensation. Vanderpoel was endeavoring to improve it under a contract to light the big tent of the John Robinson circus, which was shortly to play at Detroit. In his experiment, he made a far greater discovery than that of his Brush arc light.

He, equipped with the power, discovered a disused street car, which like all other street cars previous to that time, had been operated by horse power, "cheap as I can haul them with mules?"

With this car he made the tours of various fairs and resorts, charging a small fee for a short ride of from 100 to 200 yards. He also endeavored to get street car systems to adopt it in various cities, but failed in every endeavor.

Vanderpoel had the figures to show that it could be done. Then Mr. Gabourey asked: "Why haven't you had your invention put on some of the large street car systems?"

To which: Mr. Vanderpoel replied: "I have peddled idea throughout the United States, and can get no capitalists to take it up and no street car systems to adopt it."

To which Mr. Gabourey said: "You have met your man. I own a street car system in Montgomery. You come with me and we will put it in there."

The inventor and the practical man of affairs, had met; the result was the operation in Montgomery of the first electric street car system in the world.

End

**BELOW ARE INTERESTING
SCRAPS TAKEN FROM A
SCRAPBOOK FROM THE JOHN
DOWE FAMILY**

MARKETING WAS HARD

In the centre of Monroe Street, between Court and Perry, stood a long frame building that served as a market house. The street was of a black soupy variety of mud, and wooden walks went out from the sidewalk. Among the butchers then was Jacob Levy, "Black" Strauss, Adam Scheussler and several others, all natives of Germany. The market opened at 4 a.m., and every house in town either bought their meats about that hour or soon thereafter. The man of the house usually went to market and carried a big basket.

Free delivery was unknown and only on Saturdays was the market opened during the day.

ICE A LUXURY

Marketing then was adapted to the scarcity of ice. All ice used here came from Maine in sailing vessels to Mobile and was brought up the river on boats. Ice costs from 4 to 10 cents a pound. Little ice houses were scattered all over [Montgomery] and ice for dinner [midday meal] was sent for just before the meal.

Ice water was not in general use as the artesian wells on Court Square and at the intersection of Commerce [and Bibb was a source of cool water. The Court Square well was known as the Big Basin and the Commerce street was the Little Basin.] - - - .
End

Some Examples Of Morris Wolff's Memory

By C. M. Stanley
Editor, *The Alabama Journal (Montgomery Advertiser)*
June 3, 1956

UNQUESTIONABLY, Mr. Morris M. Wolff's memory for men and events in Montgomery is tops. Mr. Wolff is now 85. He came from Benton in Lowndes County in 1882 as a boy and has been here ever since. He is so familiar with Montgomery's past that it pains him to see errors made in dates and names.

He came by this office the other day accompanied by his nurse because of a statement in the paper that the Lafayette public school, soon to be wrecked to make way for a new state office building, was referred to as the oldest public school in Montgomery.

An older school, which Mr. Wolff attended as a boy, was located on Montgomery Street where the Shepherd building now stands. It was a T-shaped frame structure and well served its purpose in those days.

TURNING HIS memory back to the past, Mr. Wolff recalled the time when Montgomery was one of the South's great wholesale centers with business ramifications exceeding those of either Memphis or Savannah. Mr. Wolff can start anywhere and tell the name and location of any business house in Montgomery between 1880 and 1890, and he knew personally every man engaged in any kind of business in the city at that time.

He can recall the time when Dr. Baldwin came to town, when Dr. Chas. Thigpen came up from Butler County; when Dr. L. L. Hill, an eye and ear specialist, went to Europe to study surgery. He recalls A. Fred Whiting and Wiley C. Hill as boys. Mr. Wolff, as a Mason and Shriner, has had close contact with hundreds of men through the years that he has counted as friends.

He has written a number of articles for the *Advertiser* in years past, and says he never likes to write unless he knows the facts and is absolutely certain of what he is putting down for the record.

ASKED IF HE was familiar with the killing of a man named Bell in Dallas County before the Civil War, he said: "Yes indeed; that was the result of a famous feud between the Bell and Bird families over at Cahaba, and resulted in tragedies. The families were

Fund Raising Bar-B-QueTime

Mark your calendar
Thursday, June 7th, 6:00



Mary Seibels (in hat) and friends headed to Crescent Lake Club

Another historic location,
Crescent Lake Club
since 1888

Just 5 miles from downtown

Spring Membership Meeting

Featured

Author Joey Brackner

By Alma Hubbard

The MCHS was honored to host Mr. Joey Brackner as the guest speaker on Sunday, April 29th, for the Spring Membership Meeting. Brackner, who serves as the Director of the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture and hosts the popular Alabama Public Television series *Journey Proud*, enlightened the audience with his expert knowledge of historic regional pottery making. He shared information from his book, *Alabama Folk Pottery*, as he discussed the settlement patterns of early pioneer potters and their role in providing their respective communities with utilitarian storage vessels that were greatly needed prior to refrigeration. Multi-gallon vessels, such as churns, jars and pots were needed not only to store fruits, vegetables, cider, vinegar and whiskey, but were also used to preserve, pickle and smoke foods.

Brackner mentioned some of the first potters to migrate from North and South Carolina to south Alabama and establish shops selling their wares in communities such as Rock Mills, Bacon Level, Cedric and Hickory Flat in the early days of Alabama settlement. The Duncan, Ussery, Presley and Rushton families, as well as others, all



Mr. Joey Brackner

were engaged in the trade of producing earthenware vessels in these regions. Brackner's power-point presentation provided visual examples of the difference between ash-based alkaline and salt glazes that these potters were using in their folk pottery production.

An artifact featured in Brackner's presentation is in the MCHS collection. The Abraham Mordecai Jug, made circa 1840 in southern Randolph County, Alabama, was referenced by Brackner as being "a highly significant example of folk pottery and one of the earliest pieces utilizing the ash-based alkaline glaze, a hallmark glaze of Deep South potters."

Mordecai lived in Montgomery County in 1785

where he established a trading post until his death in 1850. Mr. Brackner also requested assistance from our members in helping him with further research on two early potters of the area. Please see below.

RESEARCH REQUEST TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

If you can provide Mr. Brackner with any information regarding the following, please reach out to him via telephone at: 334-242-4076, ext. 225, or via email at: joey.brackner@arts.alabama.gov.

- (1) Do you have any information regarding John H. Gindrat's unsuccessful attempt to establish a pottery, the Alabama Stoneware Manufacturing Company, in Montgomery in 1870?
- (2) Do you have any information that would assist in locating the pottery site of Moses Rushton in Dublin in south Montgomery County?

End

HISTORY QUOTES

"Study the past if you would define the future."

Confucius

"One cannot and must not try to erase the past merely because it does not fit the present."

Golda Meir

very prominent in those days, and their differences aroused widespread interest."

Mr. Wolff's memories of his boyhood in Benton are just as vivid as are those of his later mature years in Montgomery. He can tell interesting reminiscences of Vice President Wm. R. King, of King's Landing on the Alabama River in Dallas County, and of the various pieces of furniture including chairs and sofas given to an elderly niece in Prairieville ultimately to be given to the Department of Archives and History. One of his rocking chairs is an exact duplicate of the chair in which Abraham Lincoln was sitting in Ford's Theater in Washington the night he was assassinated.

MR. WOLFF did not get into much detail about the fatal feud among the two Bells, Judge Bird and Dr. Troy at Cahaba, but its tragic outcome should make it worthwhile some time for an investigation and report of the historic record.

The differences came to a head over a slave named Pleas to whom one of the Bells was attached but whom others charged with various crimes including setting fire to one of their homes. A year or two ago Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Hudson Jr. were driving near old Cahaba and came upon a stone marking the spot where a "Bell was murdered."

THERE SEEMS to be no detailed record of the community tragedy but William H. Brantley, the Birmingham his-

torian, some time ago told me of his familiarity with certain phases of it. He referred to the facts brought out in appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court, which are recited in XXXV Alabama at page 184. This was a collateral proceeding to the fight and involved Dr. Troy's \$20,000 suit against a John A. Bell administrator for the burning of his house. The fire occurred on the night of February 10, 1856 and the fight which resulted in the death of two Bells, father and son, was some time later. Judge W. E. Bird's home had also been burned.

It is apparent that the trouble extended over a considerable period and that the acts of the slave Pleas were chiefly responsible for bringing things to a crisis.

The trial itself was apparently an effort to hold the owner of the slave responsible for the acts of the chattel, and involved legal points of intricacy and importance.

WITH FURTHER reference to Mr. Wolff's memory, I recall meeting him on the street September 12, 1949 and making some notes of what he told me impromptu about the State Department Convention of 1886 held in Montgomery.

That was one of the historic gatherings in Democratic party history of Alabama because it involved so many of the state's prominent men and their struggle for leadership. It was before the days of party primaries and all party candidates for state office were chosen in a state convention of Democrats.

MR. WOLFF recalled that in the 1886 convention, leading candidates for governor were Thomas Seay of Hale County, Henry De Lamar Clayton of Barbour County, and John M. McKleroy of Calhoun County. Both Clayton and McKleroy were natives of Barbour.

Seay came to the convention with seven delegates pledged to him. Clayton and McKleroy both had sixty-odd pledges. There was a long fight for a majority as the leaders were unable to get together with Seay's seven delegates having the balance of power.

McKleroy was first to throw his votes to Seay and then Clayton also turned his strength to Seay and the Hale County man became governor of Alabama the following December.

IT IS INTERESTING to note in this connection that in 1886, the year of the convention, Colonel Clayton was elected president of the University of Alabama, but died in 1889 after only three years of service. McKleroy who had been elected state superintendent of education in 1874 was elected in 1887, the year following his defeat for nomination as governor, as president of the Anniston City Land Company. Clayton, McKleroy and Seay all had exceptionally gallant records of service in the Confederate Army.

End

War Story From World War II

As told to James Fuller by Mike Jenkins IV
May 2018

When Mike Jenkins III married Carolyn Cooper, daughter of Carl Cooper, his good friend, William M. Jordan, Jr. known as Bee, was a groomsman in his wedding. They both were taken into the service during WWII and sadly it was Mike who did not survive. Sometime after the war Bee married his friend's widow, Carolyn, and Bee Jordan became more than a step-father for Mike IV. They bonded and were as close as any father and son might be. Young Mike was old enough to remember the wedding with great pride.



Capt. William M. Jordan, Jr.
Lent by the family

Bee did not talk much about his military experiences in Europe and never returned there, but, over the years, he occasionally shared some of his experiences in combat.

During the Battle of the Bulge in Germany, he with the rank of Captain and company commander, and his men in the 99th Infantry, overran a building occupied by the Germans that housed the paymaster for the enemy forces. It was payday. When the battle was over and the Germans had fled, it was discovered that they had left thousands of marks of their currency. The value of the money was tremendous and after deciding that it should not be left, it was loaded onto Bee's jeep.

It was about that time that Bee received a message from his battalion commander to load up all the ammunition and weapons he could carry, leaving everything else unnecessary for combat, and move east to capture the bridge at Remagen which led over the Rhine. That meant that the money, along with everything else not necessary for combat needed to be unloaded and left behind.

Where the thousands of marks went from there is unknown but someone certainly had a changed life. Bee joked that had he kept the marks, he would have been "pig rich" after the war.

The bridge at Remagen was the last one standing over the Rhine as the Germans had blown up all others. Should the Germans destroy this last bridge it would be impossible for the Allied Forces to cross the river and move from France into Germany by foot or vehicle. The Germans were on the way to destroy this last bridge.

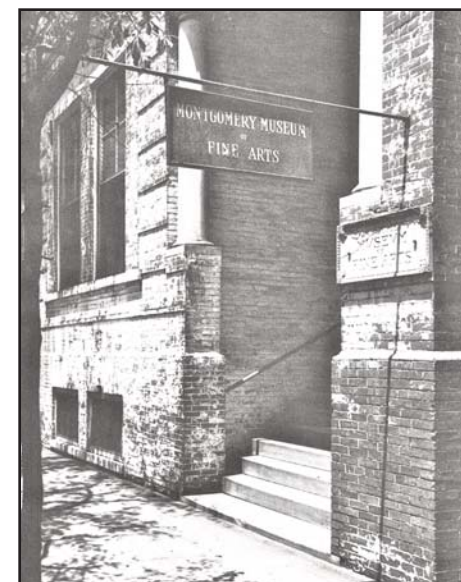


Lt. Harald Rohlig
German Artillery

When the Allies arrived at the bridge they found the enemy firing an 88 MM artillery piece across the river at the bridge from the east to prevent any American troops from crossing. Bee Jordan, as the ranking officer, calculated that the firing of the German 88 MM gun at regular intervals of every 15

ception in 1930 to its closing in 1958. The Art School was housed in the basement of the Museum and provided training for many of Alabama's artists. Kelly Fitzpatrick was appointed Director of the School and held the position until his death in 1953.

The Museum was incorporated under the title of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association in 1930. The staff funds, and materials for the Museum were totally voluntary. Initially open three afternoons a week, the Museum was staffed by members of the Junior League of Montgomery. During the first thirteen days the Museum was open, 6,987 people attended the various exhibitions, making it an instant success. The goals of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association were "to cherish, sustain, and increase the love and appreciation of fine arts in the state of Alabama." In striving to meet these goals, the Museum initiated exhibitions of local artists,



The Montgomery Museum of Fine Art began its work in the old Girl's High School formerly Lawrnce St. School on the Northeast corner of Lawrence and High Streets.

collected literature on art for an art library, and engaged lecturers to speak on the arts. For fifty years, the Montgomery Museum has continued its initial concerns of 1930 for the encouragement of the arts in Alabama.

Additional plans were made in May of 1930 to enlarge the exhibition space of the Museum. It was desired to incorporate a room devoted to Alabama Artists and one devoted to artists from outside Alabama. Also planned was a room for the art of native Americans and another to display the cultural artifacts of the earliest European settlers in this country. Other rooms would present an exhibition organized by the Boy Scouts to show nature specimens and a room sponsored by the parent Teachers Association to exhibit arts and crafts from Montgomery's public schools.

The original officers of the Board of Trustees of the Montgomery Museum were: Mayor William A. Gunter, Honorary President; Mrs. Harry S. Houghton, President; William O. Baldwin, Secretary; V. Bonneau Murray, Treasurer; Judge Walter B. Jones, First Vice President; Mrs. Charles A. Thigpen, Second Vice President; Mrs. Clifford Lanier, Third Vice President; Mrs. J. Michael Nicrosi, Fourth Vice President; Mrs. William N. Nicrosi, Fifth Vice President; and J. Kelly Fitzpatrick, Sixth Vice President. Thirty persons were elected members of the Board of Trustees to serve for one, two, or three year periods. The original Board established the interests and goals of the Museum and guaranteed their execution.

End

THE FOUNDING MEMBERS

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Mrs. John H. Blue
Judge Joel B. Brown
Mrs. Files Crenshaw
Judge B. P. Crum
Mrs. Joseph P. Dimmick
Dr. A. D. Donovan
Ben Fitzpatrick
Mrs. Ben Fitzpatrick
J. Kelly Fitzpatrick
Rabbi Benjamin Goldstein
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Mrs. Leon Weil
Mrs. Sidney G. Weil
Mrs. L. B. Whitfield
Mrs. Emil Wise

A HISTORY OF THE MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

From "A Handbook To The Collection"
1980 Golden Anniversary

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts had enjoyed fifty years of growth since its makeshift beginnings in a vacant girl's school. Recent years have witnessed the most important exhibitions and publications produced by the Museum staff: loan shows from the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Maurice Wertheim Collection of French Impressionist paintings and the Janos Scholz Collection of Venetian drawings, as well as the nationally circulated *Art Inc: American Paintings from Corporate Collections*. However, these are only a few of many exhibitions developed by the Museum staff which have made a scholarly contribution to the arts on a national scale. During the last fifty years, many regional, national and international exhibitions have been brought to Montgomery. Both the exhibitions originated by the Montgomery Museum and those assembled by other institutions and exhibited here have been great educational tools enabling Montgomery's citizens to take pride in their Museum.

The absence of a fine arts museum in the state of Alabama prior to 1930 afforded little chance for the serious exhibition of works of Alabama artists. Responding to this void, a group of artists under the instruction of J. Kelly Fitzpatrick and known as the Morning View Painters arranged an exhibition of Kelly Fitzpatrick's paintings at the residence of Mr. and Mrs.. Harry S. Houghton in Montgomery. Encouraged by the community's positive response, Kelly Fitzpatrick and a group of his students met on April 2, 1930 in the studio of Woman's College in Montgomery (now Huntingdon College) and formed an organization to be known as the Alabama Art League. Subsequently, an exhibition was planned to take place in May of 1930 at the College. The success of this exhibition injected new hope into the idea of obtaining a permanent space for the continued public viewing of Alabama artists. A number of members from the Alabama Art League, including Mrs. Houghton and Kelly Fitzpatrick, approached Mayor William A. Gunter for a building to house a museum. Through their

efforts, the condemned Lawrence Street School was rented for a token of one dollar per year, and a place for Alabama artists to exhibit their work became a reality.

After minimal renovation, the vacant school on the corner of High and Lawrence Streets opened its doors in November of 1930 as the first fine arts museum in Alabama. The first exhibition was a display of "furniture, silver, china, pictures, historical relics, and one old shoe" all borrowed or donated by the community. The initial expenditure to open the Museum was \$163. The projected budget for the first year's operating expenses was \$1,000, which was to be jointly funded by the City, Museum members, and gifts.

Mrs. Harry S. Houghton became the first president of the Museum. Under her capable and persistent leadership, the Museum became a vital part of Montgomery's cultural and educational resources. Various groups were provided a room in which to exhibit. The Anthropological Society of Alabama installed an exhibition of Indian relics. The Colonial Dames furnished a room in the Colonial period. The Daughters of the American Revolution presented a room of "Early American Life," and in another room, the United Daughters of the Confederacy exhibited decorative arts and furniture from the ante-bellum period. In a fifth room, the state geologist, Walter B. Jones, installed an exhibition of Alabama geological materials.

The Museum's formal opening was held on November 9, 1930, with the first of many exhibitions of the Alabama Art League. The president of the League was the renowned Alabama artist, Kelly Fitzpatrick. His contribution to Montgomery was not only as a painter but as an art teacher, community leader, and major supporter of the Museum. The Montgomery Museum now owns nineteen of Fitzpatrick's works; these paintings form one of the Museum's most comprehensive collections of an individual artist's work.

Out of the establishment of a museum in Montgomery grew the founding of the Montgomery Museum Art School, which flourished from its con-

seconds was their calculation of their supply of ammunition divided into the estimated time before they would be reinforced by other German forces. When a round hit, Bee would send in groups of 2 or 3 of his men moving across at a time. Finally Bee and all of his men were safely across. Bee had his men form a semicircular formation on the other side and after a fierce battle drove the Germans back.

The next day Bee saw his first jet. With it, the Germans shot down two of our fighter planes which were attempting to protect other American forces crossing the bridge into German territory. His men were firing so many rounds at the jet that some were raining down into the area he had his men positioned.

Harald Rohlig was a young man of only 17 and found himself drafted into in the German army when the war started in Europe. Following a time of actual combat he was captured and imprisoned in a French prison. He said the French treated him terribly and the only good days he had while in French custody was when he was asked by a minister of a local church if he would fill in at the organ for their sick musician. The minister recognized the international reputation of Dr. Rohlig even at that time in his young life.

When the war ended he decided he would like to settle in America. Harald, as a

musician, applied for citizenship which required a sponsor in the States to say that they would accept him and give him employment. He was obligated to serve in that position for perhaps a year before he might search for different employment. He was accepted by an Episcopal church in the town of Linden in west Alabama as their organist. He studied to improve his English while in Linden and remained there serving his time of obligation.

The President of Huntingdon College, having heard of the musician's reputation, drove to west Alabama to interview and to see if he might recruit Dr. Rohlig for a position on the Huntingdon faculty teaching organ and piano. He was accepted in that position and moved to Montgomery. He then additionally became the organist at St. John's Episcopal Church. Thereafter Bee and Dr. Rohlig worshipped together at St. John's until the ends of their lives.

1995 marked the 50th anniversary of the war's ending and at the celebration Harald somehow had heard that Bee had served in the military in Germany during the war and had been at Remagen. Dr. Rohlig and Bee ran into each other on Commerce Street. The subject of "war stories" came up and Bee told of his experiences and locations in the war and of his difficult time at Remagen. Harald blanched and grew very pale and with tears in his



Organist Harald Rohlig
at St. John's console.

eyes told Bee that it was he who was firing the 88 artillery gun at Remagen and resultantly at Bee and his troops.

This is certainly a small world we live in.

This story was one that your editor had heard years ago but had forgotten its source or characters until one Sunday morning at St. John's Episcopal Church breakfast following the early service someone mentioned the happening, and Mike Jenkins was pleased to speak up and tell us the wonderful story of the long ago war time occurrence, one that we are pleased to repeat here.

This is one that Paul Harvey missed.

Ed.

William Knox and Anne Octavia Lewis Knox

By C. M. "Cash" Stanley
Editor, *Alabama Journal*
Jan. 15, 1956

William Knox Fitzpatrick, of Atlanta, recently loaned me at my request a rare photograph of his great grandmother, Anne Octavia Lewis Knox, and another of his great grandfather, William Knox, Sr. Both have been reproduced for personal files and for presentation to the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

William Knox was a distinguished figure as a Montgomery banker in antebellum and civil war years, and his wife was a symbol of grace and philanthropy and good deeds in the most trying years of Montgomery's history.

Mrs. Knox was born on Jan. 30, 1809 at Nashville in a home which is now "City View Hospital" at 447 Murfreesboro Road. Mr. Knox, a native of Strabane, Ireland married her in Winchester, Tenn., Nov. 7, 1827.

Their great grandson, Mr. Fitzpatrick, has established by Montgomery County records that William Knox came to Montgomery in 1835 and bought from Alfred Scott and Mary A. Bibb the property at the southwest corner of Bibb and Lee streets upon that they built the home which later became the first White House of the Confederacy. Lee street at that time was known as Washington street, and the Knox home which was later to become the residence of President and Mrs. Jefferson Davis was long ago moved to the Capitol plaza area.

Mr. Knox acquired several lots on Bibb street extending from Lee to Moulton. The records show a purchase in 1837 from George Whitman of vacant lots facing Bibb street and extending to Moulton for which he paid \$900. The Bibb property at the Lee corner had cost him \$3,500.

Mr. Knox established the Central Bank of Alabama and prospered. He built an imposing pillared home on South Perry street now a part of the Martha Stuart apartments.

His bank made the first loan to the Confederate government Feb. 6, 1861 to buy blankets and urgent supplies for the newly forming Confederate army. He was an ardent supporter of the Confederacy, made more loans to it and became badly cramped after the war because of the decrease in

value of Confederate bonds and currency.

Mrs. Knox was one of Montgomery's most active leaders on the home front during the war period. She came of notable ancestry. Her father was Colonel Joseph Joel Lewis who took part in the Revolutionary War, was wounded at the Battle of Kings Mountain, and was a member of Tennessee's first constitutional convention in 1796. Mrs. Knox was a niece of Lord Fairfax for whom George Washington as a young man served as surveyor in Virginia in colonial days.

In Montgomery Mrs. Knox's first great act of leadership was in the organization of the Ladies Aid of Montgomery for the Confederacy. She was a charter member of the Montgomery Hospital Association which performed marvelous service for the sick and wounded as the war progressed.



Knox Hall in the 400 block of South Perry, east side. In perhaps the 1920s it was converted into the Martha Stuart Apartments.

Compliments should go to Mr. Mose Stuart, Sr. in that he carefully preserved all features of the house in the conversion so that when walls were removed to convert back to a single unit all of the fine features had been preserved.

It recently has been sold and again will be used as an office building.

She was a charter member of the Ladies Memorial Association which after the war laid the foundations to insure that the memory of those who had given their lives in the service of the South be kept green.

For thirty years before and during the war Anne Octavia Lewis Knox taught a Sunday School class for

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the exodus to Brazil. So much sorrow and change has made me forget a great many things, or rather, dimmed my memory, until I will not tell you of them, for fear I will make mistakes.

I was speaking of that block on Lee Street, where President Davis lived for the short time that Montgomery was the capital of the Confederacy. Mr. Fleming Freeman built that house - Montgomery's white house; when he sold his handsome home on Madison Avenue to Dr. Williams, I think. He it was who offered the use of the house for President Davis. Mr. Freeman, you know, married an aunt of Judge Bibb, one of the Bibbs of Madison County.

Oh, I wanted to tell you; the Dr. Johnston house was on the corner of Montgomery and Moulton, as I said, now, right across the street, going up the hill, was the great Boys School of Montgomery, kept by Mr. Byington. I don't remember how many assistants he had, but everybody sent their boys to him. Ha, ha, ha, I guess there are many grey-haired men in this town now who went to school to Mr. Byington and could tell many pranks and adventures of their school experience. My youngest brother was a pupil, and several years after the war Mr. Byington came out to visit us at our home on South Perry Street. He was then representing The Tallassee Cotton Factory, and tried to induce us to invest in some of its stock. We laughed, our "cash" was locked up in the vaults of a Liverpool bank, in

the shape of Confederate bonds "representing nothing on God's green earth now," and we had no desire to invest in anything more, so intangible. It was a good thing we didn't, for in a few months, all sorts of "changes of administration" took place and our relatives and friends in Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia lost many thousands of dollars by their investment in Tallassee stock. So my advice to you young businesswomen is to let "paper" securities go and invest in the Lord's good earth. Yes, that is what I have been telling you about, the homes and the ground they stood upon. You see, many of them are still right here, "tangible assets", the only safe things for women. Of course, that is what I mean - the home, the woman in it and a happy man working to take care of it while she shows the blood of the splendid women back of her, in those antebellum days, in her joy in keeping the home as sweet and safe as did those other women. Why yes, then away down the future someone will write of them as I am now doing of their mothers and grandmothers.

End

Rev. Billy Graham and Local Golfers

Reverend Billy Graham conducted a crusade in Montgomery at Cramton Bowl in 1963. An avid golfer, arrangements were made for him to play at the Montgomery Country Club.

He indicated that he would like to play with youngsters. Montgomery teenager Steve Walker (a longtime MCHS member) and Wayne Davis (brother-in-law of MCHS board member Jack Owen) were chosen to play the game with Reverend Graham.

Steve and Wayne report that the good Reverend focused his attention on the two of them and showed personal attention on the two of them and their activities, dreams, college and career plans. Both are now very active in their churches in Virginia and North Carolina.

Thank you, Steve, for this interesting note on the occasion of Billy Graham's passing. Ed.

Trace Your Family Roots and Celebrate Alabama's Bicentennial

You are invited to attend a Genealogical/Family History event this summer entitled, "Your Family Roots: A Summer of Discovery." Sponsored in part by the Alabama Bi-Centennial Commission, a series of 13 separate events are scheduled between June 2nd and July 28th. Please see next page and visit the web site at www.familyrootsdiscovery.com to learn more about each event and to register.

Negroes at the old Court street Methodist Church located where the new Montgomery post office now stands.

When the church property was sold to the government the congregation changed the name. It became the First Methodist Church and built today's great cathedral-like structure in Cloverdale.

- Mr. and Mrs. Knox had fourteen children, listed as follows:
1. John H. Knox, died young.
 2. Joel Joseph Knox, died unmarried.
 3. William C. Clairborne Knox.
 4. Myra Eulalie Knox, married Thomas J. Semmes of New Orleans and became the grandmother of Mayor T. Semmes Walmsley of that city.
 5. William Hickman Knox.
 6. Anna Isabel Henderson Knox, married (1st) William S. Donnell; (2) John Henry Paull, of Pollard, and their daughter Lucy was the mother of William Knox Fitzpatrick of Atlanta.
 7. William Knox, Jr., Confederate soldier, married Annie Coxe, daughter of Robert E. Coxe, antebellum druggist in Montgomery, member of the firm of Coxe and Coster.
 8. John Haywood Knox.
 9. Robert H. Knox.
 10. George Knox.
 11. Robert Henderson Knox, clerk in Central Bank; Confederate soldier; lawyer; member Alabama House and Senate; member constitutional convention of 1875; solicitor Montgomery County; consul to Hamilton, Ontario 1877; delegate in Republican convention of 1876 at Cincinnati which nominated R. B. Hayes for president who married Ada, daughter of John and Sara Herron; died at Clanton 1916.
 12. Mary Louisa Knox.
 13. Mary Ann Knox.
 14. Hickman Lewis Knox.

End

AN ACCOUNT OF ALABAMA INDIAN MISSIONS AND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN 1828 FROM THE TRAVEL DIARY OF WILLIAM S. POTTS (1802-1852)

William S. Potts (1802-1852) traveled by horseback through the states of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky during the winter and spring of 1827-1828.

Excerpt from diary:

Thursday 27 , A very wet day. At 9 o'clock with Mr. Compeer, I set off for Montgomery, -- we followed the trail to Lewallee, a [Indian] town of about the size of Tukabatchee, [a leading Indian town several miles below the present town of Tallassee] 5 miles below, the Tallapoosa running directly through it [town was on both sides of the river]. About 5 miles further on I parted from Mr. C. who was going to try to get corn, of which there is a great scarcity in the Nation [Indian nation], and much suffering is likely to follow to the poor Indians. After many windings and turnings, crossed the Tallapoosa at Campbell's ferry and struck the Federal Road 3 miles beyond the line. Passed through a fine looking country and arrived at Montgomery in the evening. This has been a most unpleasant day, I was completely drenched with rain.

Friday 28, Montgomery is a wicked place, given up to gambling and wickedness. Two or three professors are in the place, but cold and dead. I could get nothing for the Board. After severely lecturing Mr. Sayers [Sayres] my host for himself & the town, I left him, and traveled toward Selma. Crossed the Alabama River.

[If the town was that wicked, with his attitude, he was lucky his travels did not suddenly end in Montgomery. Ed.]

The Lady of The Old Arm Chair

No. 14

“More Old Homes”

By Hannah McIntyre Cozart

The Montgomery Journal

Sunday, October 1, 1916



Hannah Cozart
and daughter,
Toccoa

Speaking of the Gilmers reminds me of the royal donation to the religious life of old Montgomery made by Frank Gilmer's father, Aunt Sophie Bibb's brother.

All the Bibbs and Gilmers and Olivers and many others of the representative citizens were Protestant Methodists.

The congregation was in need of a church building, so Mr. Gilmer gave the



Bibb Street Protestant Methodist Church
NE corner of Bibb and Moulton Sts.

site where the little church now stands, on the corner of Bibb and Moulton, helped to erect the building and the parsonage which stood near the church on Bibb, in a beautiful large lot, comprising flower yard, big

backyard and large garden. All this on condition that the property should never be sold except to be reinvested in another church building and parsonage, not one cent to be diverted for any other purposes of the congregation. I have forgotten, because I married, went to Mississippi to live, and later to Troy, Ala., and was absent so much that what was told me by my mother who was a member of that church, I have forgotten; but anyway, the congregation determined to build a handsome church elsewhere, and through Aunt Sophie more than Judge Bibb they acquired the lot on the northeast corner of Lee and Montgomery, and started a pretentious edifice there. Don't you remember it? I am sure you do; for the desolate walls, half-high stood as an embodiment of the desolation of Montgomery and Alabama after the war. Oh yes, everybody was too busy trying to save our country, politically and financially, to build churches then. Everybody had raked and scraped for money and credit to buy Confederate bonds to "float" our sinking cause, only nobody would believe it was a sinking cause. It still makes me cold and weak to look at those last Confederate notes, issued from the Richmond treasury, and to know that my mother and brother put their entire fortune into the cotton bonds that those notes represented. Those walls stood there, as I say, long after the war, until the Gayles built

their warehouse on the spot. And the little congregation went on worshiping in the little church down on Bibb Street. How devoted Aunt Sophie was! How jealously she guarded the interests of the historic organization. I wonder what has become of all the old church registers; strange, I never thought to ask Dyke [Bibb] before we parted - she to join the congregation above, and I to linger, linger, perhaps to be one of the little church's historians! It was a beautifully pathetic sight to see Dyke and Mrs. Harriet Andrew, the last of the historic congregation, of that lovely time, "before the war", going down Moulton Street to prayer meeting on Wednesday nights, and church on Sundays then, Dyke played the organ so sweetly; I wonder how many years she did play on that instrument - I've known but have forgotten! I wish Dr. Owen could buy that old organ for the state's archives department - what? Not "an archive?" Well, then Montgomery has one! It is a living testimony to the sweetly simple and sincere religious life of the best people of Montgomery, of the old days! Yes it does live, it breathes forth its plaintive notes every Sunday and calls the devout not only to worship but to a contemplation of the good things of our past. Yes I want the state to do itself the honor of preserving that old instrument. Have not the French and Germans set us the example of this sort of history writing? At the great World's Fair in Chicago, were not the instruments used by their great musicians on "prideful exhibition?"

It is because we have failed to preserve our landmarks, our relics and blazoned them forth to a curious world, is the reason we are now written in "statistics" as "illiterate!" I know how much culture and splendid intelligence that one little church represented, and I know how Dyke held those same ideals high, for the present generation. Do you know that their pastor is a poet? Oh you don't! Well, you have been studying the wrong "statistics!" Those same erroneous statements are just a part of our "humble pie", cooked in Reconstruction days, a sort of "Washington Pie!" I hope it

will give you heirs of all Montgomery's past glories the indigestion until you reject the false basis and demand true "figuring."

Talking about the site of the "New Church", as Aunt Sophie loved to call her effort to build the big church, reminds me that on the corner, back of "the ruins" stood the quaint home of Dr. Johnston who married a sister of Dr. Samuel Holt, that was the queerest house! They just kept on adding to it, to accommodate the family and the visitors until they nearly covered the lot! It was so comfortable, and from that viewpoint so pretty!

What? All homes are not "pretty?" Why, you young creatures! Yes they are, they possess a beauty "that ne'er was on land or sea", a beauty that is reflected upon the material from psychic sources! There! Have I scared you? You know, I am now near the borderline, and I can dimly discern some of the things that lie beyond and are invisible to the eyes of youth. Are there any of those old magnolia trees still keeping up the fight with "progress"? It has been so long, so long since I was down there. And what do you think? That young "businesswoman" who I mentioned so innocently last time I talked with you came and asked me what did I mean - those cedar trees down on Grandfather Holt's place on Lee Street had been gone, oh, ever so long! That where they had stood was now a freight track for the M. and O. R. R.

Now that reminds me that Mr. Elbert Holt, a brother of Dr. Samuel Holt, had his residence on Lee Street, along there near the Protestant Methodist "ruins". It became a popular boarding-house after the war; I do not know where the Holt family scattered - oh, yes, that is what happened to nearly all of us. We broke up our home in Troy and came back to Montgomery to my mother's home for economical reasons; it was easier for our heroes in grey to care for condensed families. Oh, the changes I found! Families on the eve of departure for Texas - "To get as far away from the Yankees as possible," they said, many of the dear friends joining