

THE HERALD

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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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Early Settlers of Montgomery Were Believers in Churches

Baptist Church Was the Prevailing Denomination in the Early Days of the City -
They Were Opposed to all Secret Societies and Believed Bible
Was Sufficient Guide to Control All Actions of Mankind

[Editor's Note: The following text is based on "Recollections of the Early Settlers of Montgomery County and their Families", written by W. G. Robertson and published in 1892.]

The Baptist Church at the earliest settlement of the county was the prevailing denomination, which fact is recorded by W. G. Robertson in his narratives about the early settlers of Montgomery and county.

It had more churches and larger denomination. The Baptist were quite democratic in their views and customs. They claimed that each church was sovereign and independent. They did not let anyone dictate to them or influence them in their mode of worship. They called their own preachers and they did not fix a salary, in fact nothing was ever said about a salary.

Each member paid what he could afford, or nothing, as he saw proper. They took the Bible for the man of their council. They claimed that they did not advocate any doctrine or principle not laid down in the Bible. They claimed that they had Bible authority for believing in the doctrine of predestination and the final perseverance of the saints.

They believed in the foreknowledge of God, and that God did, before the foundation of the world, ordain that a portion of the world should be saved and a portion be lost. They believed in baptism by immersion and close communion. They contended that the baptism of Christ by John was their authority

for Baptist; that Christ was baptized by immersion in the river; that they went down in the water and John did baptize him; and they both came up out of the water. They practiced foot washing, and claimed Bible authority for the same; as Christ before His crucifixion called His disciples together and took a basin of water and girded a towel around his loins, and got down and washed his disciples and said, "As your Lord and Master have washed your feet, ye ought, also, to wash one another's feet."

They were opposed to all secret societies and organizations, and contended that the Bible was a sufficient guide to control the sections of all mankind in whatever capacity. The Baptist, at the time of this writing, claimed that it had descended from a direct line of succession from the day of John the Baptist. That it had been handed down from generation to generation, from father to son. Now this old Baptist family that had worshipped the same God had been baptized, as it were, at the same baptism fount, and had partaken of the emblems of the broken body and shed blood of their Savior at the same sacramental board, was about to separate and dissolve. The question of foreign and domestic missions had been agitating the church for a num-



Pictured above in the c1945 Montgomery County Board of Education: Seated: R. F. Hudson; Fred Bear; Edward T. Davis, (Chairman); Harris Dawson, MD; Clarence Dannelly Superintendent); Standing: Walter T. McKee (Associate Superintendent); Thomas L. Head (Associate Superintendent); Will Paterson; Jim Flowers; Arthur Cowles, MD; Bob Goodwin (Counsel).

In those days the Board understood the intricacies of establishing a proper school system.

ber of years, part of the membership being in favor and part opposing.

At an association held with Bethel Church in the southwestern portion of the country [county], on Monday after the first Sunday in October 1837, the separation took place. It was painful and distressing to see this old Baptist family part company. Sons leaving their fathers, daughters leaving their mothers. The separation was final and forever. From that day there were two separate and distinct Baptist churches, the original old Primitive and the Missionary churches. The Missionary church, from the day of the separation to 1892, when the history was written, have added member to member, church to church, mission to mission, and have spent millions of money [dollars] in extending the cause of Christianity. They followed the Bible injunction "Go ye into all the world and preach My gospel."

The old original Primitive family are still in existence; they still hold to the old faith and practice. It is a good old family. They were honest, good citizens and neighbors; straightforward and correct in all their dealings with their fellowmen; drink a dram whenever they wanted to, but never drink to excess. They were the original old soldiers of the cross, and served their day and generation, and accomplished a good work.

METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church in those days had only a limited membership, but after the country [county] was laid off into districts and circuits, it increased rapidly in church organization

and membership. The members discarded the doctrine of predestination and election. They believed in baptism, either by sprinkling, pouring or immersion, as the applicant desired. They believed in open communion, and extended invitations to all orthodox Christians to the sacramental board.

They believed in foreign and domestic missions and were in favor of an educated ministry. The government and usages of the church in that day were about the same as at present. On each of the circuits the members and citizens would construct preaching places, sometimes at school houses, private houses, and when the weather was favorable under bush arbors. The preachers were expected to preach every day in the week, unless providentially hindered, and they would have a congregation ever [every] time.

The Conference had a method of doing business, and that was why they were called the Methodist church, and it required hard and faithful labor at the hands of its preachers. Those preachers generally arrived at their appointment about the usual hour. They would dismount from their horses, there being no buggies in those days, and walk directly into the church, without speaking to anyone, and begin services. As soon as the service was over, there would be a general handshaking between the preacher and congregation. When the congregation got ready to leave, some brother or friend living in the direction of his next appointment would take him home, give him the best they had, and be glad of his company.

The next morning he would go to his next appointment, and so on all around the circuit, once a month all the year

round. Each one of these preachers received \$100.00, appropriated out of the general fund of the conference, for his incidental expenses. If he had a family they were provided for, but the majority of them were single men. If one of these preachers joined the conference, expecting to have an easy time and be sent where he wanted to go, he was generally disappointed. He had to go without complaint. There could have been no earthly motive for those good men to enter the ministry; their only motive was to do their Master's will and preach the gospel to the people.

Some of the early circuit riders made great preachers; they have made elders, doctors and bishops. The Methodist Church, since that early day, has grown in grace, knowledge and members. It has added member to member, church to church, mission to mission and has spent millions in extending the cause of Christianity all over the world.

REVIEW OF
THE OLD CHURCHES

The first Baptist Church was organized in the Fork. [The area above the confluence of the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers, primarily following the Tallapoosa up stream on both sides] William Adkins and Lemuel Fields were among the first members. The next was Antioch, near Mt. Meigs. Green Pinkston, John and Isaac Ray, were among the first members. The next was [Old] Elam. William McLemore and a man named Breedlove were among the first members. The next was Bethel on Pintlala Creek. Next Bethlehem, in the southwestern portion of the county. The next was Liberty at Carters' Hill. The next Mt. Pleasant. Leban

Scrap continued from page 17

points.

Jonathan Battelle established the first newspaper in Montgomery calling it The Montgomery Republican. He had associated with him Edward W. Thompson, a practical printer, who had served his apprenticeship in the same office in New York with the elder Harpers. The press, type and cases and fixtures were shipped from Savannah, Ga., in the fall of 1820 and the first issue appeared January 26, 1821. The office was in the rear of a store at the corner of Market and Hull streets.

On the west side of Commerce street near Tallapoosa street, Clement Freeny erected the Montgomery Hotel, better known as Bell Tavern. Among the proprietors were Colonel Freeny, Dr. J. S. Bailey, Mrs. Harmon, who married B. W. Bell, George W. Thompson and Dr. J. L. B. Clopton. The Mansion House was also established early in 1821 at the present Exchange Hotel corner.

End

[I am not certain that this is totally correct. The tavern was on the SW corner of Commerce and Bibb Sts. It appeared to be too small for a hotel and was known as Freeney's or Bell's Tavern and was the location of the entertainment for Gen. LaFayette in 1825.] Ed.

FREE
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

To be lead by Mr. Ron Head

Saturday, August 18th

10:00

Montgomery Genealogy
Society

at the Figh-Pickett-Barnes School
House

512 So. Court St.

For any who are interested in
free professional assistance in dis-
covering your ancestors, this is your
opportunity.

If you have a laptop you might bring it.

Recent aids on the computer will
be recommended.

A complimentary light lunch will be served.

In House News

Memorials

Mr. Robert C. Wisnewski

By Mr. James W. Fuller

Special Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Anderson

Dr. Richard Bailey

Mrs. Carol Goodwyn

Dr. Charles F. Hyde

Mrs. Katherine Milton

Col. & Mrs. Robert S. Phillips

New Members

Mr. & Mrs. James B. Marshall, Jr.

Mr. Michael W. Panhorst

Health Report For Mary Ann

Those of you who are acquainted with Montgomery's foremost historian will be pleased to know that at a visit your editor made this past Sunday she was found to be much improved and reciting history like a talking history book.

NOTICE

Those who attended our recent Bar-B-Que had the opportunity to meet, Alma Hubbard, the newly hired Executive Director of the MCHS.

We would like to advise that Ms. Hubbard is no longer associated with the Society.

The search goes on for the proper person to meet the needs of the Society as Executive Director in the coming years.

Recent Bar-B-Que A Big Success at Historic Crescent Lake Club



Those concentrating on the perfect Bar-B-Que and draft in the giant screen porch at Crescent lake. Courtesy of May Donnell.

The music played by Silver Creak blue grass band fit the occasion as well as the atmosphere of the country setting of Elmore County. A good breeze encouraged the local mosquitoes to travel and furnished a not too hot evening. The draft beer, perfect for the thirsty, was donated by Jud Blount of the Vintage Year, or if you preferred, fine wine. We had Seabie and Frances Kennamer to thank for that.

The Society's Board members furnished the labor for all the "getting ready" activity with Charles Nicrosi overseeing the preparations. Floor mopping executive was Rusty Gregory, who is also available on most Thursdays. At the party, his wife, Raye manned the wel-

come table along with Anne Tidmore and Ray Rawlings. May Donnell captured a bunch of smiles on her new box camera. Jack Owen and Winston Sheehan were the bar tenders. We have Chris Setzer to thank for the attractive flower arrangements on each table. Helen Wells, Dick Hodges and Betty Pouncey, who keeps the Society in good order at the office, did a lot of hand shaking and "glad you could be heres".

We had a great crowd attending and they all seemed to be enjoying the evening.

One way to tell if it is a good party is shown by the lingering of the folks as opposed to the number of those who rush off.

It was a good party.

Underwood, Mr. Evan, Bright, Surles, Hardy Robins and Bryant Walters were among the first members.

The first Methodist church in Montgomery County was established in the Fork, with Bernard Young preacher in charge. The next was in 1822 at the old Westcott Graveyard on the Mobile Road, two miles from the city, and was afterwards moved into the city. Prior to the year 1828 there was a Methodist Episcopal Church near David Graves, then in Montgomery County, but now in Lowndes. The Graves and Stones were among its members. The next was established at Oak Grove. Joseph and John Green were among its first members. The next was Hopewell, near Robertson's X Roads, with George Powell and Michael Elsberry members.

The next was Bethel, in township 16, range 20, with the Gilmers, Barnettts, Howards, and Matthews [Mathews?] as members. The next was Mt. Zion, near the plantation of Peachy Gilmer, and afterwards moved to Mt. Zion Road, with Reuben Emerson and family, James Miller and family, and David Campbell and wife as members. The next Tabernacle, with Rev. Joshua Starr as preacher, with John Elsby, Mr. Ledbetter, John Bonham, George N. and John Gilmer as members.

PROVIDENCE CHURCH

About the year 1821 William Sharp, better known as Gentleman Billy Sharp, and Zaphaniah Johns, two men of Irish descent, moved and settled in Montgomery County. They

organized the first Presbyterian Church in the county, outside the city. That church organization has been dissolved. The first church was located at a place called Sharpsville, on the Hayneville road. The old burial ground still marks the place.

The first pastor was the Rev. Cunningham, who assisted



Providence Presbyterian Church on Old Hayneville Road at Hwy. 331

in first organizing and establishing the church. At a later period, and when the old building was about to decay, a new and fine church was built a few miles east on the same road. This was for a long time the finest church building in the county outside the city. The pastors of the old church, as well as can be remembered, were the Revs. Cunningham, McNab, Harrison, McKee, Gerdon, Foster, Swift, Sturgeon, Kirkpatrick, and White.

MT. MEIGS CHURCH

The next and only other Presbyterian Church in this county, outside of the city, was established in Mt. Meigs, about the year 1825. This church was established through the influence of that noble Christian lady, Mrs. David Talliferro. The member-

ship was small, but composted of the best people. Mrs. Talliferro was the principal supporter of the little church, and she kept it up as long as she lived, but when she died the church died also. The Rev. Fielding Bradshaw was the pastor in charge.

OLD BETHEL CHURCH

Old Bethel Church is the oldest church organization in Montgomery County. It was organized in the year 1819, and its organization has never been dissolved. The first building was of hewn logs. After a few years a large frame building was erected by the influence of George Shackelford, and others. It was at this church that the separation of the Baptist denomination took place. It had at one time a very large membership and congregation. The people would come from a great distance in wagons, carriages, buggies and ox-carts. The church would frequently not hold the congregation and they would preach under the shade of the trees. The membership became quite limited, owing to the split in the congregation.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

For a long time there was no Catholic Church located in Montgomery, the work of this religion being done on a mission basis. Missionary priests visited the town and held services at the home, until finally a small wooden church was built in 1832, but it was a few years after that before a structure was erected. The first Catholic Church was built at Adams and Lawrence streets, the site of the present St. Peter's Church.

END



A few who are ready for Bar-B-Que: Bob Seibels, Cindy Seibels, Mary Coleman Hester, Helen Wells, Phillip Rawlings and Gloria Rawlings. Courtesy of May Donnell.

The Great Montgomery Monkey Trial

By John B. Scott, Jr.

This Article written by Mr. John Scott has without a doubt won first prize as the most outstanding article yet published in the *Herald*. A short time ago the subject was reintroduced for discussion at a long time Saturday Breakfast Club and it was decided that now was the time. Following many request to republish, your editor has followed the demand and the tale introduced by past editor, Tommy Oliver, in 2001, is here again for your pleasure.

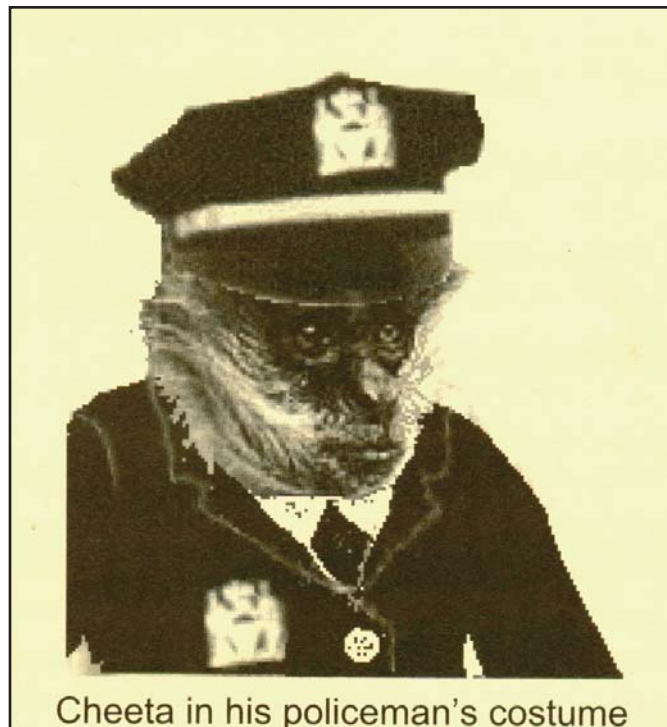
The late Norman Rockwell was one of the best-loved artists of his time and justly famous for his ability to capture on canvas the ordinary aspects of American life. If he had come to Montgomery back in the 1950s looking for a real down-home Southern neighborhood to paint, he couldn't have done better than the 1200 block of South Lawrence. The quiet, shady street with its ample sidewalks and neat houses would have met everybody's idea of a proper middle class southern community.

However, if Mr. Rockwell had chanced to check out the Marks home at No.1222 he would have found something considerably more flamboyant than outside appearances would warrant. The Owner, Charles Marks, and his wife, Jeanne, were true bon vivant and cut a wide swath on the Montgomery social scene. Along with their two small daughters, Fairlie and Jean, they occupied the main part of the house. Below, in a small basement apartment, lived the family cook, Rosie Simmons and her husband, John Lee Simmons. The final member of the household was Cheeta, a full-grown spider monkey owned by the Simmons.

Things upstairs were lively, but life in the basement was downright exotic. To begin with, Rosie Simmons was a remarkable looking woman, standing 6'-4" and weighing well over 200 pounds. Her husband, John Lee, was much smaller with large melancholy eyes and a balding head. Mr. Simmons was a part-time handyman and a part-time blacksmith but mainly he liked to drink. The Simmons had no children and Cheeta became almost like a son

to them. Rosie Simmons made various outfits for him to wear - of which his favorite was a policeman's uniform complete with a miniature pistol. Mr. Simmons took Cheeta along on some of his forays around town and occasionally the Simmons would let him join them in a glass or two of wine.

Cheeta had a mischievous nature but was an affable creature and generally well



Cheeta in his policeman's costume

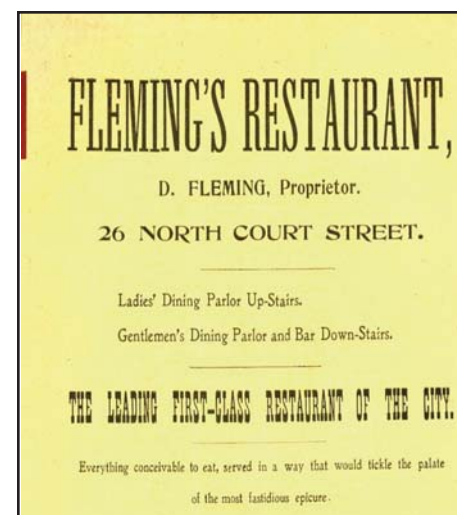
regarded in the neighborhood - where he was allowed to wander at will. True, he had gotten into a few minor scrapes, such as getting wined up and picking all of the Whites'

Fleming's Restaurant

Fleming's, billed as "The Leading First-Class Restaurant of The City" was located at 26 North Court Street several doors back from the Klein & Son corner.

The restaurant at that address carried two names during the years and is a bit confusing. It is shown as Fleming's last in 1900 and was owned by Mr. David Fleming who died in 1918. The confusion apparently comes in different generations with the same name working together in the business through the years. The last reference to Mr. John A. Yung as the proprietor was shown in 1915. Mr. Yung, was the great-grandfather of the current John Yung, retired attorney in Montgomery. It was John who kindly contributed the photograph on the opposite page.

It was located on North Court St. and was last occupied by The American Hat Co. that closed probably in the 1980s and was owned by Mr. Zac Azar.



The unusual arrangement for the clientele of Flemings was that the ground floor was reserved for "men only" where the bar was also located. An outside stair reached the upper floor that was reserved for "ladies only". I suppose this was to protect ladies from drunken fist fights or maybe a shoot'em up.

Surprising enough Montgomery was exposed to many food items you might not have expected in those times such as oysters, lobsters, and salt water fish as well as other delicacies that had to be transported up river to Montgomery. Ed.

Hutchison
continued from page 14

became chief engineer of all Edison, interests and personal representative to Edison himself. Later he established his own laboratories.

Hutchinson had several hundred inventions to his credit. The ones for which he was chiefly known are the "Acusticon" for the deaf, the Klaxon horn, and a dictograph. A long list of honorary degrees, medals and swards in the international field attest to his position in science. Dr. Hutchison was not the aggressive type. He did not dramatize himself or his work as some inferior but better known scientists have done. But he lived usefully and honorably, and his name deserves to go down as one of Alabama's greatest contributions to science and invention.

END
(check June 14, 1936 for copy)

Montgomery's Early History

Found in a scrap article

By an act of December 3, 1819, "New Philadelphia," and "East Alabama" were incorporated into one town, under the name of Montgomery, in honor of Gen. Richard Montgomery, who fell, December 31, 1775, in the attack upon Quebec. **The first court house was on the site of the present Basin, [fountain] established January 24, 1822.**

Lumber being scarce most of houses of the new town were built of hewed and unhewed logs. The first frame store was erected by Jonathan C. Farley, 1817; also a dwelling. They stood at the corner of Market and Hull streets. The first sites for stores were on the first four squares on Market street below Capitol Square. The upper parts of Washington and Adams streets were the favorite streets for residences as they afforded dry, elevated sites, healthy and convenient to the business portion of the town.

The Montgomery Republican of February 7, 1821, printed a story of the progress of the town within four years.

Samuel W. Patterson was the early physician of the place. John Falconer was the first postmaster of the town, the postoffice being located near the capitol and after moving the site several times, he was succeeded by Neil Blue, who had been his clerk for over seven years. The chief mail came from the East about once a week and was at first brought on horseback and afterward in a sulky. Later on a stage line was established from Montgomery eastward, one trip a week, the passenger fare being 2 1-2 cents per mile. Later on other stage lines were started for various

Scrap
continued on page 19

fittings of that day, and he stood out in the cast of any play.

"What the charm to the man's acting was it would be hard to say," said Captain Ashurst many years after Booth had committed his mad deed. "It seemed to us and especially to the coterie of young men who were always glad to have Booth as a dinner companion, that he had every gift an actor ought to have. In spite of his eccentricities and weaknesses, he was the favorite out of the entire company. I recall quite vividly an exhibition of the powers of John Wilkes Booth, the year before the war, at a champagne dinner. We gathered as we frequently did at the old restaurant, which later came to be known as Fleming's, Booth among us, for a lively dinner.

The wine flowed freely and the dinner party was gay

[old meaning] to the point of exhilaration. We sang some songs of the day and some more or less humorous speeches. John Wilkes Booth, as was his frequent custom, sat moody and silent. What he drank seemed to depress rather than stimulate him, and he sat wrapped in melancholy.

"In time the young men began to call for 'Booth,' 'Booth,' 'Wilkes Booth.'" He rose from his seat with his eyes flashing in some sort of inspiration. He was then so intoxicated, or so nearly intoxicated, that he had to steady himself by holding to the edge of the table. He threw back his long black hair and with his pale face turned upward he recited 'The Lord's Prayer.' He did nothing else; he said nothing else. He merely recited 'The Lord's Prayer.' The effect of his power and elocution was amazing. That

crowd, gay, was hushed into silence before he had uttered three words. Before the roll of that wonderfully modulated voice, vibrant it seemed, with every tender feeling had ceased. every man about that table, including myself, was weeping. When he finished Wilkes Booth never noticed his triumph over that gay dinner party, but dropped to his seat and with his head on the table covered his face with his hands." In the opinion of Captain Ashurst and those who knew Booth well in those days, he was even then abnormal. They regarded him as being wonderfully gifted in his art, but as a man who was likely at any moment to be upset or unstrung. Booth, for the five years of the war that intervened between his Montgomery experience and his assassination of President Lincoln, drank heavily, and his former friends were quite willing to accept the judgment of Henry Watterson, who knew him, that his mind was diseased and inflamed from alcohol when he committed the outstanding murder of the century. His old friends in Montgomery did not hesitate to say that his fanatical deed furnished to the South its culminating misfortune, for it took from the place of power the man who would have been kindest to the defeated and impoverished section which then so sorely needed a friend in power.

End

camellias. Or, waking up the Sedburys by making a terrific racket while rocking in a chair on their front porch at four o'clock in the morning. But never anything serious.

Then, one September day in 1950 Cheeta got into big trouble. Maybe he had a hangover or just woke up on the wrong side of the bed but, in any event, he fell into a mean mood and attacked an attractive young housewife, Mrs. Sarah Blake Jones, as she was walking down Perry Street. Mrs. Jones was naturally very put out and felt that somebody was definitely to blame for letting an animal such as Cheeta loose in the neighborhood. She engaged young Ed Azar, who was just starting his law practice, to press her claim. After investigating the situation, lawyer Azar brought suit against Charles Marks on the theory that he was the head of the household where Cheeta resided and therefore responsible for Cheeta's misdeeds. The complaint sought \$1,000 in damages and made demand for a jury trial. Thus began one of the most unusual - and memorable - cases ever tried in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County.

Mr. Marks' liability insurance carrier engaged the prestigious firm of Rushton, Stakely & Johnston to defend the claim and the case was assigned to the late Jimmy Garrett and his young colleague, Bill Moore. Another stalwart of the Montgomery Bar, the late Sam Rice Baker, was appointed to act as special judge. In due course, the case came to trial on April 16, 1951, in the stately old county courthouse on Washington Avenue. This was still the era of all male juries, but there were many women among the spectators that packed the courtroom.

In qualifying the jury panel, Judge Baker made the usual inquiries as to whether any of the prospective jurors were kin to the lawyers or the parties in the case. At the request of the defense attorneys, he then asked further if any of the jurors were related by blood or marriage to Cheeta. To the titters of the spectators, several of the jurors stood up. Judge Baker looked them over carefully and announced that, although he could discern some family resemblance, the relationship did not appear close enough for disqualification. After a few such diversions, a jury was duly empanelled and the trial began.

The first witness to take the stand was the plaintiff, Mrs. Jones. Lawyer Azar eased into his direct examination: "Mrs. Jones, on or about the ninth day of September, were you

walking along Perry Street?"

"I was."

With a look of profound sympathy, Mr. Azar continued: "Mrs. Jones would you tell the court what, if anything, out of the ordinary happened to you on that afternoon?"

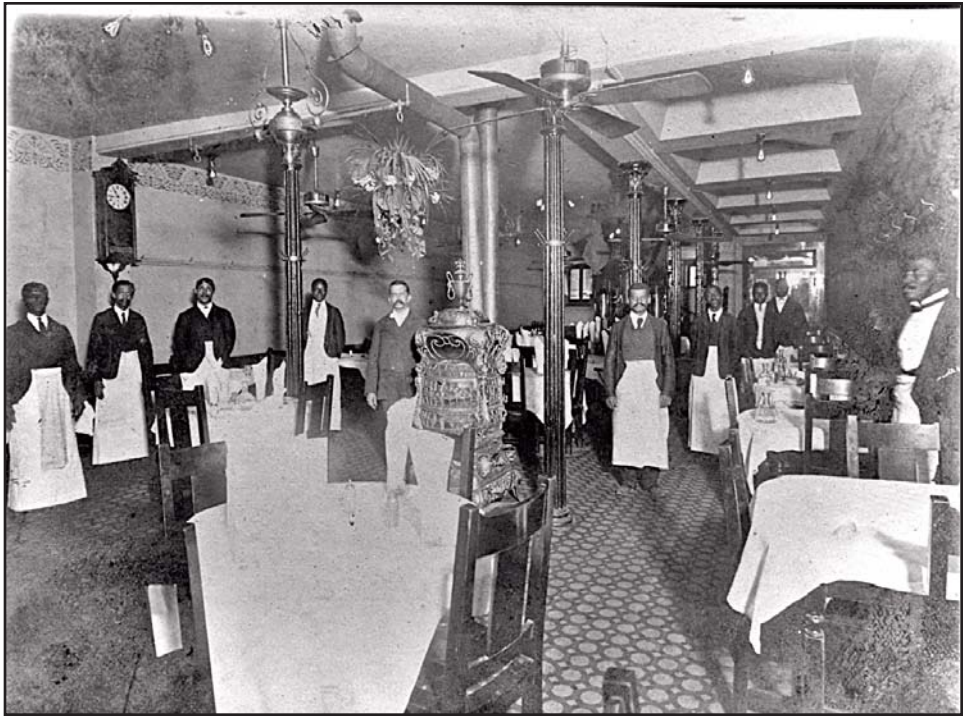
"Yes." Mrs. Jones took a deep breath and gasped a little at the memory of it. "I looked up



Cheetah prepares to attack

and saw this big monkey in a tree. Then as I walked on down the sidewalk, something hit me and knocked me down. It was the monkey biting me on the back of the leg."

There wasn't much dispute about the fact of Cheeta's assault of Mrs. Jones resulting in mental and physical trauma, so the real question in the case was Mr. Marks' legal responsibility for the monkey's actions. There was evidence to support a finding that Mr. Marks had the same responsibility as if he was Cheeta's owner, but Judge Baker explained that under the "one free bite rule" recognized in Alabama, the owner of a traditional domesticated pet such as a cat or a dog is not liable for an attack upon another person unless the evidence shows that the miscreant had done it before and was thus known to have a vicious streak. On the other hand, he continued, naturally wild animals such as lions, tigers or bears are considered under the law to be feral nature with an innately dangerous nature and their owners do not get the benefit of the one free bite rule even though the animal in question might be as much of a pet as a cocker spaniel. Judge Baker then told the jury that, after considerable research, he had concluded that it was up to the jury to determine as an



Fleming's Restaurant, Interior view
(was at 26 North Court St. behind Klein's)

issue of fact whether Cheeta was an animal with a "wild and beastly nature" as charged in Mrs. Jones' complaint or just a civilized household pet that had gone wrong on this one occasion.

It was thus the task of defense attorney Bill Moore to bring out Cheeta's kinder, gentler and more civilized qualities, and he basically had to do this through the testimony of John Lee Simmons.

When Mr. Simmons took the stand he was obviously very nervous and worried so Moore began the examination slow and easy, touching first on Cheeta's drinking habits.

"John, did your monkey slake his thirst, like a common, uncivilized jungle beast - on coconut milk and mango juice?"

"No, Sir! Cheeta didn't like nothing but port wine."

"Port wine, eh. Not exactly the drink of a ferocious animal. A very moderate drink, even among civilized people. John, would you inform the court how Cheeta drank his wine?"

"One'n a cup, sitting with me across the table at the cafe, just like a lil' gentleman. He could smell a drink of wine a block off. He'd come up to anybody that was drinking and put his hand on their knee, or more likely on their bottle. He'd take the bottle and unscrew the cap and pour hisself a drink in his cup and set down at the table and sip it, just like a lil' gentleman."

"And on these occasions," Moore continued, "was he dressed as a wild, jungle animal would be?"

"No, Sir. He wore his little policeman's uniform and the toy gun I bought for him."

"And he always wore

this uniform with pride to himself and the police force?"

"Yes sir, he did that excepting when the police came after me for being what they called 'under the influence.' Then, Cheeta'd scream at 'em and draw his toy gun."

As the examination rolled along John Simmons' testimonials on Cheeta's virtues grew more eloquent. He described how Cheeta would guide him home some nights when he had had too much to drink and would stay in his cell on nights when he wound up in jail. It appeared that Cheeta would take on anybody who tried to give his friend and master a hard time.

Mr. Simmons related how, on one occasion in municipal court Cheeta had climbed up on the Judge's desk and hissed at him "for convicting us." At the close of his testimony, John Lee Simmons, summed up his regard for Cheeta with the simple tribute that "He was always a perfect friend."

When the case was finally submitted to the jury, they were only out for a short while. Usually juries manage to look solemn and inscrutable no matter what they had decided but this time they came back in unable to suppress smiles. The judge asked if the jury had reached a verdict and the foreman, Mr. E. J. Meyer, announced, "Yes, Your Honor. We find for the defendant." Although the verdict only referred to his owner, Charles Marks, it was really Cheeta's character that had been on trial and by implication he had been deemed worthy to qualify for "one free bite." Thus ended the famous Montgomery Monkey Trial but the recollections of it would continue to bring laughter for many years

to come.

Postscript: Many of those involved in the trial have now passed on but some are still going strong. The author is grateful to Churchill Marks, Fairlie Marks Odell, Ed Azar and Bill Moore for their help and recollections. Attorney's Azar and Moore have both had long and distinguished careers in the law. Ed still thinks that if he had been a little more experienced he could have kept the trial from getting off on a humorous bent, but given the circumstances and the characters involved, there is probably no lawyer alive who could have kept things on a truly serious plane.

The original case file is duly preserved in the basement of the Montgomery County Court House. The testimony at the trial was not transcribed, but a good portion of it is preserved verbatim in an account written by the able Montgomery reporter and free lance writer, Allen Rankin, that appeared in the September 1955 issue of the magazine, *Inside Detective*.

The house at 1222 South Lawrence was purchased from Charles Marks by the late John Engelhardt Scott in 1958 and is still home to his widow, [the late] Mrs. June Scott.

John B. Scott, Jr. is the author of the book, *Memories of the Mount*, filled with East Montgomery County history, humor and nostalgia.

[Thos. W. Oliver - ED.]

End

John Wilkes Booth in Montgomery

Montgomery Advertiser - 1920

There remains perhaps only one or two old men who, reading a story of John Wilkes Booth copied in the *Advertiser* Wednesday from the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, who were carried back in their memory to a coterie of roistering young blades of Montgomery in the winter of 1860, who were entertained by and who entertained John Wilkes Booth, when he and other members of his family conferred distinction on a stock company which played that winter at the old **Montgomery Theater**.



John Wilkes Booth
Actor

Montgomery then was a favorite city of the Booth family. The father, Junius Brutus Booth, and the two gifted sons, Edwin and John Wilkes, appeared for many months in repertoire and they came to know intimately the people of Montgomery. The older men of the city, after John Wilkes Booth had played such an unfortunate role in the great national tragedy, used to say with conviction: "Wilkes Booth (he was

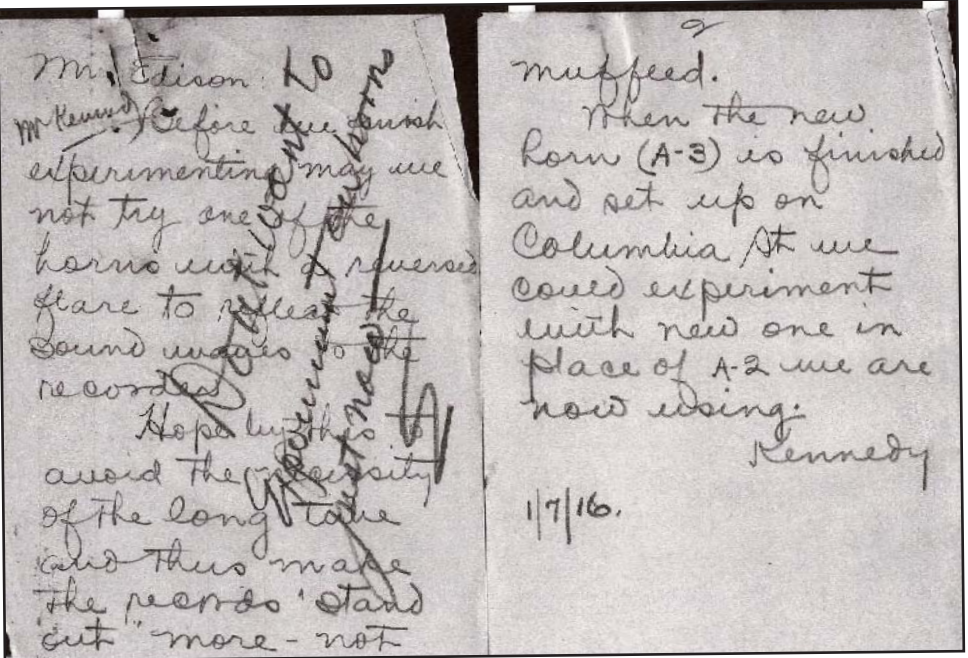
known to the public and to his boon companions as Wilkes Booth) was a greater actor than his brother, Edwin. He was handsomer than his brother and of a more vigorous physique. Perhaps no actor of his time had so much fire and passion. He was most effective in roles which demanded the portrayal of the manly emotions and passions. His voice was remarkable; no actor since then had such an amazing range, as this young fellow who actually captivated Montgomery."

Booth, it will be recalled, entered upon his crazy adventure of assassination because of his love of the people of the South. The Booth family belonged as much to the North as to the South, but before the war they were fond of playing in Southern cities and fond of Southern people. John Wilkes Booth, his brain diseased from alcohol, conceived the fanatical idea that in some way he was aiding the defeated people of the South by killing the head of the government of the victorious North. This affection for Southern people which was distorted in his inflamed brain until it became an impelling cause for murder, no doubt his a part of its origin in kindness, adulation and hospitable treatment which he received in Montgomery in 1860.

John Wilkes Booth could hardly have been more than twenty-two when he had a triumphant season in repertoire at the old Montgomery Theater. Even then he was the hardest drinker of the crowd of hard drinkers with whom he sat and participated in all the wild life that Montgomery then possessed. He gave members of his family no little concern; because they could never be sure that he would be in a condition to go on when the curtain rose. But once on the stage he was a transformed man; his natural genius as an actor lifted him above the rather primitive environment of the old stage

before. He has not seen a movie in more than three years, but enjoys an “occasional TV program when he can weed out the crime and the westerns”
End

Here is a note written by Mr. Kennedy to Mr. Edison followed by the reply from Mr. Edison written across the original.



IT SAYS:

“Mr. Edison:
Before we finish experimenting may we not try one of the horns with a reversed flare to reflect the sound waves to the recorder.
Hope by this to avoid the necessity of the long tube and thus make the records “stand out” more - not muffled.

When the new horn (A-3) is finished and set up on Columbia St. we could experiment with the new one in place of the A-2 we are now using.
Kennedy”

1/7/16
Edison’s answer:
“Don’t want to experiment our horns just now.
E”

This article was located and passed to your editor with appreciation from Margaret Day Craddock and her daughter Jane Maysey Craddock of Memphis.

DR. MILLER REESE
HUTCHISON
Birmingham News
Feb. 22, 1944

AN INTERESTING FACT IS THAT MR. KENNEDY WAS NOT THE ONLY TALENTED MAN FROM ALABAMA TO FIND EMPLOYMENT WITH MR. EDISON.

The death in New York last week of Miller Reese Hutchison did not receive the attention in Alabama it deserved in view of the fact the Dr. Hutchison, one of the nation’s greatest inventors and scientists, was born and largely educated in Alabama and here began his work that led him to become Thomas Edison’s right hand man for many years.

Dr. Hutchison was born in Montrose, a small community across the bay from Mobile. Montrose, because of the location on the highest bluff along all the gulf and South Atlantic coasts, was a popular Summer resort for Mobile families in 1876 when Miller Reese Hutchison was born. He attended Mobile public schools, Spring Hill College, Marion Military Institute, and was graduated in electrical engineering at Auburn.

Electrical engineering was then a comparatively new field, and Hutchison, after seeing service in mine-laying during the Spanish-American War, went East to pursue his special interests. There he attracted the attention of Edison and while still in his middle thirties

Hutchinson
continued on page 17

The Troubled History of Hamner Hall

By Richard Allen
June 2018

Today, nestled comfortably between Clayton, Mildred, Holt and Hamner Streets sits the Montgomery Police Academy. On this exact site, from the early 1860s until the early 1900s, sat an entirely different academic institution named Hamner Hall. From its inception, Hamner Hall suffered from financial and enrollment problems. In order to overcome these obstacles, at various times during its four decade life the school was operated as an all girls’ school, an all boys’ school, and even as a coed school. Also, at different times it was a strictly Episcopal school, and at other times “strictly nondenominational.” Ultimately, none of these iterations proved successful. 1

Hamner Hall opened in 1860 as an Episcopal diocesan school for girls, with funds borrowed from the Bishop’s Fund. The school was named after the Reverend Nicholas Hamner Cobbs, the first Bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Alabama. Hamner Hall offered both a boarding school and day school for girls. During its first two years, as its permanent structure was being constructed, the school was operated at the residence of Col. Samuel G. Jones, located at the corner of Perry and Columbus Streets. Hamner Hall’s permanent building, located at the present Police Academy site, was completed and occupied in 1862.

Although Hamner Hall would soon begin to experience permanent financial problems, its

first few years, under the leadership of Principal J. Avery Shepherd, appear to have been successful. An 1861 Catalogue of Pupils listed the names of 84 students, 70 of which resided in Montgomery County, but some from as far away as New Orleans and Pensacola. That catalogue also noted that Hamner Hall, when completed, “will be unsurpassed by any seminary in the country, either in attractiveness of style or excellence of arrangement. The main part of the building, contains ample accommodations for fifty boarders, and for a large day school.” It also noted that these buildings will be “situated on one of the highest locations near Montgomery, remarkable for the extensive and beautiful prospects which it commands, and for the health of its neighborhood. Its charming grove of nine acres will afford, at all seasons of the year, delightful play grounds, and excellent facilities for exercise.” A later *Montgomery Advertiser* article described Hamner Hall as “a handsome three-story structure of brick and stone. It was of a colonial design [with large white columns] and the entire surroundings added attractiveness to the place.” A Sanborn Insurance map from 1900 shows the front of the building facing Holt Street.

At its inception, the course of instruction at Hamner Hall included “the usual English, French, and Music”, and “when the parents desire it and the time

of the pupils will justify it, Latin, Spanish, Italian, or German” and “an advanced course in Scientific subjects or Mathematics, Drawing, Painting and the other ornamental branches.” In 1861 the cost of board, washing and tuition in English and French and singing classes and for a “seat in Church” was offered at \$320 per nine month terms. Other elective courses could be taken for an additional charge. The 1861 Catalogue of Pupils also assured parents that “the discipline, though gentle, will be strictly enforced” and that “strict attention also will be given to the cultivation of correct manners, as a highly essential part of education.” In an advertisement in the *Montgomery Advertiser* in October 1865, parents were further reassured that students “will be allowed to receive no male visitors, except their fathers, guardians, brothers and uncles. Under no circumstances will they be permitted to make bills in town.”

¹ In his book *History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Alabama, 1763-1891*, Walter Laiborne Whitaker devoted an entire chapter to Hamner Hall. Mr. Whitaker’s withering critique of the Episcopal diocese of Alabama’s involvement with Hamner Hall is worth a read. It provides a short history of Hamner Hall, as well as a highly critical analysis of the causes of its failure.

Perhaps the most notable event in the early years of Hamner Hall occurred March 22, 1861. On that evening, Confederate President Jefferson Davis, along with Postmaster General John Henninger Reagan and Secretary of Treasury Christopher Memminger attended a concert at Hamner Hall. At that concert, Hamner Hall music instructor,



The Kennedy-Sims house built in 1894 at 556 S. Perry St. was Absalom Kennedy’s father’s home where the young Kennedy was raised. It was restored beautifully in 1980.
The father was in the decorating materials business, paints, windows, doors etc. for the finer homes in Montgomery.

Victor Kneringer, “played a beautiful ‘Fantasie,’ of his own composition, which he, by consent, dedicated to President Davis.”

In October 1865 the school was transferred from Mr. Sheppard to Professor H.P. Lefebvre, who continued operation of the school until his death 4 years later. In 1870, after the death of Prof. Lefebvre, Hamner Hall was at risk of closing due to financial problems, even though up until that time the school had not been required to make any payment of interest or principal



Hamner Hall
faced Holt St.
This is the only known photograph.

on the debt it had originally incurred to the Bishop’s Fund in order to construct its facility. In that year, in order to save the school, the Rev. Horace Stringfellow convinced the vestry of St. John’s parish to buy Hamner Hall and make it a parish school. St. John’s thereafter took over the school and assumed the school’s debt to the Bishop’s Fund, but was only required to make interest payments on that debt, and it rarely was able even to make these payments. Despite this continued financial leniency, by 1873 the girls’ school was declared a failure, and Hamner Hall was converted into a boys’ school with Francis K. Meade of

Virginia becoming principal. In the Spring of 1874 Col. Samuel Lockett of Jacksonville, FL was hired to replace Mr. Meade. As further evidence of a possible jinx surrounding Hamner Hall, the train upon which Col. Lockett and his family travelled from Jacksonville to Montgomery fell through a bridge, seriously injuring Mrs. Lockett and causing minor injuries to Col. Lockett and their five children. During this time, the financial problems facing the school apparently trickled down to the athletic department. In an announcement in the April 24, 1875 edition of the *Montgomery Advertiser*, it was stated that “the Hamner Hall Base Ball Club don’t own so many balls now. They are also getting short of bats.”

By 1879, the school was still in financial trouble, even though St. John’s vestry still had paid no principal and little interest on the debt to the Bishop’s

Fund. As settlement of that debt, the Trustees of the Bishop’s Fund accepted the conveyance of Hamner Hall from St. John’s vestry. Thereafter, a six year contract was made with the Rev. George M. Everhart, D.D., who undertook to revive the girls’ school, advertising “the re-opening of Hamner Hall as a diocesan school” for girls. However, by September 1884, presumably to address low enrollment, an advertisement in the *Montgomery Advertiser* noted that Hamner Hall was now happy to accept girls “who are of all religious orders in the community.”

Despite the fact that Mr. Everhart paid the Bishop’s Fund practically no rent, in 1885 his lease was renewed for four years even though the property had cost the Bishop’s Fund more than the rental had yielded. By the time Everhart’s lease ended in 1889, the school had neither been numerically or financially successful and Mr. Everhart chose not to renew his lease.

Advertisements in the *Advertiser* in August and September 1889 noted that J. P. McAuley was to conduct a day and boarding school for girls at Hamner Hall, and that the school was to be “strictly nondenominational.” It is unclear how long Mr. McAuley’s venture lasted, but by September 1894 the Hamner Hall building had been converted into a boarding house. In October 1897 Hamner Hall was used as a temporary hospital during a yellow fever outbreak in Montgomery, since it “was at the heart of the district now infected.”

Falling squarely within the “hope springs eternal” category, in September 1899 it was announced that John Savage was opening a school for young men and young ladies at Hamner Hall. By September 1901 Mr. Savage converted his school to a preparatory school for boys only. In an article from May 1904 it was announced that Mr. Savage was relinquishing Hamner Hall and that the Episcopal Church of Montgomery would be opening a parish school the following October. In a rare example of journalistic candor, the article noted that “all of the plans for the school have not been perfected.” Indeed, just three months later, the Hamner Hall property was offered for sale as “an ideal place for a large Boarding House, or private residence”, and by October 1904 the rooms of Hamner Hall were being offered

selling building supplies. But he could think of nothing but the possibility of working with Edison.

Six weeks later found



Inventor Thomas Edison

Mr. Kennedy and his family living in West Orange, and Mr. Kennedy an employee of the great Edison.

Mr. Edison was experimenting in synchronizing the phonograph and the motion picture machine, being confident sound films could be produced.

So, Mr. Kennedy was put to work directing talking pictures, and is credited with directing the two first talking pictures ever made.

Of these, Edison said, “they were not too successful and were shown in vaudeville houses, intended to get rid of the audience between acts.” The quality he thought was poor Mr. Kennedy said. Edison introduced them for educational purposes, not entertainment.

When the talking picture became an amusement, Edison dropped the entire venture and the movie industry moved to California. Mr. Kennedy says Edison’s theories were 40 years ahead of his time.

Admission to the first showing of the pictures was 10 cents and for the second-run 5 cents.

Among the stand-ins is

Lucy Durr Dunn, formerly of Montgomery, now living in Birmingham. Mrs. Dunn was visiting the Kennedys and was photographed in costume as Marguerite, in Faust. Mrs. Dunn

received the princely sum of \$10 for her efforts and to this day has never cashed the check.

[SOME COPY MISSING]

?----- son was conducting an experiment in a baggage car once while traveling. When an explosion occurred, an enraged conductor boxed the young man’s ear, causing the ultimate deafness. Mr. Kennedy, said Edison’s chief engineer at the plant once remarked to him, “I wish the old man would paint his good ear red, so I would know when he was cupping the one he can hear with.”

When not engaged in experiments, all work in the Edison laboratory was suspended at noon Saturday until Monday. It was Mr. Edison’s custom (unknown to his employees) to return to his office Saturday afternoons to play a piano for his own pleasure. It was on such a Saturday

afternoon, Mr. Kennedy who had forgotten a package at the office returned to get it and found Edison playing. Mr. Edison never looked up from the keyboard, not having heard any one enter the office. Mr. Kennedy decided then and there a recording of Edison playing the piano would enrich posterity.

The following Saturday, Mr. Kennedy and his recording machine were safely ensconced behind a silk screen and the door purposely left ajar. Soon the old man came in and took his seat at the piano and played for an hour. All went well and a long time afterward when Mr. Edison heard the recording he was so flabbergasted his only comment was “rotten recording.”

The only recording of Edison playing the piano is now the property of the United States Government, presented by Mr. Kennedy, he said.

“Mr. Ab,” before anyone else, nominated Edison for the New York University Hall of Fame For Great Americans. In 1926 Mr. Kennedy returned to his native state and taught chemistry at the University of Alabama until he retired in 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy had two daughters, one of whom is living, Mrs. Glenn Allen Jones, of Montgomery; the former Clara Virginia Kennedy.

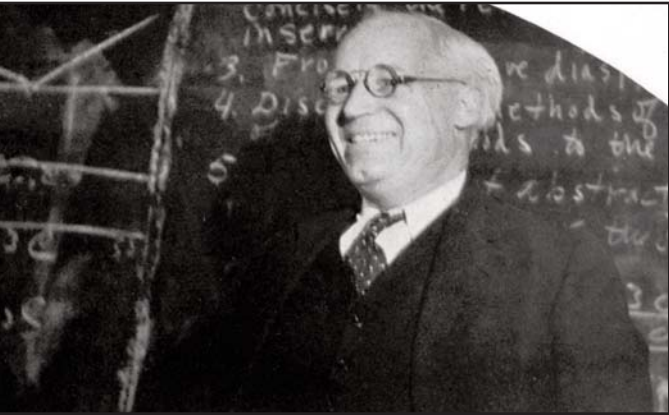
Retirement is easy to take. Mr. Kennedy says, he has found time to catch up with his reading and to do a few of the things he never had time for

Director of First Sound Picture and Aide to Edison Returns Home

By Katherine Tyson
Woman's Editor, *Montgomery Advertiser*

Absalom M. Kennedy, a sharp-witted Montgomery octogenarian, has the distinction of having parents on his two biggest mistakes. "Mr. Ab," as he is known to his friends, and Mrs. Kennedy returned to Montgomery six weeks ago from Tuscaloosa, to make their home near relatives. The Kennedys have an apartment at 754 Thorn Place, in the home of Mrs. Kennedy's sisters, Miss Kate Burke Simpson and Miss Clara Simpson.

Born in Montgomery nearly 82 years ago. Mr. Kennedy was educated at Starke University School, and Auburn University, completing the four-year college course in two years.



Prof. Absalom Kennedy
University of Alabama, Chemistry Dept.
Appreciation in Corolla Yearbook 1936

Mr. Kennedy worked from 1912 to 1917 with Thomas A. Edison in his laboratory in West Orange, N. J. where Mr. Kennedy perfected what he terms his biggest mistakes. The two inventors became associated when Mr.

Kennedy was 34 and Mr. Edison was 67 years old.

During the five-year period Mr. Kennedy was working in the Edison laboratory he was granted patents on a dozen or so inventions, he said. Two of the most successful in use today are to flow meter, which indicated the flow of water through turbines, standard equipment throughout the world; and the method of separating lignin from waste paper, jointly perfected by Mr. Kennedy and John Jernigan last year.

Lignin is the organic substance which forms the chief part of wood fibre. During the 17 years the patent was in effect on the flow meter, Mr. Kennedy received \$850 annually. He says patents are granted for periods of 17 years only. Another project was the making of Calcium Arsenite, widely used in poisoning boll-weevil. Each of these Mr. Kennedy said was the result of other experiments.

He believes the next greatest invention in the world will be the utilization of atomic power and the splitting of atoms.

Getting to work with Mr. Edison came about by accident also, Mr. Kennedy said. He had undergone an appendectomy here in Montgomery and decided a vacation was in order before returning to work. So while vacationing in New York Mr. Kennedy telephoned to his friend, Dr. Miller Reese Hutchinson, formerly of Mobile who was then living in New Jersey. Dr. Hutchinson reported he was working with Mr. Edison and remarked to Mr. Kennedy, "Oh, Ab, if ever you want a job just let Mr. Edison know." Mr. Kennedy returned to Montgomery and his position with the Kennedy Company,

for rent for boarding, lodging or storage. Hamner Hall's last chance to serve as an academic institution came in 1909. In that year, the Alabama Conference Female College (now Huntington College) closed the doors of its Tuskegee campus and moved to Montgomery. Since its new buildings in Cloverdale would not be completed until the 1910-1911 term, the college rented Hamner Hall in which to conduct its classes for the 1909-1910 term. The college moved its furniture, equipment and all official college records into Hamner Hall on August 24, 1909. On that evening, Hamner Hall was engulfed in a fire, destroying all of

the college's property and leaving Hamner Hall in ruins. The fire department concluded that the fire was of "incendiary origin." The ruins of Hamner Hall stood until May 1915 when they were finally demolished. In March 1917, the City of Montgomery purchased the Hamner Hall property from the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, and converted the property into a park and playground for local children; thus, forever ending the troubled existence of Hamner Hall. In a May 1915 article noting the final demolishment of Hamner Hall, the following poignant observation was made: "There will be no more May parties about the shady lawns of

Hamner Hall, and no more strawberry festivals will draw the happy children [and] their mothers who had likewise been drawn when they had been happy little children. For May Day this year saw historic old Hamner Hall being torn to the ground and crumpled into a useless mass of bricks and stone, right at the time of year it had always been such a scene of brightness and cheeriness and had thrown open its wide welcoming doors to everybody who cared to come and dance about the May pole and eat strawberries and cream and such things." End



May Day at Hamner Hall, Girl's High School in 1905. May Queen Ella Hargo, Senior; Maid of Honor Katie Hails, Freshman; Attendants: Elizabeth Andrews, Florence Davidson, Natilie Thornton, Mary McQueen, Mary Metcalf, Jeretta Taylor, Nannie Spiers and _____ Goodwyn.

The Old Arm Chair - Empty

By Toccoa Cozart,
daughter of Hannah Cozart
The Montgomery Journal, December 3, 1916

The Old Arm Chair stands with arms appealingly stretched toward the emptiness of life.

Its saintly occupant, the third of its owners, has gently slipped through the Friendly Door and in The Beyond has joined that goodly company of whom she has so sweetly chatted to us through the golden Sabbath of this year.

Erect and faithfully on guard, The Old Arm Chair seems to be listening for the soft tap of a crutch or the slow roll of an invalid's wheeled chair. How often has its faithful arms received and sheltered and comforted the failing one as she sank gratefully into its embrace seeking relief from the irksome confines of the other prison-chair and from the growing burden of feebleness, so long, so patiently borne.

Just a few weeks before she slipped away she bade farewell to The Chair and consigned it to a darkened corner of an unused room.

"Goodbye, Old Chair," she said, "you have been so faithful through the long years; enter into rest, you shall never be used again, while I - go to a sweeter rest than you can know. But how do I know, Old Chair, so faithful? How can I presume to penetrate the providences of

The Father? How can I know that faithful you are of less value in His sight, than the sparrow?"

She smiled and patted the Old Chair - and saw it no more. This gracious Lady of the Old Arm Chair, after a holy Sabbath day, spent in the sweetest communion with loving friends, bade them a smiling "Goodnight", and in that mysterious hour of the coming of a new days, when things spiritual and holy seem so very near, she went out into the light of the Day that has no night. The sun came to greet her as usual, but snowy eyelids close the windows of her soul toward this world while she was awakening to the glories "that enter not into the imagination of man."

In life, this lady had been known to her host of friends as Hannah McIntyre, born near Macon, Georgia, that center of culture and exquisite refinement of living. Her father, Dr. Peter McIntyre, was descended from those Revolutionary heroes of North Carolina upon whose farm near Charlotte the pivotal battle was fought that turned Cornwallis and his army toward Yorktown. Dr. McIntyre was a distinguished educator of the late 1820s; his home was

the center of high thought and deep culture; here met the Coopers, Kings, Jacksons, Joneses, Everetts, Elsworths - relatives of the great author, Maria Elsworth of Ireland - and many others now written in Georgia's annals. When Hannah McIntyre was a tiny girl her family moved into Macon where Dr. McIntyre was Dean of the historic old "Botanical College"; this institution was designed to do the very work that Auburn Polytechnic is now accomplishing. Happy years were those spent in Macon, and it was a sad-hearted girl at fourteen who followed the fortunes of her family to the strange new home in Montgomery in 1849.

Your editor is saddened by the passing again of our delightful lady of the arm chair.

It seems like she has passed anew, thus ending her interesting and refreshing relating of pieces of her life and surroundings as we sat listening in her living room on Grove Street.

We are thinking of publishing a collection of her work to be available to our membership and any new friends. Ed.

Mrs. Hannah MacIntire Cozart "The Lady of the Old Arm Chair" Claimed by Death, Early Today

The Lady of The Old Arm Chair OBITUARY

The Montgomery Advertiser
Monday, November 20, 1916

Mrs. Hannah MacIntyre Cozart died at her residence, 209 Grove Street, this morning at 1 o'clock. The news of her death caused genuine sorrow among the older as well as younger residences of Montgomery.

Mrs. Cozart is survived by her daughter, Miss Toccoa Cozart. A short funeral service will take place at Leak's Chapel this afternoon at 5 o'clock, and the body will be shipped to Atlanta, Ga., for interment beside that of her husband.

Mrs. Cozart was born in Fort Valley, Ga., April 7, 1834. She was the daughter of Dr. Peter MacIntyre and Mrs. Anna Seale MacIntyre.

She came to Montgomery with her parents in 1849. A close student of conditions and social life in Montgomery through the city's medieval stage, she was perhaps better acquainted with the trials and later the progress of Montgomery than any other resident of the city. Many interesting incidents of early life in Montgomery are told by Mrs. Cozart in her series of stories in the *Journal*, in which her identity has been hidden by the title "The Lady of the Old Arm Chair."

Mrs. Cozart was an exalted Christian character, tested by years of helplessness and suffering,

yet her patience and radiant cheerfulness have ever been an inspiration and guide to a host of loving, devoted friends.



Hannah Cozart
and daughter, Toccoa, who wrote this obit.
It was Toccoa who as a child rode on the
first street car in 1885 and also she rode on
the last run in 1936.