

# The Voice

*of The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society and Cobb Memorial Archives*  
 Speaking about the Past to the Present, for a Better Future

The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society Quarterly Meeting Sunday, January 18, 2015, 3:00 p.m. EST  
 The Ianier Room, H. Grady Bradshaw library, Valley, Alabama

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## The History of the Chattahoochee Valley as Interpreted through Postcards

Presenter: Chris Cleaveland

LaGrange businessman and local historian Chris Cleaveland's love of local history and appreciation of historical artifacts began more than 35 years ago. Chris is a sixth generation Troup Countian, whose great, great, great, grandfather came in his covered wagon to LaGrange in 1829 to participate in the land lottery after the Indian lands were ceded and Troup County was organized. While he has assembled collections of various items reflecting the transitory changes in the social and economic history of LaGrange and Troup County, Chris is the proudest of his collection of postcards detailing in momentary glances the faintly remembered or forgotten aspects of life, people and places in our Chattahoochee Valley region in the past 100 years. Chris has assembled an impressive display of post card images in a video program which he will present at the Quarterly Membership Meeting of the Chattahoochee Valley

Historical Society.

Chris attended LaGrange public schools graduating from LaGrange High School in 1971 and Valdosta State University in 1975 with a degree in Business Administration. Chris and his wife Lesa have two grown daughters, Dr. Jenna Cleaveland of St. Francis Hospital in Columbus and Larkin C. Dorsey, who is a Senior Development Specialist at the West Georgia Health Foundation at the West Georgia Medical Center in LaGrange. Chris has a connection to the Valley area: his son-in-law, Drew Dorsey, is a teacher and Assistant Athletic Director at the Springwood School in Lanett. Chris' wife Lesa will be celebrating 40 years of employment with Milliken & Co. in LaGrange this April. Chris' and Lesa's life now centers on their two grandsons, Cole and Mason Dorsey, aged 3 and 1. Chris is a well known businessman and public figure in LaGrange.

He worked for 20 years at the family business, the Cleaveland-Dodd Company, on East Lafayette Square until December 1994 when the store closed. For the last 10 years he has been employed at CharterBank as an Assistant Vice President and commercial lender at the South Davis branch in LaGrange. Chris has been involved in many community based activities and local charities since he graduated from high school in LaGrange almost 40 years ago, including the LaGrange/Troup County Chamber of Commerce, the LaGrange Lions Club, Troup County Habitat for Humanity and the Troup County Historical Society. Chris also served as a Troup County Commissioner from 1997 to 2001, representing the north side of LaGrange. We are most thankful that Chris has worked to preserve our local stories through his collection of historic postcards and we appreciate his willingness to present this video program to our membership and the general public.

## President's Message

### Greetings to our membership and friends:

As we begin a new year, I wish the best for you and your family. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to preserve our unique local heritage in this Chattahoochee Valley region. Christmas seems to come and go more quickly these days. Sometimes I wish I could slow down the fast pace of everyday life and savor this special time of year the way it should be appreciated, the elusive ideal of Christmases past.

It is the time of year when traditions matter most to us. Trees are trimmed with ornaments made by little hands decades ago. Churches resound with familiar carols and pageantry. Mantels and wreaths boast fresh evergreen. "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Carol" are complemented by a host of Hallmark Channel's Christmas fare. Out-of-towners return home. The big dinner is a smorgasbord to behold- with auntie's signature casseroles and grandmother's

famous cakes.

And, in the Valley, there are time-honored traditions that must be upheld. Families pile into their largest automobile and head up and down Highway 29, to marvel at the Christmas lights. As you travel from West Point, through Lanett, and down to Valley, you experience over five miles of a Christmas lighting continuum. Homes in the Shawmut mill village have been an illumination destination for years. The manger scene in the Langdale meadow and the nearby "Madonna and Child" has been holiday must-sees for over half-a-century. But the hallmark of all Christmas traditions in Chambers County has to be the Christmas Merry-Go-Round. For 58 years, this decorated carousel in Valley has provided Christmas cheer to generations. It is fun to watch folks who are "home" for Christmas bringing their children to enjoy the ride, just as they themselves did years ago. Young and old still enjoy riding to "Jingle Bell Rock", "White Christmas", and Alvin and the Chipmunks!

Concerning Fredonia Heritage Day activities, I would like to report that we had an outstanding experience talking with the public. Members in historical costumes staffed an information table in the Fredonia School House to answer questions about our local history and to provide help with family research. Books were sold and new members were enrolled. The re-enactor presentations were very popular. Board member Joe Thompson attended with cannon and War of 1812 artillery unit. If you missed this year, plan to attend this local event next year.

Reporting on our efforts to enroll participants in our CVHS bus trip to Civil War battlefields in June 20-24, 2015, I would like to announce that the trip is subscribed and we have a wonderful group of people from five surrounding counties. We are excited about our opportunity to provide this travel experience for so many local folks wishing to enjoy the company of friends following the progress of ancestor soldiers among the

four battles fields and visiting the possible burial places of our relatives. We are fortunate to have Murphy Wood who will guide us through

the Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness and Spotsylvania battlefields. We do have the option of adding a few more enthusiasts, so please contact me at (706) 645-6702 before the end of February if you would like to join us. This will be a comfortable trip. The overnight accommodations will be pleasant. The bus will not be crowded. Come and join us!

**Malinda Powers**

## **Editor's Observations**

We hope you, our membership and friends, enjoy our efforts through the publication of *The Voice* to keep you informed about the activities and collections in the Cobb Memorial Archives as well about our regional history through the publication of images and brief articles. We made the commitment a number of years ago to produce this quarterly publication with more images on quality paper and with maximum information about the Cobb Archives collection and interpretations of our local history. Within the limitations of our resources, we wanted to produce issues which could contain valued material and be saved by families wishing to maintain their collections of family and regional history. We did not aspire to produce more than a twelve page issue but we did aspire to encourage and even cajole, with sincerity, more local non-academic historians and graduate students to volunteer to contribute to the issues. We wish to stimulate local research and discussion. We are making progress towards our aspirations but the periodic threat of limited resources is upon us.

The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society Board of Directors has approved increasing the single membership fee from \$12 to \$20 per individual per year. Full information on fees for annual membership is enclosed on a loose page form hopefully to be returned to us with your annual membership fee. We did not wish to increase the fees but costs have increased for quality printing and postage. The cost this year of a single issue of *The Voice* could be as much as \$3.50 plus \$.70 postage, depending on color, images and content organization. All work, travel to prepare and post the issues to approximate-

ly 180 members and non-fee paying friends (libraries, public and private associations) is by volunteers. We print an additional 30 copies to hand out in promotion of membership. Our current fees will not cover costs for the annual production of *The Voice*. We have been able to cover our cost in the past because of the financial gifts by friends and patrons to the Society. We recognize we live in a digital world but we are intent on continuing to communicate, in a small degree, with the printed word and image.

Our Society has maintained a corpus of funds for the past fifteen years for the purpose of printing new monographs or reprinting monographs. Typically, a print job will cost in excess of \$2,000. We sell the new book or reprint to replace these funds so that we may support comparable efforts in the future. Generally, sales proceed at a slow and unpredictable pace. All book writing/preparation is by unpaid volunteers and carried out for the benefit of the Society and Archives.

Periodically the Board of Directors will identify a pressing need by the Cobb Archives or the Bradshaw Library in support of the Cobb Archives and will provide funds to assist in meeting that need. In recent years our help has been to assist in technology acquisitions and matching grant funding which benefited the services of the Cobb Archives or the Society quarterly meeting presentations. One family, the Prather family, has established a fund which we maintain and from which the Cobb Archives purchases annually a monograph appropriate to the Archive collection for the benefit of research by the public. The Prather family each year following the annual family reunion has given \$500 to increase the Prather Fund. We are most appreciative of the efforts of this family to support the Cobb Archives and we regret what has happened to our investment returns in recent years. We sincerely appreciate all gifts.

Prior to Board action to increase the fees we examined the fees and publications of the historical societies in Alabama and Georgia to determine current trends. Most societies are not as robust in activities as our Society and the Cobb Archives. Fees in Alabama ranged from \$8 to \$45. We decided to adopt \$20 as the basic fee which, with specific goals for membership, would pay for *The Voice* and which would allow gifts beyond the basic fee to be used for the benefit of the Cobb Archives in terms of collection, technology or temporary services.

To increase our membership by even a dozen new members would be most helpful to our efforts. The Board is interested in your evaluation of our aspirations and efforts. Please email me at editor@cvvhistoricalsociety.org with any observations or recommendations for improvements. Please consider the Cobb Memorial Archives and this historical society when you plan any gift giving. Your continued interest in the stories and people of our region is our inspiration

**Horace McLean Holderfield**

## **What Knowledge Can Be Found in a Name and Who Was Billy Gilmore?**

While preparing to respond to questions at our CVHS table from folks pursuing family and local history research at Fredonia Heritage Day, I reviewed Bobby L. Lindsey's excellent but unfortunately undocumented *The Reason for the Tears, A History of Chambers County, Alabama*. Our local history readers recall that the 14th Alabama Infantry Regiment was organized in Auburn, Alabama in 1861, and its companies were comprised primarily of boys and men, our relatives, from east central Alabama. Carl Summers in his pictorial monograph, *Confederate Soldiers from Chambers County and Thereabouts*, describes this infantry and lists its companies and soldiers. After being formed, companies acquired names such as Company A, Cusseta Grays; Company C, Tom Watts Grays; Company D, Yancy Grays; Company E, Gilmore Grays; and Company F, Billy Gilmore Grays. I had read about the Gilmore Grays and Billy Gilmore Grays for the past thirty years since so many of our Chambers County relatives and their neighbors served and died in those companies. But, there was no Gilmore person to be found in the records! Lindsey, in a couple of sentences that I had not thought about in the past, stated that a Mr. William B. S. Gilmer of LaFayette had raised and outfitted Company F with uniforms and guns at his expense. Company F then took the name Billy Gilmore Grays. In my hours of research I have not found any documentation to deny the assumption the Gilmore name given to Company E also was in honor of William Benjamin Strother Gilmer. It seems that Gilmer was mispronounced and then misspelled in documentation before and after the Civil War. Lindsey's next revelation was startling. He stated that W. B. S. Gilmer owned thousands of acres of land and hundreds of slaves. Although I realized that South

Alabama with its numerous plantations (more than 20 slaves) began south of Lafayette, I was unaware of Gilmer's wealth in Chambers County. I checked the actual 1860 census document image finding the enumeration of William B. Gilmer, 63 years old living in LaFayette and his wife Elizabeth Gilmer, 52 years old. In the household were also three young men, Arthur Gilmer, 18 years; Frank Perry, 21 years; and George Ball, 20 years. W. B. S. Gilmer reported the value of his Real Estate to be \$125,000 and the value of his Personal Estate to be \$508,500. There were also 14 slaves in the household.

On reexamining John Peavy Wright's *The People of Chambers County, Alabama, the 1860 Census and Genealogical Facts* I discovered that Wright did footnote that the household name Gilmer was reported as Gilmore in 1850. Wright interpreted the photocopy of the original enumeration to show \$308,000 for the value of Personal Property. Examining the facsimile online, I believe the enumeration to be \$508,000. An examination of Wright's 1850 Census publication did show that William B F.(sic) Gilmore(sic) was enumerated as HH1497 with William at 54 years, Elizabeth at 41 years, Ann McGinty at 18 years, Arthur Gilmer at 9 years and Thomas Jefferies at 23 years. Ownership of 35 slaves, 2 runaways, and real estate of \$5,000 were reported. To locate this household, it is noted that the Gilmore (sic) household is three enumerations distant from the household of Washington McGinty and is surrounded by households of railroad hands and a supervisor. Although the enumerator misspelled the Gilmer name in the 1850 Census in the household enumeration, Wright did report the correct spelling of the name in a footnote in this publication under the household enumeration for Henry W. Todd describing a marriage where Wm. B. S.

Gilmer is the second bondsman.

I now sought assistance from our best local history memories. Archivist Miriam Syler referred me to William H. Davidson's monograph *Proudest Inheritance, A Bicentennial Tribute to the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society*. She did not recall any local research on the Gilmer family but understood that the Gilmer Avenue in West Point was named for Georgia Governor and Statesman, George Rockingham Gilmer. Davidson's publication provided a reprinting of an 1876 Centennial Oration on the History of West Point where W. B. S Gilmer was identified as one of members of the corporation given a charter by legislative action in 1835 to build the first toll bridge across the Chattahoochee at West Point. Horace King would engineer this bridge, completed in 1839. The same 1876 Centennial article identified a Francis Gilmer as being a member of the corporation chartered in 1839 as The West Point Land Company which owned most of the land upon which the city would be developed. Francis M. Gilmer was a cousin of William Benjamin Strother Gilmer. Francis M. moved his family to Montgomery about 1820. The Georgia Property Tax Digest records both Gilmers having Personal Estates in West Point as late as 1862.

The second local historian of great memory, Don Clark, told me he had discovered the unusual wealth of William B. S. Gilmer while working with local folks preparing the court house records for microfilming a few years ago. He read the will of William B. S. Gilmer which was so unusual in the display of property and legatees that he had copied it and placed the copy on a genealogical web site. He felt this man needed to be studied and information published.

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Using Ancestry.com I found a citation on William B. S. Gilmer in the publication *Recollections of the Early settlers of Montgomery County, Alabama*. The citation was with a paragraph describing Nicholas Marks as "immensely rich" in "the enhanced value of lands, the natural increase of negroes and stock, and the large crops made in those days and the general prosperity of the country in those days..." "One of Mr. Marks (sic) daughters married William B. S. Gilmer, a wealthy and popular gentleman who represented Montgomery County in the Legislature on one or two occasions." In another passage the writer of *Recollections...*, states that three brothers Peachy, W.B.S and J. J. Gilmer came from Georgia to Montgomery County in "the early days and settled in a body on the west side of Catoma Creek." W. B. S. married and after a few years left his plantation in charge of a superintendent. He and his

wife moved to LaFayette and adopted a boy named Frank Perry. The Alabama Marriage Collection shows that the marriage of William B. S. Gilmer to Elizabeth H. Marks took place on May 23, 1824 in Montgomery, Alabama. He, his wife, one white female in her 20's and 51 slaves were enumerated in Montgomery County in 1830.

Additional work through online searches produced the full text of a book, *Sketches of Some of the First Settlers of Upper Georgia ...*, published in 1855 by George Rockingham Gilmer, former Georgia Governor and Congressman. This book is delightful in candor and fulsomeness. It is a must read for those of us interested in the passage of family social and economic histories from the east coast across the Carolinas through the Indian upcountry of Georgia and into Alabama. George Rockingham Gilmer was the brother of William Benjamin Strother Gilmer whom he characterized in 1855 as "a judicious planter and a very kind, good man. He is very wealthy and gives his money freely to kin, and those who need his assistance. He takes special delight in education of poor, clever young ladies, and giving them such other advantages as may add to their usefulness and success in life. He married Elizabeth Marks, the daughter of Meriwether Marks, and great granddaughter of Governor Mathews. He resides in Alabama, near West Point, in Georgia."

James Fuller of the Montgomery County Historical Society did not recall any specific work published about William B. S. Gilmer specifically but did report facts about his brother Peachy and family living in Montgomery. The Montgomery Historical Society has published a CD containing five early books describing the settlers of the Montgomery area. George Rockingham Gilmer's *Sketches...* is included on this CD. Robin Brown in the Cobb Memorial Archives examined the *The Abstract Chambers County, Alabama Will Books 1 and 2*. A few citations presented William B. S. Gilmer as a bondsman for executors and as guardian for fatherless minors.

The William B. S. Gilmer Family and servants moved into Lafayette sometime in the 1850's, forming friendships and becoming a part of the elite society of that town. William B. S. Gilmer signed his final will and testament on June 26,

1863, and died on January 5, 1865. The last will and testament contained more than 1,700 words of text and 23 "Items" of actions to be taken by the executors. More than twenty individuals are named heirs plus the unnamed and unnumbered children of specifically identified heirs. William B. S. Gilmer stipulated his wife Executrix and five individuals as Executors who would not be required to give bond or security for their responsibility. The will disbursed \$217,000 in Montgomery and West Point Rail Road bonds, Georgia Rail Road Bank bonds, Confederate States bonds, Alabama Florida Rail Road Stock, cotton sales, Confederate notes, and cash.

The will also distributed seven plantations in Alabama, Arkansas, and Georgia of unspecified acreage and value, including all slaves, unnumbered or valued, and all provisions of every kind thereupon to eight individuals. William B. S. Gilmer stipulated that all cotton in Arkansas and Alabama should be sold and \$10,000 of that sum be used to erect monuments to the memory of Stonewall Jackson of Virginia and Col. Thomas Cobb and Barton of the State of Georgia. The Executors were his relatives William M. Marks, S. B. Marks, B. S. Bibb and friends George H. Winston and Jefferson Faulkner. These men were to receive \$2,000 each for their work and expenses for travel. By census examination a George H. Winston was a planter in Troup County, Georgia; a George W. Winston had been Gilmer's neighbor at McGinty cross roads; and Jefferson Faulkner possibly was the Probate Judge, newspaper article writer, politician in Randolph County from 1840's and living in north Chambers County in 1860.

From the microfilmed materials in the Gilmer Estate file we do not find all of the details of the probating of the will; we found no listing of the contents of the estate and values. The file does contain the will and many pages of repetitive text from 1871 of petitions, responses, and summons to court concerning the petition of Chambers County citizen and planter Samuel Spence who is, in simplest terms was dissatisfied with the Executors who should have been bonded and the settlement of the estate. The file is incomplete and judicial settlement is not understood. The will stated, "I give to my friend Samuel Spence the half section of land

taken as swamp land lying in the County of Hempstead in the State of Arkansas on the C(illegible) Creek and twelve miles east of my other lands, and Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in Rail Road Bonds and five negroes from the plantation in Arkansas on which William G., Hayles is now overseeing to be taken in a family or families from those last purchased." Samuel Spence had good reason to attempt to insure he received his due from his friend's estate.

Thus far in this investigation we have realized that the life and actions of a man descending from an élite Virginia social class in our new republic, an entrepreneur, early legislator, successful planter who lived in the Chattahoochee Valley, in Lafayette, died and truly left a void here. From what has been learned of his character he was a man of his times and a truly good person and friend. Our only connection to his existence has been reading his misspelled name in the past as associated with our ancestor soldiers who were initially clothed and armed by him and left home to experience the deadly conditions of war. Our Chamber's boys and men in their Gilmer Grays in Companies E and F marched away in the 14th Alabama Infantry Regiment which mustered 1,317 men during the war and lost approximately 600 fatalities or 45% of its corp.

A sad irony appeared in the story of William B. S. Gilmer as I concluded this research. He and his wife did not enjoy biological offspring but extended their care and concern to the young of others. William B. S. Strother was the court appointed guardian of children on multiple occasions. Records show young men and women living in their household over the years. He and his wife adopted a single child; a son William Arthur Gilmer, who at age 21 in 1862 enlisted at LaFayette in Captain Jackson's Company of the 7th Alabama Regiment and served 12 months. In May 1862 his name appears on Captain Talbot's Company I muster of 37th Alabama Infantry Regiment at Auburn. The next reporting about the young Arthur may be found in an account from the diary of Lt. T. J. Carlisle (Co.D) published in the Weekly Enterprise in Chambers County on April 10, 1902:

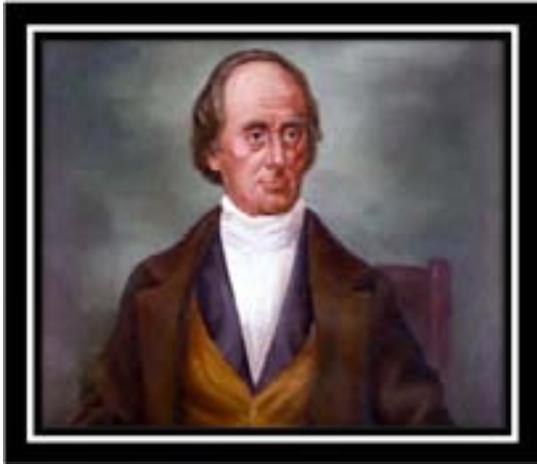
tents and march to the war, preparatory to taking the boat (Selma) for Corinth, via Mobile. Just before leaving the landing at Montgomery, Co. "I" as made to mourn the loss of one of its members, Arthur Gilmer, who (illegible) over-board (illegible) encumbered with heavy clothing, rations, he kept his head above the surface of the water but a few seconds, when he sank beneath the waves to rise no more. A large crowd of soldiers and citizens stood upon the bank in breathless silence and saw him go down so quickly that no aid could be tendered him. Col. Dowdell wrote a short note to Judge Bibb, of Montgomery, who was a personal friend(brother-in-law) of W. B. S. Gilmer, the adopted father of the unfortunate young man, informing him of the sad occurrence and requested him to look after the body of the departed soldier boy. The writer does not know that his body was ever recovered....The boat soon moved off from the shore, but not a huzzah came from then soldiers as she glided down the stream of the proud old Alabama, a thing very unusual when troops are going to the scene of action...";

If the story of William. B. S. Gilmer were an ancient Greek fable and lessons were to be learned about the fate of man worrying against the plan of the Gods, the irony in the story might be obvious. William B. S. Gilmer prospered with greatest fortune on the frontier of the old southwest in the growing commodity trade of cotton with its slavery and used his wealth to pay for clothing and weapons for men to apply their lives to sustain those values and practices which he used to create his enormous wealth. It was ironical that the same items which he had given, enabling men and boys to go to war, had encumbered his only direct heir and caused his drowning death

"...On Monday the command was ordered to strike

**I**mages of Wm. B. S. Gilmer, Elizabeth his wife, his homes, his property must exist but have not been found. He, Elizabeth and William Arthur are buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Montgomery, Alabama. Online images exist of their grave monuments.

Two related images are presented here. The naming of Gilmer Avenue in West Point has been attributed to honor his brother Governor and Congressman George Rockingham Gilmer in political office during the turbulent years of gold discovery on Indians lands in North Georgia, legal conflict over control over Indian lands and the removal of the Indians from areas in Georgia. Georgia members may know this image but it will be new to the Alabamians and others. The second image is of John Samuel McLean, son in merchant family at Hickory Flat arriving from Tennessee in the 1830's. John joined Company F of the 14th Alabama Infantry as an Orderly Sergeant to be promoted to Captain of the Billy Gilmore Grays by the end of the war.

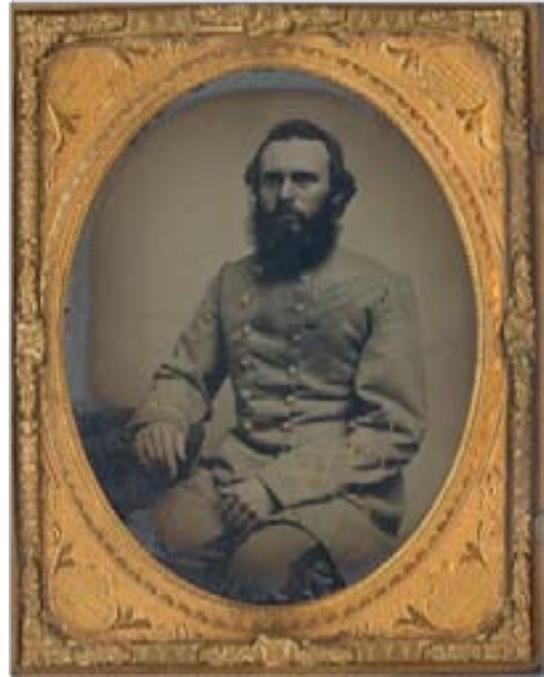


George Rockingham Gilmer b.1790-d.1859

Georgia Governor, Statesman and Soldier

Brother of William Benjamin Gilmer

Captain McLean, wounded several times, would have begun his service wearing and carrying cloth and gun supplied by William B. S. Gilmer. John died without wife or issue one year following the war from yellow fever and was buried without marker in Mt. Pisgah Primitive Baptist Cemetery north of present day Stroud in Chambers County.



John Samuel McLean b.1835-  
d.1866

Captain, Last Commander  
Of Company F,

## IN MEMORIAM

**B**enjamin Aaron Jarrell, 79, died on December 13, 2014. Ben was a good friend to all who were pursuing research and images in local history. He was active in preserving the history of his family home community of Cusseta in Chambers County and supportive member of CVHS. His Jarrell family settled on the frontier on the western side of Chambers County in 1840 near present day County Line Baptist Church.

**E**dna Eugenia 'Jean' Spence Nunn, 79, died on January 3, 2015. Jean was always interested and helpful in preserving the history of her community and county and its last surviving Presbyterian Church, Lebanon near Buffalo. Jean was a descendant of Samuel Spence who arrived in Lafayette with his family in 1857. He was a successful planter, Probate Judge, Circuit Clerk, and Tax Collector in Chambers County. This Samuel Spence is the person described in the earlier article petitioning in 1871 the settlement of the Gilmer Will.

# **Cobb Memorial Archives Report**

**By Robin Brown**

## **January 2015**

With a successful year behind us, Cobb Memorial Archives is looking forward to discovering all that awaits us in 2015. As we strive to preserve and make accessible the history of Chambers County, we are grateful for the support of our local patrons, the H. Grady Bradshaw Library, the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, and the Cobb Foundation.

## **The Way We Worked**

One of the highlights of 2014 was Cobb Memorial Archives being selected to host the Smithsonian Institution's travelling exhibit, *The Way We Worked*. As one of only six cities in Alabama chosen to host the exhibit, we are honored by this opportunity. The exhibit materials on loan from the Smithsonian trace the evolution of work in America and examine how work has shaped American culture. In addition to the Smithsonian items, Cobb Memorial Archives created an accompanying exhibit that tells the history of work in the Valley area by focusing on local industries. The exhibit will be on display until January 23, 2015. We have already had an impressive turnout of visitors, and we invite anyone who has not yet seen it to stop by and learn about *The Way We Worked*.

## **Recent Acquisitions**

The Archives continue to receive donations of all scopes and sizes. Mr. Eddie Lanier has added more items to his generous donation of maps and other documents from the Chattahoochee Valley Railway. Mr. Howard Kitchens donated a flag and a hand-made card to commemorate the anniversary of the formation of the Marine Corps on November 10, 1775. These are only two examples of the many and varied donations the archives have received in the last several months.

## **Partnership with Point**

## **University**

In December, Jean Martinez-Ortiz, the archives' student intern, graduated from Point University. Jean studied history and is considering graduate school in the near future. During his internship at Cobb Memorial Archives, he processed a box from the Chattahoochee Valley Railway Collection, with most items dating to the early 1920s. He learned basic preservation practices and exhibited a genuine interest in the history of the railway. The Archive is deeply appreciative of its successful working relationship with Point University and looks forward to inviting more students to intern here in the future.

## **Prather Fund Book**

Consistent with the intent of the Prather Family Fund the Cobb Memorial Archives has acquired the monograph *Portraits of Conflict, A Photographic History of Alabama in the Civil War* by Ben H. Severance, Professor of History at Auburn University Montgomery and former officer in the United States Army. The almost 400 page publication is the tenth in an award winning series of photographic histories of the South during the Civil War. Our Chattahoochee Valley region is represented in the excellent monograph by a number of images.

## **Looking Ahead**

As we enter 2015, the archives will endeavor to continue its mission of collecting, preserving, and making available documents of local historical significance. We will continue to approach our work with an enduring appreciation of what has gone before and with recognition of history's relevance best characterized by William Faulkner: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

## The History of the Post Card:

Scenic color post cards date from 1870 in France. Lithographed cards were marketed for the Franco-Prussian War soldiers to send home. This new social artifact became popular with pictures of monuments, places, women and all manner of images from the time of its "Golden Age" beginning in the 1890's and until the mid 20th century.



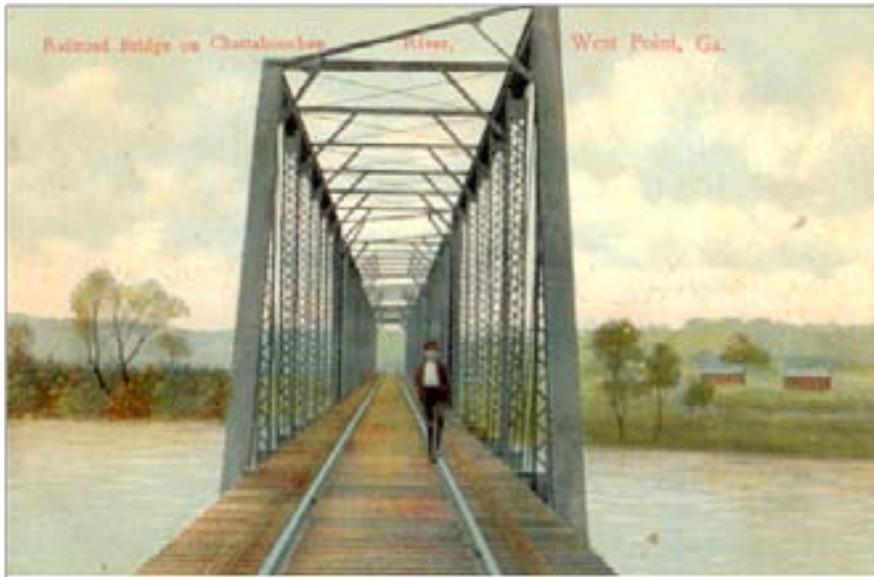
From Chris Cleaveland Private Collection

Dining Room Private Car on The West Point Route between Atlanta and Montgomery. Circa 1900.



From Chris Cleaveland Private Collection

First National Bank and Opera House, West Point, Georgia. Circa 1900.



From Chris Cleveland Private Collection. Railroad Bridge on Chattahoochee River, West Point, Georgia. Same card is in Cobb Archives.



From Cobb Archives Collection. Gilmer Avenue and Looking North. Circa 1900.



From Cobb Archives Collection. Public School Building, West Point, Georgia.



CVHS Directors as re-enactors at Fredonia Heritage Day. Joe Thompson as War 1812 artilleryman. Malinda Powers as Mrs. Sarah Hurst in 1850's.

## ANNUAL DUES

The annual dues of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society are due each year on the first of January. Dues are \$20.00 per individual and \$5.00 for each additional member of the same household, and \$5.00 for any student who is still in school and is under 21 years of age. Other membership levels include Benefactor-\$250; Patron-\$100; and Friend-\$50. For any NEW member who subscribes after September 1, their membership will be for the remainder of the current year and also the following year. In becoming a member you will receive a quarterly newsletter The Voice that will inform you of quarterly meetings, new publications, articles of historical interest in the tri-county coverage area and upcoming events.

Please make checks payable to C.V.H.S. and mail with your name and full address to the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, Inc., 1319 20th Ave., Valley, AL.

Go to our website:  
[cvhs@cvhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:cvhs@cvhistoricalsociety.org)  
 or leave a message at:  
[editor@cvhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:editor@cvhistoricalsociety.org)  
 with your information.