

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, July 20, 2014, 3:00 p.m. EDT

The Lanier Room, H. Grady Bradshaw Library, Valley, Alabama



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ANTEBELLUM COTTON AND SLAVERY

Presenter: Murphy Wood

Civil War historian Murphy Wood will present the third part of his series, *Slavery in North America: Origin, Practice, and Production of Cash Crops* at the next meeting of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society on July 20, 2014. The quarterly meeting will be held at 3:00 pm ET at the Bradshaw Library in Valley, AL.

The production of cotton in Alabama and Mississippi fed the insatiable demand of a burgeoning international textile industry that forever linked the old South to cotton and slavery. The early social and economic history of Alabama and Mississippi were defined by cotton production and it is important to understand this time period and the global economic forces that swept it forward. Having traced the origin of slavery and sugar and rice production in earlier lectures, it is hoped participants will have gained a greater understanding of slavery in its

many forms and will not want to miss this last installment that focuses on how slavery was practiced here in the Chattahoochee Valley.

A native of northern Chambers County, Wood teaches AP History at his alma mater, Springwood School in Lanett. Last summer and again this summer he has been chosen to be part of a select review committee, made up of high school history teachers



and university professors from across America, to grade the essay portion of the AP History Exam. Before returning to his roots, he lived and worked in Virginia, where he received a Master's Degree

in Early American History from James Madison University. He has appeared as guest speaker and has presented research papers at numerous Civil War conferences and lecture series in Virginia and Kentucky. In addition, he has served as tour guide for several Civil War motor coach tours of the Shenandoah Valley and as a private guide for a variety of tour groups.

President's Message

Greetings to our membership and friends:

It is with great humility that I accepted the board's nomination as CVHS president several months ago. What a daunting challenge to serve as a leader in an institution for which I have such a profound respect. I am reminded of the truly great leaders of this organization over the past six decades, many of whom I never had the privilege of knowing personally. The vision of our founders half a century ago has been nurtured and expanded upon over the years by men and women who have selflessly given of their time and talents to uphold the mission of our organization.

As our area continues through a period of transformational changes, it is reassuring to see evidence of historic preservation at work all around us, from Heritage Days in Fredonia to the Joe Louis statue in La Fayette, from the city of Valley's efforts to encourage historic rehabilitation of Langdale Mill to the establishment of National Historic Districts in West Point's downtown and residential areas.

Our communities' passion for historic preservation is alive and well. As a premier historic organization in the tri-county region, this surge in popular interest offers us an opportunity to recruit new members and "re-enlist" former members. Please help your CVHS continue to grow. Invite a friend to come with you to our next meeting. And, if you haven't been to a meeting in a while, this is a great opportunity to re-engage.

Lastly, we want to encourage more feedback from the grassroots. Think about new ways in which we can advance our mission. We'd love to hear from you at our next meeting!

Malinda Powers

*Editor and Lee Littlehawk
at Horseshoe Bend
Bicentennial 2014*



Editor's Observations

I hope this issue of The Voice finds you well and pursuing some intriguing fact, fancy, or family puzzle in local history.

Following up on Malinda's comments concerning the efforts in our regions to preserve and interpret our history, I would like to compliment The Valley Kiwanis Club for inviting three of our membership on three consecutive weeks to make presentations on different events in our local history. These presentations were well recounted and expanded upon by Wayne Clark in the Valley Times-News.

Beginning in November, The Bradshaw-Chambers County Library will be a host site for the "The Way We Worked," a photographic exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution. Supporting that theme, my articles in this issue and in the Fall issue present an interpretation of 1940 census from the enumeration districts in Lanett. I have wanted to pursue this type of research in the 1940 Valley census districts for sometime but have anticipated the time required and delayed the effort until now. Wife Linda sat at one PC using Excel spread sheet and I sat at a second PC and read each line from the Lanett 9-15 enumeration district. We built a data base of 1,265 records by house hold or block number of gender, race, age, years of school, occupation, industry, weeks employed in 1939 and wage/ salary in 1939. We did not record the name of the employed individuals. The total population for this enumeration district would be more than 1,265 people. The extraction of the data was most time consuming, consequently the tomatoes are not tied up yet in the garden and the cows are getting lost in the horse fennel which requires the tractor and its bushhog. I would like to work through all Valley enumeration districts but will need to hire a mule driver with whip to force me to complete the task in a timely manner.

It is most interesting work but slow and requires good eyesight. I had my first cataract surgery last month and have yet to receive new glasses.

We always publish our membership list in the July issue. We appreciate our membership. It is trite but true to say that without our membership dues and gifts we could not function. Because we have a supportive membership, we have an exceptional Archives and historical society. Stay with us in future years and help us increase our contacts with individuals and families interested our region.

We want to serve our families, friends, and neighbors as best we can as all of us work to interpret the historical context from which our personal and collective stories have arisen.

Horace McLean Holderfield
editor@vhistoricalsociety.org

2014 Membership

Honorary

William R. Coughlin
A. Stephen Johnson
Beverly Perryman
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Otto
Jean Ennis
Marjorie D. Wheeling
Martha Lee Gatlin
Mary Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Summers, Jr.
Mr. George Zachry, Jr.
Mr. Richard Monk
Mrs. Miriam Syler
Mrs. William Scott, Jr.
Nina Langley
Sherre Waller Sorrell

Lifetime

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Harold G. Prather
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Marshall & Ellen Sapp

Ret. Col. William G.
& Jane W. Sikes, Jr.
Cassandra Thomas
Nell Torbert

Individual

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Cindy Calhoun
Don Clark
Penny Crowder
Jenny F. Cummins
Bill Ford
Jane Fulghum
Bill Gilbert
Taylor Littleton
Jeanette Mason
Roy McClendon
Maynard E. Morgan
Bonnie A. Reynolds
Lisa Smith
Barbara L. Taylor
Partrica Hegarty Tepper
Billie Weeks
Helen F. Zachery
Julie Alexander
Mary Alsobrook
Danny Anglin
Charlene Atkinson
Betty Barrett
Carolyn Berry
Pat Blankenship
Glenda Brack
Sallie Breedlove
Suzie Britt
Barbara Brooks
Barbara Clifton
Elisha Trammell Combs, Jr.
Debbie Cook
Mrs. Adelle Curtis
Sharon H. Daugherty
Roger Davis
Jerry Delezen
Cece Dillard
Mendl Djunaidy
Cherry Duve
Lynda S. Eller
Jessie L. Gates
Dr. Gwen Gibson
Jane L. Gordon
Fred Hadaway
Elizabeth Hall
Eleanor Greene Hemmes
Nanci N. Hendrix
Owen Hodges

Ann Holderfield
Nan Huber
Emory K. Johnson
Mr. Frederick S. Johnson, Jr.
Jim Jones
Heidi Keasler
Rex Kienel
James Grover Leak
Paulette Leavins
Richard Ledyard
Aileen Love
Paula Maddox
Gracie M. Maddux
Terry Martin
Gerald McGinty, Sr.
Rodney Mitchum
Mrs. Clyde Allen Moore
Margaret Newman
Fay Newton
Edna Nunn
Laura Patterson
Mrs. Bertha Schroeder
Gerry Slaughter
Marilyn Stokes
Rita F. Strom
Dr. Jane T. Upshaw
Jossie Valles
Annette Waites
James "Lee" Weaver
Carolyn Wheeler
Alan Whitman
Jason Williams
Jean C. Williams
Barbara T. Wingo
Murphy Wood
Amy Yates
Lawrence J. Haller

Individual Plus One

Jim Allen & Judy Collins
Harold & Mary Helen Benford
Sanford & Lenore Blanton
Jerry & Mac Bryant
Mr. & Mrs. S. L. Burney IV
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Burton
Capt & Mrs. Charles T.
Creekman, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. J. Newell Floyd
Curtis M. & Vicki L. Ford
James & Mary Hammock
William & Virginia Hayes
Ben Gaines Holmes
Jim & Susan Hudson
Ben & Ann Jarrell

Bob & Mary Lowe
Early & Mary McKnight
Sam H. & Billie C. Oliver
Marion & Linda Patrick
Ann & Bill Petry
Malinda & Charlie Powers
Paschal & Ellen Prickett
C. Prather & Lillian Slay
Monroe & Leslie Smith
Joe & Debbie Thompson
James & Virginia Weldon
Billy & Barbara Williams
Carole & Keith Wood

Complimentary

Alabama Dept. of Archives &
History
University of Alabama Library/
Serials
Museum of East Alabama
Auburn University Library &
Archives
University of Georgia Library &
Archives
Ms. Bonnie Bonner
Historic Chattahoochee
Commission
The Tallapoosa Ranger
Alabama Welcome Center
Georgia Visitor Center
Mr. Wayne Clark
Lanett City Hall
Allan County Library (IN)
Lewis Cooper Memorial Library
Hawkes Library
Greater Valley Area Chamber of
Commerce
Mr. & Mrs. Crew Pitts
City of West Point
Old Darlington Chapter SCGS
Montgomery Genealogical Society
Savannah River Valley
Genealogical Society
Smyrna Historical & Genealogical
Society
Clay County Historical Society
Heard County Historical Society
Humble Genealogical Society (TX)
Lee County Historical Society
Valley Preservation Society
Valley City Hall

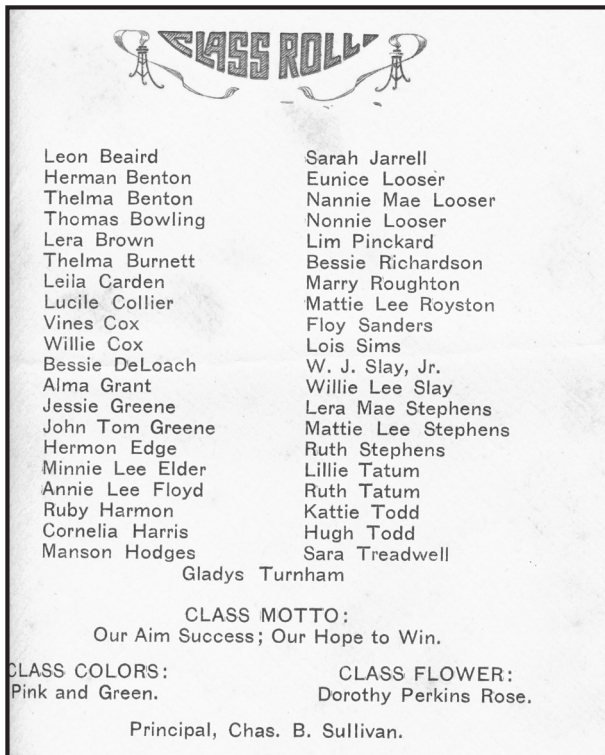
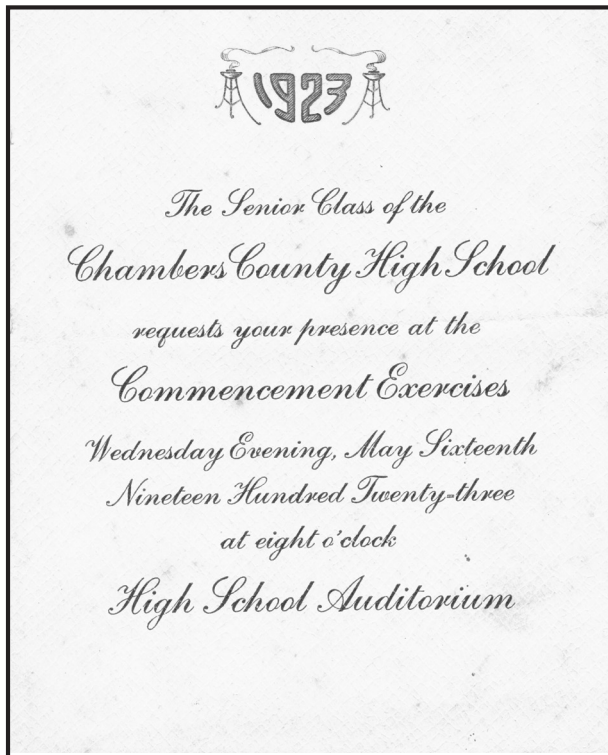
Cobb Memorial Archives Update

New Collections and Additions March 6, 2014 through June 12, 2014

NEW COLLECTIONS			
Name	Number	Description	Donor
William A. Brown	588	WWII footlocker and contents (photographs, letters, Purple Heart, etc)	Emily Garrett
Donald Kennedy	555	Letters, Confederate currency, marriage bonds and certificates	Donald Kennedy
Donald Cleveland	556	2013 Boston Marathon ribbon with medallion, <i>Boston Globe</i> 4/16/13	Donald Cleveland
Kaye M. Oliver	557	3 postcards of local buildings; 7 photographs of Oliver and Batson families	Kaye M. Oliver
ADDITIONS			
Name	Number	Description	Donor
Newspapers	3	May 1936 Chattahoochee Valley Times	Phillip Williams
Biography	28	James Schell, author of "We Call Our Daddy Mister"; Doss Leak funeral program	CMA Staff
Nazi Artifacts	44	German flag taken from a city hall in Italy, 5/25/1944	Kathy Herren
Photograph Collection	52	4 Photographs – 2 of Lanett Mill, 2 of Jennings/Barrow wedding; 2 photos of H.E. Steele, Mayor of West Point; churches, local area, Cobb Archives	Matthew Reid Wallace; NA
West Point Pepperell	92	Trucking Division – 48 slides	NA
DVD Collection	96	Society speaker Murphy Wood 4/27/14; Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner 2014 (Gerald Andrews); Valley Haven School Hike-Bike-Run Event 5/3/2014; Photographs on DVD of James Schell book signing ("We Call Our Daddy Mister"); J.D. Williams family; 2014 Memorial Day Service at Langdale Memorial Park, May 2104	Crew Pitts; NA
Rev. W.C. Bledsoe	108	Book "The East Liberty Association" by Rev. W.C. Bledsoe	NA
Map Collection	109	1860 map of Alabama and Georgia	NA
Cobb Collection	117	Coca-Cola Calendar 1973-1974	NA
Chambers Co. History	128	Land plat of Chambers County and portions of local area (undated)	NA
West Point Pepperell	148	15 bound volumes of West Point Pepperell Employee News 1969-1982	NA
W.D. Denney	152	Receipt from W.D. Denney store dated June 22, 1918	NA
WWII Memorabilia	163	WWII bulletin from Solerno – September-October 1943	NA
Mary Poer Oslin	173	Biography of the career of George P. Oslin, son of Mary Oslin	NA
Fort Tyler	225	Article on Ft. Tyler; "Out of the Shadows" copy and copyright application	CMA Staff; NA
School Books	226	Spellers and Readers ranging from 1912 to 1940's	NA
Geo H Lanier Council Boy Scouts of America	251	1925 photograph of Eagle Scouts (with names)	Bruce Harrison
West Point Pepperell	283	Civil Defense Security Officers	Ben Gay
Hugh Smith	300	Letter to Hugh Smith by Lyndon B. Johnson, October 1964	NA
Langdale Mill Records	309	Textile World Cotton Mill Handbook 1932, Boyd's notebook containing formulas, customers, rates, test reports, etc.	Allie C. Boyd III
Sacred Harp	319	2 photographs of Sacred Harp Songbook	NA
LaFayette Study Club	359	By-Laws/Constitution 1999 & 2000; meeting dates, program titles, & hosts	NA
Charter Garden Club	386	Photographs of events from 1970-1990's; invitation to Sibley Center and Butterfly House at Callaway Gardens; Newspaper articles; Callaway Gardens Newsletter; information on Madge Bornwell	NA
Morris-Turner	419	Victorian handmade hair pieces made from human hair - framed	LeClare Turner
Chattahoochee Valley Railway	435	Chattahoochee Valley Railway notebooks (3), with photos	Tom & Lona Joyce Gallo
Donnie Sorrell	453	Copies of photographs	NA
Stephen Johnson	499	Cartoon strips from 1940's	Brenda Hart
West Point Pepperell	511	11 WPP Annual Reports	NA
Cookbook Collection	513	Home Town Recipes of Valley by the Women of the Church of God, Valley	NA
The Story of Cotton	518	1881 & 1886 list of Georgia & Alabama textile mills	NA

Images In Question?

Images on this page were digitized in 2009 as part of the collection of images to be considered for our **Images of America Chambers County** publication. The names listed may be helpful in family history research.



HAMBURG SCHOOL 1912-13 TEACHERS MISSES EMMA DEAN & MATTIE EMMA TUCKER

1st. ROW L-R BERNICE LAMB, WILLIE COGGINS, REED McCARLEY, CLARA JONES RAY SHAVER, WINNIE JONES, COFIELD SHAVER, LINNIE THOMPSON, MILDRED-JONESEULA THOMPSON, JIMMIE DORA THOMPSON, TILLMAN SLAUGHTER

2nd. ROW L-R DOWDELL SPENCE WILLIE JOE LINDSEY, DUFFY HUCKABY, KATH- ERINELAMB, JOHN BEN SHAVER, ROBERT EASON, CLYDE BENTON, JOHN ALLEN DURAL LAMB, ALLEN PARKER, LEON HUCKABY, BRYAN LAMB, EDNA McCARLEY OTIS TOMLINSON, SAM SPENCE, NETTIE JONES

3rd. ROW L-R DURAL PHILLIPS, MARY JANE SHAVER, NANNIE SUE COGGINS J. T. SPENCE, LAVONIA HUCKABY, EMERSON SLAUGHTER, MALEY PARKER, ELEY FRAZER, KATE COGGINS, BERNARD SHAVER, JOE SHAVER, RUBY SLAUGHTER, CHARLIE PARKER, RUTH SLAUGHTER, KYLE HUCKABY, PEARL SHAVER, QUILLAN WILSON, LILLY LINDSEY, CASSIE SHAVER

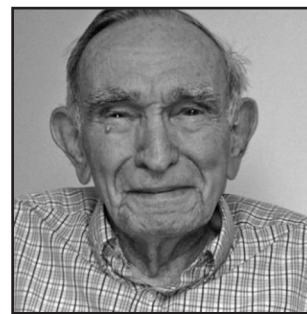
4th ROW L-R IDA COGGINS, LONA BENTON, EMILY EASON, MISS EMMA DEAN, MAMMIE SHAVER, BERT DODSON, FRED DAVIS, LESSIE LAWSON, WALIER BENTON, CAP DAVIS, MISS MATTIE EMA TUCKER, ARTHUR SHAVER, ALBERTA DAVIS



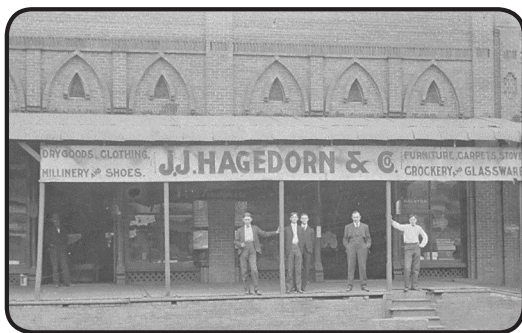
Veteran History Project Interview with Horace C. Gregory

As part of the national Veteran's History Project, Cobb Memorial Archives just had the privilege of interviewing WWII veteran Horace C. Gregory who served in the U.S. Army. Wounded twice in combat, he was trained as a sniper but was "glad I never had to use the training." Veterans like Mr. Gregory bring history to life and help us better understand

the realities of war. Cobb Archives has interviewed dozens of military veterans who answered our country's call to duty. Thank you, Mr. Gregory, for sharing your story with us and thanks to all U.S. military veterans for your service!



Anyone interested in viewing any Cobb Memorial Archives collections may visit M-F 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Eastern and the first and third Saturdays from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Eastern.



West Point in the Early 1900's:

Continued from the January 2014 Issue

While going through my grandmother's trunk recently, I found four copies of the West Point newspaper dated between 1900 and 1920. These copies are significant since all other newspapers of West Point are believed to have been destroyed in the great flood of December 1919. The newspaper apparently came out once a week. Here are some excerpts.

Stephen Johnson

The West Point, Georgia and Lanett, Alabama News

Thursday, November 21, 1918

Former West point Girl a movie Star

— The many friends of Miss Lottie Lou Eady will be glad to read the following item from Sunday's Atlanta Journal. "Friends of Louise Dupree" which is just "stage stuff" for Lottie Lou Eady, well-known Atlanta girl who risen to prominence(sic) in the motion picture world, will be interested to know that she is now on her way to California to make a picture for the Vitagraph company. "Miss Dupree", who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Eady, and a niece of Colonel T. J. Eady, has just finished making picture for the World Film Company called "The Social Deadline", in which June Elvidge and Frank Mayo were her co-stars.

The Vaudeville Theater is still Open

and Running Every Day Except Saturday. And not a single case of "Flu" can be traced aback to The Vau-

dette. Why? There is a Reason. Our house is kept *Perfectly Sanitary*. With the Sanitation System we use it is impossible for germs to live in this Theater. A few big attractions that we are offering: Friday, November 22nd The Great and Incomparable Vampire THE-DA BARA in the 1918 Version of Kate Claxton's Widely read Novel THE TWO ORPHANS. Also a British War Picture. 10c and 20c.

Monday, November 25th DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS supported by Jewel Carmen in AMERICAN ARISTOCRACY. Tuesday, November 26th NORMA TALMADGE Supported by Eugene O'Brien in "THE MOTHS" The story of a Moth-Wife, who has been Blinded by The Social Candle. Also; Pathe News. 10c and 20c.

continued on page 7

The West Point, Georgia and Lanett, Alabama News

Thursday, March 6, 1919

MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Held in Honor of the Late John T. Johnson At The City Auditorium. The large audience which gathered at the auditorium Sunday afternoon to attend the memorial services held in honor of West Point's lamented mayor, John T. Johnson, who paid the supreme sacrifice, while engaged in Y.M.C.A work at a hospital in Marseilles, France, last November. A splendid musical program had been arranged which included representatives from all the church choirs. Before the hour for the services to arrive, the large auditorium was comfortably filled and many citizens occupied seats in the gallery. A reservation in the gallery which had been made for the colored folks, at their special request, contained many negroes (sic). Rev. W.G. Crawley, pastor of the First Methodist Church, of which the deceased had been a member since he was eight years old, was master of ceremonies.

A.E.TAYLOR HAD HIS CAR STOLEN

Saturday just before noon A. E. Taylor, who was for a long time assistant city electrician, was helping the ladies decorate the auditorium for Sunday. He left his Ford Roadster in front of the Auditorium, and when he came out to go to dinner his car was missing. He soon found out the car had been driven away by a stranger, who had become very much attached to it. He then got busy, and before he returned home Saturday night had two brothers, W. H. and T.J. McCoy, in jail at LaGrange charged with the theft, and had recovered his car.

Miss Bessie Harrison has accepted a position as "hello girl" with the Interstate Telephone Company at West Point.

The Vaudeville Theater presents The Million Dollar Picture Beautiful "A Daughter of the Gods" Featuring the perfect Woman ANNETTE KELLERMAN, Friday, March 7th. Hundreds of Mermaids, Three Hundred Dancing Girls and Women of the Sultan's Harem, 1,200 Children as Gnomes, and a Gnome City. 21,218 People Appear in This Picture.

Tuesday, March 11th. The Idol of West Point's Social Set, NORMA TALMADGE in her Latest Select Photoplay "The Safety Curtain" Supported by That Ardent Lover, Eugene O'Brien. See Our Norma as Puck in a London Theater, Then a Fire Panic in the Theater, Then Rescued by an Army Captain, Then What---? Also CHARLIE CHAPLIN in "Hot Dogs". Admission: 10 and 20c.

A NEW AND UP-TO-DATE Photograph Gallery Is now open and solicits your patronage Over City Drug Company, West Point, Ga. By LYON, Owner of the LaGrange Studio.

LOST A new gray serge dress on the C.V. last Saturday night, March 1st. The Dress was made with round gray Satin collar, open in back with gray buttons, Five rows gray military braid on skirt. Finder will please notify J. P. Richardson, care of C.V. Office, West Point, and receive reward.

Images In Question?

This interesting house that was on Pine Street, Lanett, with its double porches, is from an image found in the Jean Ennis file in the Cobb Memorial Archives. If you have information about this house, contact the editor@cvhistorical-society.org so that we can add to our digital record.



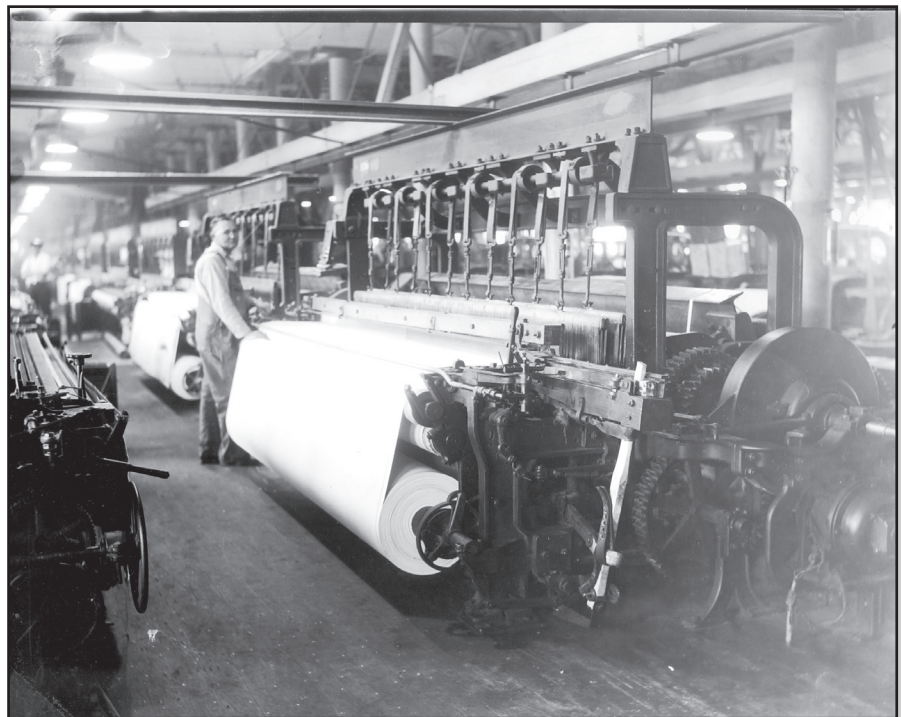
“The Way We Lived In 1939” as Interpreted for One Census Enumeration District in Lanett, Alabama

In past issues, I have reported on research from census data which provided insights into the social and economic characteristics of the rural Fredonia area in Chambers County prior to the Civil War. In this issue I would like to begin a series of reports drawn from the 1940 Census which will describe our populations in the Valley towns and communities in 1939. This census will define us at the end of an era as the gradual improvements from the worst depression years merge with the external demands from a nation at war. The future census of 1950 will describe our people in communities in the post war era of change and growth which will end with the demise of the textile industry in the Chattahoochee Valley. The economic and social energy in Lanett City's year of 1939 was like the years before wars began (in 1860, 1917, 1940) demonstrating values and capacities which would be lost, redefined, or redirected by wartime into new post war eras. Each era does go with the wind. How were we working in 1939 just before the winds of war began to blow through the Valley?

My caveat for your accepting this research is the same as in earlier issues. We are working with self reported census information. Some folks cannot remember, some folks do not

tell the truth for a variety of social and personal reasons and some folks will not respond to every question. Thankfully, Mrs. Eunice Shaver maintained very legible writing as she enumerated the spoken word into the little boxes and columns on the census sheets. Every data element may not land on the bull's eye of fact but when computed with all the responses from other individuals, we may

comparative social and economics characteristics without protective passion. In building data bases from the extracted information we have not recorded family names. I feel we must always be sensitive when we look at the most recent census facts and figures which may describe living persons. Time constrained our research efforts to the single Enumeration District 9-15, Election Precinct 7



feel with confidence that we are hitting the target with our interpretations.

The 1940 Census recorded facts and figures about our families and our neighbors 75 years ago. Enough time has passed in 75 years, hopefully, that we may examine our

Lanett, Lanett City bounded by (in) City Limits; (E) City Limits; (S) Cherry, Lanier, Bluffton; (W) City Limits. Do note that Lanett streets had names in 1939. The Lanett census is documented as three enumeration districts of 9-15, 9-16 and 9-17.

Mrs. Shaver recorded 61

pages of information for 1939 on the households in the 9-15 enumeration district. We used Microsoft Excel to array data on individuals in each household who reported occupation and industry for 1939. We selected household number, gender, race, age, occupation, industry, weeks worked, and annual salary/wages. This data contained two classes of working people: the employed who were required to report salary and the self-employed who were not required to report annual income. Mrs. Shaver tabulated 1,265 persons who reported earning incomes in 1939.

Enumeration district 9-15 contained a total workforce of 1,265 individuals. 973 persons reported receiving wages in 1939 and 392 reported self-employment. The distribution of race and age among the total work force was as follows:

- 56% of the total workforce was Negro (712 individuals)
- 44% of the total workforce was White (553 individuals)
- 1,265 individuals reported the following age distributions:
 - 108 persons at 14-19 years of age or 8% of total workforce,
 - 543 persons at 20-30 years of age or 43% of total workforce,
 - 252 persons at 31-40 years of age or 20% of total workforce,
 - 303 persons at 41-60 years of age or 24% of total workforce, and
 - 59 persons at 51-75 years of age or 5% of total workforce.

With more than half of the

working population of this enumeration under the age of 30 years, this population could be recognized as young and offering future potential for economic growth.

The Lanett City citizens in the workforce of this district reported the following years of education for 1939:

- 531 individuals had less than 6 years of school or 45%,
- 420 individuals had experienced from 7 to 11 years of school or 35%,
- 182 individuals had experienced 12 years of school or 15%,
- 41 individuals had experienced 1 to 3 years of college or 3%,
- 15 individuals had 4 years college or 1%, and
- 4 individuals reported graduate studies or .3%.

The median year of school for a White worker was 10 years.

The median year of school for a Negro worker was 5 years.

The median weekly wage of a White worker (447 salaries with a range from \$2.48 to \$96.15) was \$10.

The median weekly wage of a Negro Worker (520 salaries with a range \$.80 to \$22.00) was \$6.

As would be expected in Lanett City the majority of the occupations were concentrated in the textile industry and related industries for example:

- 216 workers identified their industry as the Cotton Mill,
- 187 workers identified their industry

as the Dye Works,

22 workers identified their industry as Batson Construction Company

10 workers identified their industry as Contracting Construction, and

7 workers identified their industry as Chattahoochee Valley Rail Road.

Other concentrations of employment were in industries which we would today call commercial or service such as:

- 16 workers identified their industry as Retail Grocery,
- 13 workers identified their industry as the City of Lanett,
- 14 workers identified their industry as Café,

11 workers identified their industry as Department Store,

6 workers identified their industry as Retail Furniture,

5 workers identified their industry as Retail Drug, and

5 or fewer workers were enumerated in the remaining various industries.

We were able to sort the annual salaries of the employed worker in increments to determine the range of incomes earned by the workers in 1939 which may be displayed as follows:

- 112 individuals or 11% of the workforce earned from \$1 to \$100,
- 468 individuals or 48% of the workforce earned from \$101 to \$500,
- 297 individuals or 31% of the workforce earned from \$501 to \$1,000,
- 93 individuals or 9% of the workforce earned from \$1,001

to \$2,000,

13 individuals or 1% of the workforce earned from \$2,001 to \$5,000+.

It is important to note that annual income reporting does not imply that each worker worked the same number of weeks. Some workers reported annual wages for two weeks and others reported 52 weeks of salary.

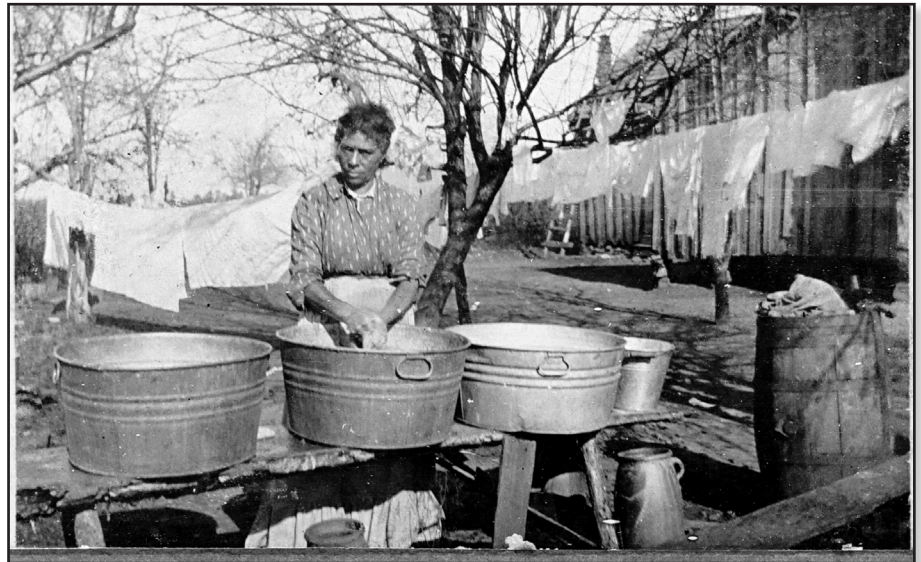
In terms of the self-employed category, the Negro workforce (712) was 27% self-employed while the White workforce (553) was 16% self-employed. Interestingly this census district contained 111 self-employed Negro laundresses, 194 cooks, and 44 maids.

In total the salaried workers of this enumeration district identified themselves with more than 50 occupational titles from shine boy (\$9/wk) to butler (\$9) to hair dresser (\$15/wk) to spinner (\$16/wk) to machinist (\$30), etc. We have computed the weekly salary for each of the occupational titles but will wait to display these averages once

we have completed the research on the three Lanett enumeration districts.

For a little context let us compare the above Lanett statistics to the national statistics of 1939. The national average annual income for 1939 was \$1,368. In our data set 61 individuals (6%) enjoyed an annual income equal to or

textile and related products was 49.7 cents, which was a 3.3% increase over the previous year. The national textile figures are still too inclusive to be the best comparisons for our data but our statistics do demonstrate that our card room worker might expect \$12/wk.; a cloth room worker, \$12, a quill man, \$12; a slasher dept. employee,

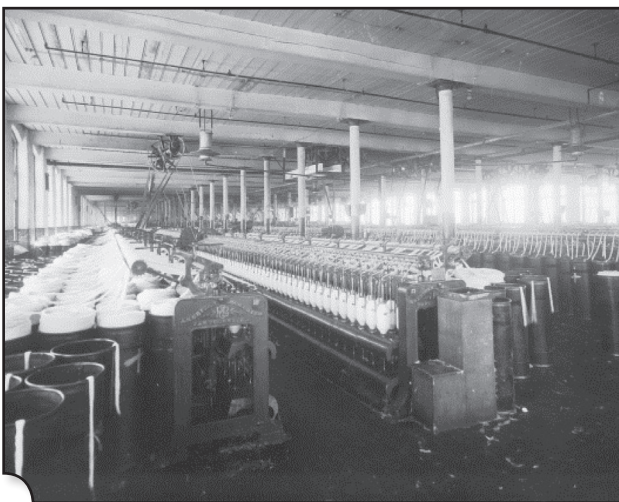


above the national average. The national statistic is not the ideal benchmark for comparison since our local area had a limited mix of industrial occupations.

A better statistic but not the best statistic for comparison would be the national average weekly earning for textile and related products in 1939. This statistic was \$17.74 per week which had increased 3.5% from 1938 to 1940. The national hourly rate for

\$10; a spinner, \$14; a spooler, \$13; a weaver, \$13; a bleachery department worker, \$17; a corduroy department worker, \$15; a single department employee, \$13; and a starch department worker, \$13.

In 1939 the federal minimum wage of \$.25 had been in force for only one year. Milk could cost no more than 14 cents a quart and bread 9 cents a loaf. National demand for textile products was increasing slowly and nationally work time and pay were increasing. The future could hold a promise of better times of the Valley textile town of Lanett and its workforce.



Cobb Memorial Archives Update

*“Joe Louis Barrow: A Life and Career in Context”
Exhibit Opens to Much Fanfare at Cobb Archives*

This interesting traveling exhibit on loan from Emory University’s Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library’s (MARL) African American Collections opened May 13 with a special presentation by Dr. Pellom McDaniels, III, faculty curator. His insightful remarks brought to life the fascinating story of Joe Louis’ amazing boxing career and, sometimes turbulent, personal life. In addition to the informational signage on loan from Emory, this exhibit featured photographs, periodicals and archival materials on loan from Chambers County Museum. Present at the opening were local dignitaries, including Valley Mayor Leonard Riley, Chambers County School System Superintendent Kelli Hodge, local councilpersons Sandra Thornton, Henry

Osborn, Debbie Wood, and Greater Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Elinor Crowder. After remarks by dignitaries, Mary Hamilton, Chambers County Library and Cobb Memorial Archives Director, and Dr. McDaniels, III cut the ribbon to officially open the exhibit and everyone enjoyed celebrating the 100th birthday of Joe Louis with cake and refreshments. Hamilton also presented the Joe Louis story to several classes from Lance Elementary School, LaFayette-Lanier Elementary School and Shawmut Elementary School, which was followed by a guided tour of the exhibit and then treated to ice cream and birthday cake. Many thanks to Emory University MARL and Dr. McDaniels for contributing to this special event.



Donation of WWII Footlocker and Contents Received from Emily Brown Garrett



Cobb Archives recently received a donation of a WWII footlocker and its contents belonging to Corporal William A. Brown, a pilot who was MIA for three years. In 1945, he was declared killed in combat in 1942. He served

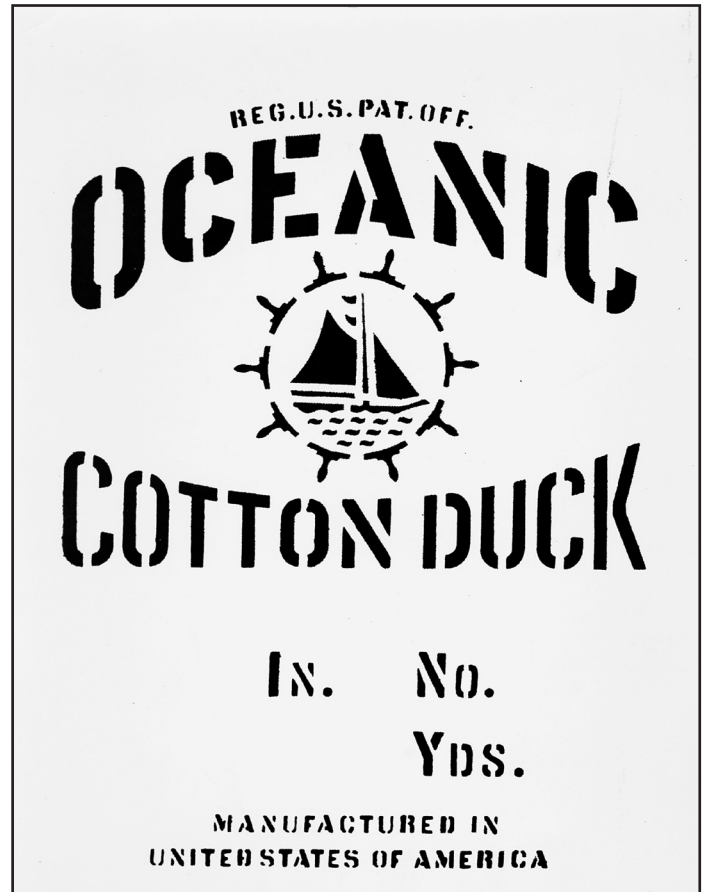


in the Philippine Islands and his footlocker contains letters, photographs, military clothing and the most unique find - a tin of Camel cigarettes without a single one missing; it had been mailed as is with mailing labels and stamp still affixed. Thank you Emily Brown Garrett for donating your uncle’s footlocker and its contents to Cobb Memorial Archives for long term preservation.

Annual Dues

The annual dues of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society are due each year on the first of January. Dues are \$12.00 per individual, \$6.00 for any other member of the same household, and \$2.00 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 only 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 Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, Inc., 3419 20th Ave., Valley, AL 36854



The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society
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COBB MEMORIAL ARCHIVES
Valley, Alabama 36854