

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 22, 2017, 3:00 p.m. EST
The Ianier Room, H Grady Bradshaw Library, Valley, Alabama



Where Did Grandma Get that Tune? Presenter: Dr. Horace McLean Holderfield

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Editor:
Horace McLean Holderfield
editor@cvhistoricalso-
ciety.org

Dr. Horace McLean Holderfield (Mac) will present a power point program describing the forces which influenced the changes in our local region's sacred and secular old time music from the early eighteenth century into the era of electronic recordings and radio transmissions of the first half of the twentieth century. His primary intent is to demonstrate old time music in its original acoustical presentation on Edison cylinder recordings and Victor and Columbia disc recordings from 1900 to 1924. Mac, a collector of old time sheet music, cylinders, discs and phonograph players, will use a 1908 Edison Home Cylinder Phonograph and a 1919 Victor Disc Talking Machine to present selections of the music our families would have heard and enjoyed a hundred years ago. Both machines have restored sound features.

Mac expresses an appreciation for the people of our past as individual artists and in communities that enjoyed creating music and song. Contemporary re-creation of old time sound may be attempted but artistic techniques cannot not be recreated as easily as Aunt Phelan's old fruit cake from a hand written receipt. Artists made personal interpretations of verse and tune; over time a song could experience tonal changes as well as changes in interpretations of its meaning. As a sensory experience music is created by us while at the same time it creates us. Mac investigates the evolution of our regional old time music and identifies how music contributed to the creation of social values of our communities. Before mechanical transcription, the unique sound of the old time musical performance was truly gone with the wind. Beginning more than one hundred years ago the Edison cylinders and Victor records for the first time preserved the artist in the performance. Later changes in technology, manufacturing and business shaped and reshaped the singer and the song. The earliest recordings lost appreciation as the music and knowledge of their origin were forgotten by our families.

Mac's presentation seeks to reunite listeners with the first recordings of the sounds of old time music and to describe the origins of music and song which achieved permanence for listening and reproduction through twentieth century technology.

Dr. Holderfield earned a B. A. and M. A. in History at Auburn University. He studied Medieval History and German language at Goettingen University, Germany, for a year as a Fulbright Fellow and as a Kellogg Fellow earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education at Florida State University in 1975. He and wife Linda Hughes Holderfield retired to the family farm near Cumbee's Mill on Stroud Creek where they raise cattle.

President's Message by Malinda Powers

Our organization has certainly been blessed this year, not only in our growing membership base but also in opportunities to make a difference in our communities as we continue to seek ways to promote and preserve our regional heritage.

In April we were fortunate to be the recipients of a donation by Point University of four pallets of historic brick, salvaged from the West Point Foundry demolition. We sold all the bricks, with some folks purchasing a single remembrance of a relative who once worked there and others purchasing larger quantities for special projects. Proceeds are currently being used to fund a much-needed upgrade to our website.

Our second annual Civil War Bus Trip in June allowed us to match our donation from the previous year, for a total of \$7,000 gifted to the Cobb Archives to help underwrite the purchase of a state-of-the-art microfilm printer/scanner.

Our July program highlighted the sesquicentennial anniversary of the founding of our local textile industry. On August 1, CVHS partnered with the City of Valley to host "Textile Heritage Day", one hundred fifty years to the day that the first cornerstones were laid at Langdale and Riverdale Mills. This very special event honored Mr. Joe Lanier, Jr., former CEO and descendant of founder Lafayette Lanier, as well as a large group of former mill managers and supervisors.

On November 5 at Fredonia Heritage Day members staffed a CVHS table in the Fredonia Community Center selling books, answering questions and promoting interest in local history.

As we look ahead to next year, our goals include developing outreach efforts and increasing publication sales through an improved website, fostering a closer relationship with our membership by hosting special events, and continuing to be involved in local historic preservation efforts.

As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to what we can do together in the coming year!

Decoration of Graves of General Tyler and Captain Gonzalez



Inspired by the many efforts in this Christmas Season to decorate graves at Arlington and other National Cemeteries, we placed a Christmas Wreath at the graves of General Tyler and Captain Gonzalez in the Pinewood Cemetery in West Point, Georgia, in remembrance of their sacrifices to this community in the final battle of the Civil War. The wall around these Confederate graves is decaying and requires repair. If our historical tour is successful in 2017 we propose to use proceeds to make repairs to cemetery plot.

Join us for an Amazing Experience!
June 17 – 21, 2017

“On to Richmond!”

Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society's Third Annual
Study Tour of Civil War Battlefields

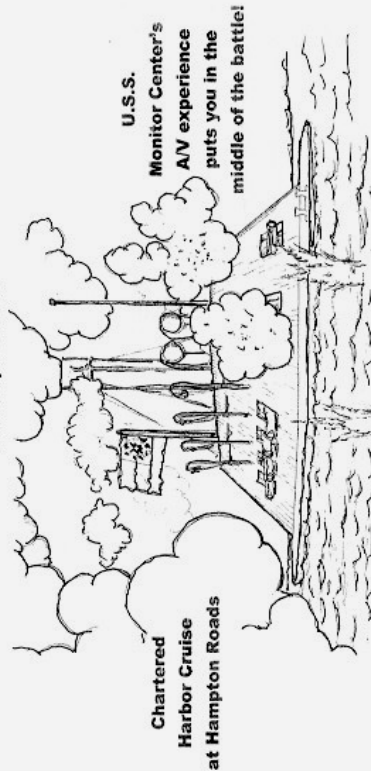
Featuring

Seven Days' Campaign,

Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and the Crater...
plus Museums, White House of the Confederacy, and more!

5 days, 4 nights from \$775/person*

See back for details...



Epic Battle of the Ironclads

How much is it going to cost?
 \$775/person double occupancy \$995/person single occupancy

What is included?

- Round-trip deluxe motor coach transportation from Valley, Alabama
- 4 nights' 3-star accommodations in Suffolk and Chester, Virginia
- Outstanding Civil War expert tour guide Murphy Wood
- Study materials, video presentations
- Breakfast daily
- All Admissions to Battlefield Parks/Sites and Museums
- Harbor Cruise, Hampton Roads (Battle of the Ironclads)

Do I have to pay all at once? Not unless you prefer. Otherwise, a \$95 deposit is due at time of registration. Balance may be spread over 3 convenient payments:

Double Occupancy:	\$775/person	Single Occupancy:	\$995/person
Deposit	\$95	Deposit	\$95
1 st payment due Jan 1, '17	\$200	1 st payment due Jan 1, 17	\$300
2 nd payment due Mar 1, '17	\$240	2 nd payment due Mar 1, 17	\$300
Final payment due May 1, '17	\$240	Final payment due May 1, 17	\$300

Can I get my money back if I decide not to go?

Any payments you have made are subject to forfeiture if you back out. CVHS encourages you to check into **trip insurance** to recoup your investment in the event of accident or illness. There are multiple companies that offer travel insurance at very reasonable rates.

When is the deadline to register?

Registrations will be accepted through May 1, unless we reach our trip capacity of 40 travelers prior to that date. Interested persons are encouraged to register asap!

How can I find out more?

Check out our website at www.cvhistoricalsociety.org to download registration form and full itinerary. Email questions to: president@cvhistoricalsociety.org or call (706) 645-6702 and leave message.

19th Century News Items about West Point, Georgia, as Reported in Selected Local Newspapers

The editor welcomes all recommendations for improving the content of *The Voice* and sincerely appreciates all volunteer efforts to supply writings about local history to be published in *The Voice*. Our longtime West Point member and former President Stephen Johnson has from time to time provided selections from primary source materials to be printed. Stephen recently noted that he wanted to see more published about the history of West Point and volunteered to submit the results of his research in the Georgia Archives in the West Point newspapers (*Georgia Jeffersonian*, *The West Point Observer*, *The Southern Alliance*), *The Columbus Inquirer*, and *The LaGrange Reporter*. Stephen has selected interesting items from his research which may assist individuals in family research and which may simply provide insight into the variety of challenges of daily life in West Point in the nineteenth century.

From the Columbus Inquirer, Local News for Troup and Harris Counties:

Saturday, April 21, 1832

Dr. Aug. Owen, having settled in Franklin, Troup County, respectfully offers his services in the various branches of the profession to the citizens of Troup and Harris Counties in the vicinity. (*Editor. West Point was named Franklin at this date.*)

Saturday, August 11, 1832

NOTES LOST: The following notes were stolen from John Carter, of Clinton, Jones County, on the night of the 29th July last, at West Point, Troup County, while staying at the house of Mr. Thomas W. Coker. The said notes were received for Clocks, by the following persons, for the said Carter, viz: long list of names in Troup, Talbot, Harris, and Heard Counties follows).

Saturday, October 13, 1832

DIED: In Hamilton, Harris County, on Friday morning the 5th instant, at 11 o'clock, Pendleton J. Bedell, in the 31th year of his age. For fourteen days he bore the ravages of a fever that defied every remedial agent, with manly fortitude. The disease concentrated its force almost exclusively on the brain. He leaves a disconsolate wife and three children.

Saturday, September 28, 1833

MARRIED: In Harris County, on Thursday 19th instant, by the Rev. S. K. Hodges, Mr. Marion D. Mahone to Miss Eliza H. Yarbrough, eldest

daughter of James Yarbrough, Esquire.

Saturday, September 28, 1833

DIED: Died, at his residence in the town of West point, Troup County, Georgia, on the 28th instant, after a short illness, Littleberry Gresham, Esquire, in the 72nd year of his age. In the late war he served under General Adams against the hostile Creeks. He was a Revolutionary soldier. He leaves a wife and ten children.

SHERIFF'S SALE: Lot No. 2 in West Point.... levied on as the property of George Gilder, to satisfy executions in favor of Hyde and Cleveland.

Saturday, April 19, 1834

There is a post office established at the store of John A. Hurst in Chambers County, Alabama called Fredonia. (Signed) John A. Hurst, postmaster.

Saturday, April 26, 1834

MARRIED: Married on the evening of the 3rd instant, at the house of Col. John C. Webb, in West Point, Troup County, Dr. Green Washington Hill to the amiable and accomplished Miss Susan C. Webb, eldest daughter of Col. Webb, all of the above place.

Saturday, May 24, 1834

DIED: in Harris County, on the 10th instant, Mr. William Langham, in the 78th year of his age. Mr. Langham was a native of Virginia. He was a brave and patriotic soldier in the Revolutionary War and sustained wounds. He emigrated to Georgia in 1788.

Saturday June 7, 1834

MARRIED: Married in Harris County, on the 28th day of May, by the Rev. Mr. Hand, Dr. A.M. Walker of Columbus to Miss Ellen E Moughon, eldest daughter of Major John Mitchell.

Saturday, July 12, 1834

At Chambers Court House on the 6th day of August next, H. F. Erwin of West Point will offer for sale 16 twenty acre lots. William H. House and Col. Phillips can give any information respecting said lots.

Saturday, July 19, 1834

DIED: Rev. John M. Gray died on the night of the 14th instant in Alabama, where he had been two or three days preaching the gospel of Christ. Being at the house of a steam doctor (*Editor. Steam doctor was a name given to early botanical and homeopath healers.*), he was induced to take a dose of Lobelia (*Editor. Local name for this herb is rabbit tobacco.*), not so much for the benefit of his health as to experience the operation, as he sometimes administered that medicine himself, but had never taken it. Seeming not to do well after taking it, the doctor endeavored to relieve him, but he expired about 11 o'clock at night.

Saturday, October 25, 1834

DIED: Died at his residence in Troup County, on the 11th instant, Jacob Stillwell, in the 80th year of his age. Mr. S. was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He fought in the five battles in the Carolinas beside.

Friday, February 27, 1835

William G. Hawthorn is desirous to quit the distilling of spirituous liquors and offers his entire distillery for sale. Address him at West Point, Georgia.

Friday, May 8, 1835

DIED: Died in Troup County on the 28th of April, Erastus Hogg, in the 17th year of his age, eldest son of Jeter A. Hogg of that County.

Friday, May 15, 1835

DIED: Died in Troup County on the 4th ultimo, Mrs. Blanche K. Edwards, consort of Doctor A. Edwards, in the 40th year of her age.

Friday, September 11, 1835

George W. Coe of West Point, Troup County, wishes to employ two or three cabinet workmen.

Friday, September 25, 1835

DIED: Died at his residence in Troup County on Saturday the 18th ultimo of inflammatory fever, Henry Rogers, aged 48 years

Friday, October 2, 1835

Georgia, Troup County: Sheriff Sales – On the First Tuesday in November next will be sold at the court house in the town of LaGrange, within the usual hours of sale, the following property, to wit: Two lots in West Point, number 1 and 4 ... levied on as the property to Wilkins J. Russell, to satisfy executions or fi fas in favor of Smith and Mongan. (Signed) D. S. Robertson, Deputy Sheriff.

Friday, December 4, 1835

MARRIED: In Harris County, Georgia, on the 19th instant by Judge J. Harper, Mr. William M. Thom to Miss Elizabeth Huff, daughter of Major James Huff, all of Harris County.

Friday, March 11, 1836

MARRIED: In Harris County on the 8th instant by Rev. Wesley Davis, Robert B. Wells, Esquire, to Miss Mary Ann Clements, both of Harris.

Wednesday May 1, 1839

NOTICES: My negro boy Wiley left my house about the first of last October and I have reason to believe he was stolen by some villainous white person. Wiley is a mulatto, 25 years old, 5 feet 6 inches high, weighs 150 pounds, slightly bow legged and slow spoken. (Signed) William Reid, West Point, Troup County Georgia.

Wednesday, May 15, 1839

MARRIED: In Harris County on Tuesday evening, 7th instant, by Rev. W. D. Matthews, George V. Neal, Esquire, of Warrenton, Georgia, to Miss Lavinia H., eldest daughter of Dr. J. L. Blackburn of Harris County.

Wednesday, June 5, 1839

DIED: Died of congestive fever on the 22nd of May ultimo at the house of her father, Dr. Andrews Battle, in LaGrange, Troup County, Miss Caroline E. Battle, aged fifteen. She was always remarkable for great conscientiousness and correct demeanor.

Wednesday, June 19, 1839

DIED: Major Hardy Crawford died on the 10th instant, Monday evening, at half past 5 o'clock, of bilious fever, on the 9th day of his illness. He died in Harris County in the 4th year of his age, leaving a wife, four sons, and two daughters.

Wednesday, August 7, 1839

DIED: Departed this life at one o'clock on the evening of the 29th instant, Mrs. Julia Elizabeth Evans, the wife of John Q. Evans of the county of Harris. Mrs. Evans had not attained her twentieth year. She left an infant babe of ten days old and a husband, whose idol she was, to mourn her loss. Before her death, she called her husband, mother, sisters, brothers, friends and servants to her and addressed each individually.

Tuesday, May 25, 1858

MURDER IN HARRIS: We learn from a gentleman from Harris County that, on Tuesday of last week, a difficulty occurred at Whitaker's Cross Roads precinct, in that county, between John W. Myhand and Burton A. Brooks, which resulted in the death, on Saturday last, of the former. Brooks has been arrested and is now in jail.

Tuesday, July 13, 1858

DIED: In Hamilton, Georgia, on the 2nd instant, Eugene Antonio, formerly of Macon, Georgia. The deceased was a carriage trimmer, and had resided in Hamilton for three years, he was about 35 years of age.

Tuesday, December 28, 1858

MARRIED: On the morning of the 21st of December, at the residence of the bride's father, in Harris County, Georgia, by Rev. Mr. Caldwell, Mr. James A. Stewart of this city (Columbus) to Miss S. Cook Terry.

Tuesday, February 8, 1859

MARRIED: At the residence of the bride's father in Harris County, Georgia, Mr. George W. Williams of Chambers County, Alabama, to Miss Catharine Williams.

Tuesday, April 26, 1859

MARRIED: On the 5th of April, by Dr. W. J. Sasnett, Mr. Franklin L. Little of Harris County, to Miss Mary E. Sasnett of Sparta, Georgia.

Tuesday, June 14, 1859

MARRIED: On Tuesday morning, June 7th, at the residence of the bride's mother, in Harris County, by Rev. W. D. Atkinson, George W. Mullins, Esquire, of Hamilton, Georgia, to Miss Emma F. Roper.

**The following news items are found in the
LaGrange Reporter:****Friday, August 28, 1860**

A FATAL AFFRAY IN LAGRANGE: A sad occurrence took place in our usually quiet town on Saturday last, about 5 o'clock P. M., which has cast a gloom over our whole community. A difficulty took place between Thomas G. Haynes, of this town, and Allen D. Dennis, of this county during which Mr. John S. Forbes was mortally wounded. Haynes and Dennis had clinched, but became separated some several paces apart, when Dennis snapped a pistol at Haynes several times, while Haynes threw rocks at Dennis. At this juncture (while the pistol was being snapped and the rocks thrown) Mr. Forbes ran up to Dennis with a stick elevated (whether or not to knock the weapon from Dennis' hand or to strike his is not known) when he (Dennis) turned the pistol to Forbes and shot him as he approached. (witnesses differed as to whether or not Forbes struck Dennis before the pistol fired.) Mr. Forbes then ran towards the Sims House and was carried in when it was ascertained that the ball had taken effect in his left side and lodged against the skin, where it was taken out. Mr. Forbes lingered until 11 o'clock P. M., when he expired. *LaGrange Reporter*

Monday, December 4, 1865

"Public attention is called to the GRAND FREE EXHIBITION, OR, the Gymnastic Miracle of Aeronautic Oscillation, or FLYING IN THE AIR, By the intrepid Pancraris, SIGNOR FERDINAND, the Wonder of the World!

This splendid Gratuitous Exhibition will be given adjacent to Stone, Rosston & Murray's Circus Pavilion at 1½ o'clock.

Admission:

First Class Seats	\$1.00
Children	50
Colored Gallery	75

Doors open at 2 and 6 o'clock, p.m.
Will exhibit at NEWNAN, Monday, Dec. 25th,
WEST POINT, Wednesday, Dec. 27th, and at
OPELIKA, Thursday, Dec. 28th."

Friday, February 11, 1870

"West Point Iron Foundry. – As we have frequently stated in these columns we believe that there is no way in which we can secure our political independence, except by building up our home and local institutions of all kinds – thus making ourselves an ally whose friendship is rather to be desired than ill will. It is therefore with pleasure we always chronicle any effort made in this direction, and especially when that effort is made in our immediate midst. West Point, to its credit, be it said, has shown a commendable spirit, in the enterprise and energy which its citizens have displayed since the late war, and we must confess that it is with no little pride, we point to our colleges and factories which stand as enduring monuments of what untiring perseverance under the most trying difficulties can accomplish. And now that our factories are in successful operation and college halls filled with students, the attention of some of our leading spirits is turned to a new field of labor. An iron Foundry in a few days will be in operation on one of our principal streets. As this is an enterprise in which no doubt all our readers are interested we propose, in an accordance with a promise made last week, giving a detailed description of it.

The machine works, blacksmith shop and foundry, extend from the lower part of Gilmer street, embracing what is known as the McClendon building, back to Railroad street, a distance of two hundred and five feet, having from of one hundred feet on each street. The machine shop is up, engine boilers and shafting in their places. The foundry building with cupola is also up and will be ready to make castings on or before the 15th of the next month, or as soon as can get coal and iron which have been ordered. Preparations have also been made to put up a large Brass Foundry, which will be prepared to furnish bells of any weight from one to two thousand pounds. In connection with the Foundry there will be lathing, drilling, and bolt cutting machines and iron plainers(sic). When completed the superintendent informs us that they expect to be able to repair or make steam engines, sawmills, water wheels, mill gearing, shafting,

hangers, pulleys and couplings, horse powers, grates for dwellings, cast iron fronts for stores, all kinds of railroad works, agricultural implements and hollow ware. The Foundry will be under the superintendence of W. H. Stywald, and the whole establishment under the superintendence of Wm. Bradley. The former gentleman has had fifteen years' experience in foundry establishments in all its branches, in Richmond, Va. The latter was for many years one of the firm of Bradley & Bro's, Patterson, New Jersey, and also for a long time connected with the celebrated Roger's Locomotive machine works of the same place, but more recently with the firm of Bradley & Co., Manchester, Va. With these gentlemen of long experience in such matters to engineer the enterprise, backed as they are by some of our citizens who know no such word as fail, who can doubt its success? - *West Point shield*, 28th ult."

(Sadly, this building was demolished just last year – the oldest building in downtown West Point.)

Friday, January 14, 1870

"GEORGIA & ALABAMA

MANUFACTURING CO. – We have been presented with a skein of the first spinning of this company which went into operation on Thursday of last week. The thread is well drawn and is very strong and yet soft. We hope to be able to revisit the factory before long, when we shall give a more extended notice. It is situated 5 miles below West Point.

THE WEST POINT BRASS BAND. – Our young friends of the West Point Brass Band gave a minstrel entertainment in our town on Wednesday night; and, considering that they have only been organized ninety days, they acquitted themselves handsomely. They have certainly made very rapid proficiency in the "concord of sweet sounds." The minstrel part of the entertainment was first rate, and far excelled anything of the sort we have seen by amateurs. They are under the training of Prof. Pond, of Columbus, who has shown wonderful facility in impairing instruction, as evidenced by the rapid progress of this band. The minstrels produced quite a number of original witticisms and many old ones presented with new covers. The audience was large and as respectable as could be obtained anywhere, and all were pleased and highly delighted. We hope to have the boys with us again."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1870

“**CITY ELECTION.** - At the election held on the 10th inst. for a Mayor and four Aldermen, the Hon. J. W. McClendon was elected Mayor, and W. C. Lanier, George Huguley, Dr. G. W. McElhany and J. J. Crawford were elected as Alderman. – *West Point Shield.*”

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1870

“**DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT WEST POINT** – We regret to chronicle the misfortune of our sister town of West Point. About 4 o’clock on Sunday morning last, fire was discovered inside the two front doors of the store of Mr. M. A. Bridges, on Gilmer street, evidently having been set on fire by an incendiary. Five store rooms were rapidly consumed in succession by the devouring element. There being a perfect calm in the atmosphere prevented further conflagration. The aggregate losses amounted to about \$30,000, with only \$3000 insurance on the whole property destroyed. The following is a list of the sufferers and their losses respectively:

Geo. Huguley, 4 store rooms, valued at \$12,000.

John M. Ward, 1 store room, valued at \$3000.

G. Wollfe & Co., dry goods, clothing, & \$6,000; \$2000 insurance.

M. A. Bridges, jewelry valued at \$2800; insured \$1000.

Gunst & Co., dry goods, clothing and shoes, about \$4000.

Other merchants lost in moving goods, and \$8000 in the aggregate.

We learn that Mr. Huguly hired hands on Monday morning, and began removing the rubbish for immediately rebuilding his stores, and will soon remove all traces of the fire on his premises.”

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1870

“**WEST POINT FIRE COMPANY.** – We have received an invitation to a sociable to be held at West Point, at 8 o’clock, this (Friday) evening, to be given by the West Point Fire Company, at the Chattahoochee Hotel. This is to be a festive occasion on the reception of the engine of the company which the Atlanta Constitution says was “the hand –engine belonging to Atlanta Fire Company No. 1, and used by them before the war for a short time. The engine was overhauled by

James E. Gullatt, and looks as good as new, in fact, is as good as a new engine. It was built by Agnew, of Philadelphia, 1858, has an 8-inch cylinder with a 9-inch stroke, and mans about 40 men. A horse reel with 300 feet of hose will go with it. The engine has been rechristened West Point No. 1.”

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1870

“**BASE BALL GAME.** - The Olympic Base Ball club, of West Point, played the second game of a match with the LaGrange B. B. C. in this place on Friday evening last. The Olympics were assisted by five of the Gate City B. B. C., of Atlanta Ga. The LaGrange Boys were in a very bad condition to play; four of their first nine being absent, and one of the nine who played the game being a mere child-only thirteen years old – little Johnnie Mims. Nevertheless, the game was exciting and for a long time doubtful, much skillful playing having been displayed on both sides. The score at the end of the nine innings, stood, Olympics 40; and L.B.B.C., 30 rounds. Mr. B. F. Curtright umpired the game. He makes a splendid umpire, and gave universal satisfaction. We hear the third game of the match will be played soon, on the grounds of a neutral club, which game will decide the championship between LaGrange and West Point.”

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1870

“**THE ATLANTA “ERA” SLANDERS THE WEST POINT PEOPLE.** – In its issue of Tuesday morning last, the Atlanta *New Era* contained the following slanderous charges against the people of West Point: *Another Ku-Klux Outrage* – We learn that on Wednesday night last, a torch-light procession surrounded the house of a Republican who resides in or near West Point and in the presence of his wife, used the most indecent and obscene language. The gentleman insulted was a peaceable, law-abiding citizen, and his wife is said to be respected by the best people in the country. The outrage is all the more disgusting when it is known that the victim of these indignities was a Confederate cavalry officer, under Gen. Wade Hampton. We also learn that his wife was, at the time, just recovering from a serious illness. The above article is a foul slander and an unmitigated falsehood and without the shadow of foundation. If the *Era*’s author is worthy of notice he will, no doubt, receive such attentions as his villainy deserves.”

(*Editor. More than a year ago I found this article*

in the Lagrange paper and traced it back to the New Era, the Republican newspaper in Atlanta. I also found a full description of the torch-light procession and intimidating threats in the sworn testimony given to the Joint-Congressional Committee investigating the KKK activity in the southern states in 1872. No KKK organization was identified in Chambers or Troup Counties but mob intimidation of leaders of local Republican Party did take place in West Point/Bluffton. I described these events in The Voice in Summer 2015 issue.)

“WEST POINT FEMALE COLLEGE. – An entertainment will be given at this college on Wednesday evening, November 30th. It will consist of music, farce and drama. This entertainment is given for the purpose of raising funds with which to purchase a bell for the college. The ladies and gentlemen of LaGrange and surrounding country are respectfully invited to lend a helping hand, with the promise of a pleasant entertainment. Can't a pleasant crowd be gotten up to go down and help our old friend Mooty?”

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1872

“**R. W. DUKE, WEST POINT.** – Mr. Duke has a card in THE REPORTER, to which attention is directed. He keeps one of the best restaurants in Western Georgia. His tables are supplied with the very finest liquors, ales, cigars, &c., and, with the famous Hugh Charles to deal them out, the wary traveler will be made happy by giving him a call. His billiard room is large and comfortable. He has some very fine sleeping rooms, also a first-class (sic) barber shop connected with his house. Let everybody who goes to West Point call on Mr. D. and Hugh Charles. You'll be treated right.”

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1873

“The other day, a young man named Davidson, living a few miles from West Point, was caught in the gearing at a gin-house and horribly mangled. He lived about six hours after the accident.”

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1873

“The bridge at Alford's Mill has been completed, and travel on that road need not be longer interrupted. The bridge was built by Horace King, colored; it is an excellent and substantial covered lattice bridge, resting on two piers, one on each side of the creek. This allows full sweep to the water in times of freshet, and also to floating logs, &c. With

an occasional removal of any timbers that may be decaying, this bridge will last thirty or forty years. The bridge is 147 feet long between the piers. King is now at work on the bridge near Daniel Harwell's which will be completed in about two weeks.”

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1877

“Y.M.L.A. – The Library has been removed to the large room over the bank. The members take a just pride in the elegant quarters prepared for it. The floor of the apartment is covered with a new and handsome carpet from the store of Heyman, Merz & Co., who have presented the association with a beautiful cover for the long reading table. Herzberg, with his accustomed generosity, has put up a new Regulator in the room and adorned the walls with pictures from his large and varied collection. New chairs have also been placed in the room and everything arranged with taste and an eye to the greatest effect. We have reason to be proud of an institution which confers such benefits upon the public.”

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1880

“WEST POINT AND THE CIRCUS. – Passing out from the circus we mingled with the crowds which had gathered on the streets. Dust was plentiful and almost stifling. The pavements in West Point are in bad condition and in that respect LaGrange is far ahead. At night the circus was repeated, and some of the feats were wonderful. We found accommodations at the Chattahoochee House, which is under the management of Mr. W. L. Williams. His house is supplied with everything necessary for the comfort of his guests.”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1881

“ROBBERY AT WEST POINT – We clip the following account of the robbery at West Point from the *Columbus Inquirer-Sun*: on the night of January 3d, between 9 and 10 o'clock, Mr. E.A. Wilson, the agent of the Southern Express company and telegraph operator, was badly beaten and robbed of \$685 and some valuable papers. Of the amount lost \$590 belonged to Mr. Wilson and \$95 the company. A note against Mr. Parnell for \$50 was among the papers stolen. The money in the drawers was not disturbed. The agent was in the office in the evening at the close of the day's business, when a stranger came up and asked permission to come in and warm. After sitting about the office for some time the stranger left, and Mr. Wilson got up and went to the

safe to deposit the money taken in during the day. He washed his hands and went to the door to throw out the water, and as he turned he was struck on the back of the head with a stick of wood by some unknown person.

He was found by the watchman at ten o'clock, and was lying near the ticket office in an unconscious condition, with a terrible gash on the side of this head and also other wounds. On his desk was found a dispatch dated 9.20 which showed that he had been in a senseless condition for nearly an hour before he was discovered.

It is not known who committed the diabolical deed, but suspicion rests on two men – one of whom was in West Point on the 3d, and claimed to be an employee of the Green Line, out hunting up lost cars which belonged to the company, and who gave his name as Reany, and that his home is in Newnan, Ga., and the other is the man who came into the office during the evening to warm. These two men were seen in private conversation several times during the day. No clue to their whereabouts had been obtained up to 10 o'clock last night."

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1881

"FIRE IN WEST POINT – A fire occurred in West Point at last Thursday night. It was first discovered about one o'clock in the store of W.B. McKinley & Son, which was consumed, and the fire then spread to the stores of Joel Walker, J. Freiselben, M. A. Dickson, F.W. Lanier, Jr., John Bright, John Bonner, Mrs. O.D. Winston and W.C. & L. Lanier, bankers, nine business houses being destroyed, and also two or three law offices and the young men's library, which were up-stairs in one of the buildings. The houses were owned by M. T. Walker."

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1882

"West Point is on a bicycle boom. The young men speak of organizing a club. They prefer the Star. Sir Albert Harrington is the first to own and introduce the bicycle to West Point. It is a Columbia."

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1882

"Mr. Frank Lanier, Jr. owns bicycle No. 2, which he bought on his recent visit to New York, giving \$110 for it."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1889

"The Planters' Oil Mill will be full blast in a few days, and then West Point can boast of one of the

best equipped oil mills in the South."

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1889

"At one o'clock on last Thursday night, the alarm of fire was given and the slumberous turned out in time to see the barn at the livery-stable succumb to the flames. The fire engine was brought over and the spread of the fire prevented. Mr. Gachet lost, in addition to the building, about 75 bushels of corn. No insurance.

The West Point Oil Mill began operations on Friday, making its first oil. The machinery is the best, and it has a capacity of thirty tons a day. The supply of seed is ample for a long run. It has been late in starting; and unexpected delays have occurred. No doubt, it will be a paying investment. It is one of the best built and most thoroughly equipped oil mills in the South. It is believed that in due time a cotton factory will be added."

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1889

"On last Wednesday, at about six o'clock, P.M., fire broke out in the Oil Mill ginnery. The fire engine was brought out and the flames were soon under control. The damage done to the building and gins amounted to \$1200, covered by insurance. Fire supposed to have originated from sparks from Oil Mill engine falling upon some lint cotton stored in the ginnery."

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1889

"On Sunday morning, at half past nine o'clock, just as our Sunday schools were beginning their exercises, the alarm of fire was given, and very soon the Sabbath stillness of our streets was changed into the tumultuous uproar incident upon a fire. The fire was at once located in the Walker building, on the southeast corner of Gilmer and Bridge streets. It originated in the roof over the room used by Carpenter as a shoe-shop. The fire-engine was brought out promptly and so energetically did our firemen work that the flames were extinguished before they had reached the floor of the upper story. The loss amounts to about \$1,500, and is covered by insurance. The number of bottles, jugs and kegs brought to light in consequence of the fire seemed to indicate the presence of a blind tiger or blind tigers (*Editor. A blind tiger is a place that sells intoxicants illegally*). Circumstantial evidence was such as to lead to the arrest of Jas. Carpenter as the probable incendiary, and, at the preliminary trial held on Tuesday, he was bound over to the Superior Court.

Failing to give the required bond, he was sent to the county jail, where he will await trial.

Will McKemie's jumping abilities saved him from what might have been a very serious accident on Sunday morning. While at work fighting fire he was thrown from the shelter in front of Causey & Satterwhite's by the stream of water from the fire-engine, but, thanks to his agility, he succeeded in catching upon his feet and was soon at work as hard as ever. As a result of his jump, together with a fall from a ladder, he has been laid up with sore limbs for a couple of days."

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1889

"The debris is being removed from the Walker building, preparatory to repairing the damages done by the late fire. The Insurance Companies have adjusted the damages of the fire as follows: Building to be repaired, estimated cost, \$1174; Causey & Satterwhite, removal of damage, (unreadable); T. C. Haralson, removal damage, \$140; W. A. Jones, removal damage, \$45; Hudmon, Lanier & Whitaker,

water damage, \$50."

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1889

"The barber shop was moved back to its old quarters, upstairs in the Walker building, on Monday."

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1889

"From a gentleman who came from West Point this morning we learn that the building of the Union Mill and Manufacturing Co. was burned at that place at two o'clock this morning. It was a grist and flour mill and batting factory, run by steam and employed about fifteen hands. It was owned by a stock company. The fire is supposed to have been accidental. We learn that there was \$10,000 insurance. The property was valued at \$15,000."

All above from the research of Stephen Johnson.

Cobb Memorial Archives Report *by Robin Brown*

Cobb Memorial Archives wishes you a healthy and happy New Year!

Looking back, the Archives had an exciting and busy year. The discovery of a time capsule in May in the West Point Foundry building created a stir. The document inside the capsule had unfortunately suffered from exposure to the elements. From what can be deciphered, the text referred to the laying of the cornerstone on March 31 and included signatures of those present. Unfortunately, the year and the signatures were erased by time, but it may date to the late 1890s when an addition to the foundry was under construction. Such a discovery serves to remind us that history is indeed everywhere.

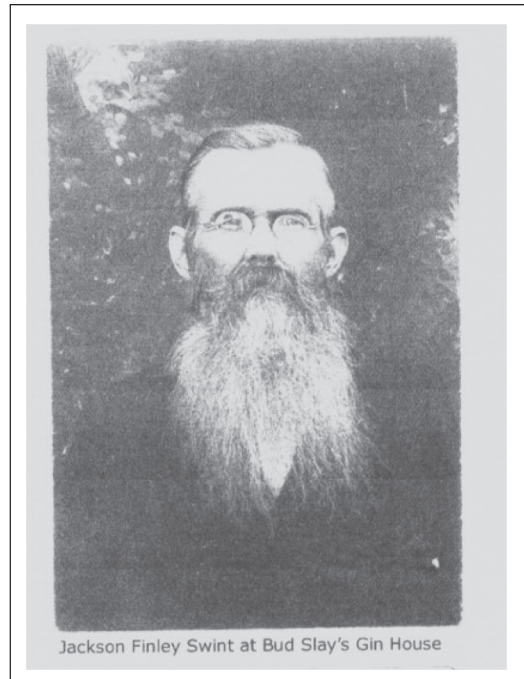
Another milestone from 2016 was the opening of our Coca-Cola exhibit. "Better by the Bottle: The Story of the West Point Coca-Cola Bottling Company" has had a tremendous turnout. If you haven't had a chance to see it, please do take some time to browse the many local Coca-Cola items on display. The exhibit will remain in place until August 2017. An online component to the exhibit is available on the Archives' blog: <https://cobbmemorialarchives.wordpress.com/exhibits/>.

Also in 2016, the Archives celebrated an anniversary. In 1976, forty years ago, Cobb Memorial Archives first opened its doors. Funded and supported by the Cobb Foundation, Mr. George S. Cobb Jr. saw the Archives as an investment in the future, and as a fitting way to honor the legacy of his parents, George and Edna Cobb. He envisioned the Archives as a conscious reminder that the past is a living part of the present and the future. We hope to carry out his vision for the Archives each and every day and look forward to what awaits us in 2017.

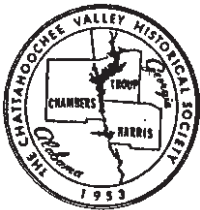
ANNUAL DUES

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 CVHS and mail with your name and full address to The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 718, West Point, GA 31833



Uncle Jack Swint (1853-1930) was a well-known proficient fiddler in Chambers County. As a boy, with exceptional mechanical abilities, he made his first violin. He is buried in Mt. Pisgah Primitive Baptist Cemetery, at Stroud.



The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society
P. O. Box 718
West Point, GA 31833