

THE VOICE

of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society and
Cobb Memorial Archives

PRESERVING OUR PERSONAL STORIES

The General Membership and Public Meeting of CVHS on July 15, will present members and friends an opportunity to share the storytelling experience which our families sought and enjoyed in the past. Before the radio and later electronic entertainment devices retarded our natural storytelling abilities, we shared stories about past times and experiences for entertainment and instruction. Older members of our communities were recognized and valued for their deep memories and storytelling abilities in the dark summer evenings on the front porch or in the sitting room around the hearth of the winter fireplace. The commercialization of sophisticated personal entertainment technology as well as central heating and air-conditioning have destroyed opportunities for social experiences on a porch and the need for family and friends to enjoy a story in front of a warm hearth.

Academic and public historians have been recording oral histories from individuals and groups for many years. Recall the The Cobb Archives' initiative a few years ago to videotape WWII veterans and their stories. Structured oral history projects

frequently focus the storyteller to address a specific topic such as war experiences, education, sports, music, political issues, etc. At the July meeting we will approach the collection of oral history in a different manner.

The CVHS Board decided to devote the July meeting to a storytelling experience which is not event or issue focused but reflects the teller's choice. Volunteers from the audience are challenged to consider preserving their single story from decades, even from generations past. Share your historical story. Who gave you that story, that history? What does it tell about humor, virtue, values, sin, work, learning, illness, family, etc.? Why have you valued this history and kept this story of times past in your memory?

Please attend to enjoy the stories and dialogue. Please consider sharing a story about past times in this place in the valley of the Chattahoochee and surrounding region. We will arrange the seating in a square as if we were at a Sacred Harp singing in order to make our experience more intimate. Storytellers will speak from their seats. We will also video

this program and save your story. We would like to acknowledge as many stories as possible in *the VOICE* at a later date. When considering what to tell, please, as best as you can, limit your words to five minutes. Consider what is the oldest story, colorful or instructive, given to you that you have carried in your memory. What history of our people and this region preserved in your memory would you like to be valued and remembered by future generations?

Members of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society and the general public are invited to attend the program, The Lanier Room, H. Grady Bradshaw Library, Valley, Alabama, Sunday, July 15, 2018, 3:00 p.m. EDT. Please attend, share and enjoy.

**It is imperative
that we preserve
word-of-mouth
stories.**

*Members of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society and
the general public are invited to attend this program.*

**THE CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY MEETING**

Sunday, July 15, 2018, 3:00 p. m. EDT

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

CLOSER INSIGHT INTO THE MERZ DIARY FEATURED IN OUR PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER

The Confederate soldier's diary is a pocket-sized leather bound notebook of 64 pages. Merz began his diary on January 1, 1862, with his last entry on July 9 of the same year. The 2018 CVHS Study Tour visited Antietam Battlefield and identified the location of his battle death.



The following are transcribed excerpts from the Diary of Louis Merz:

JANUARY 1 1862 Last night our mess tent was robbed of its contents, 15 lbs of bacon, sugar, coffe(sic), butter and beef, then adding insult to injury by his filling our water bucket with human dirt. May his dirtying machine refuse to do its duty in all time to come. Bill Hulbert & myself went to Wilder's bought 21 lbs bacon and hired a cart to get logs. Last night Willy, Hulbert & myself drank about a quart of whiskey, nobody drunk. On picket with Corp. Hulbert.

JANUARY 2 1862 ...Our Co. makes a complete failure in firing together, but makes a good shot. Mess No. 10 have an eggnog.

JANUARY 6 1862 Ice all over the camp. Boys fall in mounting guard. Even the Adjutant staggered. Corp Greer met his mother earth with a kiss. The company is assembled and Capt Todd makes a little speech on reenlisting. About 25 boys step forward. 42 of the boys reenlist provided a furlough of 2 months should be granted to them. Excitement runs high. Everyone is a candidate except Ben Lovelace. Have a head cold. Cough all night. Day guard taken off by Col. Doles.

JANUARY 20 1862 Battalion on drill. One of the Macon County Vol. has part of his head shaved.

Marched before the regiment. Musicians played Yankee Doodle and drummed out of the regiment...

FEBRUARY 25 1862 Very cold and windy. No battalion drill. Capt. Todd and Col. Mathews arrived from home (had been home on furlough for 3 and 4 weeks, respectively). Received four letters and cakes.

MARCH 8 1862 Off picket guard this morning. Went to see the Toombs Volunteers at work at the entrenchment. At 1 ocl. p.m. the rumour(sic) got out that the Merrimack was out. She hove in sight about 5 minutes past 1 ocl. Accompanied by 2 gunboats and the Harmony in respectful distance. The Merrimack passed by Sewell's Point. Rip Raps right close by on the other shore. A black smoke was seen believed to have been a signal from McGruder's Picket and musketry was also heard in the rear of Newport News. At 20 minutes past 2 ocl. she got over to the frigates and one of them opened fire on the Merrimack. She responded but very slow, and everybody was afraid she would not mark well. Broadships were opened on her, she getting between the two frigates, still fired slow and precise. The shots from the frigates mostly passed over her. She sank the frigate

Cumberland and the Congress got out of the way and surrendered. The Cumberland went down firing a gun. The Yanks fought brave. The Minnesota hove in sight but run aground. Three gunboats had before this time arrived down James River and shelled Newport News. Another vessel then came in sight and retired again, supposed to be a French frigate. 2 more Federal vessels came down. A brisk fire was kept up between the Minnesota and our gunboats until dark. About 9 ocl. flames were seen and the Congress was on fire, her guns discharging from heat. At 12 ocl. PM, midnight her magazine caught fire and she exploded. A terrific light. The camp shook like an earthquake. Many people were on the beach to witness all. General Randolph, Col. Jones, good many naval officers, especially one old Navy captain who cried drunk with joy, jumped like a child. So ended our great victory on James River on the 8th day of March, our gunboats being this side of the Minnesota while the Merrimack kept closer to Newport News.

MAY 10, 1862 Battalion drill this morning, whole on the field. We received marching orders, (to leave camp and move up the peninsula towards Richmond) the line to be formed at 12 ocl. this

day. At 12-1/2 ocl. the signal was given, the companies gathered & the regiment formed. We took our new position, 10th Co. Some of the sick went ahead of us. Heavy more we packed and soon the boys began to draw off ballast, overcoats, shirts and finally knapsacks went overboard to lighten the fatigued soldiers to march in the middle of the day, & on such a day, so hot, so unpleasant, was more than they could stand. Some were luckier than others, receiving transportation for men & beast. But finally we arrived at Shoulder's Hill where soon thousands of infantry, several batteries of artillery & squadrons of cavalry arrived. Generals Huger and Blanchard were present, and all had quite a military aspect. When we had left camp about 1 mile, Capt. Daniel rode up from town & informed Col Doles that the enemy was in Norfolk. Some of our wagons were cut off and sent to camp to transport what he could, to burn what he could not save. We rested at Shoulder's Hill several hours, & when night set in we received marching orders acting as rear guard for the army, and our company rear guard for the regiment. We pressed wagons into service to carry our knapsacks, and what light hearts and light baggage, and went in the moonshine, while in the direction of Norfolk the horizon seemed to be on fire. At 12 ocl. we halted in a certain lane to rest for the night; not having blankets or overcoats, we built fires, laid on rails, and covered with the atmosphere. Being most too pleasant to sleep long, we soon got up, and when friend Allen cooked some coffee in a cup & a perfect treat it was. At 5 ocl. we received marching orders again, & about the same time we heard explosion of something which proved to be the Merrimack. After marching about 2 hours we were halted again, rested until about 10 ocl. when we started again, passed Suffolk & halted about 2 miles on the other side towards Petersburg. Here we are now in the shade, near a stream, having washed and rested we feel well. Our sick have been sent by railroad, & just now, Archie, one of the Merrimack crew, comes in and reports the Merrimack blown up (by Confederates to keep from falling into Union hands)... ■

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Malinda Powers

Having recently returned from our *fourth* Civil War Battlefields Study tour, I just wanted to share a few highlights from this amazing and very unique experience. In 2014, we decided to create a travel opportunity for our group members to learn more about Civil War history while getting to know each other better. Over the years we have made many new friends who subsequently have become faithful society members. This year ten participants were veterans of all four tours, with most of the others having traveled with us for either two or three years.

In all we have visited twenty-five battlefields, including Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania, the Wilderness, Corinth, Shiloh, Franklin, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Kennesaw, Cold Harbor, Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill, Petersburg, Manassas, Harpers Ferry, Antietam, and battlefields of the Shenandoah Valley campaigns including Kernstown, Winchester, Front Royal, Cedar Creek, and New Market. We have visited numerous museums, plantations, and a variety of historic sites such as the White House of the Confederacy. We've watched many films, learned from numerous experts, and paid our respects at various cemeteries, including Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond and Arlington National. Our final stop on this year's journey was Appomattox, the ultimate conclusion to our Study Tour series.

What an adventure! I count it as a personal blessing to have spent one week for each of four summers with such a wonderful group of fellow historians, now friends.

Proceeds from our first two trips helped fund a state-of-the-art Microfilm reader/printer for our local Cobb Memorial Archives. Our upcoming project is to work with the Fort Tyler Association to improve the Civil War sector of the Pinewood Cemetery in West Point, Georgia.

Stay tuned to the fall issue of *the VOICE* for news about a possible trip next summer!

The VOICE is a quarterly newsletter of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 718, West Point, Georgia 31833

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Find us on Facebook and visit our website at <http://cvhistoricalsociety.org>

MISSION STATEMENT: As a non-profit membership organization, the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society seeks to preserve and promote the history and heritage of Chambers County, Alabama, West Point, Georgia, and the greater Chattahoochee Valley area. CVHS produces and sells historical books and media, publishes a quarterly newsletter, and presents programs with speakers on historical topics of local and regional interest.

VISION STATEMENT: Having been in continuous operation since its founding in 1953, the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society strives to uphold the vision of its founders while posturing the organization for growth in the 21st century.

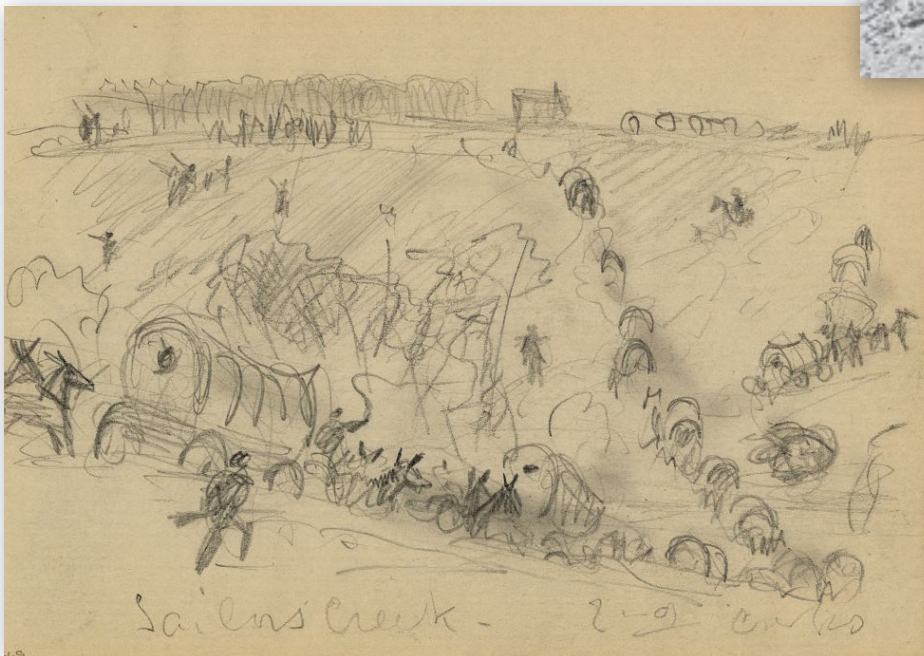
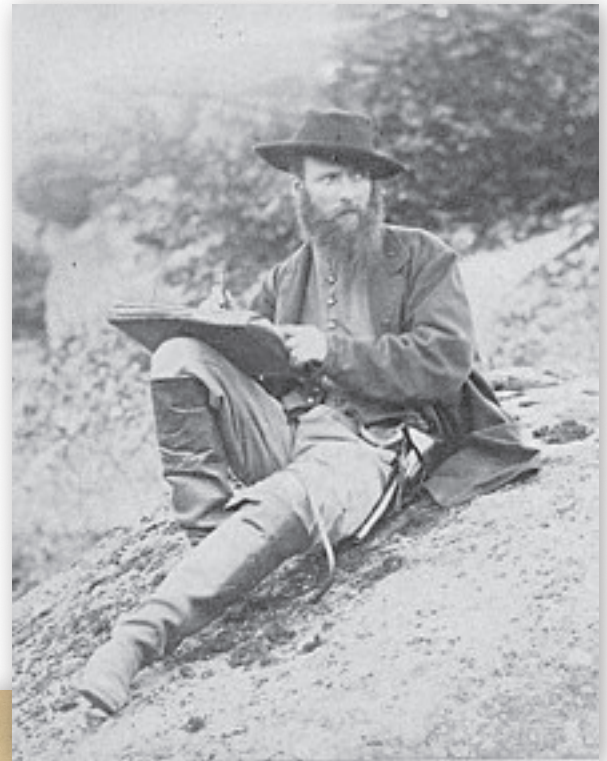
**APRIL 1865
 APPOMATTOX WAR CORRESPONDENT
 SKETCH ARTIST**

Alfred Ward, sketch artist,
 October 2 1828 - April 6, 1891

Although born in London, England, he is most known for his sketches during the American Civil War . Alfred witnessed the events at Appomattox and sketched on location.

This photo was taken in 1863 by Timothy H. O'Sullivan sitting in Devil's Den after the Battle of Gettysburg.

Library of Congress images



Sailor's Creek II Corps, Army of the Potomac, 2nd Battle of Sailor's Creek where 300 CSA wagons from General Lee's army were captured on April 6, 1865. On this day more than 7,500 exhausted Confederate soldiers were killed or captured. Nine general officers were captured including Gen. Lee's son Custis Lee.

Custer Receiving Flag of Truce. Appomattox Campaign, April 9, 1865





The Last of Ewell's Corps, April 6, 1865 [Sailor's Creek]; inscribed "This was quite an effective in its way. The soldiers silhutted[sic] against the western sky with their muskets thrown butt upwards in token of surrender as our troops closed in beyond a wagon train which was captured, and burning debris probably on wagons in the gathering gloom."



APPOMATTOX PHOTOS

Below: (Left) A photograph of the Wilmer Mclean home at Appomattox Court House from April 1865 without solders. This house was the site for Generals Grant and Lee to meet, and for the signing of the surrender of General Lee's Army on April 10, 1865. The second image (Right) shows Union soldiers standing at the Appomattox Courthouse, a few hundred feet from the McLean home.

Library of Congress images



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CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY STUDY-TOUR 2018

Here are a few images from this terrific trip.



CVHS Tour members standing on the Stone Bridge over Bull Run, Manassas Battlefield



Above, tour members listening to a presentation by the Park Ranger about the origin, raid and aftermath of John Brown's exploits prior to his execution on December 2, 1859.



Photographer Debbie Thompson stands atop the 1897 stone observation tower in the middle of the Antietam Battlefield aiming her lens northward. Below and between the rail fences tour members walk in the Sunken Road, the Bloody Lane, where for three hours Confederate soldiers held back the attacks of 10,000 Union troops along a 1.5 mile front. This period of ferocious rifle and artillery fighting consumed more than 5,500 lives.



Our tour with a Ranger at The Harper's Ferry Engine House where the final gunfight and capture of John Brown occurred on October 18, 1859.

CONTINUING RESEARCH IN 19TH CENTURY GEORGIA NEWSPAPERS FOR REPORTS ON LOCAL EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND PERSONALITIES PRIMARILY IN CENTRAL WEST GEORGIA

By Stephen Johnson

Stephen Johnson, for the third time, provides us with the results of his tedious examination of microfilm copies and decaying issues of Georgia newspapers printed in the 19th century. We are most appreciative of his diligent efforts to find additional descriptions of the life and times of our ancestors in this region of West Georgia and East Alabama. Although his research is specific to locations in Georgia, most families migrating into Chambers and other east central Alabama counties were moving through Georgia, many times spending one or a few years in various counties, as their trek slowly unwound westward. Thank you Stephen for your good work!

From *The Macon Telegraph*:
(ed. personal names in bold)

“Tuesday, January 22, 1856.

Homicide in Harris County: On the first day of the current month, **Joseph Buchanan** killed **Joseph Gorham** in a fight at Hattock’s Grovery(sp?, grocery, barroom), in Hamilton.

Tuesday, March 11, 1856: ACTS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATURE:

An act to authorize **James C. Hunt**, of Harris County, n the 5th to practice medicine and collect fees for same. An act for the relief of **James Henry Fannin**, of Troup County, a minor in the 21st year of his age.

Tuesday, May 11, 1858:

SUDDEN DEATH: **Gen. Thomas C. Evans**, Ordinary of Troup, died very suddenly of apoplexy, in LaGrange, on the 5th instant.

Monday, March 19, 1866: STATE ITEMS: On Thursday evening, after the night fall, of last week, **Mr. Jesse Aultman**, Deputy Marshal was killed in the discharge of the duties of his office in an attempt to arrest some turbulent parties disturbing the quiet of the town of West Point in this State.

Friday, January 31, 1868:MARRIED: At the residence of the bride’s father, **Mr. E. A. Reid**, on the 9th instant, by **Rev. William M. Cunningham, Mr. Joseph J. Ware and Miss Charlotte E. Reid**, all of Troup County.

Friday, January 31,1868: FATAL AFFRAY: A Melancholy occurrence happened at Hogansville in this county, on the evening of the 2d instant, which resulted in the death of **Mr. James Woodruff**, and the wounding of **Mr. Enoch Woodruff** and one or two others. None, however, wounded seriously. **Mr. W. L. C. Hendon** is charged with firing the fatal shot, and has been committed to jail to await his trial.-*LaGrange Reporter*, 6th.

Friday, March 27, 1868:MARRIED: On the 11th instant, in Baker County, by **Rev. John P. Duncan, Mr. John Nolan**, of West Point, and **Miss Mattie Elliot**.

Tuesday, April 19, 1870: DIED: **Mrs. Margaret Alford**, the mother-in-law of Rev. P. A. Heard, **the Methodist** Pastor at Milledgeville, for thirty-five years a resident of LaGrange, died Monday night, aged sixty-nine years.

Mr. James Colquitt, brother of the late Hon. **Walther T. Colquitt**, died at Shreveport, La., recently. He was postmaster at LaGrange for twenty years or more.

Tuesday, May 10, 1870:DIED: **Captain Miles Hill**, a young lawyer of LaGrange, who has been spending the winter for the benefit of his health at Valdosta, died Monday morning of hemorrhage of the lungs.

The Hon. **Pinkard Hill**, formerly one of the most prominent citizens of LaGrange, died in Athens Saturday.

Friday, May 13, 1870: The *Athens Banner* says: **William Pinckney Hill**, of Texas, died at the residence of his brother, Ho. **B. H. Hill**, on Saturday last. He had been in feeble health for some time, having been stricken down in the midst of professional duties before the Supreme Court at Washington City, and seemed only anxious to reach the home of his brother, to die. The wish was granted him, and he died in the calm resignation of the Christian faith, which had been beautifully illustrated in his life. He was surrounded by his wife and mourning relatives, and was buried with masonic honors.

Tuesday May 24, 1870: MARRIED: At Whitesville, on the 15th instant, by the Rev. **Thomas B. Lanier, Mr. A. M. Ernest**, of Bibb to **Miss Laura Ayer Toole**, of Effingham County, youngest daughter of the late **Dr. J. Toole**.

Tuesday, June 28, 1870: DIED: Mr. Archibald Lawhorn, for thirty years a citizen of West Point, died Tuesday, aged 90 years.

Tuesday, July 5, 1870: DIED We regret to learn the death, at LaGrange, a day or two since, of **Stephen Elliott**, infant son of **C. H. C. Willingham**, of the *LaGrange Reporter*.

Macon, Georgia, Newspaper Clippings (Weekly Telegraph):

Friday, November 12, 1869: SALES IN TROUP COUNTY: A great deal of property was sold at this place on Tuesday last. A large number of people were in town. Indeed, it was the biggest sale day we have had since the war, and real estate sold at better prices than since Sherman's grand march through Georgia. Troup county is certainly looking up. Our people are improving financially, if we may judge by the prices paid for lands.

The biggest operation, however, was a private sale. The well-known plantation, formerly owned by **Mr. M. Gerrell**, deceased, containing about 1100 acres, and located on or not far from the Chattahoochee River, in this county, was sold by **Col J. H. Fannin** to **Capt. F. A. Frost** for \$11,000.

The following sales were publicly made by administrators and executors:

Estate of George H. Traylor—The homestead, 303 acres, sold to **L. B. Lovelace** at \$8.10 per acre—or \$2454.30. The second place, 350 acres, sold to the same person at \$12

per acre—or \$4200. The third place to same at \$7 per acre-- \$2400. The whole possessions of 1003 acres were sold for \$9104.30.

Estate of Benjamin Shepherd—The homestead of 692 acres, with a two-story dwelling of ten rooms and six fire places, was sold to **Dr. John S. Hill** at \$11.60 per acre—or \$7626.20

Estate of George W. Humphry—Lands beyond the river, Antioch District, The Bond place of 91 acres sold to **G. W. Humphry, Jr.**, for \$1620 cash. Another place of 115 acres, known as the **Jack Young** place, poor improvements, was knocked down to **Jesse Bennett** for \$1224 cash. Still another place of 120 acres, common improvements, as sold to **J. W. Freeman** for \$726.

Estate of L. H. Hearne—Near the river, Pool's District, containing 250 acres, sold **J. T. Hearne** for \$5005—half cash, balance one year's time-- \$20.05 per acre!

Estate of William Hammett, Sr.—Upper part of the county. One parcel of 180 acres sold to **D. A. Philpott** at \$11 per acre—or \$1980. Another piece of 112 acres to **R. W. Brown** at \$5 per acre—or \$560. A woodland piece of 50 acres to same at \$19.795 per acre—or \$987.50. A fraction of lot, 34 ½ acres, to same \$206.

Estate of Thomas Bradford—A lot of 162 acres to **S. H. Dunson** at \$5.30 per acre—or \$858.60.

Estate of J. T. Boykin, Sr. -Only a tract of 150 acres were offered, which was sold to **J. T. Boykin, Jr.**, at \$10.30 per acre—or \$1545.

Estate of Dr. N. N. Smith—The homestead in LaGrange, located but a short distance from the square, a large two-story building, and about 100 acres of land, was bid off by **Dr. J. F. Moreland** for \$6,800-- half cash and balance twelve months credit. Office building on the square, containing

two rooms, at present occupied by the purchaser as a banking office, was knocked down to **F. A. Frost** for \$2000. A fraction of 3-1/5 acres of land was sold for \$75.50 per acre, or \$241.60.

Estate of J. J. Walker—Homestead, six miles Northeast of LaGrange, 506 ½ acres, with good single story dwelling and other improvements, was sold to **Col. R. M. Young** at \$9.25 per acre—or \$4,675.12 ½.

Estate of Thomas Jennings—Eight or ten miles Northeast of town. The homestead place, 580 acres, was sold to **A. R. Williams** at \$11 per acre—or \$6,380. Another settlement of 343 acres was sold to the same at \$9.50 per acre—or \$3258.50. *LaGrange Reporter*.

From The Macon Telegraph:

Tuesday, September 27, 1870: DIED: **Mrs. James Redding**, for 35 years a citizen of Troup County, died last week, aged 74 years.

Ed Thompson, freedman, stabbed and killed **Green Hill**, ditto, on the plantation of **Judge Bigham**, near Hogansville, a few days ago.

We learn that **Nathaniel Hutchinson**, one of the oldest citizens of Harris County died at his residence in that county last week. He was nearly one hundred years of age.

Tuesday, January 24, 1871: GEORGIA NEWS: **Mr. W. Kellar**, a "quiet industrious" young man, cut **Mr. Alonzo Britton**, another "Quiet industrious" young man, very severely with a knife last Wednesday night, at LaGrange.

A little son of **N. S. McCalley**, of Troup County, was crushed to death in a gin, one day last week.

Tuesday, January 31, 1871:
 GEORGIA NEWS: **Mr. L. A. Brittian**, of LaGrange, whom we reported a few days since, as having been badly stabbed by **D. W. Kellar**, of the same town, died last Monday.

Tuesday, February 21, 1871:
 GEORGIA NEWS: The residences of Messrs. **A. R. and E. D. Williams**, at LaGrange, was destroyed by fire last Tuesday. The fire was thought to have been the work of an incendiary.

Tuesday, March 7, 1871: The *LaGrange Reporter* says: Death of **Capt. Henry W. Todd**. - - We regret to learn of the death of **Capt. H. W. Todd**, of Chambers County, Alabama, which occurred at his residence, a mile from West Point, Ga. At 3 o'clock, Tuesday morning last, of paralysis. **Capt. Todd** was a good citizen and his death is much regretted by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He was buried in West Point on Wednesday last. (ed. Pinewood Cemetery) **Capt. Todd** had been confined to his home for a number of years, until the late Alabama election, when patriotism to his State prompted him to go to the polls in his carriage to cast his last ballot for the Democracy.

Tuesday, May 9, 1871: GEORGIA NEWS: **George C. Lyon**, a native and resident of West Point all his life, died of consumption, on the 3d instant.

Tuesday, September 5, 1871:
 GEORGIA NEWS: **Mr. Thomas B. Greenwood**, for forty years a citizen of LaGrange, died on the 24th ultimo.

Tuesday, December 12, 1871:
 GEORGIA NEWS: **Mr. P. H. Hall**, of LaGrange, died very suddenly, Sunday morning.

Tuesday December 26, 1871:
 GEORGIA NEWS: **O. P. Lovejoy**, of Hogansville, was shot and accidentally killed last Monday, **Mr. O. Norwood**, while they were out hunting together.

Tuesday, January 2, 1872: Col. D. W. Morgan, of LaGrange, died last Monday evening. **Mr. M. J. Kingbury**, of the same place, was seriously injured the same day while firing a Christmas cannon. His right arm was blown off at the elbow, his left hand wounded, and his eyes and face burned.

Tuesday, January 16, 1872:
 GEORGIA NEWS: **Dr. M. T. C. Lovelace**, one of the oldest and most esteemed citizens of West Point, died.

Tuesday, February 6, 1872: We quote as follows from the *West Point News* of Wednesday: TERRIBLE FREAK OF A FLASH OF LIGHTNING.— ONE LIFE LOST—TWO PERSONS SEVERELY INJURED.—**Mr. Gresham** is a tenant of **Mr. H. G. Slaughter**, who lives some eight miles from this place, between Long Cane and thee river. Last Saturday afternoon, as **Mr. G.** and his family were sitting around the fire the chimney was struck by lightning. The electric current passed through the gable end of the house down to the mantlepiece, totally destroying a clock which was thereon. From thence it passed along the end and side of the house to the other end, knocking the gable out. Two little children were in a bed near which the lightning passed, but escaped any injury. **Mr. G.** and his wife were both knocked senseless. The former had one of his feet seriously injured. The skin was lacerated and his foot presented the appearance of having been badly bruised. He was also severely burnt. The hair on his body looked like it had been singed

over a fire, and his skin was intensely red. The clothing of **Mrs. G.** was set on fire, and she was burned from her feet to half way up her body. A son of **Mr. Gresham**, some twelve or fourteen years of age, was instantly killed. Another son, who was addicted [sic], together with **Mr. Redding**, a nephew of **Mr. G.**, were both in the group, and escaped unharmed. A large chest containing clothing, was torn into atoms and the contents set on fire. The roof of the house was almost blown off. A singular fact in connection with this accident is that neither the shoes of **Mr. G.** nor a single piece of the clock are to be found.

Tuesday, March 5, 1872: GEORGIA NEWS: We find the following in the *LaGrange Reporter*. OLDEST CITIZEN.—There lives, near Hogansville, in this county, two very old persons, to wit: **William Kilgore** and wife. They were born near Powelltown, Hancock county, Georgia, about the year 1780. Previous to the war they had a good property, largely composed of negroes. They still have their land, and for thirty years have rarely ever lift [sic] their house for any purpose. They have ever been scrupulous honest and exact in all their dealings. **Mrs. Kilgore** has always done her own house work, such as cooking, milking, churning, etc. She has, with her own hands, spun and wove all of their clothing during their long married life. **Mr. K.** never belonged to any church, never buys on credit, and deals in no currency that does not have the 'ring of true metal' about it. **Mr. Kilgore** settled in Troup county, where he now lives, more than 40 years ago, and had not been to the county site(ed. seat?) in 25 years."

Read all about it!

The recent excursion with the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society provided a great opportunity to expand our Civil War knowledge. This trip was, once again, a fabulous learning experience. Read about interesting tidbits associated with this trip inside this issue. Also, we are giving a little closer insight into the Merz diary along with the annual membership listing and ongoing research by Stephen Johnson. A terrific issue!

Remember to attend the Quarterly Meeting of the CVHS

Sunday, July 15, 2018, 3:00 p. m. EDT

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

READ MORE about the program at this meeting inside this newsletter.

WHERE IS THIS?

Read on, to find out exactly where this photo was taken and to see more great photos from the CVHS 2018 continuing study-tour of Civil War Battlefields inside this issue!



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