

THE VOICE

of the *Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society and
Cobb Memorial Archives*

THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS BUILDS THE FRANKLIN DELANO STATE PARK IN GEORGIA *Presenter Mr. John E. Croom*

The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society would once again like to extend an open invitation to the general public to attend one of our fine quarterly presentations on Sunday, October 24th at 3:00 PM EST (2:00 PM CDT). Our presentation will be a live, on-site presentation held at Point University's main campus, the Lanier Academic Center, in downtown West Point, GA.

Our presenter for this upcoming meeting will be **John E. Croom**. Mr. Croom's presentation will focus on the Civilian Conservation Corps, a "New Deal"-era program designed by the Roosevelt Administration to provide employment to unmarried young men during the later years of the Great Depression. As many know, the CCC was responsible for many of the state and national parks we frequent and enjoy in Georgia and Alabama. The legacy of their workmanship can be seen in many places that Valley-area residents have probably frequented, such as Chewacla State Park in Auburn, AL or the "Bunker Tower" at the peak of Mount Cheaha (Alabama's highest point). Most familiar of all of the CCC's many work projects, however, is likely Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park (formerly "Pine Mountain State Park") in Harris and Meriwether Counties in

Georgia. The CCC's involvement and contributions to FDR State Park in Georgia will be the specific focus of Mr. Croom's presentation.

Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park is currently a Georgia State Park. The park is named after the former President because he spent much of his Presidency in Warm Springs,



CCC building example at FDR Park

GA in a location now known as the "Little White House" (where a Federally run museum now sits giving a fascinating insight into his life). Because Roosevelt suffered from polio for most of his life, he came here to frequently visit the eponymous springs in Warm Springs, GA (whose waters were always at a constant 88 F, ideal for those with polio and similar infirmities). The park consists of a main area centered around "Lake Delanor", a lake named for both the President (his middle name

being "Delano") and his wife Elanor. The park also contains the "Pine Mountain Trail", a network of hiking trails that extend from the "Country Store" adjacent to Callaway Gardens all the way to the Georgia Public Television broadcast tower just south of Warm Springs, GA in Meriwether County. Other noteworthy locations within the park grounds itself include Dowdell's Knob (the highest point on Pine Mountain) and "Cascade Falls", a waterfall located just south of Warm Springs. All throughout the park today, there are vestiges of the CCC's work (bridges, roads, and former fishery ponds now found on the "Mountain Creek Trail" south of Lake Delanor).

Our presenter Mr. Croom has long been affiliated with the Park itself, and has given many presentations there on the history of the CCC and its contributions to the park. He has also done the same for the "Little White House" Museum in nearby Warm Springs, making him an expert on the Roosevelt Administration's connection to this area (in addition to the workings

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**THE CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY MEETING**
Sunday, October 24, 2021, 3:00 p.m. EDT (2:00 CDT)
Point University, Lanier Academic Center

THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS ...CONTINUED

and doings of the CCC). His presentation for Sunday, October 24th will consist of four parts: the Depression's impact in Georgia prior to 1933, the creation of the CCC, its local impact in Georgia (primarily in the Park), and its legacy today.

John E. Croom is a native of Columbus, GA, graduating from Columbus High School in 1973. He graduated from Columbus College (now CSU) in 1977, obtaining a B.A. in Fine Art. He would later graduate from the University of Montevallo in 2003 with a Masters in History, receiving several accolades including History Student of the Year and induction into the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor's Society, both in 2003. Following his Graduate studies, he then became a history teacher in Oak Mountain, AL south of Birmingham. During his teaching career, he received the "teacher of the year" award at both Oak Mountain Middle School and Oak Mountain High School. He has been married to Sally McCamy Croom since 1981 and was also involved with the Boy Scouts of America (being on the Volunteer Boy Scouts of America Birmingham Council from 1992 to 2014). He is

currently writing a book on the history of the CCC in the Pine Mountain Area from 1933 to 1942, and much of that research will be featured in his presentation.

This presentation will be held at Point University in West Point, GA (**address: 507 W 10th Street, West Point, GA, 31833**). Visitors are encouraged to park in the west parking lot and enter through the western entrance to the building (several CVHS members will be there to help them find their way to the presentation room). The presentation will start at 3:00 PM Eastern (2:00 PM Central) on Sunday, October 24th and will last approximately one hour (with time for questions at the end). If anyone has any questions concerning our presentation, please email our Program Chair Charlie Powers at ccpowers02@gmail.com for further information.

- ▶ **If you are unable to physically attend the meeting please join us at Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society on Facebook to view the meeting.**

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Malinda Powers*

As children, our heroes are known for their super-powers. "Superman" and "Wonder Woman" eventually give way to a truer definition, to single out that man or woman who steps up in a crisis and comes to the aid of others in peril. I would like to tell you about a true Alabama hero.

Recently, Mr. Richard F. Allen, Retired, Chapell and Howard, P.C., of Montgomery, Alabama, corresponded and then spoke with me describing the personal history of the Major David Tate Moniac (1802 – 1836) and the planned public recognition of this early nineteenth century Alabamian. Mr. Allan invited CVHS to be represented at the public recognition ceremony.

On November 18, 2021, at 2:00 PM CT at the State Capitol Building in Montgomery, Alabama, The Alabama Distinguished Service Medal will be awarded posthumously, to Major David Moniac. Governor Kay Ivey will also present a proclamation honoring Major Moniac. An article, written by Mr. Allen, describing in detail the social background of David Moniac, his education and military service will be published by the Army Historical Foundation in early 2022 in *On Point, The Journal of Army History*. We were allowed to review the article and summarize key points for this issue of *The Voice* in order that our membership may know the history of this Alabamian.

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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.

David Moniac deserves to be honored because of his heroic death on November 21, 1836, serving in the Battle of Wahoo Swamp during the Second Seminole War. David Moniac deserves to be memorialized because as an Alabama Creek and American Indian he was the first member of his minority group to graduate in 1822 from The United States Military Academy. He was not yet 15 years of age at the time he enrolled in faraway New York. It was not an easy accomplishment as he had only one year of formal education prior to his appointment to the Academy. He is to be remembered because his life uniquely mirrors that brief time when the aspiration of Creek assimilation into the white culture was destroyed by war and demands for the total removal of the Creeks to Oklahoma Territory.

Moniac was from a prominent Creek family in the Tensaw Delta region. His father, Sam Moniac-known later as “Manack”- was son of a Creek woman and early European deerskin trader, Jacob Moniac. His mother was Elizabeth Weatherford Moniac, sister of William “Billy” Weatherford (aka “Red Eagle”). Weatherford’s first wife, Polly, was Sam’s sister; after her death, he married one of Sam’s nieces. David (“Davy”) Tate, half-brother to William Weatherford, was his uncle for whom he was named. In addition, David Tate Moniac was a great-nephew of Alexander McGillivray and a member of the most prestigious Wind Clan. Quite a pedigree, indeed!

While the Creek War (1813-1814) split the family apart, the end of the war brought rather swift reconciliation and new possibilities. Earlier, President George Washington believed in assimilation and influenced the disposition of the treaty and the later policies of the Indian Agents, such as Benjamin Hawkins, stationed in the various nations within the US borders. The Treaty of New York of 1790 provided funding for a select number of Indian youth to be sent to institutions of higher education. David Moniac was the last person to benefit from this provision designed to promote assimilation. By virtue of hard work and sheer determination he graduated in July 1822, the first Native American graduate of the USMA. By year’s end, however, he had

resigned his commission as a Brevet Second Lieutenant and returned home to deal with his father’s apparent downhill spiral. Moniac later settled on a plantation in Baldwin County on property once owned by his uncle, Alexander McGillivray, where he grew cotton, raised cattle, and bred racehorses.

Fast-forward to the Second Seminole War. In 1836 he responded to a call by President Andrew Jackson’s administration for volunteers to go to Florida to subdue the Seminole Indians for future transport to Oklahoma. David Moniac was inducted to service initially as a Lieutenant, 6th U.S. Infantry, Alabama Mounted Creek Volunteers. Major Moniac is one of the US Army officers leading Creek volunteer soldiers



From alabamaneewscenter.com, artist interpretation of David Moniac

into the wilderness of the Wahoo Swamp east of Tampa Bay. At some point, Major Moniac’s men became concerned about getting mired in a boggy stream. As the lead officer, wading in to the black water trying to ascertain the depth of the water, he is fatally shot by the Seminoles. According to researcher Richard Allen, “One account states that his body was pierced by 67 bullets.”

The Seminole War was costly in dollars and victims.

Seminole guerilla warfare frustrated regular army and volunteer troops in the jungle-like terrain of the cypress swamps. During the engagement which claimed Major Moniac, commanding officers were in different locations and conflicting reports describe engagement. Mr. Allen in his research and interpretation of events has sought to abolish any fog of war from the final action claiming Major Moniac. Major Moniac was at the point, leading his men, wading in the bog water across a 10 yard stream seeking firm footing as he pursued the retreating Seminoles. The Seminoles paused their flight to ambush Major Moniac’s men. Major Moniac and two friendly Creek warriors accompanying him were shot scores of times as they waded the stream ahead of the troops. Moniac’s body sank beneath the dark swamp water as the firing intensified. He is buried in the National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

Major David Moniac gave his life for the sake of his men. No better definition for a true “hero” than that!

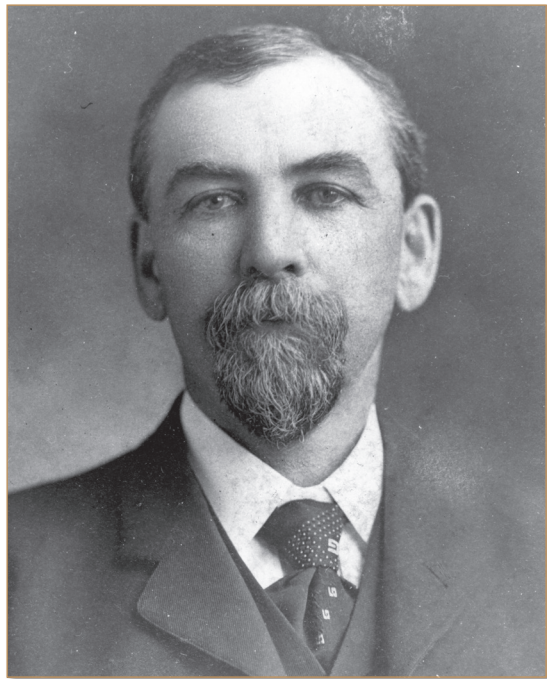


THE END OF AN ERA OF LEADERSHIP IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

by Wayne Clark

The death of Joseph L. “Joe” Lanier Jr. on August 11th of this year marked the passing of an era. From 1880 until the late 1980s, five generations of the Lanier family played leading roles in transforming textile production in Chambers County from two small struggling mills on the Chattahoochee River to one of the largest textile companies the world had ever seen.

Lafayette Lanier, who with older brother Ward Crockett Lanier founded the West Point Manufacturing



LaFayette Lanier

Company in 1880, was a veteran of the Civil War. All five of his brothers fought in the war as well. LaFayette and Ward Crockett Lanier were involved in the mercantile, banking and insurance businesses in West Point in the post-war years. They made their big move to get into textile production in 1880 when they acquired existing mills in Langdale and River View. They equipped the mills with new or rebuilt machines and brought in experienced mill managers to run the two mills. The mills eventually became profitable, and Lafayette Lanier looked toward building a new mill between West Point and the mills in Langdale and River View. He'd name the new mill Lanett with the “Lan”

coming from Lanier and “ett” from Theodore Bennett, the treasurer of the Boston-based Boynton & Company sales agency.

The Lanett Mill became a huge success in just a few years. Unit One was a four-floor brick building that went into production in July 1894. Unit Two, a twin four-floor building, began in 1900. On the north side of the mill, the Lanett Bleachery & Dye Works went into business in 1895. It would one day grow into the world's largest production facility of its type. Lanett Mill would expand through the years to the south along Highway 29. It would one day have the world's largest weaving area under one roof.

West Point Manufacturing grew with the addition of Shawmut Mill in 1908. The initial plan was to name the mill and the surrounding village Midway because the new mill was approximately halfway between Langdale and Lanett mills. The name Shawmut was chosen in tribute to the Wellington-Sears sales agency. Shawmut was an early name for Boston, where Wellington-Sears and its Boynton predecessor were located.

Lafayette Lanier died in 1910, but eldest son George Huguley Lanier was well groomed to succeed him in the leadership of a growing company. He was a ably assisted



George Huguley Lanier

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by younger brother Lafayette “Little L” Lanier Jr. When George was made vice president and general manager of the company, Lafayette Jr. was promoted to be the agent of all the companies. They made a good team. While George was excellent in taking care of all the details of office work, Lafayette was a people person, skilled at building good will. He died at a young age in 1930. A new school, memorial park and theater were named in his memory in the Langdale community in 1935.

In 1907 while his father was ailing, George H. Lanier oversaw the development of Shawmut Mill and its surrounding mill village. The village was the first one in the Valley that was designed and landscaped. Shawmut Mill and its mill village marked another first for the company in that they were first to be powered by electricity delivered by power lines. The earlier mills and mill villages were served with steam-generated electricity and before that, water power.

Under the direction of “Mr. George,” West Point Manufacturing Company continued to expand. Mr. George had always wanted to have a towel mill among the company plants. A new mill in Fairfax that was built in 1915 was planned for this. Its initial production was in support of the U.S. effort in World War I. Towel production was delayed but got under way in earnest in the 1920s. Fairfax became known as Towel City U.S.A. when WPMC purchased the rights to produce Martex towels from the Margerson brothers of Philadelphia in 1927. The company began to expand through the acquisition of existing mills in Anderson, South Carolina and in LaGrange, Dalton and Columbus, Georgia. A research division was established in 1943.

Those who knew him well would say that Mr. George was proudest of the improvements in public education and in employee living conditions during his tenure. New schools were built, Scouting programs were active, and parks and playgrounds were throughout the Valley.

In his later years, Mr. George led the effort to have a modern hospital to locate in the Valley. It was the first one to be financed with funding from the federal Hill-Burton Act. Mr. George died in 1948, and when the new hospital opened two years later it was named in his memory.

At a banquet to mark the company’s 75th anniversary in 1955, guest speaker Dr. Frank Samford from Birmingham remarked that the history of the West Point Manufacturing Company was in large measure a history of the Lanier family. The company president at the time was Joseph L. Lanier Sr. He was the fourth member of the Lanier family to serve as company president. During his tenure, the company listed its shares on the New York Stock Exchange for the first



Joseph L. Lanier, Sr.

time and underwent a major merger. West Point Manufacturing merged with Pepperell Manufacturing to form WestPoint Pepperell. The new company immediately became one of the top five mercantile companies in the U.S. The merger took place in 1965. A few years later, the ultra-modern Lanier-Carter Mill went into production along heavily traveled I-85.

Mr. Lanier Sr. saw two personal goals fulfilled during his presidency – the new hospital was named in memory of this father and a new library was built in 1976 and named in honor of everyone’s favorite “Scout Chief:” Grady Bradshaw. The library was completely renovated, remodeled and expanded in 1993 largely due to Mr. Lanier Sr.’s interest and generosity.

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THE END OF AN ERA OF LEADERSHIP ...CONTINUED

The company continued to see growth through acquisitions under the leadership of Mr. Lanier Sr.'s son, Joe Jr. During this period, the company acquired J.P. Stevens, Cluett Peabody & Company and Alamac



Joseph L. Lanier, Jr.

Knitting. The company broke the billion mark in company revenues for the first time. The acquisition of Cluett Peabody saved the company from a hostile takeover. It also transitioned WPP from a commodity manufacturer to a leading manufacturer of brand-name soft goods. At one point, brand goods made up 75 percent of company revenues and sales were up to \$2,5 billion.

Things looked great but then came the William Farley hostile takeover bid. Farley would win that fight but at an enormous cost. He could not overcome the debt he had gotten himself into and eventually went into bankruptcy. Carl Icahn would later acquire control of what was left of WestPoint Stevens and immediately began sending all production to cheaper labor markets overseas. Since then, sales of WestPoint Home have not topped \$500 million, a far cry from what the company under Joe Lanier Jr.'s leadership was pulling down.

Calendar year 1989 was both a bad year and a good year for Joe Lanier Jr. On the bad side, he lost control of

WestPoint Pepperell, the company his family had led for more than 100 years. Many people lost their jobs with the Farley takeover. It started a downward path for the company. All WestPoint Stevens production ceased in the Valley by 2008.

In 1989, Joe Jr. and an investment group purchased Dan River, Inc. in Danville, Virginia. The company employed approximately 7,000 people. The purchase, along with some other acquisitions, catapulted Dan River among the top five industry suppliers. "Lanier is one of the most highly respected executives in this industry," wrote Don Hogsett in *Textiles Today*. "He built West Point Pepperell and then he transformed Dan River from a backwater textile mill into a first rate supplier with the well-spent money and the first-rate management it takes to be one of the lowest cost producers."

Dan River would go on to become one of the western hemisphere's leading producers of men's wear shirt fabrics.

While things went well for Dan River under the leadership of Joe Lanier Jr., things went from bad to worse for WestPoint Home. Many who lost their jobs in the Chattahoochee Valley mills were from families that had worked for the company for many generations. Those who were still with the company in 2008 had brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles who had worked for the company when Joseph Lanier Sr. and Joe Lanier Jr. were the company presidents. Previous generations in their family had worked for West Point Manufacturing when George H. Lanier was president and before that, Lafayette Lanier.

Joe Jr. worked for and led West Point Manufacturing and WestPoint Pepperell from 1957 to 1989. He worked for Dan River from 1989 to 2005. In his later years he was an advisor to various Georgia-based companies for 10 years. He loved textile manufacturing and enjoyed being around co-workers so much that he really never wanted to retire. Like previous generations of his family, he was devoted to his faith and felt blessed to have led a Southern life. With his death an era came to an end.

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TUBERCULOSIS IN LETTERS TO THE EDITOR FROM *THE LAFAYETTE SUN* IN 1929

by H. M. Holderfield

Four years ago I visited the basement room of the Chambers County Court House to do research on an act of violence that occurred in the 1920's in my family's community. As I scanned the pages in the bound volumes of *The LaFayette Sun*, I read the article below and was moved to photograph it into my iPad for future use. The article presented a poignant story reflective of many aspects of life in that time and in this place of textile mills in Chambers County. One aspect of the story is quite unique. A Jewish merchant in a rural southern county is instrumental in getting free specialized hospital care for sick gentiles who suffer from a virulent disease. When the *Mycobacterium* was first identified in 1882 by Dr. Robert Koch, TB or consumption, was killing one out of seven people in the United States and Europe. American medical leaders in the late 19th century and first half of the 20th century could only recommend the isolation of patients in sanatoriums where the treatment would be warmth, rest, and good food. Effective medicines which arrested the disease and allowed patients to remain at home without danger to family members were not to be discovered until the 1950's.

(see U. S. National Library of Medicine, <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/visualculture/tuberculosis.html>)

"An estimated 110,000 Americans died each year from tuberculosis in the 1900s. In 1921, the publication, *Textile World*, announced a campaign to reduce tuberculosis among factory workers, and included shocking statistics in the United States Department of Labor report, "Causes of Death by Occupation." before the age of 35.

Male textile workers: 2,390 deaths in textile mills. 525 died from tuberculosis. In other words, 22 percent of deaths among male textile workers is due to tuberculosis. 47 percent of deaths in the age period 25 to 34 years, is from tuberculosis.

Female textile workers: (In the study group of workers who died before age 35) the average at death is 33.9 years, while the age at death of those dying tuberculosis is 26.7. Thirty-six percent of all deaths among female textile workers is due to tuberculosis. Among these, 50 percent of all deaths at age period 15 to 24, is due to tuberculosis. At the ages of 25 to 34, 49 percent of deaths are from tuberculosis." (from *Ipswich Historical Society website, historicipswich@gmail.com*)

Letters to the Editor from *The LaFayette Sun*-September 4, 1929

"The following letter was received by Mr. John J. Hagedorn, of the West Point Wholesale Grocery Company, from the secretary of the National Jewish Hospital at Denver, Colorado, some time ago and for the free service that is offered through

this institution this newspaper is glad to give space that it may reach the people of Chambers County. Mr. Hagedorn is a director of the National Jewish Hospital and has been the means of placing several people in that institution from Chambers county. At the present time Mrs. Grady Dodgens and Mr. Tommie Snuggs, of Langdale, are receiving treatment through the effort of Mr. Hagedorn. Any one meeting with the conditions outlined in the below letter and desiring the benefits mentioned may get in touch with Mr. Hagedorn or with his office for further particulars.

"Mr. John J. Hagedorn
"West Point, Ga.

"My Dear Mr. Hagedorn-----I am happy to advise you that the National Jewish Hospital will open the Louis Heineman Building for tuberculous children about September 1, 1929. This building has been erected and equipped at a cost of \$150,000 through the legacy of the late Louis Heineman, of Jamestown, New York.



*The National Jewish Hospital
in Denver, CO en.wikipedia.org*

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TUBERCULOSIS LETTERS ...CONTINUED

“This latest extension of the life-saving service of the national Jewish Hospital will specialize in the treatment of bone, joint, and granular tuberculosis in children, Children suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis will also be treated.

“The success which we have heretofore secured in treating tuberculosis of the bones and joints in children, the increasing recognition of the value of sun-treatment in such cases, and the unexcelled opportunity Colorado offers for sun-treatment, has made necessary an extension of our facilities for children.



Sun Treatment, National Jewish Hospital, denverlibrary.org

“Enclosed herewith is a photograph showing the Heineman Building and the Hoffmeier Preventorium. As you know, the latter building has been in operation for eight years and is dedicated to the task of upbuilding children who are predisposed to tuberculosis, and giving them the opportunity for a happy childhood and a normal productive life.

“It is the opinion of the medical profession that the ultimate solution of the problem of tuberculosis lies in the successful treatment of the disease as it manifests itself in various forms in children. With the addition

of the Heineman Building, the National Jewish Hospital will have beds for 80 children and complete facilities for treating all forms of tuberculosis in children.

“In the hope and desire of the officers of the National Jewish Hospital that our enlarged children’s facilities will be used by your community when the need arises. If there is a child in your community who might be helped through this branch of our life saving service and whose parents are without means to pay for treatment, send that child to us.

“The service of the Hofheimer Preventorium and of the Louis Heineman Building is free, national and non-sectarian. Do not confuse this work with that of any other institution. Ours is the only national institution offering this type of service for children.

“The Louis Heineman Building will be opened about September 1...

“...I would appreciate if you would arrange to have this letter printed in the newspapers of your city, including Jewish newspaper,

if any. In this way advertising the members of your community of the erection of this splendid building at the National Jewish Hospital. I am sure the newspapers will be glad to co-operate with you in this regard.

“Will you kindly send us clippings of any such publicity which you may secure for us?

“with Thanks and appreciation for your interest and helpfulness. I am. Sincerely,

“S. Pisko, Secretary

Langdale Lady Writes about Jewish Hospital

“The following interesting letter was received recently by Mr. John Hagedorn and is self-explanatory.

December 1, 1929
Mr. John Hagedorn
West Point, Ga

Dear Mr. Hagedorn:

Dr. Bronfin came over to see us this a. m. and told me that my recent x-ray plates showed marvelous improvement, also my last three sputum tests have been negative. He is very proud of my improvement and said he was going to put me on exhibit. Isn’t that wonderful?

I feel like you will be interested to hear this and he told me to write.

Mr. Hagedorn, I never will forget your kindness to me. I’m very thankful and grateful., I am enclosing a clipping that express my thoughts and feelings better than I can. Thanking you again for your kind interest in me. Sincerely, Mrs. Grady Dodgen

Following is the clipping--- A Gentile Patient’s Appreciation by Juanita Cowell---

I am a gentile, accepting the hospitality of the Jewish people, who in turn are happy to aid me. I look back only a few months ago, sick and sorrowful, no place to go, no sanatorium of my own belief or any other Protestant church to take me and care for me.

Through a friend I heard of the National Hospital and in a short time I was being sheltered and cared for as one of their own. No reference was made to my creed. I am at home here. The same attention is paid to me as the Jewish patients.

continued on next page

I find their customs different from mine, but very pleasant to follow. Because we travel by different roads to attain what we seek, am I right and they wrong, or they right and I wrong? Who are we to judge? Let us be tolerant of each other's belief. Let us live and let live. Are we not all striving to do good and live right in order that we may spend our time in eternity with the Supreme Being.

To me the Jewish people are the most charitable I know. As a Gentile I am very grateful to be a stranger within their gates and to be accorded such wonderful treatment. And I am sure that I speak the mind of every Gentile within the walls of the National Jewish Hospital."

Context for the Letters to Editor

The first noteworthy observation is that a grocer/businessman, Mr. Hagedorn in West Point, Georgia, but living in Chambers County, Alabama, was a board member of an important Jewish charity tuberculosis hospital in Denver, Colorado. The National Jewish Hospital opened its doors to patients in 1899 with the motto "none may enter who can pay-- none may pay who enter." The National Jewish Hospital was in part an expression of the sanatorium treatment movement of tuberculosis dating from the late 19th century. To control the spread of tuberculous infected individuals were admitted to sanatoriums for treatment. Although The National Jewish Hospital was one of the most successful efforts to study and treat tuberculosis, it was only one of many public and private initiatives in the first half of the 20th century to aid the stricken individuals. With



the discovery of effective drugs to control the disease, the need for sanatoriums ended in the 1960's. The National Jewish Hospital's role in research and care did not end but broadened to encompass all pulmonary diseases. From this current date of 2021 for the past 17 years the National Jewish Hospital has been ranked as one of the two top respiratory disease hospitals

by *US News and World Report*. Mr. Hagedorn was not simply a local businessman but had national connections through his faith. He used his influence to help an unknown number of local citizens.

The second observation is that the Board of the National Jewish Hospital was sincere in its charity work but also was interested in

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TUBERCULOSIS LETTERS ...CONTINUED

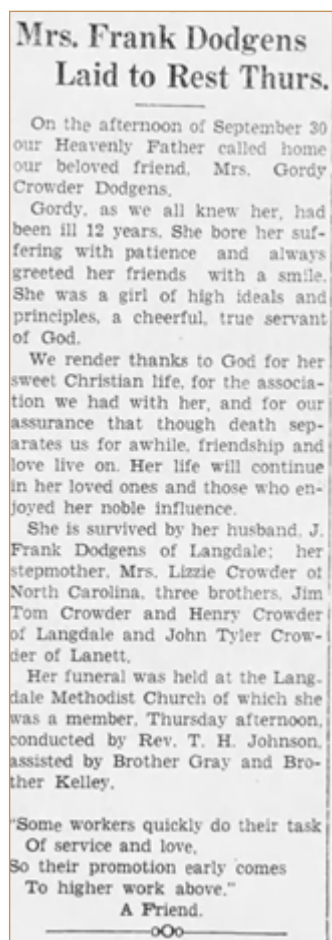
garnering good will in the gentile community for the efforts of the Hospital to serve any with need. Recall what is happening in Europe at this time in terms of the historical persecution of European Jews. The Nazi Party in Germany is gaining momentum and will gain control of the German government in just three years. Pogroms occurred following WWI in eastern Europe, Poland and Ukraine. The effort in the U.S. to publicize in local papers stories about the charity work of the National Hospital could educate the general public and hopefully contribute to a positive attitude among gentiles towards the Jewish people.

Observation number three is that Mr. Hagedorn recommended two persons with ties to the Langdale textile community, a man and a woman, about 30 years old. We don't know how these two individuals were chosen but they would have been recommended because of their severe illness. TB until the 1950's was a threat across classes in the society but was doubly a threat to workers in specific industries and persons living, working in close proximity in industrial villages.

The Fates of the Chose Patients

Mrs. Grady Dodgen(Gordy Gertrude Crowder Dodgen) was born in 1899 and married when she was 19 years old. The 1920 census reports that she and her husband are boarders in Langdale. She was a spooler; he was 23 and a card room hand. The 1930 census show Mrs. Dodgen in two locations. She was enumerated as a resident of the

hospital in Denver and as a resident of LaFayette where she shows no employment and her husband was recorded as automotive salesman. The 1940 census shows Frank Dodgen has returned to Langdale as a weaver and has a new wife. The Alabama Death and Burials Index 1881-1974 lists Gordy Dodgen as dying on 30 September 1936. Her obituary indicated she had been ill for 12 years. The Census does not indicate that she and her husband had children.



The second individual Tommie Snuggs (Thomas A. Snuggs) was enumerated in 1930 in Denver at the National Jewish Hospital, Ex Patients Tubercular Home as being a 30 year old patient. Fifty

individuals are listed in this single facility which does not contain Gordy Dodgen. His WWI draft registration states that he was a clerk in a hardware store on Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia in September of 1918. The card was subsequently changed to list his home as Langdale, Alabama. The 1920 census recorded Thomas as a wholesale grocer salesman living in Langdale. There is not a census record for his status in the decade of the 1920's. Find a Grave Index places Thomas A. Snuggs in the Fairmount Cemetery in Denver County, Denver, Colorado, after dying in 1931.

In using the ancestry.com newspaper search capability, searching for Tommie's obituary, I found the obituary of Otis his brother. In 1918 Tommie had listed Otis P. Snuggs as next of kin. The obituary states that only three weeks prior to the this date, the two brothers went to Colorado together to seek improvements in health. Otis was reported as single in the 1910 Census, a 22 year old young man working as a spooler in the textile mill. The 1920 Census lists Otis as a time keeper in a textile mill but he is not found through an electronic search of the 1930 Census. Otis and Tommie had a single sister, Nannie Pearl Dennis, with whom the boys lived in Langdale. She and her husband moved first to Arizona and then to, Texas, where she died in an El Paso sanitorium of pulmonary TB in 1936. Three siblings of the this Landale family died due to pulmonary tuberculosis.

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NEWS

DEATH OF MR. OTIS P. SNUGGS AT COLORADO SPRINGS

The many friends of the family were deeply grieved last Friday to learn that relatives had received a telesram announcing the death of Mr. Otis P. Snuggs in Colorado Springs, Col.

He had been in ill health for some time and three weeks ago, accompanied by his younger brother, Thomas, he went there in the hope that he might improve, but it was a hopeless quest.

He was a splendid christian gentleman, who numbered his friends by his acquaintances, was chairman of the board of Stewarts of the M. E. church South here, secretary of the Sunday school, a loyal W. O. W. All these duties he fulfilled cheerfully and efficiently, but it was in the home that his true nobility was shown, always patient, kind cheerful and self-sacrificing, only those in the home can ever know how truly great he was. The remains reached home Monday night. With a great concourse of friends and relatives present, the funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon. Rev. I. F. Hawkins, presiding elder of Roanoke District, Rev. J. P. Lancaster, missionary from Mexico and Rev. W. T. Holdridge, conducted the service. At the conclusion of the service the tired body was laid to rest under a mound of fragrant, beautiful flowers, mute testimony of the high esteem in which he was held.

Mr. Snuggs is survived by two brother, Curtis and Thomas, and two sisters, Mrs. J. T. Crowder and Mrs. F. D. Dennis, besides a number of other relatives who have the sympathy of hosts of friends in their bereavement.

When this short story began I envisioned writing to highlight Mr. Hagedorn public spiritedness and to describe the Jewish charity helping gentile members of the Langdale community. Additionally, the limited research on the lives of four individuals created a unexpected focus in the article. The research sadly reminds us of how common, damaging and deadly tuberculosis was in our early 20th century and pre- WW II communities. We are also reminded how late the curative treatments were discovered in our

lifetimes. Many of us in the older generation yet remember family, friends and neighbors stricken by the now most forgotten White Plague.



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