

THE VOICE

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

FLORIDA, THE FOURTEENTH COLONY *Presenter Mr. Mike Bunn*

Greetings. The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society would like to extend an invitation to the public to virtually attend our quarterly meeting on Zoom on Sunday, January 23rd, at 2:00 PM Central (3:00 PM Eastern). Our presenter will be Mr. Mike Bunn, a historian and author of several noteworthy books. His presentation concerns the history of Florida from the mid-18th Century up until the Adams-Onís Treaty made it a U.S. State in 1819.

Unlike our previous two quarterly meetings, which were in-seat at Point University, this meeting will be attended virtually on Zoom. If you are interested in attending this virtual meeting, email ccpowers02@gmail.com for the relevant Zoom information prior to 12:00 PM noon (CDT) on Sunday, January 23rd. You will then be sent the Zoom link (which you should simply be able to click on) and additional information (should you need it) and instructions. It would be best to log on 15 minutes before the presentation begins at 2:00 PM (Central).

Mr. Bunn has a very interesting presentation for this Sunday afternoon. The focus of his presentation is what we now know as the State of Florida. Most people know that Florida was once a Spanish colony prior to becoming a U.S. State. The city of St. Augustine is, in fact, the first

permanent European settlement in North America. What few people know, however, is that ownership of Florida changed hands several times between the 1740s and 1819, with the British taking possession. Under a brief period of British rule, Florida was divided up into two colonies: “British West Florida” and “British East Florida”. Many people may then wonder how “the Floridas” were left out of the American Revolution if they were “British Colonies”. Mr. Bunn’s presentation will certainly shed light on this interesting glimpse at our southernmost neighbors during the Revolutionary period (and whether or not they were really “left out” at all, or simply overlooked or even forgotten).

Much of the focus of Mr. Bunn’s presentation is the British colony of West Florida. This colony once stretched from the mighty Mississippi to the shallow bends of the Apalachicola and portions of what are now the states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. It is (arguably) the forgotten fourteenth colony of America’s Revolutionary era. The colony’s eventful years as a part of the British Empire form an important and compelling interlude in Gulf Coast history that has for too long been

overlooked for a host of reasons, including the fact that West Florida did not rebel against the British Government. Also, the colony has long been dismissed by many as a loyal but inconsequential fringe outpost, if even considered that at all. Nevertheless, the colony’s history showcases a tumultuous political scene featuring a halting attempt at instituting representative government; a host of bold and colorful characters; a compelling saga of struggle and perseverance in the pursuit of financial stability; and a dramatic series of battles on land and water which brought about the end of its days under the Union Jack. In *Fourteenth Colony*, historian Mike Bunn offers the first comprehensive history of the colony, introducing readers to the Gulf Coast’s remarkable British period and putting West Florida back in its rightful place on the map of Colonial America.

Mr. Bunn is a historian and author who has worked with several cultural heritage organizations in the Southeast. He currently serves as Director of Historic

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**THE CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY MEETING**
Sunday, January 23, 2022, 3:00 p.m. EDT (2:00 CDT)
VIRTUAL MEETING via Zoom

FLORIDA, THE FOURTEENTH COLONY ...CONTINUED

Blakeley State Park in Spanish Fort, Alabama. He is author or co-author of several books, including *Fourteenth Colony: The Forgotten Story of the Gulf South During America's Revolutionary Era* (the work that is the focus of our presentation). Other works by Mr. Bunn include:

*The Assault on Fort Blakeley:
The Thunder and Lightning of Battle*

*Early Alabama: An Illustrated Guide to the
Formative Years, 1798-1826*

*Alabama From Territory to Statehood:
An Alabama Heritage Bicentennial Collection*

*Well Worth Stopping to See: Antebellum Columbus,
Georgia Through the Eyes of Travelers*

Civil War Eufaula

*Battle for the Southern Frontier:
The Creek War and the War of 1812*

Images of America: The Lower Chattahoochee River.

If anyone would like to know more about any of these works, he has a website with much more pertinent information: www.mikebunn.net.

Mr. Bunn is editor of *Muscogiana*, the journal of the Muscogee County (Georgia) Genealogical Society. He is also Chair of the Baldwin County Historic Development Commission. Mike earned his undergraduate degree at Faulkner University and two masters degrees at the University of Alabama. Mike and his wife Tonya live in Daphne, Alabama with their daughter Zoey.

We hope that as many people as possible will be willing and able to join us for this very informative and interesting presentation on January 23rd. If anyone is interested in participating or needs further information, please contact our Program Chair at ccpowers02@gmail.com. Remember that the deadline for getting access to the Zoom link is 12:00 noon (Central time) on the Sunday of the presentation (two hours before it starts), January 23rd, 2022. —By Charlie Powers

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Malinda Powers

The first of any new year brings with it a promise of renewal amidst a backdrop of reflection. Since the advent of the pandemic in early 2020, and the ensuing challenges that have resulted, CVHS Board of Directors has been diligently trying to fulfill **our mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting our local and regional history**. From an outdoor program at the West Point riverside pavilion to a series of virtual programs to our most recent presentations at POINT University, we have been fortunate to continue hosting our quarterly programs. In addition, our membership base has remained strong throughout this ordeal. We

are always very grateful for your continued support! Several months ago, we learned that the Bradshaw Chambers County Library would no longer allow outside organizations-including CVHS- to use their facilities to host meetings. This was a complete surprise to us. The initial collections of the Cobb Memorial Archives were donated and curated by members of CVHS decades ago. Our predecessors originated the dream of an official archives to house their many and varied historical collections for the benefit of the regional public. And, thanks to the Cobb family and others, that dream was ultimately realized. For many

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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

Editor: Dr. Horace (Mac) Holderfield (holderfieldh112@msn.com)

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.

years, CVHS has regularly hosted quarterly public programs on local/regional history in the library's meeting rooms. In the more recent past, our organization donated \$2,000 to fund their initial computer projection system, as well as \$7,000 toward the purchase of a state-of-the-art microfilm printer. We have been grappling with this new situation for the past six months. We even considered legal action, but ultimately decided to drop any efforts to confront their decision. In the interim we are grateful to POINT University for hosting our most recent programs.

As we move forward, we will embrace diversity in our mode of programming— including in-person settings, virtual experiences, and even occasional special events. But our mission statement entails more than just programming alone! With the passage of time, historic structures and landmarks in our regional communities become more and more in peril. And, while we are not a direct-funding organization, we can provide leadership to motivate and encourage historic preservation efforts before we lose our last remaining tangible connections to our collective past. In addition, there is a strong likelihood that we'll be re-releasing one of our best-selling publications on local history. Moreover, we'll be creating more interactive opportunities on our website. Thank you for standing with us as we strive to uphold our very important mission of historic preservation!

*Places in Peril (right):
Sears Memorial Hall in Langdale
Community, Valley, AL*

HISTORIC SEARS MEMORIAL HALL IN PERIL

The following is reprinted from the City of Valley's website.

This Georgian style red-brick building, known as the Langdale Gym, was constructed beside Moore's Creek around 1929. It has entries at ground level for both its two stories. Its nine-over-nine ornate windows are complete with keystones.

Langdale Gym is the common name, but its proper name, "Sears Memorial Hall", was given to the structure in memory of Mr. Horace Sears of Boston, Massachusetts. He was the treasurer of West Point Manufacturing Company for 35 years. Mr. Sears bequeathed \$25,000 to the Langdale citizens which was used for the construction of this versatile building.

Langdale Gym has been the home for the community's recreation program, and at one time was a roller-skating rink and a 10-pin bowling lane on its lower floor. Over the years, many uses have been found for the gym. Retired group meetings, sports tournaments, school physical education activities, programs, club meetings, parties, and receptions have all used the facilities of Sears Hall at one time or another. Probably most memorable by the community's children was West Point Pepperell Mill's "Christmas Tree" at which toys and fruit/nut bags were given away as gifts.

The building is now owned by the Chambers County Board of Education and is part of the Lafayette Lanier School Complex. The building is connected to the school by an underground walkway that goes under US Highway 29.



SOCIAL HISTORY OF OUR REGION FROM THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES

From the Research of A. Stephen Johnson

We appreciate our former President, Stephen Johnson, continuing to search the old newspapers for information about our always changing society in the 19th century and sharing information with The Voice. It is good to have the opportunity to read the primary material. As he ploughs up incidental information for us, he makes good headway in finding information associated with his ancestors as they migrated into the Southeast.

This original newspaper text contains many misspellings and errors in grammar. Ed.

Alabama State Gazette (Cahaba, Alabama)

April 3, 1825. “ORDER Of the Arrangement and Procession for the reception of General LA FAYETTE.

The following gentlemen will act as Marshalls of the day—and direct the procession, &c. viz. David Crocheron, Colonel Johnson, Major Kennan.

The announcement of his arrival by a gun from the steam boat that conveys him, will be answered by two guns from the bluff; upon his landing from the steam boat a national salute of 13 guns will be discharged.

The volunteer corps of Cahawba Guards will receive the General at the landing with a general salute, and perform the escort.

A delegation of the committee of arrangements composed of the following named gentlemen, Messrs. T. Casey, J. Scott, U. G. Mitchell, T. H. Wiley, and S. Pickens, will wait on the General at the landing; and the residue of committee will assemble at the Arch upon the bluff, and there remain with Mr. Hitchcock, the person appointed to address and welcome him to the Seat of Government of our State.

The company of escort will form at the landing, and when the General, Governor, Suites, &c, shall have landed, the escort, preceded by the Band of Music from the steam boat, will march towards the Arch; and in approaching it they will open files to the right and left, and march on each side of the Arch, where, when half the company will have passed it they will halt, and there remain till after the address be delivered.

After the corps of escort and band of music the procession will form and move as follows:

A Marshall,

Committee of Arrangements,

The General attended by the Governor,

The Governor's Suite,

The Military and Civil Officers in his company,

The Gentlemen, Delegation, &c attending him on this way to Mobile.

Citizens and others will assemble at the Arch upon the bluff, and there, after the address, they will join the procession as it moves to the Arch in Vine-st. and to the State-House.

Carriages will await, upon the bluff, the pleasure of the General to ride to the next Arch in Vine-Street, erected near Mr. White's Hotel.

After the address, the corps of escort and procession will proceed to the next Arch, and there form as before: the files opening and facing inwards, admitting the General to pass under the Arch; and then he will be addressed by the Intendant and congratulated by him by the citizens of the Town.

After the latter address, the corps of escort will proceed to the State House and form open files at the door; the General preceded by some little girls strewing his path with flowers; attended by the Governor, his son, suite, &c. will proceed to the State-House, where, when the procession has entered the escort will *feu de joie*, and be dismissed.

In the Representative Hall, which is fitted up as a Drawing Room, the General will receive company, and the respects of those wishing a personal introduction to him. Carriages will await at the door to convey him to Mr. White's Hotel, when he will be waited on to dine. At the dinner 13 toasts will be given, and a cannon fired after each. After dining and being reconveyed to the State-House, he will be waited on by a delegation from Halo Lodge, with an invitation to spend part of the evening, and partake supper at the Lodge room. If assented to, carriages at the hour appointed will await his conveyance. After his reply to the Masonic Delegation, he will be shown his private audience room and others fitted up for his reception--- and there at his pleasure and leisure repose until the time of going to the Lodge. From the Lodge, he will be conveyed to the Ball where he, when he wishes to retire a committee will wait on him with carriages to his lodgings.

The day being one of joy and festivity, a Barbecue will be prepared, and the partakers will have the pleasure of the General's presence for a few minutes to receive and give a toast with them.

Tickets for the Dinner and Ball, may be had at the Bar of Mr. White's Hotel.

The events described did take place as planned. The General arrived at Cahawba on the sixth day of his eight day tour across the frontier lands of the new state of Alabama. From Georgia he crossed the Chattahoochee near Fort Mitchell, traveled the Federal Road by carriage to Montgomery and traveled by steam boat Selma and on to the Capitol of Alabama at Cahawba. Note the importance of meeting with the Masonic delegation. Both Troup and Chambers counties have cities, county seats named in honor of General La Fayette. His 1825 visit to Alabama will be celebrated in 2025.

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Daily Savannah Republican. (Savannah, Ga.)
May 20, 1836. **The Creek Indians.** From *Republican Herald*—Extra, May 16.

COLUMBUS, Monday, May 16—Noon. In the Creek nation, at this moment, the scenes of Florida are being acted over. The wild savage, frenzied by the smell of blood in his nostrils, is prowling the wilderness skulking around plantations, leveling the deadly rifle and the breast of the white man, scalping the unoffending wife and mother and beheading the innocent and unsuspecting babe! We have heard of some cases which make the blood chill in our veins: a house in which lived a man, his wife, and six children, was suddenly surrounded by a savage band, who entered the peaceful domicile, inhumanly murdered every soul, securing the scalps of all, and severing each child's head from its body! The house of a Mr. Colton was attacked and himself butchered without a moment's warning, or the least opportunity for resistance. We believe, in all, from forty to fifty murders have been committed, besides numbers of negroes on plantations: farm houses, cotton gins, out-houses, corncribs and all of value swept away from the honest and industrious Planter, who was laudably striving to locate himself comfortably for life, and provide for his children. The hostile Indians have been found as low down the river as Irvington (Eufaula), and as high up as the Federal road or about 30 miles above that point.

The following towns and tribes of Indians are without a doubt hostile: a part of the Uchees, the Hitchaties, etc., is full of ill feeling towards the white people and determined on revenge. Old Neah-Micco, the head of the Creek Nation, must be considered as hostile, having been sent for several different times, to come in and hold a friendly talk—and as often refusing to comply with the request. Col. Crowell has been acquainted with this old Chief for a series of years, and they have been on terms of strict friendship. Neah-Mathico refused to come in to Crowell, and sent him word that “the young men of his nation were bent on war.”

The Indians have acted with a great deal of boldness thus far in this war. Notwithstanding Fort Mitchael is well defended and picketed in the most secure and substantial manner, yet one night last week, the hostile fire approached within thirty to fifty yards of the pickets, entered the hospital and carried off whatever they pleased. It was not deemed prudent, of course, for the officers or soldiers to leave the fortifications. Many friendly Indians have fled for safety to Fort Mitchell, and the pickets are now full to overflowing.

On Saturday night, the mail from Montgomery to this place, was attacked about 20 miles distance from here: a driver on that route was riding along the road on horseback, about 50 yards ahead of the stage, when he was fired upon by, as he supposed, about 30 Indians, and from what he could discover he thought must have been about 100 in the gang who, wonderful to relate, all missed their mark! His horse taking fright threw him and he thereby made his escape to the swamp. Soon after, he heard firing behind, and when he reached the next stagestand, the horses had arrived there

without the stage, having about them some remains of the harness. Mr. Adams, an agent who was in the stage made his escape; the stage upset, which enabled him to leap into the bushes, and thereby saved his life.

A driver who was on the Box (Mr. Green) and Mr. Russell, who was inside, it is supposed, were killed. There were nineteen horses in company belonging to the stage line out of which three have been recovered and they were pierced with several bullets.

Not content with their foul deeds on “terra firma,” the savages have approached to the brink of the Chattahoochee, and made their death marks on board of our Steamboat. The Hyperion, Capt. Smyth, while ascending our river on yesterday, was fired upon by the Indians, some 15 or 20 in number, who had stationed themselves on the plantation of the Messrs. Abercrombies, about eight miles below this place. Eight rifles were discharged in quick succession, and at the first fire, Mr. Brockway, the first pilot on the Hyperion, who was standing on the boiler deck, fell dead, being shot in the throat; one of the pilots, Mr. Smith, was badly wounded, and four other individuals, whose names we have not learned. The boat was run ashore, and the passengers fled from her in terror and dismay.

From the Standard of Union, Milledge, May 17.
MORE INDIAN MURDERS!!

An express from Maj. Gen. Baily, reached the Governor, about 12:00 o'clock yesterday, detailing a number of murders and outrages committed upon the citizens of Alabama, from which we have favored with the following extract:

La Frange Troup City, May 13th, 1836

His Excellency Wm. Schley:

Sir—The part which was sent out the day before yesterday from West Point, to ascertain the facts in relation to the reported murders by the Indians, returned yesterday evening, after having found and buried the bodies of eight persons mainly women and children that were killed, scalped, otherwise inhumanly mangled near the plantation of Mr. Brittain Harris about 20 south-west from West Point.

The citizens of this town sent an express to me last night between midnight and the day, informing me of these facts, and representing their own situation to be a very unpleasant one—their inhabitants are much alarmed and their town over crowded with refugees from the Indian country. They have implored me to give them aid, and I have ventured to anticipate your Excellency's order by making a requisition on the Col. of the 17th Regiment, for two companies, one of them the Beat Company at West Point, the other, Capt. Glaize's company of cavalry, which will be assembled with all possible speed at West Point, and there await your orders.

If it is found to be necessary, I shall add to this force, and perhaps establish on the dry line higher up; as yet, I have heard of no hostile movements in that quarter.

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SOCIAL HISTORY OF OUR REGION FROM THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES ...CONTINUED

The Atlanta Weekly Intelligencer (Atlanta, Ga.)

November 4, 1854.

The Chambers, Ala., *Tribune* of Friday comes to us dressed in mourning for the death of Matthew Phillips, who died in LaFayette, Chambers county, Ala., on Saturday 21st inst. Col. Phillips was born in Amherst county, Va., in 1796. He came with his parents to Wilkes in this State, where he entered into the practice of the law. From thence to Jasper, which county he frequently represented in the Legislature. In 1832 he moved to LaFayette, Ala., where he continued to reside until his death.

The Daily Sun (Columbus, Ga.)

May 6, 1856. **Southern Military Academy**, Fredonia, Chambers County, Ala. G. F. Hill, Esq., Principal and Proprietor,

Maj. N. W. Armstrong, Graduate of the State Military Academy, South Carolina, Dr. Putnam & Cad. J. S. Barker, A. B., Assistants

The Fourth Scholastic Year of this Academy commenced on Monday, January 15, 1855, and will continue in session during forty weeks.

As this Academy received very liberal assistance from the State at the last session of the Legislature, there will be no charge for tuition. On entering the Institution, an initiation fee of twenty dollars will be required of each cadet, except such as come under the following provisions, vis:

Each county in the State of Alabama is entitled to send one Cadet free of charge. Such Cadet to be selected by the Judge of Probate and County Commissioners from such men are talented, deserving, and of good moral character. Orphans should receive the preference.

COURSE OF STUDIES

Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, and History.

Algebra, Geometry: Plain, Descriptive and Analytical Trigonometry, Calculus, Shadows and Perspective, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Chemistry, Conveyancing, Constitutional Law, Ancient Languages; French, Civil and Military Engineering, Surveying, Mechanics and Astronomy.

Tactics will be taught as such times as not to interfere with the regular studies.

The discipline will be enforced.

UNIFORM

Dress Coat of Gray Cadet Cloth, standing collar, trimmed with convex metallic buttons and sixteenth-inch black cloth, according to the usual style; Pants of Gray Cloth, with black stripe on outer seam one and an eighth inches in width—to be worn till the first of May.

White Pants from 1st May till September.

Uniform is not to be worn except on general parades and such special occasions as the Military Instructor may direct.

The Academy Buildings are large and well arranged, and the location is eminently healthy.

Board can be procured from eight to ten dollars a month.

The principal will so direct the education of his pupils as, if possible, to make them practical and useful men.

The experience and qualifications of the instructors will entitle this Instruction, in a high degree, to public confidence.

F. A. Zachary, Secretary of the Board of Visitors

The Daily Sun (Columbus, Ga.)

November 17, 1860.

“\$2,000 Reward! My father, Samuel Jeter, Esq., residing in Chambers county, Alabama, was waylaid and shot on Wednesday Evening, the 14th inst., in said county, near the residence of James Taylor. His position at the time he was shot, having stopped his horse at a creek to drink, and the fact that there was a cover or blind some thirty-five steps from the ford of the creek, from which he was shot, leads irresistibly to the conclusion that this act was premeditated, deliberate and malicious. I will pay a reward of two thousand dollars for the apprehension of the perpetrator, if a white man, with sufficient evidence to convict him.

I will pay a reward of five hundred dollars for the apprehension and delivery to the common Jail of Chambers county, of **William Taylor**, an outlaw from justice, and against whom the Grand Jury of Chambers county, recently found a true bill for an assault upon my father, Samuel Jeter, at LaFayette in September last.

Said William Taylor is about twenty-seven years of age, of dark complexion, black hair, has usually worn large whiskers, about six feet high and inclined to stoop in his shoulders.

R. C. Jeter, Russell County, Ala. November 17, 1860”



CVHS MEMBERSHIPS FOR YEAR 2021

LIFETIME

Stephen Johnson
Richard H. Monk, Jr.
Virginia Weldon
Mr. George C. Zachry, Sr.

HONORARY

Martha Lee Gatlin
Mary Hamilton
Beverly Perryman
Sherrie Waller Sorrell

BENEFACTOR

Gerald and Clare Andrews
Dr. Jonathan Daily
Edmund and Sandra Glover
Dr. H. M. and Linda Holderfield

PATRON

Randall Alan
Marie J. Avant
John and Lee Barker
Henry and Judy Bledsoe
Rea S. and Debra Cark
Dr. Robert and Jenny Copeland
Larry B. Duncan
Col. (Ret.) Gwen Gibson
Bruce and Rosa Alice Grey
Bert Hitchcock
Elizabeth W. Lanier
Sanford M. Martin
J. C. and Janice McGinty, Jr.
Morris and Sarah J. Plott
Malinda C. Powers
Marshall and Ellen Sapp
Hunter and Brenda Searcy

William B. Sikes
Jan and Lea Simmons
Judge and Mrs. William Smith
Southern Research
Col. M. Reid Wallis
Helen F and Griggs Zachry, III
Jane T. Upshaw
Jason Williams

FRIEND

Julia Alexander
Michael and Markle Andrews
Deborah Cook
Jenny Cummins
Mendl W. Djunaidy
Kirby Elder
Donald Flynn
Brenda K. and William Howell
Roy McClendon
James F. Patterson
John E. Thrasher III
Daniel G. Smith

INDIVIDUAL

Brenda Adams
Anne K. Alsobrook
Mary Alsobrook
Danny Lee Anglin
Mary Helen Benford
Glenda Brack
Susie Britt
Sandra Burney
Don Clark
Barbara Clifton
Eugene Covington
Rebecca Crutchfield

Mrs. Adelle Curtis
Roger Davis
Cecelia Dillard
Rachel Dobson
Cherry Duve
Dr. Frank Farmer
Dr. Richard Freeman
Dr. Alex Garrett
Emily Garrett
Martha Lee Gatlin
Bill Gilbert
Jane L. Gordon
Ann Holderfield
Don Hudson
Charlotte Kennedy
Michael M. King
Eddie Lanier
Marie Leake
Paulette Leavins
Richard Ledyard
Dr. Taylor Littleton
Felicia McCarty
Suzanne Newberry
Fay Newton
Laure Stephens Patterson
Tony Peregoy
Charles C. Powers
Nanci Hendrix Rieder
Sharon Rogers
Norman Satterwhite
Mrs. Bertha Schroeder
Lorraine Seeby
Gerry Slaughter
Mary Lou Smith
Richard Stevenson
Marilyn Stokes

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2021 MEMBERSHIPS ...CONTINUED

Walter Terry
Cassandra Thomas
Ida Vollenweider
James "Lee" Weaver
Harrison Williams
Barbara T. Wingo
Carole Wood

INDIVIDUAL PLUS 1

Denson and Phyllis Blackston
Jerry and Mac Bryant
Wayne Bryan
Laurie and Phillip Coderre
Capt. And Mrs. Charles T.
Creekman, Jr.
Sybil and Charla Crowder
John and Susan Deloach
Mr. and Mrs. J. Newell Floyd
Curtis and Vicki Ford
William and Virginia Hays
David and Angela Hollis
Jim and Susan Hudson
Bobby and Nita Johnson

Richard and Virginia Lee
Bob and Mary Lowe
Richard and Gail McCullers
Early and Mary McKnight
Dr. Charles and Peggy Mitchell
Barbara and Jason Moore
Julia and Earl Norton
Beverly and Richard Perryman
Ralph and Cathy Pitts
Frank and Susan Ponder
Dianne and Holly Reese
George and Terri Slade
Monroe and Leslie Smith
Joe and Debbie Thompson
Michael and Mary Susan
Underwood
Billy and Barbara Williams
Christine and Kerry Williams

COMPLEMENTARY

Cobb Archives
Ala. Dept. Archives and History
University of Ala. Library

Museum of East Alabama
Auburn University Library Archives
University of Ga. Library
Roanoke City Library
Georgia Visitor Center
The Tallapoosa Ranger
Alabama Welcome Center
Mr. Wayne Clark, Times-News
Hawkes Library
Robin Watson
Lanett City Hall
Opelika City Library
Greater Valley Chamber of
Commerce
City of West Point
Clay County Historical Society
Heard County Historical Society
Lee County Historical Society
Old Darlington Chapter Society
Troup County Archives
Valley Preservation Society
Valley City Hall



FROM THE BOARD

The Board of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society wishes to express appreciation of the membership for the loyal and generous support of the Society. Over the years, the membership numbers have remained stable. Efforts to increase membership have offset our natural losses. Maintaining membership can be a struggle for some historical societies. We always need new members so please help us in finding them. It is unfortunate that the zeal for learning our history and understanding our past does not motivate many of us to become active in historical organizations until we are past middle age. Help us find the young members!

THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH (IGHR) is an annual event sponsored by the Georgia Genealogical Society. It consists of a week-long course in one of 13 available courses in various areas of genealogical research education. In 2022 the event is again being held by Zoom, which makes it more convenient and less expensive. Registration begins on Saturday, March 19, and the IGHR itself runs from Sunday, July 24 through Friday July 29. You can choose any one of 13 courses, but if you're a beginning genealogical researcher, the recommended course is course # 1, Methods and Sources. For full information visit the website, <https://ighr.gagensociety.org>.

TIMES OF SOPHISTICATION AS REVEALED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

by H. M. Holderfield



Hear
this unique TEST of
Edison's history-making phonograph

Do you want your own proof of the marvelous art of Edison's new phonograph—the phonograph that achieved such a dramatic triumph at Albany, when, on November 25th, it perfectly matched Mario Laurenti's voice in a test before 6,000 teachers?

Let us give you the Realism Test. Takes only 5 minutes. A delightful experiment. It determines whether you experience the same emotions in listening to the New Edison as when you hear a human artist.

The NEW EDISON
"The Phonograph with a Soul"

The instrument, with which Mr. Edison developed the RE-CREATION of music, cost him three million dollars for research work.

This phonograph, the original Official Laboratory Model, and the duplicates of this original that Mr. Edison makes, are the only musical instruments which compete with the human voice.

Edison's faith in his Official Laboratory Model is so complete that he dares such drastic tests as that given in Albany before 6,000 teachers, principals and officials of the New York State public schools. He had the New Edison match its RE-CREATION of Mario Laurenti's voice against Laurenti's living voice. The human ear found itself unable to find any difference between the two voices.

Come in and experience the Realism Test.

You can buy your New Edison on the Budget Plan—a real thrift idea. Ask us about it.

Lee Heyman & Co

**Last Tuesday's Audience
Mystified by Phonograph**



Hears Famous Soprano

Compare Voice with RE-CREATION by Edison's New Phonograph—Could not tell the two apart.

GLADYS RICE, the popular soprano, gave an extraordinary recital at the West Point Auditorium last night.

Miss Rice walked on to the stage and stood beside a stately cabinet. She began to sing "Forever is a Long, Long Time." The audience immediately yielded to the spell of her beautiful voice. Then suddenly there was a stir—a subdued murmur of surprise—and a perplexed rubbing of eyes. The voice continued to fill the auditorium with undiminished sweetness—your ears were proof of that—but her lips had become absolutely silent—your eyes told you that.

What wizardry was this? It was the test of direct comparison with the living artist, which Thomas A. Edison has developed to demonstrate that the Official Laboratory Model of his new phonograph will sing any song exactly as it was sung by the artist, and that his RE-CREATION of a singer's voice, as it comes from his wonderful new phonograph, positively cannot be distinguished from the singers actual voice, when both are heard in direct comparison.

Miss Rice made repeated comparisons—always with the same result. It was truly wonderful. This master achievement of the great wizard, Edison, marks a new epoch in music.

The NEW EDISON
"The Phonograph With a Soul"

You can have a duplicate of the wonderful instrument used at West Point Auditorium and, if you act quickly, we can furnish you with an engraved certificate (signed by Miss Rice) certifying that it is an exact duplicate in tonal quality of the instrument she used in her amazing comparison; also that it will sustain precisely the same test.

We have ten of the famous Official Laboratory Models and Miss Rice has certified every one of them. Come to our store at once and ask to see and hear the Official Laboratory Models on which Miss Rice has issued her Certificates of Authenticity.

Lee Heyman & Co.
The Best Point in West Point.

The 1920's were a special time in our history. The years following The Great War were years of great expectations. Farm and industrial production was up; consumption was up. New technologies were rapidly being promoted to the consumer. Everyone wanted electricity, automobiles, telephones, radios, tailor made clothes, etc. Farmers expanded their cropland; industries expanded infrastructure. Consumer credit expanded along with the great expectations of perpetual economic growth. The great expectations ended in 1929. As we all know the Great Depression arrived on our door step.

continued on next page

TIMES OF SOPHISTICATION AS REVEALED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ...CONTINUED

The era of the 20's has many interesting developments to study. One cultural item is the emerging art of the national merchandizing of products. One of those wonderful new constantly improving products desired by the rising middle class, was the phonograph. People were becoming music crazy, wanting to hear new sounds in dance, blues, spiritual, ballads, jazz, etc. By the 1920's two men dominated the production of phonograph machines, Thomas Alva Edison the great inventor and E. R. Johnson the inventor, founder and President of the Victor Talking Machine Company. These men and their companies were in perpetual warfare over patent infringements, striving to dominate the national market.

The local newspapers show us Mr. Edison's strategy for increasing the sales of his machines and his 80 rpm records. He was conservative, old fashioned in his fireside music taste, but he was committed to the production of culturally enriching music on his records: opera music, orchestral music, choral music, etc. In the 1920's he employed classical musicians, opera singers to travel by rail across the nation to present programs of music and demonstrate that his acoustic machine and its recordings were indistinguishable live presentation. Mr. Edison promoted a sophisticated performance for a sophisticated audience, an audience sufficiently wealthy to purchase his expensive machines.

Mr. Edison's program was presented at least twice in West Point and once in Roanoke and Opelika. LaFayette did not get a visit but the *LaFayette Sun* did advertise the Opelika program hosted by Mrs. Frieda

Hempel, an opera star. Looking at the newspaper advertisements above, we see that the local merchant sponsoring Edison's program is Lee Heyman, a member of one of the most cultured families in West Point. The two advertisements above are from April 21, 1920, and March 18, 1920, published in *The West Point News*.

Immediately following the musical presentation, an article would appear in the local paper extolling the artists and the machine. On the following page are the two items from March 18, 1926, and April 1, 1926,

VAUDETTE

Two Days THURSDAY **April 22, 23** FRIDAY

The Most Unusual Photoplay Ever Produced

"Are You Legally Married?"

WITH A TREMENDOUS CAST INCLUDING

LEW CODY, *'The He Vampire'*, **ROSEMARY THEBE**

The Church	Said They Were,
He	Believed They Were
She	"Knew" They Were
And The Baby	Took It For Granted

And The Law Says "No"

A Legal Fact No Nudity, Sex Problem, War,
A Moral Blunder Vampires

The Pictorial Sensation Of The Season

Children 20 cents TRY TO GET IN Adults 35 cents

Coming Two Days Next Week Thurs. and Fri.
April 29th and 30th

NORMA TALMADGE
In Her Most Wonderful Production Of All Time

"A DAUGHTER OF TWO WORLDS"

Specially Selected Photo-play For Confederate Memorial Day

Monday, April 26th

MAJ. ROBERT WARWICK
In The Most Successful Play Of The American Stage

"SECRET SERVICE"

A Thrilling Story of Love And Daring Deeds In The Days of The Civil War, With An All-Star Cast That Looks Like The Movies On Parade

Wanda Hawley	Theodore Roberts
Irving Cummings	Kid McCoy
Raymond Hatton	Elythe Chapman

Confederate Veterans Free

A Paramount Arcraft Special
Tuesday, April 27th

A First National Attraction

KATHERINE MACDONALD
Is a Kissless Bride Of Hate In The Romance of The Strangest Marriage On Record In

"The Thunderbolt"

On Their Wedding Night He Said--"You Shall Never Be a Mother, Never Know The Touch of a Baby's Hand"

Only One Day Try To Get In

The West Point News describing and evaluating a program. At the conclusion of the decade Mr. Edison's machines and his unique Diamond Disc phonographs failed as a commercial endeavor. Although the Victor corporation's technology became the standard for the future, Victor morphed into the Radio Corporation of America. Contrast Mr. Edison's program with the above local movie card in 1920.

continued on next page



NEXT THURSDAY, MARCH 25TH

GLEN ELLISON

Assisted by

ALTA HILL

Glen Ellison, famous for his voice the country over, will appear in a special selected program.

This appearance of the famous Scotch baritone constitutes the musical event of the season. The assisting artist is Alta Hill, pianist.

What makes this concert of more than usual importance, are several numbers in which Mr. Ellison will compare his voice with its Re-Creation by Mr. Edison's new phonograph.

Thursday Night March 25th

CITY AUDITORIUM

At 8:15 P. M.

We have arranged that a number of West Point and Chattahoochee Valley people may have special complimentary invitations. Call, write, or telephone for them. Only a few reservations remain. They will be issued in order of application.

LEE HEYMAN & CO.

West Point, Georgia

Music Lovers Enjoy Fine Program

The enthusiastic music lovers who braved the elements last Thursday night were more than repaid by the splendid program of Mr. Glen Ellison and Miss Alta Hill.

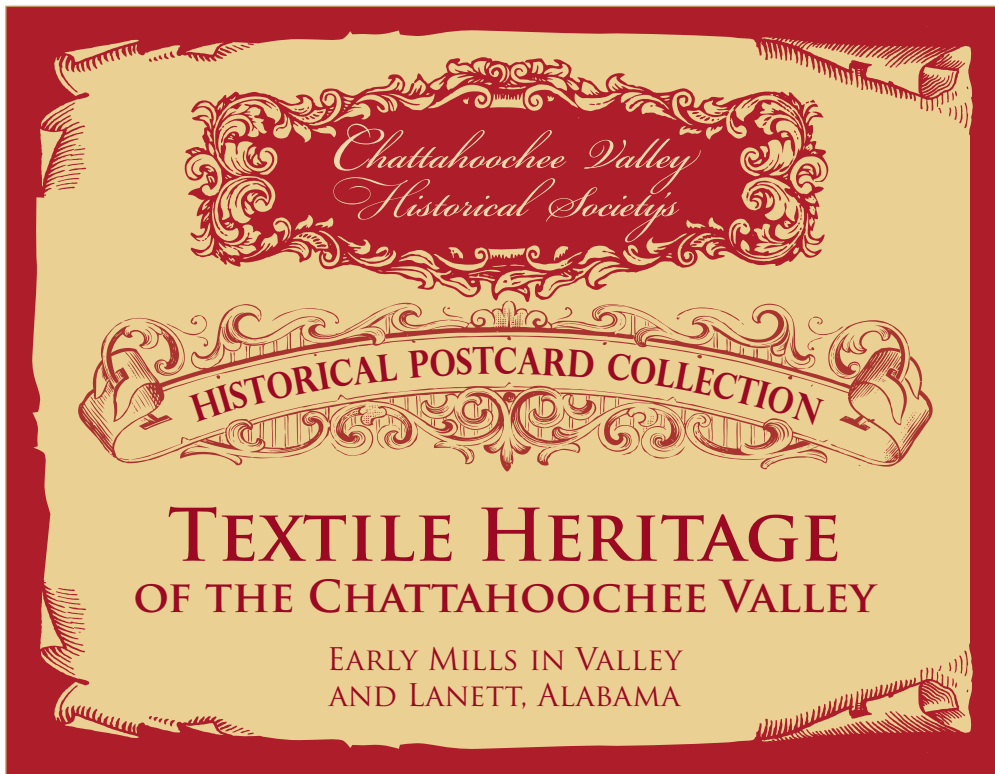
Mr. Edison's latest improvement on the Phonograph which increases the volume of the sound to three times of the former reproductions made a profound impression. It was the first demonstration of this new invention and owners of Edison phonographs were delighted with the news that the improvement could be attached to their present instruments.

Mr. Ellison's rich, warm baritone was ideally suited to the tuneful Scotch melodies he contributed to the program. And whether listening to the voice of Mr. Ellison, himself, or its wonderful reproduction on the phonograph, the audience was equally thrilled. At times, Mr. Ellison paused and the New Edison carried on the melody so perfectly that it was impossible to distinguish one from the other, without watching the artist closely.

The piano selections of Miss Alta Hill and the charming personality of this young artist added much to the enjoyment of the occasion. Miss Hill made similar tests with the phonograph with the same miraculous result.

There must have been a slight difference in volume when the artists stopped singing or playing but it was not noticeable for the tone which came from the cabinet round and luscious with all the vibrant, pulsating quality of that which came directly from Mr. Ellison's throat and the instrument of the gifted pianist. It was only by watching the singer's lips or the hands of Miss Hill that one could be sure when they sang or played and when they did not.

The audience were unanimous in pronouncing the recital one of the most delightful entertainments ever witnessed in West Point and were loud in their praises of Mr. Edison and his local representatives, Lee Heyman & Co., for such an enjoyable evening.



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Textile Heritage of the
Chattahoochee Valley
Early Mills in Valley and
Lanett, Alabama.

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