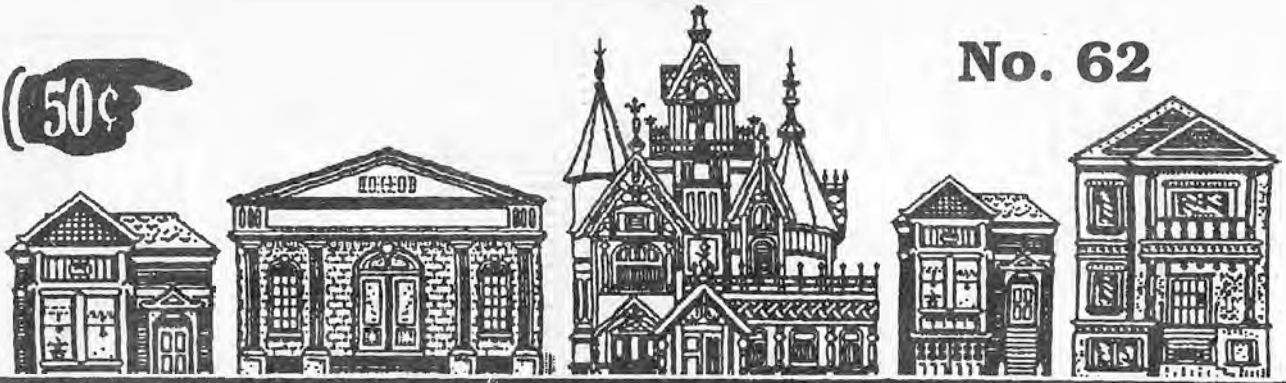


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No. 62



Old Huntsville

A Time For Justice

by Fred Simpson

In the fall of 1930, an angry mob surrounded the city jail for the second time in as many days, demanding "instant justice" for the murderer of H.E. Ross. But Sheriff Frank Riddick knew something the crowd didn't: the wrong man had been arrested.



Sheriff Frank Riddick

A TIME FOR JUSTICE

by Fred Simpson

There was a hint of a chill in the air on the night of Sept. 28, 1930. Despite the late hour, Lonnie Simmons was having trouble sleeping. He had visited an automobile dealer that afternoon and now he was debating on whether or not he could afford the payments for a new car.

Abruptly, thoughts of a new car were put out of his mind by what sounded like gunshots coming from a neighbor's house. Quickly grabbing a robe, Simmons ran to the front porch just in time to see a car traveling down Holmes Avenue in the direction of town.

"Must have been a backfire," thought Simmons as he turned to go back to bed. Suddenly the night air was torn by the loud piercing scream of someone calling for help.

Minutes later, the body of H.E. Ross was discovered lying in a pool of blood in his home at 302 West Clinton Street. He had been shot twice at close range, once in the chest and once in the head. The latter shot had torn away much of his skull and splattered blood all over the walls and ceilings. Lying a few feet away was his wife.

Mrs. Ross been shot in the leg and was almost incoherent from shock.

Sheriff Frank Riddick was in bed when he received the call. After hastily getting dressed he drove to the hospital where the

victims had been taken. Mrs. Ross said her husband had gotten out of bed to get a drink of water when he was surprised by a burglar. The burglar then killed her husband and shot her in the leg before fleeing. At first she described the burglar as a black man, dressed in a dark suit and of medium height. Intense questioning by Riddick, however, revealed that Mrs. Ross never actually got a good look at the person. "His hair kind of looked like that of a black man," though she also admitted the suspect was wearing a hat that covered most of his head.

The hat, dropped by the assailant as he fled, was the only physical evidence left at the murder scene.

Bloodhounds, trained to track fugitives, were quickly dispatched to the crime scene. After wandering around for a few minutes, confused by the large crowd that had gathered, the dogs picked up two trails. One reached a dead end at the train depot while the other one led to the fair grounds.

Sheriff Riddick immediately contacted law enforcement officers in Decatur and Birmingham to be on the lookout for a man, possibly black, who might have boarded the train in Huntsville.

Mr. H.E. Ross had been a well respected businessman in Huntsville and as word of his murder spread, the already fragile tensions between the black and white population began to boil.

Several months earlier, Dr. Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan had appeared in Huntsville and his lecture on "White Protestantism" had drawn a crowd of over a thousand. In another incident, 500 Klansmen, dressed in full



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regalia, paraded through downtown in a procession of 150 cars. As one old-timer remembered, "Huntsville was just waiting to explode."

Increasing tensions even more were the articles that *The Huntsville Daily Times* had printed calling the culprit, "a negro beast" and a "black night marauder."

The morning after the murder a large and angry crowd gathered in front of city hall demanding to know the results of the police investigation. As Judge Speake tried to quiet the crowd, word was received that a suspect was in custody at the county jail.

Decatur authorities had arrested George Henderson, a black man from Athens. Police officers had seen Henderson get off the Huntsville train in Decatur and after being taken into custody, a large sum of money was found in his possession. More importantly, he had no alibi for the previous night.

As word of Henderson's arrival spread, a mob of over 500 people had surrounded the jail. Some people were carrying ropes and many of the crowd were waving guns in a threatening manner, vowing to see "justice done."

Meanwhile, inside the jail, Sheriff Riddick was patiently questioning Henderson. Within minutes Riddick was able to prove Henderson was just an illiterate bootlegger who had nothing to do with the crime. He had simply been in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Walking outside to address the crowd, Riddick said, "Men you may as well go on home. This man did not kill Ross."

There was absolute silence for a few seconds. Finally one man cried, "Give us the nigger! We'll see if he's telling the truth!"

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This seemed to inflame the crowd who then began to shout threatening oaths.

Once again Riddick explained to the mob that the man in custody was not guilty.

"Liar," exclaimed one man standing next to the sheriff. "You're a damn liar!"

Riddick, a man of few words, responded by hitting the man with the butt of his pistol. The man went to the hospital and Riddick went back inside the jail.

Once inside, and noticing Henderson still sitting there, the sheriff told him he could leave; he was not going to be charged.

Robinson, after going to the window and looking at the blood-thirsty mob outside, told Riddick, "Sheriff, if it's all the

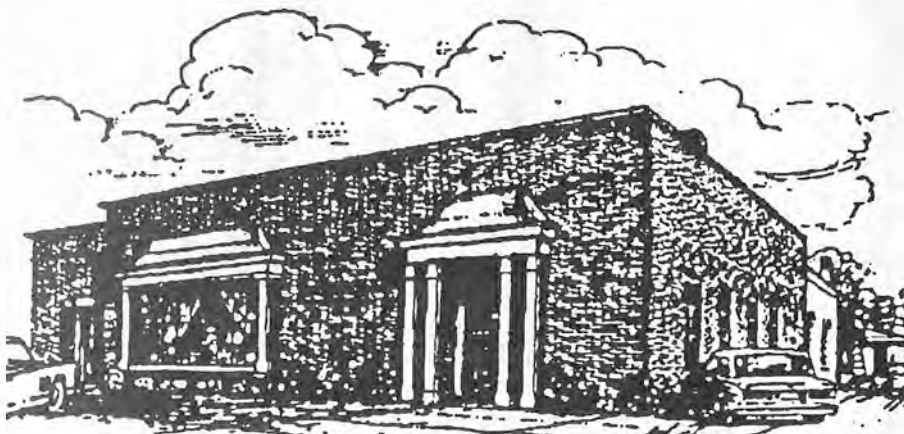
same to you, I think I'll just stay inside the jail for a few days!"

However humorous the situation inside the jail was, outside it was turning into a riot. Rocks were being thrown at the jail and already several attempts had been made to force entry. Several of the mob were reported to have gone in search of dynamite. Riddick had armed every available deputy with shotguns and any moment they expected to have to open fire.

Fortunately, just as in the days of the Wild West, the cavalry came to the rescue; this time under the guise of Company A of the national guard, commanded by Captain Edwin Jones. Earlier in the day Judge Speake had notified the Govern-

nor of the unrest in Huntsville and requested the Guard be activated and Huntsville be placed under martial law.

The soldiers quickly moved into position around the jail. Now the mob turned their anger toward the guardsmen. After two of the soldiers were slightly injured by thrown objects, Captain Jones ordered a volley of shots to be fired over the crowd's heads. Thus gaining the mob's attention, Jones ordered the soldiers to arrest six of the leaders who were then promptly placed



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in jail. By midnight the crowd had left and the soldiers were lodged for the night in the Armstrong Stables, adjacent to the jail.

With peace restored, Riddick began a careful investigation of the murder. It was common knowledge that Mr. Ross, the owner of a prosperous dry cleaning business, carried a large sum of cash home with him every Saturday night. There were no signs of forceful entrance to the home, and the light bulb in the hallway had been carefully unscrewed part way so it could not be turned on. Even more puzzling was the discovery that the telephone wires had been cut, but in a manner that was not easily detectable. The only actual evidence found was the hat the murderer had left behind. In Sheriff Riddick's long career, this was the most baffling case he had ever seen.

Early the following morning, Oct. 2, word spread like wildfire throughout town that a man by the name of Jack Powell had been arrested in Birmingham and was being brought back to Huntsville. Powell was a carnival worker with the fair that had been in town the week Ross was murdered. He had been seen loitering around the dry cleaning establishment and had supposedly asked questions about where Ross lived. The fact that one of the bloodhound's trails led to the fairgrounds was also talked about and debated by the mob that once again began forming outside the jail.

Though the crowd was not quite as large as it had been the day before, its intentions were just as deadly. Prominent by their presence were several Ku Kluxers, in full robes, who

seemed to be leading the chorus of shouts demanding the accused be turned over to the mob.

After a few preliminary questions, Sheriff Riddick quickly ruled Powell out as a suspect. Realizing a mob had once again formed around the jail, Riddick went outside to ask the crowd to disperse.

"Men," he said, "you may as well go on home. This man's innocent. When we find the guilty one you'll know about it."

Angry rumblings began coming from the crowd. Powell was guilty, they shouted, as they began pushing and shoving to gain entrance to the jail.

The man who had called the sheriff a liar the day before was once again at the front of the crowd, only this time his head was wrapped in white bandages. As he made eye contact with the sheriff, he saw Riddick's hand drop to his pistol butt. The man quickly, and wisely, decided to leave the scene, carrying a large part of the crowd with him. The national guard quickly broke up the rest of the mob.

Powell too, after seeing the mob, chose to remain in jail.

By this time almost everyone in Huntsville had chosen sides as to whom the guilty party was. Regardless of Sheriff Riddick's opinion, most still believed Henderson, the first man arrested was guilty. Others believed Powell was the murderer. "Just look at the evidence," they all said.

In between mobs, Sheriff Riddick continued his investigation. By this time he had drawn certain conclusions about the case. The murder was evidently a robbery attempt by someone who knew that Ross kept a large sum of money at home on weekends. The person also was familiar with the house and had carefully planned the crime as evidenced by the cut telephone wires and the unscrewed light bulb. Also, with no signs of forceful entry, the person must have had access to the house.

Riddick's investigation came to a screeching halt the next morning when authorities in Decatur announced they had arrested and charged a man and woman for the murder. The police had been tipped off by an anonymous letter.

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In a scene all too familiar by now, a mob, much smaller this time, gathered at the jail, calling for blood. As he had done in the past, Riddick carefully questioned the suspects and within minutes established their innocence. Next he turned his attention to the unruly mob outside the jail.

This time Riddick was not as tactful as he had been before. Standing in front of the crowd, with disgust showing on his face, he simply ordered, "Go home right now, before I arrest every damn one of you!" When the mob began protesting, Riddick grabbed the two closest to him, marched them inside the jail and locked them up.

The rest of the mob departed peacefully.

A few hours later the police chief in Chattanooga, Tenn., telephoned. He had arrested the murderer and had him lodged in jail, waiting for transport to Huntsville. Riddick asked to speak to the suspect. After a few

minutes he asked to speak to the chief again. "Turn the man loose," Riddick ordered, "He didn't do it."

Next the police department in Cullman called. They too had arrested a suspect, whom was quickly proven to be innocent. Then Muscle Shoals called with a suspect. Nashville was next, followed by Knoxville and Mobile.

It seemed as if every police department in the South had their own suspect. Riddick, after wasting hours on the phone proving people innocence, angrily slammed the phone down and told his jailor, "Don't take another phone call unless they have a signed confession and a photograph of the murder being committed!"

Huntsville remained on edge for the next few days. Almost everyone in Huntsville had already made up their minds who the culprit was. There were reports of fist fights between people who each had their own favorite

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suspect. People were almost unanimous, though, in agreeing it had to be a black person who committed the crime.

Almost daily there were reports of blacks being assaulted, and shots being fired into their homes as the unruly section of Huntsville's population vented its anger.

Tensions between the black and white community were so high that many of Huntsville's prominent black families actually left town "for the duration."

Suddenly, on October 6, Huntsville was electrified by the news that Sheriff Riddick had arrested two men for the murder. The most shocking part of the news, however, was the fact that one of the men, Thomas Ross, was the son of the deceased. The other man, Fred Matheny, was a foreman at the Ross Dry Cleaning firm.

Most of Huntsville refused to believe the men were guilty. They had already made up their minds; a black man was responsible for the murder.

The following week a prelimi-

nary hearing was held for the two suspects. The State's case was built upon two important facts. One was that young Ross had rented a car, matching the description given by Lonnie Simmons, a few minutes after the murder. Second, was the fact that Ross had recently purchased a revolver, the same caliber used in committing the crime.

J.W. McClung, a state criminal investigator testified he had a conversation with young Ross about the amount of insurance carried by his father. At first Ross said it was barely enough to pay his debts, but later contradicted himself by stating the insurance amounted to between \$15,000 and \$17,000.

Patiently, the events of the fateful night unfolded. Ross and Matheny had spent much of the evening at the fair, (where one of the bloodhound trails led). Next, they visited Maude Hamby, a well known bootlegger, where they purchased a pint of whiskey and stood around talking and drinking. A neighbor of Hamby's tes-

tified Ross was wearing a gray suit at the time.

At approximately 11:40 p.m., the defendants showed up at the home of Hazel Battle, a well-known Madam. Battle testified that Ross sat in the hall and engaged her in conversation while Matheny went into another room with a girl who lived (worked) there. Both men were drinking heavily. Hazel Battle and her daughter both testified Ross was wearing a dark suit.

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The prosecution noted that Mrs. Ross had testified the assailant was wearing a dark suit.

According to the prosecution's theory, Ross had changed from a gray suit to a dark suit prior to the murder so as to blend into the darkness better while going to his father's home. It was carefully pointed out that Ross had a key to the house and knew his father had a large sum of money at home. Also important was the fact of Ross being the only possible person who could have unscrewed the light bulb and he was also familiar with the telephone wiring.

Especially damning for Ross was that he could not account for the pistol he had recently purchased.

From the prosecutor's view point, it was an open and shut case.

The citizens of Huntsville, however, had already decided the case. It was a black man. Hatred and prejudice refused to let them believe the crime could have been committed by a white man.

Matheny was turned loose at the preliminary hearing and a short while later, Ross too was freed when the grand jury refused to indict him.

As one old-timer described the events, "Most everybody

thought the boys were guilty, but no one wanted to admit they had been wrong."

Months later, after tensions had died down, a group of people visited Sheriff Riddick, inquiring how he had ruled out so many suspects so fast.

"Well," replied the sheriff in a slow drawl as he reached for the only evidence found at the murder scene. "The hat just

didn't fit."

The murder remains on the books as "Unsolved."

The End

Mr. Fred Simpson is currently writing a book about lynchings and capital murders in Madison County. If you can provide any information please contact him at 539-7575.

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A Union Soldier's Opinion of Captain Frank Gurley

by H.L. Wood (Co. G, 189th O.V.I.)

Written in 1907

I became well acquainted, during the latter part of the war, with Capt. Frank Gurley, and only last September had the pleasure and the honor of being the guest of the gallant Captain at his pleasant home on his large plantation, near Gurley, Ala.

Capt. Gurley and I were brought up in altogether different environments. He believed slavery was a divine institution and that the War Between the States was inevitable, and he fought valiantly and to the last in defense of the South and his honest convictions.

My father was not only a Republican but an abolitionist, and I was taught that slavery was a crime and must be abolished. At the age of fifty-six years my father responded to the first call to arms, and at the age of sixteen I responded to the last call, and it took brave boys to enlist then, as we had long before given up the idea of a "before breakfast" job in ending the war.

It was while stationed at Gurley's Tanks, near the good town of Gurley, that I became well acquainted with the father and brother of Captain Gurley; and I well remember the father as an honest, clean-cut old gentleman and a man who would carefully train his family to become only good citizens. I found Captain Gurley the son of his father.

The killing of Gen. R.L. McCook caused Captain Gurley's imprisonment and death sentence. His release

through the orders of Mr. Lincoln, his election to the office of Sheriff of Madison County, Ala., at the close of the war, his rearrest by the carpetbag government and confinement of five months in the Huntsville jail, and all without the scintilla of a charge against him, simply to get him out of the way, showed his loyalty, his forgiveness; and the utter lack of enmity after all these wrongs is what would make any clean Northern man love and admire him.

If any thinking person will spend a few days with this brave citizen of the South, he will never more doubt the truthfulness of this story. Having served six years in the Legislature of my own State, it has been my good fortune to meet many prominent men from all over the country, among them your gallant Joe Wheeler; but I have never met a man whose personality struck me more forcibly than that of Capt. Frank B. Gurley. I admired him as a soldier and I sympathized with him for his sufferings.

The imprisonment, the death sentence held no terror for his indomitable spirit. But the cruel charges of "cowardice" and "assassin" which he had to face were enough to break the spirit of any brave Man. He would rather die than suffer dishonor.

While the killing of General McCook was unfortunate, it was only the fate of war, and was more of an accident than other-

wise. It was done in a fair running fight. General McCook was not in an ambulance, as has been claimed.

As long as I live I shall stand ready to defend the honor and good name of Capt. Frank B. Gurley.

Now just a word in praise of the Confederate monuments I saw during my visit in the South. I certainly should have had less respect for the Southern people had they failed to honor the memory of those brave boys who fell in defense of a cause they be-

Continued on page 15



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Calvin Brixey was an artist. At least, that is what he liked to call himself. Maybe he was something of a painter once upon a time, but he is remembered in East Tennessee by a different title. Folks in Grundy and Coffee counties called him a cold-blooded killer, and Cal had done his best to deserve the name.

Calvin Brixey was born in 1840 in Coffee County, Tennessee, the oldest son of a widow named Joanna Brixey. Cal was an odd one, sure enough, though few people suspected he would turn into a heartless killer. He had married at the age of 20.

His wife, Martha, was five years his senior. In 1860, the couple had a daughter, and Cal gave the child the strange name of Belazona. One supposes he was trying to be artistic.

Brixey was 21 when the War

Between the States began, and he and his brothers promptly signed up to fight for the South. Cal was sworn in on July 25, 1861, for the term of one year, as a private in Company F of the 16th Tennessee Infantry Regiment. The 16th Tennessee was soon sent to western Virginia and assigned to the command of a then unknown officer, Robert E. Lee.

The campaign in the Virginia mountains (now the State of West Virginia) was particularly frustrating. The weather was unusually bad, and more often than not the Tennesseans went hungry. Furthermore, the people in the rugged hill country seemed

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almost apathetic towards the war. Although a minority of pro-Union activists would succeed in creating a new State from the area, most people apparently did not feel strongly about it one way or the other. Moreover, the Confederate military operations in the region never seemed to go right. An attempted surprise attack on the Union troops camp at Cheat Mountain was bungled and the Southerners had to retreat.

Not even Robert E. Lee could save the situation and by the end of the year the Confederates withdrew. The 16th Tennessee left Virginia, traveling by rail to South Carolina.

The following spring the 16th Tennessee was ordered to join General Albert Sidney Johnston's army at Corinth, Mississippi. By now, however Cal Brixey had his fill of soldiering. He deserted from the Army at Corinth and made his way home to Tennessee.

Brixey hid out in the hills, dodging the conscript officers and joining up with an assortment of other "mossbacks." Brixey soon became the acknowledged leader and led them in a bit of free-lance bushwhacking, attacking Union and Confederate sympathizers alike. Midway through the war, however, Brixey heard that a Union regiment was being formed at Tracy City. He led his followers to the East Tennessee town and volunteered.

Unaware of Brixey's reputation, the Union Army mustered him in on December 9, 1863, as captain of Company D of the 1st Alabama and Tennessee Vidette Cavalry.

Brixey was no sooner a commissioned officer in the Union Army than complaints began to

be made about him. In January 1864, Brixey was ordered to report with his company to Tracy City. However, Brixey's band continued its usual practice of prowling about the mountains in small detachments. In fact, one perceptive Union officer described the company as "without discipline and a lawless set of men." That must not have come as a surprise to anyone except the Yankees.

Rumors told of Brixey's men shooting down civilians indiscriminately. Brixey freely admitted to some of the killings, but

he insisted his victims were all Confederate spies or sympathizers.

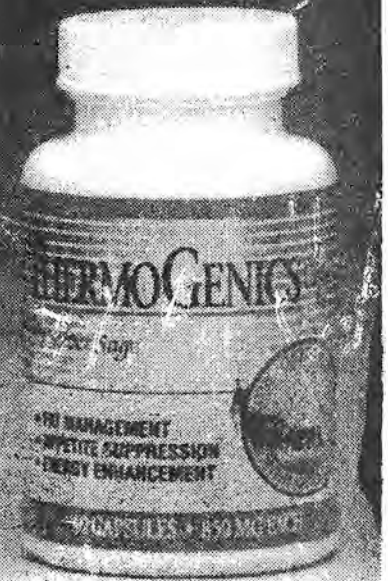
In April 1864, Cal Brixey and his company were at Fayetteville, Tennessee, helping dismantle the railroad line to Tracy City. The Union Army apparently planned to use the tracks to repair more strategic lines elsewhere.

One day Brixey came to the Fayetteville home of Judge James R. Chilcoat, a discharged Confederate veteran. After Brixey left, Mrs. Chilcoat discovered her favorite riding mare was gone. A

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yearling colt had apparently followed along behind. Judge Chilcoat went to claim his missing property. He was met and murdered by Cal Brixey. Chilcoat's body was eventually found in the woods near Mulberry, the badly wounded horses standing nearby. Brixey's men had shot the horses rather than allow them to be returned to their rightful owner.

By early June, Brixey's true character was becoming clear, since many of his attacks had been against men of unquestionable pro-Union sentiments. Brixey's company, and indeed the whole 1st Alabama and Tennessee Vidette Cavalry, was discharged from the Union Army on June 14, 1864. Andrew Johnson, the Union military governor of Tennessee, issued an order for Calvin Brixey's arrest.

The remainder of Brixey's story is lost to history. He continued bushwhacking for a time, but most sources simply say he disappeared. Brixey's widow in 1890 told the census taker that her husband had been killed before the regiment was formed—a misunderstanding, to say the least. The true fate of Cal Brixey was not revealed until more than a century later by Mr. Escoe B. Henley of Huntsville, Alabama.

Henley's grandfather was Corporal (later Sergeant) James C. Henley of Company I of Mead's Cavalry Battalion. This company, led by Captain John P. Henley, was formed in Grundy County, Tennessee, in the fall of 1864. John P. Henley was James Henley's older brother.

Apparently, Cal Brixey had finally been caught by the Tennessee citizens and turned over to the Union authorities for pun-

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ishment. For some unfathomable reason, the Yankees simply turned Brixey loose. The Confederates then ordered Captain Henley to take his company and eliminate Calvin Brixey and his band of marauders.

Henley's company tracked Brixey all the way to Coffee County, Tennessee. Brixey and his men took shelter in a log barn, refusing to come out. It would have cost too many lives to fight their way into the barn, so Captain Henley hit upon another idea.

He ordered his men to drag brush up against the barn and blockade the door. Brixey was given another chance to surrender. When he refused, the Confederates set fire to the brush. Cal Brixey and his men perished in the flames.

Escoe Henley admits Brixey's fate was something his family did not talk about. They feared punishment by the Union authorities if the facts became known. How-

ever, both Unionists and Confederates breathed easier once Cal Brixey and his band were gone. In fact, one of the worst names you could call someone in that area for many years after the war was a "d---ed Brixite."

Memories run deep in the Tennessee hills, and you would be smart not to use the term even today.

Ed. Note: This story was reprinted from Mr. Rice's book Hard Times: The Civil War in Huntsville and North Alabama. If you would like to order a copy, please send \$15.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling to: Charles Rice • 118 Calhoun St. • Huntsville, Ala. 35801



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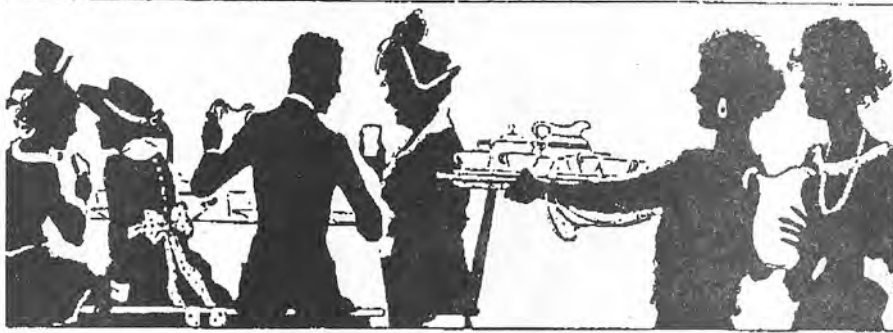
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Spinach and Herb Bake

- 2 10-oz. packages frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 2 c. cooked brown rice
- 8 oz. grated Cheddar cheese
- 2 T. minced onion flakes
- 1 t. dried rosemary, crushed
- 2 T. plus 2 t. margarine
- 1 1/3 c. dry nonfat milk
- 2 c. water
- 4 eggs
- 2 t. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 t. garlic powder

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees, and in a large bowl, combine the spinach, rice, cheese, onion flakes, rosemary, and a bit of salt and pepper. Toss and combine well. Spray an 8-inch square baking pan with Pam and put the mixture in. In a blender combine the margarine, milk, water, eggs, Worcestershire sauce and garlic. Blend until smooth and pour over the spinach mixture. Bake uncovered for 35 minutes til set.

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Gurley

Continued from page 9

lieved to be right, and out of respect to their memory I always lifted my hat upon seeing one of these beautiful monuments.

There is a French proverb which says: "A coward never forgives. It is not his nature." We of the North, you of the South all did our best. Today we are brothers. Our interests are one, and, like a brave people, while we do not forget, let us forgive. The South has her great blight, and from my observations I have come to the conclusion that the South must be let alone in handling the race question; and should it ever come to a race war, ninety per cent of the North will be with our white brothers of the South.

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Hot & Spicy Vegetarian

Stir-Fried Red Potatoes

3 lbs. red potatoes, whole and unpeeled

- 3 t. vegetable oil
- 1 t. red pepper flakes
- 1 t. ground cumin

Boil the potatoes until they are just soft, about 20 minutes. Cut them into cubes when cooled. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. When hot, add the pepper flakes and cumin and stir for a minute. Add the potatoes, salt and pepper. Stir fry til browned on all sides.

Penne with Calamata Olives

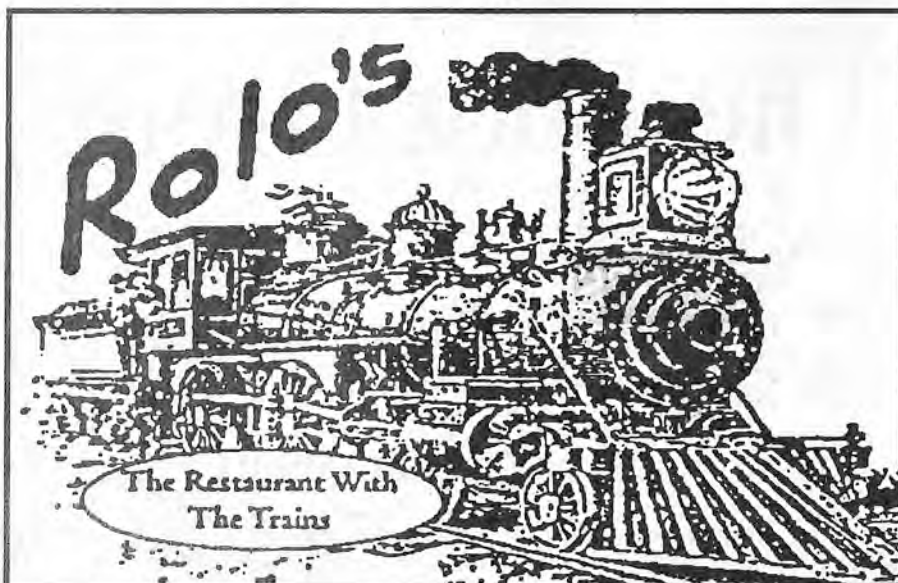
- 1 lb. penne pasta
- 2 T. olive oil
- 1/2 onion, minced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 c. calamata olives, pitted and chopped
- 1 t. fresh rosemary, chopped, or 1/2 t. dried
- 1 t. fresh thyme, or 1/2 t. dried
- 1/3 c. white wine
- 1/2 c. grated Parmesan or feta cheese

Cook the pasta for about 8 minutes in boiling water - should be just firm to the bite. Saute the onion in olive oil til soft, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic, olives, rosemary, thyme and wine and bring to a boil. Turn heat to low and simmer for 4 minutes. Toss with pasta, and then with the cheese.

Pasta and Chickpea Salad

- 10 oz. rotini, cooked
- 20 oz. chickpeas, canned OK
- 1/4 sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1 green pepper, seeded and diced
- 1 red pepper, seeded and diced
- 1 c. black olives, pitted and sliced
- 1 T. fresh parsley, chopped
- 1/3 c. olive oil
- 1 T. wine vinegar
- 1 T. lemon juice
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 t. Dijon mustard
- 1/2 t. oregano
- 1/2 t. red pepper flakes
- 1/8 t. salt
- 1/4 t. pepper

Combine the first 7 ingredients in a bowl and toss. Whisk together the remaining ingredients and toss with the pasta mix. Serve at room temperature.



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Ziti with Herbs

1 lb. ziti or other pasta
 2 Scotch bonnet hot peppers, whole
 6 T. extra-virgin olive oil
 4 T. fresh parsley, chopped
 1/4 c. fresh basil, chopped
 3 T. fresh thyme and/or rosemary or 1 1/2 t. dried Parmesan cheese

Bring water to boil and add the pasta and hot peppers. Gently heat the oil. When the pasta is just about done, stir the chopped herbs into the olive oil. Drain the pasta and discard the peppers. Toss the herbs and oil with the pasta. Top with grated Parmesan cheese.

Baked Zucchini

4 T. olive oil
 4 roasted red peppers, seeded and chopped
 1 T. jalapeno, seeded and minced
 1/2 t. dried oregano
 1/4 t. salt
 1/4 t. pepper
 6 zucchinis
 Parmesan cheese
 Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Sauté the peppers, oregano, salt and pepper in the olive oil for 4

minutes, then remove to a blender and puree. Blanch the zucchini in boiling water for about 3 minutes. Remove and rinse under cold water. Trim and cut each zucchini lengthwise, then scoop out the seeds. Place the zucchini in an oiled baking dish, rub with a little olive oil, bake for 6 minutes. Spoon the sauce into the zucchini's and bake another 12 minutes. Top with Parmesan for the last 3 minutes of baking.



Thai Cucumber Salad

1 c. white wine vinegar
 1/4 c. sugar
 1/2 t. crushed red pepper flakes
 1 cucumber, peeled, cut in half lengthwise, seeded and thinly sliced
 1/2 red onion, cut in half and thinly sliced
 1/2 sweet peppers, seeded and julienned

Heat the vinegar and sugar until sugar dissolves, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and cool. Add red pepper flakes and stir. Place the cucumber, onion and pepper in a bowl and pour the vinegar mixture over. Marinate for 1-2 hours.

This makes one of the most delicious salads you have ever tasted!

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Huntsville, Ala.

A stomach pump has been added to the equipment of the detective department of the city of Huntsville with a view to aiding in the detection of violators of the bone dry prohibition law. City Detectives secured permission from the Chief of Police to purchase a pump. Every person arrested who smells of whiskey will be pumped. "It is against the law for a man to smell of whiskey and if he drinks it we are going to pump it out of him," said the a spokesman for the police department.

from 1923 newspaper



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Huntsville Heresay

By Billy Joe Cooley
and His Unidentified Sources



Gossip has it that Huntsville politicians, used to making deals in a smoke-filled back room, may have to step outside to smoke when **Ms. Mayor** takes office. We hear she doesn't take too kindly to cigar smoke or back-room deals.

Hugh McInnish was seen at one of **John Cockerham's** "Rock Around The Square" events. He still carries a lot of weight in Huntsville as evidenced by all the politicians lining up to shake hands and be seen with him.

BARKEEP Matt Oberlies of Lone Star restaurant: "The city election was fun. Now I look forward to the real big tippers coming out to dine."

The parents of city council-

man **Bill Kling**, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They say the next 50 may be a little harder.

Dean O'Farrel was seen Downtown walking his dog and looking relaxed. Losing the Mayor's race made him look a lot younger.

A big hello to **Walter Dilworth** who recently returned from his "vacation" at Vanderbilt Hospital. Doctors say he is doing great!

We heard a rumor that **Bonnie Hettinger** is looking at real estate downtown. A pent-house?

For all you folks who supported **Herb Dixon** for mayor,

you may have another chance. Insiders tell us he is thinking about a senate race.

Don't rule out **Larry Mullins'** political career. Rumor already has it that Larry and **John Dodd** may be running against each other again. It's been said that both are considering a run for **Mark Hall's** city council job.

Ronnie Reed has also expressed interest in the same race, as has **David Driscoll** of Durham Advertising fame.

Radio Types **Arnold Hornbuckle, Rex Holiday and Christian Seth Cox** are the mainstays on our FM dial these weekdays. Arnold's WAHR has sent out a bill-pay-

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ing scheme with a scary Halloween cover pix. Holiday is on Sam Phillips' Q-107 afternoons and Cox spins gospels on WNDA.

You're not a native Huntsvillian unless... you have a copy of **Tillman Hill's** book "**Mr. Anderson's Monument.**" The book, all about growing up in the Mill villages, is becoming a collector's item.

We keep hearing stories that **Jackie Reed** has given up on running for public office again. Her bumper stickers were some of the most sought after in town.

Governor Fob is pushing economic development in a big way. Insiders in Montgomery tell us he may have a few ideas for Downtown Huntsville.

Wayne Parker, wannabe

congressman, is supposed to be 24 points down in the latest poll. Regardless, he is working the campaign trail hard, and his folks tell us they believe Parker will win.

Meanwhile folks in D.C., tell us that **Bud Cramer** is making no plans to call a moving company.

Johnny Tona's smoke-free Family Billiards may soon be in a new and better location. We were there the other night watching expert pool shooting by two groups of Baptist youngsters.

Congrats to Glen Watson, newly elected city councilman. Glen's whole campaign was about harmony on the city council and the voters listened. Let's hope the other city councilmen also listened.

Vivacious and pretty **Jeune Blackmon** of Alabama Balloon Co. bossdom, is back from visiting her ma and pa in Commerce, Ga. Meanwhile, son Michael and his Jaycee pals have put the wraps on another successful sate fair.

Just in case you ever wondered: Fifty years ago this month, **Lawrence Brock,** a local radio dealer, brought the first television to Huntsville.

Look for the first edition of **Old Marshall County Magazine** to be on the streets soon. It will look surprisingly a lot like **Old Huntsville Magazine.**

Aunt Eunice finally shared with us her private predictions for the runoffs. "Just like I figured," she said. "Half of them won and half of them lost!"



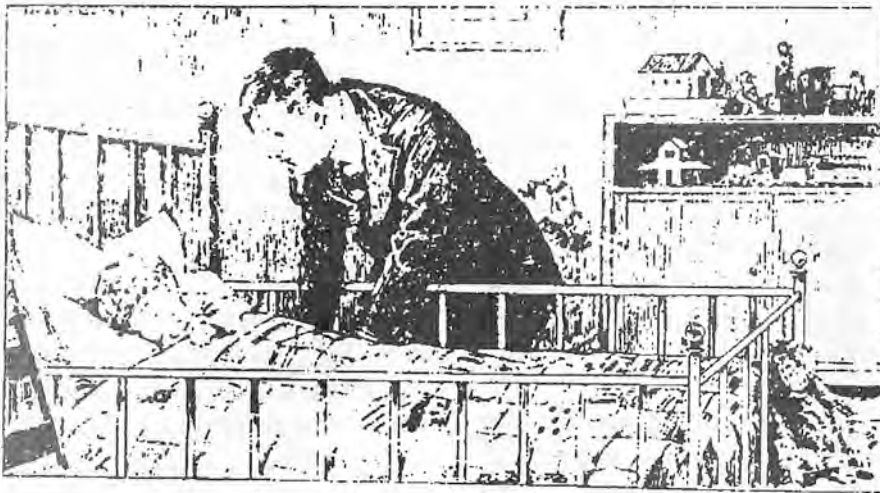
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Memories of "Old Huntsville"

by Shirley Nolen

I have so many romantic memories of Huntsville, back in the old days. My husband, Chuck, has lived in and around Huntsville for most of his life. We met here in 1956, at the old Rohm and Haas Gorgas lab on the post and fell in love. Judge Todd was the probate judge when we applied for our marriage license. His office was in the northeast corner of the old, beautiful courthouse. When we signed the book, Judge Todd opened his office window and

offered Chuck a "last chance to escape." He said that was his best gift to prospective grooms.

Years later our daughter Susie was born in the old Huntsville Hospital. In fact, it was just being renovated and she and I spent part of our stay in a hall. (There was no "room at the inn.") We witnessed the infamous "parkway" through its construction. So many changes occurred in just a few short years that it seems we lived through a history book. I am

grateful for the progress this city of ours has made over the past 40-odd years. It is a wonderful feeling to have seen a portion of this progress and to be able to pass it on to future family and friends. We feel that it is very important to hold dear to the very important things that have led us to this point.

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Gambling

Never brag, for failure will im-

mediately follow. Carry good luck items such as silver coins or notes. Never sing during gambling, or you will send your fortune to another through the air. And never lend a gambler money, your luck will go with it.

Starting a Business

If your shoelaces come undone on the same day that you start your new business, it is of the utmost significance and

is not good luck. However, if you happen to find a pair of worn shoes on which the shoelaces are perfectly tied, your business will thrive.

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Diamonds will cure insanity if held against the head of an insane person. A diamond placed under the pillow of a wife who is having a love affair with someone other than her husband will cause the woman to admit the affair to her husband.

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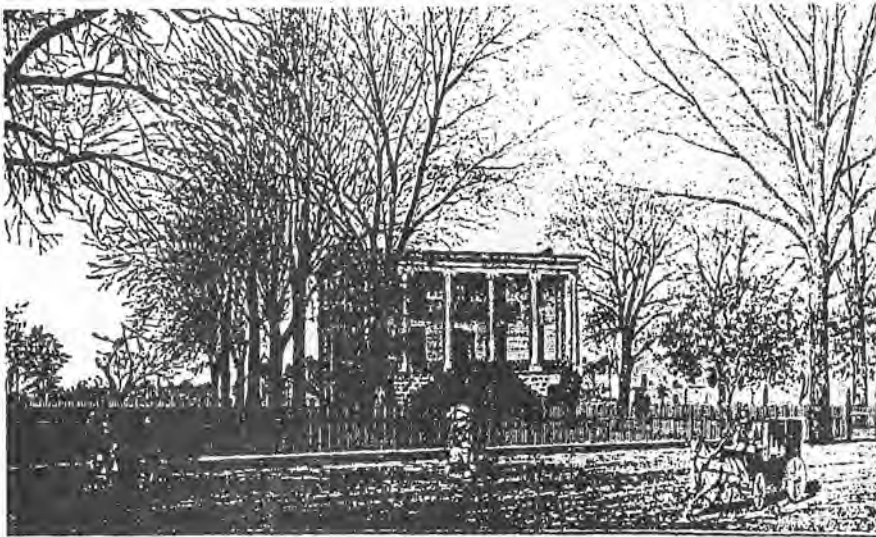
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discharge will also be required to enter the freshman class at its formation.

The candidate must stand an approved examination on arithmetic, geography, the English, Latin and Greek grammars, Latin prosody, four books of Caesar's Gallic War, Sallust's, Cataline and Fugurtha, The Bucolics and six books of The Aeneid of Virgil, Anthon's Select

Orations of Cicero; and the whole of Jacob's Greek Reader.

To enter upon advanced standing, an applicant will be examined on all the preceding studies of the class to which he aspires.

The grammars used in examinations of applicants, are Murray's, or Kirkham's English, Andrew's & Stoddard's Latin, all of which examinations will be rigid. The faculty would state that applicants are found, almost universally, deficient in elementary branches; in arithmetic, the grammars, and very frequently also in geography. It will not be inappropriate to urge upon parents and teachers, the importance of a thorough and faithful preparation according to the foregoing statement of requisitions.

The classes are regularly formed, on the first day of January of each year. This is the most favorable time for entering. Applicants will, however, be examined at any period during the term time, when they may present themselves.

All persons coming to the University for the purpose of seeking admission, must report themselves to one of the officers as early as the next day after their arrival in Tuscaloosa; and are not at liberty to lodge in the dormitories, or to take their meals at the Hall, until they are regularly admitted.

Students can be admitted to a partial course only under peculiar circumstances, such as indigence, advanced age, or infirm health. In all cases of this kind, special assurance will be required of the moral character and habits of the applicant.



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2 tablespoons lemon or orange rind, dried, 1/4 cup baking soda, 2 teaspoons salt.

To dry your peeling, just keep a basket in the kitchen and throw your lemon and orange peel into it. Let them air dry for several days, tossing once a day. To grind, use your blender or food processor and grind til the peel is a fine powder. Add the baking soda and salt and continue to blend, to a fine powder.

Store the powder in a large salt shaker and shake it directly onto your wet toothbrush, or

keep it in a tin and just dip your toothbrush into it. Brush thoroughly and rinse. Your grandmother probably used this mix!

If you want your kids to love this just add a tablespoon crushed ripe strawberries as a daily brush - don't save the leftover strawberries.

Skin Clarifier

For folks with oily skin, this takes the shine off and seems to tighten your pores, waking up

your skin. Use with care and only on the oily parts of your face.

2/3 cup witch hazel 1/3 cup rubbing alcohol.

Mix and store in a tightly capped, sterilized glass bottle. If your skin feels too tingly when you use it, reduce the amount of alcohol.

Facial masks

Peach Tightening mask - Whip a fresh peach that has been peeled and pitted with an egg white. Pat the mixture onto your face and relax for 30 minutes, rinse off with cool water.

Apple Mask - Blend a cored apple with 2 tablespoons honey and 1/2 teaspoon sage, refrigerate for 10 minutes. Pat mixture on your face with a tapping mixture until the honey feels tacky. Leave mask on for 30 minutes and rinse.

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Absurd News

An unidentified man was killed when the shotgun he was using as a club to break his girlfriend's windshield discharged. The blast struck him in the chest, killing him instantly. The shatterproof windshield on his girlfriend's car was not damaged.

Ken Barger of Newton, N.C. always kept his .38 Special on his night-stand. After a night of heavy drinking he passed out in bed only to be awakened by a ringing telephone. He reached for the phone, but instead grabbed the Smith & Wesson, which discharged when he drew it to his ear. The death was ruled accidental.

No foul play is suspected in the death of Stefan Macko, who was killed while cleaning a bird feeder on the balcony of his Toronto condominium. Mr. Macko had been standing on his desk chair, which had wheels on the bottom, to reach the feeder. The chair rolled and he plunged twenty-three stories to his death.

In the village of Nazlat Emara, Egypt, six people tried to rescue a chicken that had fallen into a 60-foot well. A young farmer went in after the hen first, but lost his footing and was pulled beneath the surface by a strong undercurrent. His sister and two brothers went after him, but they drowned also. Two elderly neighbors of the family tried

their hand at the rescue, but they too succumbed to the strong currents. Rescuers were finally able to retrieve all six bodies— along with the chicken, who survived the ordeal.

Late tobacco-heiress Doris Duke's pig sty didn't smell like a— well, pig sty. On her model farm in Somerville, New Jersey, in the 1950s, Duke raised her pigs with a perfume atomizer in every pen. Local officials were so impressed that they initiated a study to see if all the pigs grown in the area could benefit from having deodorant sprayed upon them.

Local farmer Charles Shoo said of the plan, "After today we will have pigs that smell like wisteria."

London burglar James O'Neill was trying on some clothes he was stealing when he heard the homeowners returning. He hurriedly grabbed what he thought was a pair of trousers and fled out the back door. A few minutes later he returned sheepishly wearing a woman's skirt. He was sentenced to three months in jail on charges of stealing, but the charge of cross-dressing was dropped.

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Major John Steele Dickson 35th Alabama Infantry

by Timothy L. Burgess

John Steele Dickson was one of the leading men of Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama. He was a member of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Huntsville Gas & Light Co., Inc., in 1856, and was elected City Alderman in June 1858.

John's father died when he was young and he, as the oldest son, was responsible for providing for the family. In 1850 John was listed in the census as a Hardware & Cutlery merchant whose shop was located on the Public Square in Huntsville. He had married the beautiful Mary Francis Farris on April 19, 1850 and together they lived with his widow mother, Elizabeth and his brother Robert and sister Anna.

By 1860, John, through hard work and determination, had prospered in his business and he and Mary had begun raising a wonderful family. Sallie was the oldest daughter, then William, the oldest son. They also had two infants, Catherine, and John Dickson, Jr. Brother Robert was still living with them also.

What with raising a growing family, working full time as an able merchant, and fulfilling his

civic duties; John also found time to join the local Militia Unit formed in November 1855 and was known as "The Madison Rifles." This unit would later become Co. D of the 7th Alabama Infantry in the Confederate Service. But for now, they excelled in their military drills and marches and held their pa-

rades every 3rd Saturday of the month. The company contained some of the best known families of the county and its captain was John G. Coltart, a bookseller whose shop was right next door to John's.

John was a lieutenant along with O.B. Gaston and John T. Yeatman. The unit's color-bearer was C.O. Shephard and young R.W. Coltart was the company's quartermaster. The leading sergeants were E.Y. Pollard, William F. Martin, and J.C. Logeman.

When the war came, John answered the call to duty and enlisted along with his militia unit in Huntsville in April, 1861. As Company D of the 7th Alabama Infantry, Confederate States Army, they were mustered into service at Pensacola, Florida in May, 1861. Here, they endured the boredom, heat, and sickness of camp life with John as their elected captain until November,



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1861 when they were ordered to move to East Tennessee. They had a miserable winter in the mountains of East Tennessee, guarding railroad bridges and remaining ever alert for Unionist gorillas who had no qualms of murdering any unsuspecting Confederate soldier.

They were then ordered to Corinth, Mississippi, an important railroad center and supply base for the contingents of Confederate Armies that General Albert Sidney Johnston was raising. He was determined to stop the invasion of Northern Troops at a small church called "Shiloh." It was here at Corinth, in 1862 that John made out his last will and testament. The responsibility for John, a 40 year old family man and captain of a company of men and boys from his own city must have weighed heavily upon his shoulders. John was fortunate to survive his stay in Corinth as hundreds of men and boys from across the South died there every month from diseases that decimated whole regiments.

The enlistment of his company expired before the Battle of Shiloh and John and his unit were spared the agony of that bloody battle. They were all re-enlisting into other units. John and many of his men from The Madison Rifles enlisted in a new regiment, the 35th Alabama, being formed in LaGrange, Alabama in late April, 1862. John was again elected captain by his men. He and his regiment made a mark of distinction for hard fighting and bravery seldom matched, fighting at Baton Rouge and Port Hudson in Louisiana, and at the bloodbath at Corinth in October, 1862.

In May of 1863 during the Vicksburg campaign they found themselves in Brig. Gen. Abraham Buford's brigade of Major General William W. Loring's division fighting at a place called Champion's Hill, between Jackson and Vicksburg trying to stop General Grant's invasion of central Mississippi and the investment of the city of Vicksburg.

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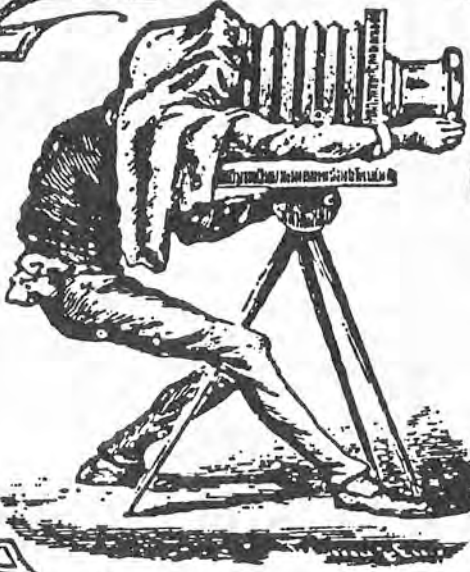
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Over 18,000 men, hardened veterans of such bloody battles as Shiloh, Corinth, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Resaca, Peachtree Creek and Jonesboro. Now they stood there, arrayed in front of their old enemies, line upon line, their tattered flags waving in the breeze. Their lines stretched for over two miles from end to end and all there in sight of each other for the first time on any battlefield. As they stood there, it began, from some young boy's throat, away down the line, that magnificent sound, "...that wild Rebel yell which once heard is never forgotten."

Then, the signal cannon roared, the generals and their mounted staffs trotted forward, the colors advanced, and history was about to be made. A Federal officer described the magnificent array years later, "It was a grand sight, such as would make a lifelong impression on the mind of any man who could see such a resistless, well-conducted charge. For the moment we were spellbound with admiration, although they were our hated foes, and we knew that in a few brief moments, as soon as they reached firing distance, all that orderly grandeur would be changed to bleeding, writhing confusion, and that thousands of those valorous men of the South, with their chivalric officers, would pour out their life's blood on the fair fields in front of us."

And forward they went, into the teeth of a well entrenched enemy, well protected behind breastworks and amply protected by interspersed artillery canons. Many of the Indiana and Illinois soldiers that the 35th faced were equipped with Henry repeating rifles. These deadly guns held 15 rim fired .44 cali-

ber bullets that could destroy an attacking force in no time.

Loring's division, led by their one-armed major general, advanced past the Carnton Mansion, over the very spot where many of them would soon be laid out, either wounded awaiting their turn for a surgeon, or buried next to the McGavock family graveyard. John, and the 35th were on the extreme right of the brigade advancing with the Mississippians of Featherston's brigade on their right. On the far right was the dismounted cavalry of Forrest's men, under the com-

mand of Brig. Gen. Abraham Buford, their old commander at Vicksburg.

The Confederate army fought hard here, but was forced to retreat back to Vicksburg or be captured. But instead, Loring led his men on a detour around Grant's army and joined up with General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Mississippi in Jackson, Mississippi. An occurrence happened here that was still remembered and being questioned nearly 40 years later by a survi-

continued on page 40



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**PRESIDENT IS HOPEFUL
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WORLD CONFLICT**

Sept. 2:—The French news agency reported from Warsaw that the Polish capital was again raided by German warplanes this afternoon.

The German planes first appeared at 5:05 p.m. (11:05 a.m. EST), flying singly or in formations of three. Polish fighting planes gave battle at heights around 4,500 feet. The battle lasted for 25 minutes.

Field Marshal Herman Goering has assured the German people that the conquest of Poland will be completed within fourteen days of its beginning—by September 14. He also declared that Britain would not be able to defeat Germany by either military or economic weapons.

President Roosevelt told reporters yesterday that his administration will make every effort to keep the United States out of the conflict now brewing in Europe. He has appealed to European powers not to bomb civilian populations and unfortified cities.

Local Spanish War Veterans Offer To Fight

**Enthusiastic meeting votes unanimously to
offer their services to the United States
Government**

Though they fought their last battle 41 years ago, local Spanish American war veterans are ready to at go at it again. The 35 members of John McDonald Camp 10 veterans' association voted unanimously in their meeting last Sunday to volunteer their services for their country in case of war. The enthusiastic meeting evoked proud memories of the day in 1898 when they first answered a call to arms. These aging warriors said they would serve the U.S. government in any capacity in which in which they could be used.

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LICENSE TO DRIVE WILL SOON BE REQUIRED

Applications Now Being Taken At Office of Probate Judge

SEPT. 7:—The new law requiring a driving license for the operation of all automobiles and trucks on public roads goes into effect October 1st and applications are now being made.

According to the Probate Judge "Under this law you make application for a driver's license. The price of the license is \$1.10. There is no difference in owner and non-owner license but the license is good for two years."

When you make application at the probate judge's office you will receive a receipt. The receipt you will receive when you pay your license fee is good as a driver's license for 45 days. Your permanent driver's license is photographed from your application and mailed direct to you from the Department of Public Safety, Montgomery, Alabama.

"The probate judge's office is urging the public to cooperate and make these applications as soon as possible so that licenses may be issued by the time the law comes due.

"Help reduce the loss of lives and property on the highways by cooperating with the probate judge's office, and the highway patrol in taking from the roads persons who are unfit to drive automobiles."



A BAD BARGAIN

OCT. 17: John Kendall of Madison County was arrested yesterday on the charges of selling his wife to Lem Nobles for the sum of 25 dollars.

Apparently all concerned parties were happy with the transaction until Nobles was informed that he was also the owner of six children, whereas he promptly complained of fraud to the Sheriff.

Both men are currently residents of the jail and are expected to stand trial soon. Mrs. Kendall, and her six children, are residing at the home of Lem Nobles.

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1917 Want Ads



Lost - bunch of keys on ring, finder return to 216 West Holmes Street and receive reward.

OLD FALSE TEETH WANTED - Don't matter if broken. I pay one to ten dollars per set. Send by parcel post and receive check by return mail; L. Mazer, 2007 S. 5th. St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Lost - Red Muley Cow; Burnt place on back; finder return to M. M. Maynard, 312 Humes Ave., Dallas Mills, and receive reward.

Good Cook Wanted - Must be able to milk. Apply at Employment Office, Southeast corner of Square.

For Rent - Large Commodious house on Adams Ave. Is furnished and has large garden

space; two nice sleeping porches. Apply to Mrs. M. S. Harris, Adams Ave.

For sale - Or will trade for Ford Touring Car. Rebuilt car with racing body, two seats, 40 gallon gas tank, new tires all around, four extra tires. Engine in A No. 1 condition. Let me hear from you. Address Exchange, care of the *Mercury*.

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Left by mistake at Mrs. T. W. Pratt's residence - one serge skirt. Owner can have skirt by describing same.

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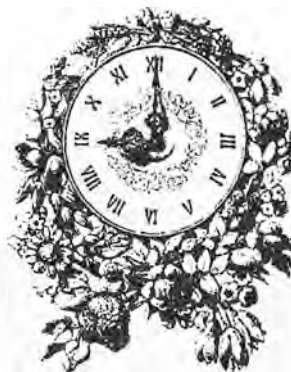
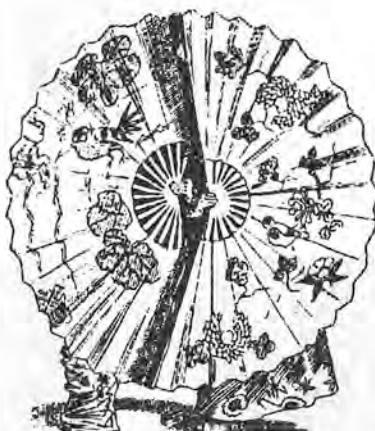
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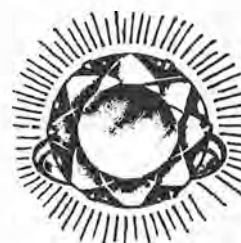
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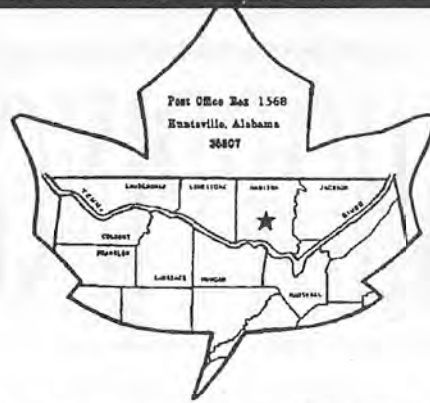


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GRAHAM • GIBBS • WATTS

Will exchange information on families of William Graham (1824-1864) and wife Mahala Gibbs. Six known children: Van Buren; Hannah; Savannah; Martha; Lucinda; and William Silas. Daniel Dodson Watts, in Cherokee Co AL 1849. Two known children Nancy Rebecca Watts m Meredith Sparks, and Eli A. Watts m Zeria Sparks.

Avis Hester, 1231 Castle Dr, Watkinsville, GA 30677

REAS • RAYS • RHEAS

Need information on REAS/ RAYS/ RHEAS of Franklin County AL. In 1870 census, Franklin Co AL Andrew Rea, age 75 b NC with Mary, age 57. Is Mary his wife? Was she born Mary A. Burton? Possible children: Leroy; Mary Ann m Edmond Little Hamilton; and Andrew B. Will pay for copies and postage.

Dorothy H. Turner, Rt 7, Box 2850, Ben Higgins Rd, Dahlonega, Ga., 30533

DOWTY • NORVELLE

Need information on Edward Dowty and Sarah Norvelle, m 1 Jan 1839 Madison Co AL. They migrated to northern MS c1840.

Sarah b 30 Nov 1821, d 5 May 1891, buried Tippah Co, MS. Need birth and death dates for Edward... their parents, etc.

Connie M. Kwas, 1535 Bakkers Glen Dr., Atlanta, CA 30350

KENNEDY • HILL

Robert J. Kennedy m Martha Hill 16 Oct 1828, Madison Co AL.. Desire to correspond with anyone having knowledge of either family.

Lois Cowart Kemper, 10601 SW 83rd Ave, Miami, FL 33156

STEPHENS .VANN

Was Nancy Vann Stephens' husband, Josiah / Joseph Stephens? My findings indicate she married a Josiah, but deed in the Annie Coleman Proctor Memorial Collection states Josiah's wife was Barbara. The Stephens are in the Jackson Co AL 1830-1850 census. Where were Nancy and husband mar-

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ried? Was Nancy Vann of Indian heritage? Nancy was living with son, William Stephens, in 1850 Jackson Co AL census.

Margene Hemrick Black, 2201 Loveless St., Guntersville, AL 35976

WEBSTER • CAMPBELL

Seeking information about Websters of N Madison Co AL, and S. Lincoln Co TN before 1850. Particularly interested in Shadrack Webster's family. Also seek info about Aney/Annie/Ann Webster m John Campbell May 1819 Madison Co AL.

Mike Landwehr, 725 39th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50265

WHITE • BRITNELL • HOPSON • HOBSON

Trying to locate parents of Deborah Ann White, b 21 Apr 1848 in AL; m 21 Dec 1884 as 2nd wife of John Wesley Campbell Britnell, b 1 Jun 1850, s/o James Marion and Wineford Caroline Hopson /Hobson Britnell. Deborah was supposedly a school teacher in Franklin Co AL at time of her marriage. She and John had two sons

Charlie Homer and Erbin Marion and she raised her husband's 2 sons from his first marriage to Frances Frederick b 18 Oct 1848, d 9 Oct 1883 d/o John Matison Frederick bur Mt Pleasant Church Cemetery, Newburg, AL.

Rodney Britnell, 1345 Keith Rd rt 53, Lumberton, TX 77656

DENTON • BLASINGEM • BLASINGAME • THOMPSON

Looking for parents of David W. Thompson b. c1837 who lived in Franklin or Colbert Co AL before and after Civil War (served in Union Army). Sworn statement says that he was cousin of Wm. Mitchell Denton. Was he s/o Edward Denton's sister, or of Edward's wife, Catherine Blasingem /Blasingame? David always lived within 5 miles of cousin Wm. Mitchell. Would appreciate information on any marriage between Thompson and any Denton or Blasingem/ Blasingame.

N. Graham Denton, P. O. Box 1067, Laurie, MO 65038



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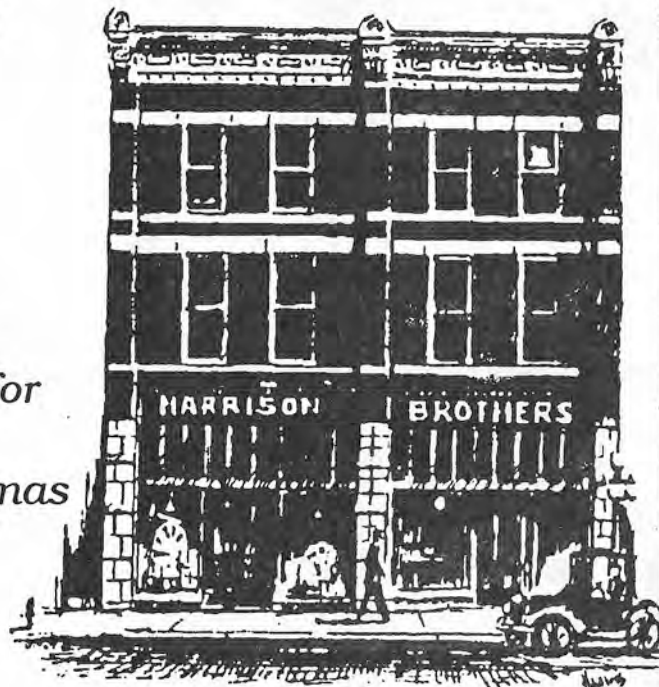
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Growing Up Rural



by Chip Knight

I basically grew up in the city, but my uncle and aunt had a large cattle and cotton farm over in Limestone County, and a somewhat smaller one around Madison. So, I got to be both a city boy and a country boy. I learned to hunt on the Limestone County place, which was called the Fletcher place because it had come to my uncle from his uncle, a man named Shelby Fletcher. I do come from a strange family.

There had been bad blood between my grandfather, John Knight of Decatur and Shelby Fletcher of Huntsville. So, of course, John Knight's daughter and Shelby Fletcher's nephew insisted on marrying. Shelby Fletcher was into land and was not badly hurt by the Depression, whereas John Knight was pretty well wiped out. So, I grew up with money all around me but with none of my own.

As a young boy, I remember that there were still several teams of mules on the place. One old man, General Washington, he was called, was known for his first attempt to drive a tractor. He got it started and then didn't know what to do. I was told that he was still yelling "WOAH!" as it finally ran into a tree and stopped. I also fondly remember Uncle Sonny, who was an ancient black man when I was a child. I don't know that he had ever been a slave, but he probably had. I

do remember, though, that I could hardly understand the language he spoke. It was English, but it was really different from the way I spoke.

There was a fine old barn up by the main farmhouse, which, unfortunately, had been let go to ruin. There were several stalls in the barn, and overhead, there was a loft where grain could be stored. I was in there one day and discovered some bad dynamite, that had the nitroglycerine

leaking out of the dynamite sticks. They had to get an explosives man out from Dupont to get rid of it. He burned it and at least some of it blew up, and he was barely far enough away, but he didn't get hurt. I did love to explore that barn; I could always find something interesting.

When they were finally ready to tear down the old farmhouse I got to explore that too, and I



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found a bunch of steel traps up in the attic. I asked about them, and it turned out that the red foxes had been trapped when they started getting out of control. My uncle liked to fox hunt (ride, camp, drink and chase but do not kill the fox) and had seeded the place with them. Not killing the fox finally caught up with them. I remember one night when I was camping down there, I was out trying to gig frogs and a fox, perhaps blinded by my lamp, came right up to me. And it is true, a fox den does always have two exits, at least the ones I've seen.

One day I was hunting on the place and was walking in the woods looking for squirrels and I came across an old graveyard, right there in the woods. There were just a few graves, and the most recent was from the 1880s. It was an eerie feeling, finding marked graves out in the woods.

The only duck I ever shot, I shot on the Fletcher place in a woods we called the Chestnut woods because it had been full of Chestnut trees before the blight killed all of them. It was a cold morning, well below freezing, and I slipped in next to the spring head of what becomes Beaver Dam Creek, and there were about ten ducks in the water. I was ill prepared for ducks, as I was squirrel hunting. But, game was game. I slipped in a little closer and the ducks flushed. I missed with the right barrel but downed one solidly with the left. Of course, he fell in the water. I had no dog; I had no boat; I had no proper clothes. So, I waded in and collected my duck and got soaking wet up to my waist in that cold air and then walked about a mile back to where I had left the car. But, it was worth it because I had my duck. Interestingly, in later years

I lived on the river over by Guntersville and we had ducks who lived there year round and who would come up to the house for handouts. I fed them, but I have not shot another one.

Being in the country has had some profound effects on my life. It has caused me to have a yearning for rural America that remains with me although I now live in the city. I will probably "go rural" again. I yearn for space around me even as I dearly love my neighbors. I also remember gathering hay in near 100 degree weather and running the tractor with one implement or another and that tempers my yearning somewhat. I suppose I would really like to have my cake and eat it too. I don't really know how to do that, but I'm working on it.



BARRY'S BLIND FACTORY

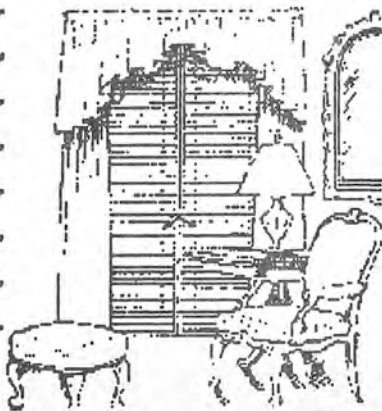
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Making Progress by Going Back in Time

by Cathey Carney

I know you our readers are going to think that we have gone over the edge with this one, but read on. We threw away our motorized lawn mower and have bought a brand new PUSH Mower!

Many of the yards downtown are rather small so the need for a self-propelled mower is not there. I was out walking with a friend the other day and we passed by a man who was using a push mower. It looked really odd, but was so quiet. So we backed up and talked to him a little about how he liked it. He loved it and gave us some of the benefits, so we went out and bought one!

Nowadays they make these mowers out of very lightweight, strong metal. They aren't nearly as heavy as the ones you probably remember when you had to mow your Grandma's yard. There is no gas or oil to fool with, and it's quiet!

The first day we bought it we had to try it. It was great fun! So, when I got through with our little yard, I went next door and mowed my neighbor's yard. They were out at the time, and still wonder how their grass got cut that day. (I never told them.)

The one we found was at Lewter's downtown (for less than \$100.00). It felt great to get rid of that gas can from the garage, as well as the oil because I always worried about those cans spilling.

And now when I mow it's quiet, I can do it early in the morning, and there's no more clouds of smoke that used to follow me when I mowed. No more danger of getting a foot or hand up under the mower, either. No rocks or sticks thrown into my face. It's like going back in time, when things were simpler.

And in this case, it really is!

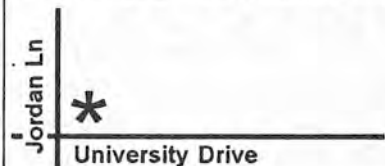


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*Dickson
cont. from page 29*

vor of John's company.

Ben Patterson remembered the company had been presented with a beautiful flag with a "Yellow Hammer" bird painted upon it by an artist before leaving for the war. It was in oil colors on satin with a beautiful gold fringe. On the morning after the battle, May 17, 1863, the flag was put in Captain Dickson's valise along with his clothes and other papers. The valise was stored with the regiment's baggage in the brigade's wagon train and went back to Vicksburg with the army's wagon train. The flag was never seen again. Even up to 1900, Patterson was still making inquiries about its fate.

The regiment went on to serve in the Army of Tennessee in Brig. Gen. T. M. Scott's brigade. Due to losses that were never able to be made up, the 35th was consolidated with the 27th & 49th Alabama Infantries. They fought bravely in Georgia

during the 1864 campaign against Sherman and his invading hordes.

In the fall of 1864 as John, now a major and in command of the 35th, marched back through Northern Alabama and home; what must he have thought of the destruction that greeted him and his men. Burned farms, destroyed bridges, and wrecked railroads. Whole families on the roads searching for work, food, or a place to stay. How it must have hardened their resolve to drive back the Yankee invaders at whatever cost. This cost would soon become evident on those tragic battlefields at Franklin and Nashville.

As the Army of Tennessee arrived on the hills overlooking Franklin on that fateful Indian Summer day of November 30, 1864; what an inspiring sight they must have presented. John must have been in awe as regiment after regiment, brigade after brigade, division after division filed up to the crests of the ridges and low hills; brigade, division after division filed up to

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the crests of the ridges and low hills.

They numbered as a consolidated unit, 300 men, and the brigade itself only 883 strong. As they advanced towards the Union lines, parallel to the Lewisburg Pike, they were met with, as one survivor called "...a cyclone..." which struck and shred the earth and left it red with blood and vocal with groans of dying men." Another said it was as if, "hell itself had exploded in our faces. Truly a scene of surpassing terror and awful grandeur." Even before they could come to grips with the enemy they had to penetrate an abatis of Osage orange hedge that was almost impenetrable. Men pulled and clawed their way through this obstacle falling by the dozens amid the shower of bullets and cannister. Some, a few, did manage to reach the works, men filled with, "the very



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madness of despair."

Men such as the regiment's color bearer, Ensign Robert Wheeler who carried the banner all the way up to the works and planted the colors there. For one agonized moment, time stood still, then he and the flag went down. But Sgt. James Sandlin of Co. B raised them again only to see them go down again for good along with the young bearer. Officers vied with their own men to see who first could reach the works. F Brigade commander Thomas M. Scott was severely wounded in the head, John's regimental commander, Colonel Samuel Ives was wounded and majors and captains fell left and right.

The 35th lost 338 of its men and the consolidated unit as a whole lost over 50% of its men. One of the 13 dead from this regiment was Major John Steele Dickson. No one yet knows how or exactly where he fell, only that John, like thousands of other men and boys from the farms and cities across the South gave, "...his ashes to his native land, his gallant soul to God!"

John was hastily buried upon the battlefield along with over 1500 other brave men of the gallant Army of Tennessee. The remnants of that Grand Army, had to look upon "...the ghastly upturned faces of the dead."

Sometime shortly after the end of the war, John was taken up from the battlefield and returned home for burial in the family plot of Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville, Alabama. "None died with more Glory than he, though many died and there was much Glory."

And what of the 35th Alabama?

They carried on, fighting at Nashville, through the frozen

retreat from Tennessee and at the last gasp battles in North Carolina before stacking their rifles for the last time. Of the 750 men who enlisted in the 35th Alabama, only 55 remained at the surrender.

As one Confederate Veteran who survived this tragic battle said long afterwards, "War ever devours the best and here perished, unhappily and without profit, some of the choicest officers of the Confederate Service."

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The other day an ex-Confederate soldier, driving a government ambulance up Madison Street, was hailed by a United States soldier as follows:

"Hello Johnie, you are burying Yankees now, are you?"

"Yes," said the gray jacket, "gone back to my old trade again, only now I get paid for it."

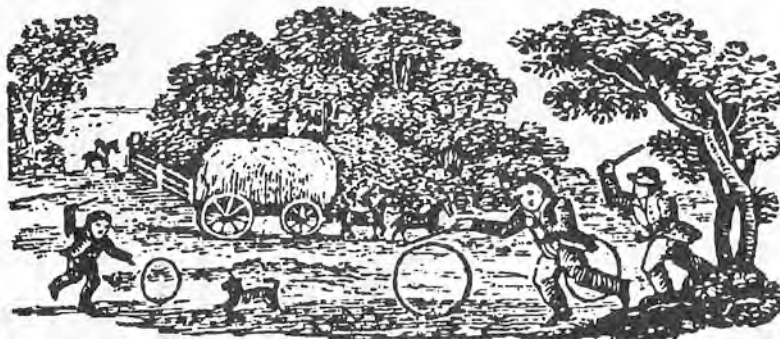
The blue coat didn't pursue the subject further.

*from 1867 Huntsville
newspaper*

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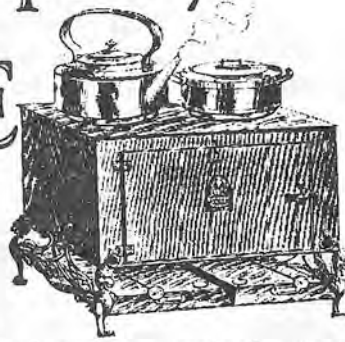
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Household Tips by EARLENE



For sweeter breath after eating and you don't have a toothbrush, take along a few mint teabags to chew on.

Get one of those net laundry bags to put your panty hose in when washing in your machine. They will last much longer - add your bras to the bag as well.

If your windshield wipers smear on your car windows, wipe the window and the blades down with rubbing alcohol.

When you see birds flying low, look out for bad weather.

When you wake up with a muscle cramp in your leg, immediately flex your foot upwards towards your head.

You can remove paper stuck to a table by dampening the area with olive oil.

When washing mildewed shower curtains, place them in the washer with Calgon Water Softener Powder and a bath towel. Run through all the cycles and don't add any detergent. Hang to dry.

A few bay leaves crumbled here and there will keep ants from visiting.

Unused throwaway shower caps make good covers for bowls you stick in the refrigerator.

If you have a gas water heater in a storage room, basement or garage - **READ THIS**. If you store your gasoline for lawnmowers in the same area, it could result in an explosion. If the gasoline spills, even just a little, it takes about 45 seconds for the fumes to reach the pilot light of your water heater, and **WILL CAUSE AN EXPLOSION**. More children

are killed and injured every year from this, and few people know about it. Keep gasoline away from any gas appliances!

Float flowers in water goblets at each place setting by attaching a thin circle of cork under each flower. Put a low dish in the center of your table, and float several flowers in it.

If your friends move a lot, in your address book write their names in ink, but their addresses and phone numbers in pencil.

Oil of lavender on cotton balls is good to prevent those pesky ants as well as add an enjoyable scent.



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Blacks In Gray-- Forgotten Confederates

by Don McDaniel



mission, Dr. Lewis Steiner, described Confederate General "Stonewall" Jackson's army as having "over 3,000 Negroes." He added that most of them "had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie-knives, etc. They were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederacy Army."

With the presence of Black Confederates firmly established, the motivation factor comes into play. Why would Black Southerners align themselves with the Southern cause for Independence and States Rights? During both the American Revolution and the War of 1812, Blacks, even though offered immediate freedom in exchange for allegiance to the British Crown remained loyal to the fledgling country known as America. By

One of the least known, and least publicized, annals of The War Between the States was that of the role of the now largely forgotten minority Confederates ... Jewish, Hispanic, Blacks, Native American Indians, Females. They did exist and their valuable contributions to the cause of States Rights and Southern Independence should not go unnoticed. One of the lost chapters of that War was the passive and even active support that many Southern Blacks, free and slave, gave to the Confederacy. The most numerous minority support, by far, came from the Black Confederate, with an estimated 300,000 serving the Confederate war effort in various ways. According to author H.C. Blackerby in *BLACKS IN BLUE AND GRAY*, as many as 93,000 served in an active combat role, by far outnumbering those black soldiers who served the Union cause. Although the drafting of African-Americans was not authorized by the Confederate government until February 1865, laws were often circumvented, and the indisputable presence of Black Confederates is recorded from the onset of the war.

The First Union officer killed in battle was shot by a Black with

the Confederate Wythe Rifles at the Battle of Big Bethel. A *NEW YORK TRIBUNE* article of December 23, 1861, reported that Union forces fired upon by a "body of seven hundred negro infantry." Union Chief Inspector of the U.S. Army Sanitary Com-

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1861. Southern Blacks had come to think of themselves as Southerners first. Their allegiance was overwhelmingly with the South.

This was a source of bewilderment to the Union soldier who was continually confronted with the reality that the Southern Black did not view him as a liberator. A Black Confederate captive when interrogated by his Northern captors about his reasons for siding with the South, put it succinctly, "I had as much right to fight for my native State as you had to fight for your'n."

"Concern for friends or relatives in slavery, uncertainty over the war's outcome, personal esteem for white owners, disillusioning contacts with racially prejudiced Northerners, awareness of religiously inspired efforts, ameliorative reform and the actual expansion of slavery's customary prerogatives all served to bind particular Afro-Americans to the Southern cause."

In Montgomery, Alabama, Blacks were being drilled and armed for military duty. Two companies of Black Confederates were formed in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. They had no weapons, but prepared themselves by drilling and declared themselves "determined to fight for their homes."

Similar occurrences took place in Virginia. In late April, 1861 - 600 Black Southerners carrying a Confederate battle flag asked to be enlisted. In Hampton, 300 Blacks volunteered to serve in artillery batteries. In Petersburg, Virginia a group of Blacks who had volunteered to work on defenses held a mass rally at the courthouse square.

The Mayor, John Dodson, presented them with a Confederate flag and promised them "a rich reward of praise, and merit, from a thankful people."

"Although Blacks served in many capacities, they were usually listed on the muster rolls as drummers, fifers, cooks or teamsters. The importance of these roles should not be minimized. Musicians were the "communications link" of the day. One such group of Black musicians in Richmond, early in April 1861, called themselves the "Confederate Ethiopian Serenaders" and gave the proceeds of one of their concerts to help pay for gunboats and munitions. This group would be a vital link in the communications network of the Army of Northern Virginia, relaying General Orders on the battlefield by drum rolls and bugle calls.

Great responsibility was often delegated to Blacks. Preston Roberts, a free Black, was Quartermaster for General Nathan Bedford Forrest, having charge



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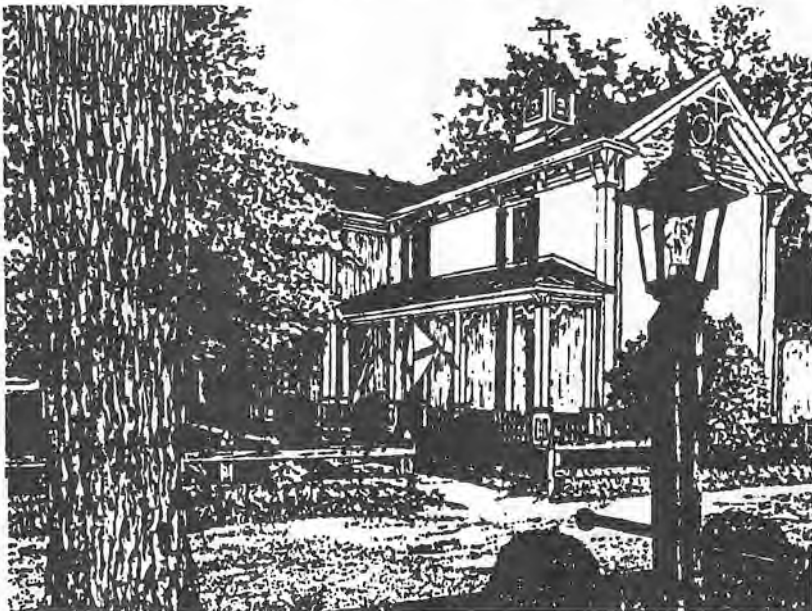
of 75 cooks, all logistical supplies, and all Commissary funds. Preston Roberts was awarded the Confederate Cross of Honor.

In the town cemetery of Canton, Mississippi, just outside of Jackson, stands a 20' obelisk in memory of the Black Mississippians who served in a partisan unit attached to General Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry in 1864 led by a young Mississippian, Addison Harvey, and known as "Harvey's Scouts." It was built between 1894 and 1900 by William Hill Howcott, a private in the unit. It is dedicated to the "good and loyal men who followed the fortunes of Harvey's Scouts during the Civil War."

Henry Winfield, a black soldier, received a Confederate pension as President Jefferson Davis' private bodyguard. Most notable among black spies were William Chapman and a woman nicknamed "Confederate Mary." Blacks committed many heroic deeds. David White, a black sailor, went down with the CSS ALABAMA when it sank off the coast of France.

A Black Confederate sharpshooter earned the respect of Union General George H. Gordon who wrote of "the fatal precision and fire of a negro marksman, a Rebel."

Although the Black Confederate has become one of the



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most overlooked participants of the war, he was not forgotten by his white comrades-in-arms. Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest said of them, "no better Confederates ever lived." On Confederate Memorial Day it was customary for black veterans to be given the honor of marching first in the parades. Even though it was only recently that a monument was erected in honor of the Black Union soldier, monuments to the Black Confederate went up on various sites in Southern cities in the late 1800s and the early part of this century. Most notable of these is the Confederate Monument in

Arlington National Cemetery. Sculpted by a former Jewish Confederate soldier, Sir Moses Ezekiel, it bears the image of two Black Confederate soldiers.

African-American Scholar Dr. Leonard Haynes, Department of English, Southern University, Baton Rouge observed, "When you eliminate the Black Confederate soldier, you've eliminated the history of the South."

Most poignant of all is this remark made in the 1860s by black Abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass, who called the Black Confederates, "real soldiers."

The End



Another Scam

by Cathey Carney

You could be the next victim of a telephone scam, and not even know it.

The latest one going around these days begins with someone calling your home. They identify themselves as being with the FCC or Federal Communications Commission, or they will say they represent the fraud division of the local phone company. They'll tell you that excessive charges have been made to your calling card and that they need to verify your calling card number and four-digit personal ID #, or PIN.

NEVER, EVER give out that kind of information. No one from any reputable telephone company or regulatory agency will ask you for that information. Because, they already have it. Ask the caller for his/her name and telephone number, and say you will be calling to verify their employment. Or just hang up.

Your calling card number can be sold and used for long distance fraud, which will make you an unsuspecting victim and increase ALL of our telephone bills.

If you think that you or someone you know is the target of a telephone scam, call your local district attorney's office, Better Business Bureau or register a complaint with the Alabama Attorney General's Office.

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Revolutionary War Soldiers Buried In Madison County

John W. Connally

by Jacquelyn Proctor Gray

John Connally was born in Virginia in 1705 and died in 1819. He is buried off of Highway 72. Mr. Connally was a fifer, and when he reached the rank of Sergeant, his pay was \$10 per month.

Mr. Connally's father, Thomas, deeded 107 acres of land in North Carolina to help found the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He had many descendants and several are famous and noteworthy. Among them: Tom Connally was a member of the

House of Representatives for 12 years and served 6 terms as senator.

James Thomas Connally, a Texan born in 1910, enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was killed in action in 1945 while flying the lead aircraft in a B-29 mission over Yokohama, Japan. In 1949, the Waco Army Air Field was renamed James Connally Air Force Base in honor of Colonel Connally. James Connally Technical Institute also was named for him.

Another Texan was an advisor to President Nixon, Secretary of Navy under President Kennedy, and Secretary of Treasury. He was elected governor of Texas for two terms and you know him as Governor John Connally who was in the car with President Kennedy when he was assassinated in Dallas, Texas in November, 1963.



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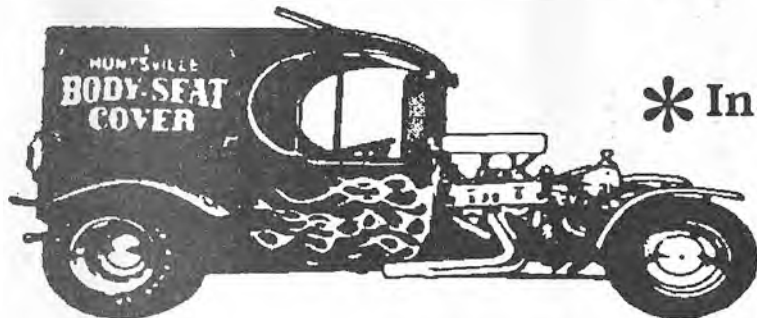
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