

GROCERS—RETAIL

Anderson T H & Son, w s Wood av 1 n of Wildwood av
 Angel J W, 531 E Tuscaloosa
 Brabson G W Mrs, S Florence
 *Brewer Lewellyn, 508 E Alabama
 *Buckingham R B, 408 E Alabama
 Coplan Grocery and Provision Co, 215 N Court
 Cox J L, 99 Huntsville rd
 Fowler A J, 623 Royal av
 Fulton W L, 70 Huntsville rd
 Gray J L, 104 N Chestnut
 Griffin Charles, 223 N Court
 Grimes J P & J M, 12 Huntsville rd and 613 Aetna
 Hall J C, 10 Huntsville rd
 Hyde & Son, Seven Points
 Johnson R J, 517 Royal av
 LUCAS & SIMMONS, 122 E Tennessee
 Matthews W M, 80 Huntsville rd
 Phillips Jeff, 684 Irvine av
 Phillips W R, Huntsville rd cor Aetna
 Ramsey H M, 82 Huntsville rd
 Sharp & Blair, 219 N Court
 Simpson J L, 619 Royal av
 White J P, 20 Huntsville rd
 White W C, 126 E Tennessee
 Wood L C, Cherry s e cor Tuscaloosa
 *Wytch J W, 108 E Mobile

Brewer, Buckingham, R.L. Morgan on South Cherry Street, George Pruitt on West College Street, and V.G. Smith on South Poplar Street.

William H. Dismukes (c. 1875- after 1901) is one of the earliest businessmen of color known to have owned a grocery in Florence. He was born in Georgia and was a former employee of the Florence Wagon Company. In late 1897, Dismuke's Grocery opened on the Perry Block of East Mobile Street next to George W. Seawright's shoe shop. A few years earlier Mr. Dismuke married Ms. Bertha J. Leigh in a ceremony at St. Paul AME Church officiated by the Rev. A.A. Godwin. Mr. Dismuke is enumerated on the 1900 census as a grocer in Florence. His wife died in 1901 after which no other records are found.

W. H. Dismukes, colored, of Corinth, Miss., a former employe of the Wagon Co., has opened up a fancy and staple grocery on Mobile street, in the Perry block, next door to Seawright's shoe shop. See his advertisement in this week's HERALD.

W. H. DISMUKES,

New Grocery!



New Goods!

Perry Block, Mobile St., Florence.

Has just opened with a fine line of Fresh Groceries. Rock bottom prices on Flour, Meat, Tobacco, Canned Goods, Candies, etc.

GIVE ME A CALL.

(Above) Excerpt of 1913 Florence City Directory for Grocers – People of Color, such as Misters Brewer, Buckingham, and Wytch, are Denoted by * (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995)

Directory lists 26 grocers, only three of which are people of color, in Brewer, Buckingham, and Wytch. By 1920, there were 59 grocery stores in Florence, but only five of them were run by people of color located in

(Left) Ad for W. H. Dismukes' Grocery (Florence Herald, September 21, 1899 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library) (Above) Newspaper Clipping about W. H. Dismukes' Store (Florence Herald, Thursday, September 21, 1899 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library) (Below) 1900 Census Record for William Dismukes (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

6	52699	Dismuke, William	Head	B. M.	Apr. 1875	25	M	5	Georgia	Unknown	"iii"	Grocer	0	yes	yes	yes	O F H	6
7		Bertha E.	Wife	B. F.	Apr. 1875	25	M	5	Alabama	Unknown	Alabama			yes	yes	yes		7
8		Rosa E.	Daughter	B. F.	Nov. 1895	4	F		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama							8
9		Repta	Daughter	B. F.	Oct. 1898	1	F		Mississippi	Unknown	Alabama							9
10		Lee, Minerva J.	Mother	B. F.	Jan. 1841	57	W	5	Alabama	Unknown	Unknown			yes	yes	yes		10
11		Coplan, L. C.	Wife	B. M.	Apr. 1838	12	F		Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama							11
12		Paul	Wife	B. F.	Feb. 1890	10	F		Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama							12
13	241	Maries	Wife	B. F.	Nov. 1892	7	F		Mississippi	Tennessee	Alabama							13