

Studies in Lauderdale County Lore

by
Jim Dawson

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Bits and Pieces
Volume 1

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Studies in Lauderdale County Lore
By
Jim Dawson

Edited By
Mary Jennings

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Email us at
archives@lauderdalecounty.org

Foreward

The studies gathered here under the collective title *Bits and Pieces, Volume 1* are intended to furnish more specific information about certain events and individuals in the county's history than has been previously available.

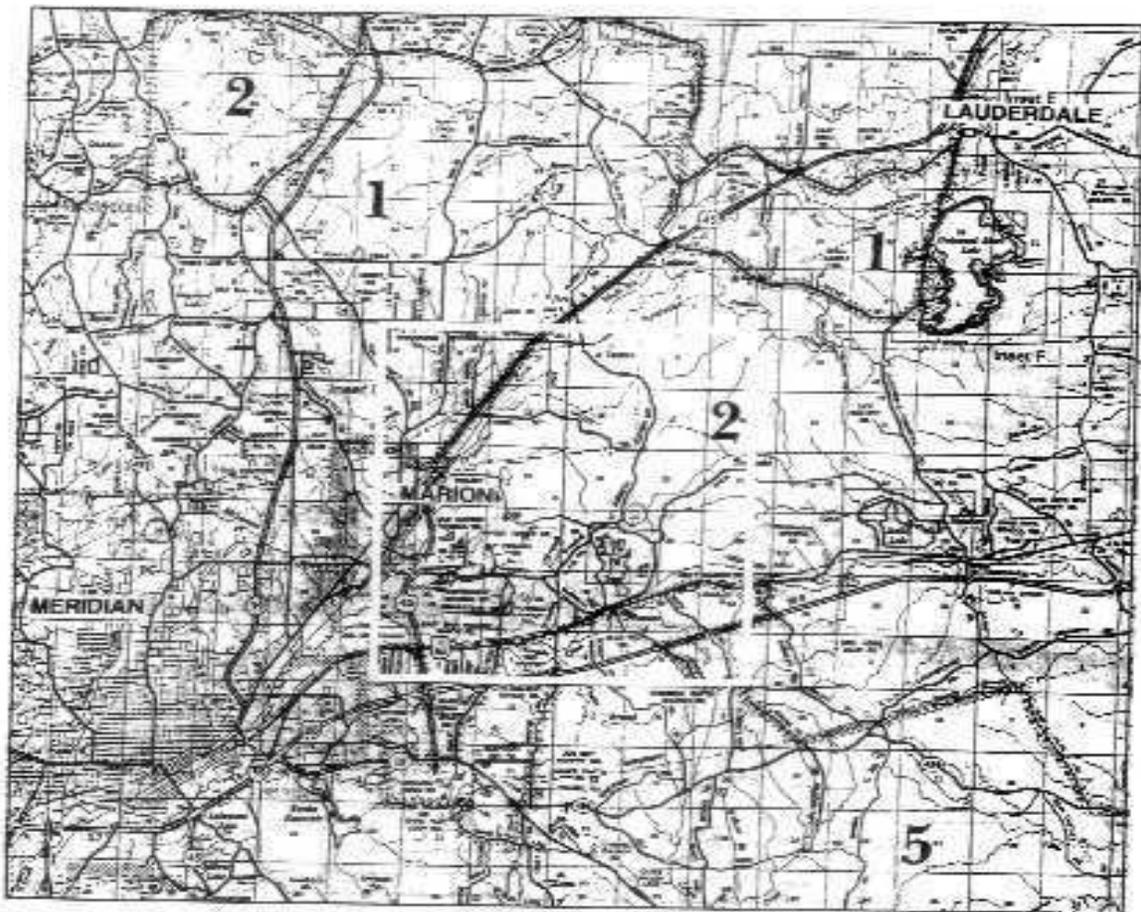
The author's intention is to set forth all the sources and documentation he has been able to discover, which process results in a variety of views of certain questions, leaving it to the reader to assess, and assign credit or blame as he or she sees fit.

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Old Marion





Old Magnolia/White Place

Old Magnolia Cemetery

Old Marion Cemetery

Chapter One

Sam Dale was involved in the fixing of the boundary line between Alabama and Mississippi. The old Mississippi Territory papers show evidence that some people objected to the idea that the line be drawn along the route of the Tombigbee River, and members of Congress heard by letter regarding the matter, and their objections, in the period before that part of the Territory joined Mississippi as a state of the United States of America. As a result of the objections, Mississippi's eastern boundary was drawn westward of the Tombigbee.

Norman Martin Sr., who would later be a member of the community now known as Causeyville, served as a member of a state committee that drew up sixteen of the new state's new counties, but just what part he played in Lauderdale County's creation is unknown, though it is thought that he served on the original Board of Police.

Lauderdale County was officially organized as a county of the State of Mississippi on December 23, 1833. The area had been a part of the Mississippi Territory from the time of the signing of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830. Legend has it that in the interim there was a small governmental headquarters office in the area just east of present-day Lauderdale, where official business such as minor court cases was handled, but no records of this office have come to light.

Some white men, having obtained the permission of the Choctaw Indians, were living in the area. While there is no record of the agreement that allowed them to settle, the Choctaw Indian Census of 1831 lists them, and identifies them as of the white race.

The first land purchases and/or land grants within the county's Township 5, 6, and 7 were recorded at the Federal Land Office at Augusta (Perry County, Mississippi) and in Township 8 at the Federal Land Office at Columbus (Monroe County, Mississippi). The purchases commenced in November 1834. At the time no mechanism existed within Lauderdale County to handle such transactions, and full control would not pass to local authorities until about 1850.

On March 1, 1841, the Augusta Land Office did furnish Lauderdale County records, as follows. The information was recorded in Deed Book B, pages 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, and 88, March 11, 1842.

Date	Purchaser	Date	Purchaser
1/25/1834	Henry Alexander	12/13/1834	Elias Jordan
11/22/1834	Joseph Alexander	12/13 &	Zachariah Jordan
11/22/1834	Matthew Alexander	12/22/1834	
12/10/1834	Alexander Bullard	11/25/1834	Peter Marsh
12/13/1834	William Chandler	12/19/1834	John McInnis
12/ 6/1834	Darling Dear	12/10/1834	Richard McLemore
12/ 6/1834	Joshua Dyess	11/25/1834	Ephraim Odom
12/ 9/1834	Edward Harper	11/29/1834	William O'Neal
12/15/1834	Gil Byrd Hays	11/26/1834	Isham Pace
11/22/1834	John Henderson	12/10/1834	Little John Smith
12/10 &	William Henderson	12/15/1834	William Stokes
12/22/1834		11/13/1834	Solomon Wheat
12/10/1834	Wilson Henderson	11/25/1834	William Wiggins
12/13/1834	John Jordan Sr.		

It should be understood that the notation concerning purchase of land does not necessarily indicate that the purchaser was here in 1834. Land may have been purchased at the office in Augusta months before the purchaser actually set foot in Lauderdale County.

Take, for example, Richard McLemore, who according to the best information available arrived in the county sometime in 1835 after an additional purchase. McLemore's first tract (bought in 1834) was in Section 34, Township 7, Range 16E, north of the present-day eastern boundary of Meridian. A further purchase was made in 1835, as noted, but it was not until January 22, 1836, that he acquired land in Section 18, Township 6, Range 16E, destined to become part of the City of Meridian. The author has found no proof or record of Richard McLemore's presence in Lauderdale County in 1831. He most likely arrived in the county in 1835, then bought the land in present-day Meridian, in 1836, after he had seen it.

Three Hendersons, John, William and Wilson, made purchases in Sections 35 and 36, Township 7, Range 16E that would become the site of Old Marion, the first real county seat. They made their purchases in 1834 and 1835, and perhaps took up residence in 1835.

John Henderson could in a sense be called the father of Old Marion, for he owned most of what would evolve into the town, and sold many lots there. As noted in Paths to the Past, an overview history, in Lauderdale County's earliest days court was held at Old Magnolia, but there is very little further information on the settlement there.

Franks Durr, chronicling Old Marion* , 1838-1865, indicates court had been

held at Magnolia in the county's earliest days. The settlement owes its name to a spring that had a large flowering tree growing over it. A man by the name of Cain (or Kane) had a store there. The area was also known as the White Place, which would seem to indicate that one of the original settlers was a man named White. At the time of the Durr article the lands of Old Magnolia were owned by a Mr. Ben and a Mr. Jim Bains (or Banes). The village boasted one hotel, owned by Bob Collins, whose family later moved to Meridian.

Legend has it that the county's first hanging — of a man convicted of horse theft by a court held in the body of a wagon — took place at Magnolia.

Sketchy Circuit Court records indicate that Old Magnolia was situated in the northwest half of the southwest quarter of Section 17, Township 7, Range 17E, which at this writing was roughly halfway between Russell and Topton on the Russell-Topton Road. It was in the old days three to four miles from Old Marion.

Circuit Court records reveal that one Daniel Reese had been engaged to lay off the town of Magnolia in lots sometime prior to February 24, 1836. On that date attorney Ransom McElroy, representing Magnolia merchants Alfred Browrigg and James B. Tarth filed suit to recover moneys paid to Reese, who, the complainants alleged, had not completed the assigned task. It appears the merchants were interested in the sale of lots and development of the community. The author was unable to trace the matter further.

On February 2, 1835 Elijah White and Isaac Yates owned the NE quarter of Section 9, Township 7, Range 17E. The southwest corner of Section 9 joins the northeast corner of Section 17. Both White and Yates owned other land in the area.

‘White Place’ more than likely derived from Elijah White. While the author has been unable to place him precisely at Old Magnolia, he may have been instrumental in setting up the village, for he was close by. Also, in the early days, little attention was paid to precision in land lines and White may well have been thought to own, and may have thought himself that he owned it. Many who came into the area just picked out a spot of likely farm land near a water supply and settled on it. Magnolia probably owed its lure to settlers to its spring.

* Durr is quoted at length in Chapter 2

Magnolia was still a village on April 20, 1837, when it opened its first (and last) post office, with Isaac Banes as postmaster. But it would be short-lived, shutting down after operating for only a little over a year, on May 26, 1838. Old Marion got its post office within weeks of Magnolia, on May 5, 1837.

It seems unlikely that Daniel Reese or anyone else ever completed the laying off of Magnolia in town lots, for nothing to indicate it appears in the deed books. The lots in Old Marion, on the other hand, were re-surveyed in 1839 by Jesse Killingsworth, who used the original survey (date unknown, but probably in 1836, as lots were being sold then), no copy of which, however, is in the records now.

An interesting question arises. Was there a rivalry between Old Magnolia and Old Marion? The latter did not lose its post office when Old Magnolia did, and Old Marion did achieve a survey and laying out of the town. Old Magnolia, distinguished as the site of the county's first hanging, did have a cemetery, now a field (tombstones vanished) near the lefthand side of the Russell-Topton Road as one travels east, to Topton.

Known county officials in 1835 were as follows:

Sheriff L.W. Pennington, Deputy Sheriff E.L. Doty, Judge of the Fifth Judicial District Court Thomas S. Sterling, Circuit Clerk James Keeton, Deputy Clerks John Culbraith and Owen Lee, Tax Assessor and Collector David Russell.

It is not known whether these officials were elected or appointed, but more likely the latter. The author found nothing on Pennington, and surmises he may have come from elsewhere. At the time, the sheriffs more or less ruled in the fledgling counties. There is no proof, but a lot of legend, to the effect that Sam Dale served Lauderdale County as its first sheriff.

It is known that Deputy Clerk John Culbraith lived just east of Magnolia, and Deputy Clerk Owen Lee south of Old Marion. David Russell lived just south of present-day Russell.

No one knows whether Magnolia ever boasted a building designated as a courthouse, though some sort of court seems to have been held there, perhaps along the lines of Mississippi Territorial Government. There seems to have been little governing done by the county in the period 1834-1836. All official orders and appointments, no doubt including that of the sheriff, came down from the Mississippi Legislature. In the beginning and for many years thereafter, the members of the Board of Police were elected to two-year terms but had no real power in the running

of the county's affairs, other than road construction and upkeep. Searches for names of members of the Board of Police in the county's first years have so far been fruitless, and there may in fact have been no such board when the county was brand-new. The Mississippi Legislature in 1832 set up means of electing such boards where counties had been duly constituted, and the process would change over the course of time, the Board of Police evolving into the modern-day Board of Supervisors.

We do not know how the first beats were laid off. No maps of the original beats or changes that may have taken place in the early years survive. It is known that Beat One, the central district, was at one time the most populous.

In 1836 there is mention of Duncan Calhoun as president of the Board of Police — the first such mention to have come to light — and Isham Pace as sheriff. John Culbraith is named as circuit clerk while Own Lee continues as deputy clerk. Two deputies, John B. Collins and B.F. Parker, now assist the sheriff.

It should be explained that in these early years the county had neither Chancery Court nor Chancery Clerk. The Circuit Clerk's Office had wide jurisdiction, which explains why in the very early records one finds such matters as divorce in the Circuit Court files. What would later evolve into Chancery Court was in the early days known as Probate Court, which was housed in the Circuit Court office. In 1870 a separate Chancery Court office was established, taking over probate matters.

In November of 1837 the county experienced its first courthouse fire, which destroyed all records from the time the county was constituted (Dec. 23, 1833), except for just a few civil Circuit Court case records, some of which survived, charred at the edges. The cause of the fire is unknown, though leg-end has it that certain residents who disliked Judge Sterling thought if they burned down the courthouse they might rid themselves of his presence. A `migrant' judge — moving about the district to hold court at various places — the judge may well have been appointed from outside, and would undoubtedly have been regarded by some, on that score, with deep suspicion.

Another interesting point arises. It is quite possible that Judge Sterling was the original judge of the Fifth District. Were the residents of Magnolia resentful when this judge began to hold court at the building built at Old Marion for the purpose? Had there been a building dedicated to court matters at Magnolia, and was that the one that burned? The records reflect that efforts were made to rebuild the courthouse at Marion, so it seems likely that such a building had been built there sometime around the first part of 1837.

There is no proof, and no records to review, but it seems plausible that, court

having been held first at Magnolia, the residents may not have liked having `their' court moved from there to Old Marion and the first designated courthouse may have fallen victim to resentment.

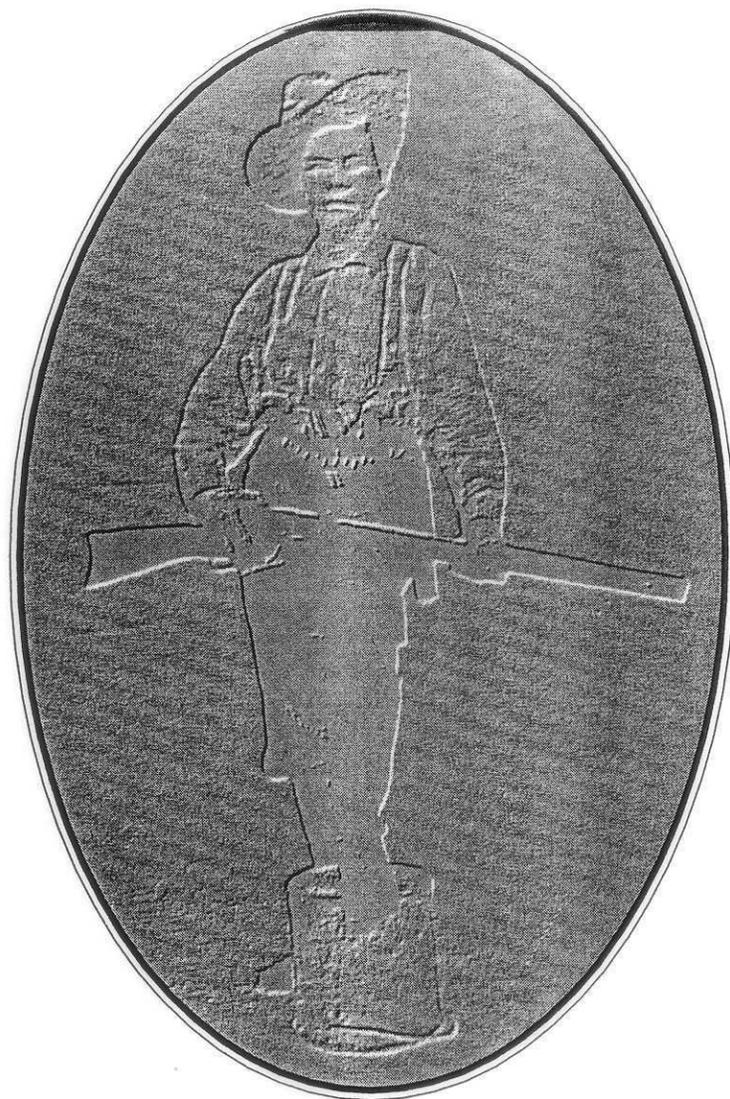
The whole story will never be known but the available facts — the job of marking off Old Magnolia left unfinished, and the shift of the court from its first site at Old Magnolia to Old Marion lead the author to the conclusion that the two sites were rival forces in the early days, but that while Marion was forging ahead with its survey and the subsequent sale of town lots in 1836, Old Magnolia was mired in a suit over the failure of the man hired to make a survey to live up to his commitment. And new residents may have found the rolling hills of Old Marion more inviting than the rougher terrain of the rival community. In any event, Old Magnolia would fall by the wayside and lose its identity as a community. The saddest part is the loss of the county's oldest records, which could have told us so much of our county in its earliest days.

While there are no records to substantiate some of the author's conclusions, he feels there was in fact rivalry among residents of various sections of the county, and has no doubt at all that the early residents faced grave dangers, for besides the perils faced by most strangers in strange lands, there certainly did exist in the local area an added element, outlaw gangs.

As to the formation of the county, of which little is known, it seems likely that General Sam Dale, as the most prominent and experienced individual on hand, would have played the leading role. He could have been the person designated to represent Mississippi's state government here and as such would have ruled the county in its infant stage. Almost immediately after the county was formed, he served in the Mississippi Legislature, and since the county was not then organized for election, he most likely would have served by appointment.

Again details are sketchy, but in the early days, one duty of the Circuit Clerk was to issue county officials copies of Mississippi Laws 1824-1832 (later to 1838). Elected officials governed according to the Laws, and returned the books to the Circuit Clerk upon the expiration of their terms. At the same time, churches of the day took a hand in keeping society in order by undertaking the settling of disputes among their own members, setting aside one Saturday each month for the practice, which was phased out as the official judicial system became fully established.*

* See Dawson: History of the Board of Police/Board of Supervisors, LCDA&H Catalogue No. 94, for further details.



Pioneer days were no time for the faint-hearted. While some like Aunt Muggie Warbington showed their spirit through conspicuous, noisy, and decisive self-defense, others like Margaret Lea would employ all their wiles in outsmarting those who threatened them and theirs.

Chapter Two

The chapter on Old Marion commences with a chronicle written years ago by a former slave, Frank Durr. The account, first published in 1909, was reprinted in the same form in December 24, 1982. It has been quoted, in part, by other writers, but not, to the author's knowledge, in its entirety. The author has added some information on this remarkable man and his family, as well as footnotes and other annotations, (enclosed in this type of bracket) for clarification. [Brackets like these enclose an earlier editor's annotations.]

Chronicle of Old Marion from 1838 to 1865

Chronicle of Old Marion, this era 1838 to 1865, was written by Frank Durr, a negro, 78 years old, (freed slave of E.A. Dun] who was a participant in the scenes and incidents recorded, and will be read with interest as a picture out of an earlier time in the county's history. It is a remarkable (sic) clear recital, and does credit to the author's gift of love.

By Frank Durr

While thinking over the past, I decided to drop a few lines to the public as the only person (left?) now near old {Marion}. I moved to where I live now in '38 [1838], that being 70 years ago; at the time old Marion was a mere village. I remember well the judge of the district, Judge Doty; the name of the sheriff was Dale [Sam Dale] { the county's first sheriff}, after whom Daleville (old Daleville, now Lizelia) took its name. The District Attorney being George Wood; Benjamin Clark was the circuit clerk. The next sheriff was John Cochran {records show he was the fourth sheriff), and then William White; then [RBG] Glenn Harper, William Raney, Benjamin Meadow and Warren Alford. (See Paths to the Past, history of Lauderdale County, by Fairley & Dawson for more information.)

The attorneys at the bar were Messrs. Epps Brown and William Daniels at that time. Later on came Judge Ivans [Evans] and his brother William, B.Y. Ramsey and Greene Grace.

The leading merchants of the village were Messrs. Hiram and Joshua Smith and E.A. Dun. Later on Mr. Louis Smith became the leading merchant of the town. In the year 18__ {about 1838) the retail grocery was owned by Messrs. James Ray and Oliver Bruner. Mr. Charles Rushing moved from North Carolina and clerked for

Mr. E.A. Dun. He walked a mile twice a day from his boarding place, which was at Mr. Billy Chandler's corner, known as Captain George's Place. At that time the mayor of the town was old uncle Jube Hancock; he was both mayor and marshal; he never carried a gun, but his weapons consisted of an umbrella and a rattan stick and the calaboose [jail] was the rear end of his office. He would threaten to hit a prisoner with his stick if he offered any resistance. At that time his son, Mr. Buck Hancock, was studying law under Mr. Jim Horn; his brother Dick Hancock worked in the printing office of Mr. Jim Dement; later on Buck came to be the leading lawyer of the county, partner of Mr. Charlie Smith in Clarke County.

At that time there were two doctors in the little village. Doctors {H.R.) Wilson and Johnson. About the year 1845, the leading merchants of the town were Messrs. Smith and Rushing; later on their business improved and they became the leading merchants of the county. In the year 1850, the "dry year," Messrs. Smith and Rushing led the county. I will here name the wagoners that hauled for them that year, from Mobile, (the nearest shipping point was Tuscahoma on the Tombigbee River [near present Mt. Sterling in Choctaw County (Alabama)]). {Drivers & haulers) Henry Alexander, Willis Bishop and Elias Jordan, white; Dave Warbington and Alvey, colored. Dave Smith and Rushing hauled all the goods the people used that season. They went into the wholesale business at Marion but did not last long.

The Mobile and Ohio Railroad opened up here in 1854. Messrs. Smith and Rushing went over (from Old Marion) to Marion Station in {18}55 and carried on a profitable business [Editor's note: this was when Marion Station began to come into existence]. Mr. Dave Smith was quite a young man when he married in{to} the Hancock family. They made up the largest family circle of the county.

I moved to town in {18}47 as apprentice in a black-smith shop. I worked four years for clothing and food for a man by the name of Berry Raines { Littleberry Baines}. At that time he was probate judge.

In {18}46 there was great excitement one day in the little town, there was a general muster, soldiers were volunteering for the Mexican War. The mustering ground was a brick yard owned by a man named Shoemek [S.S. Shumate] and he and his wife became involved in a difficulty with another man [by the name of Fisher] over this same brick yard. His {Shumate's) wife was widely known as Aunt Muggie Warbington, but old uncle Jube, being the mayor, he took his little stick and arrested them all, and charged them a dollar apiece, which he took for his fee; but the quarrel was renewed later on; a duel {shootout} was fought over the brick yard {of which Shumate claimed ownership}, three men of the Fisher side {the father and two sons} on one side, against Aunt Muggie and her husband. At the time there were no guns like they use now, but the old flintlock shot-guns. One had to break

off the end of the flint with his knife in order to fire. Old Aunt Muggie had two guns and her husband had one. They all walked out, picked the flints and fired when the word was given. Aunt Muggie cut down old man Fisher at the first fire and one of the sons shot and missed her. She dropped her empty gun, picked up the other and cut down William Fisher. Shoemek himself ran and his wife shot him with his own gun, which he abandoned in his flight {Aunt Muggie apparently did hit S.S. Shumate, but failed to kill him). The third Fisher shot and killed Aunt Muggie while she was disarmed.¹

In that day, people made all their shoes and tanned their own leather. The bootmaker was named Jim Taft and the shoeshop was owned by William Glasby. James Burrell, who at this time was a citizen of Meridian, came to be the leading shoe-maker in the town [Meridian incorporated in 1860]. There was a large vineyard owned by Uncle Jube Hancock; it was quite amusing for the young people to go over there, there was no sale of the wine, everyone drank free of charge.

The Rushing family lived close by Uncle Jube; they were the first family of the town. I here mention the names of the family: Charles Rushing and his wife, Miss Mary Rushing, Miss Clara, Eddie, Charlie , Horace, Crawford. Charley died when quite small. Eddie died since the war, but all the rest are still living.²

The colored citizens of the town I now name: Jeames Uames } Burrell, blacksmith; Jim, Liza Faulkner, who is {are} citizen{s} of Meridian, and myself.

Another event took place about '57: duel was fought. The legislature had passed a law that there should be no duels fought in the state. On the day of the duel the participants went to the Alabama line and fought in the [that] state at a place known as Ross's Ridge. Mr. Bill Evans and lawyer Ray {Con Rea} were the men engaged. Lawyer Ray was the father of Mr. Tom Ray, a citizen of Meridian. Each fired three shots at the word given. I remember the circumstances very distinctly. Mr. Buck Hancock loaded Mr. Bill Evans' gun; Mr. Ray carried Dr. Knot to wait on him if wounded, while Mr. Evans carried Dr. (D.U.) Ford to wait on him. They made all the people sit down and moved the horses and things out of the way; any man that raised a disturbance had it to pay for it. Black and white witnessed the fight. They stepped off sixty yards and laid a plank across the yard to show the distance, the men turned their backs toward each other, the count was one, two, three then wheel and fire. Mr. Con Ray {Rea} did not miss Mr. Bill Evans either shot, but did not cut him down. At the third shot, Mr. Evans hit Mr. Ray in the knee. The duelists made friends that day on the grounds. An editorial was the cause of the dispute.³

I remember very well in '44 {1844} they found Lauderdale Springs, Mr. William Patton built a house there and it afterward took the name of Patton

Springs.⁴

{Black} churches were very scarce. There were only two Baptist churches in the county; there was the Primitive church, known as Bill Allen's church near Lauderdale Springs. In '44 the first association I recollect attending was at Old Salem.

During this time Old Marion was a small village; there had been before that a court held at which is known as old Magnolia. It took its name from a spring, the headwaters of Toomsuba. From that spring, Toomsuba Creek flowed. A big magnolia stood directly over the spring; the old stump is there now. A man by the name of Cain {or Kane} had a store there which was also called Magnolia, place better known as the White Place, owned now by Messrs. Ben and Jim Bain.⁵ There was one hotel in the little village owned by Mr. Bob Collins, whose family now belongs to Meridian.

In the year '47 I went out to learn the blacksmith trade. In '48 the soldiers returned from Mexico, a big feast was spread for them, and there was a grand time. There were no railroads and they had to march through {from?} Vicksburg, and the people of the {this} little town went two or three days' journey to meet them, mostly on horseback as buggies were scarce. There would come a mounted courier every night to let the people know how far the infantry was behind. The first one of the company to arrive was Captain Daniels. He turned back next day and met his company and marched into town with them on dress parade. The white people that owned slaves allowed them to go to the barbecue to see the returned soldiers. I was about sixteen at the time and that was one of the happiest days of my life [at old Marion].

In '51 I went from {Old} Marion to Jasper County near Garlingville. There were no blacksmiths in the [that] county then. I worked four years at that trade with good success. I moved from there near Oldtown {old Alamucha, Lauderdale County} on a place now owned by Mr. Johnson Culpepper. In the latter part of '57 my shop was moved to what is now known as Lost Gap, about four miles below Meridian. The man to whom I belonged {E.A. Durr} had a contract to grade the A. & V. road from Tunnel Hill to Meridian. Carts and picks could not be obtained like in these days. I had them to make. In '59 excitement was so high over John Brown's raid that he [E.A. Durr] sold his contract and took all his hands home; what little work that was left to be done was finished in 1860. About this time excitement was high among the people, owing to the political questions of the year. In '61 the war broke out. I was working then in the little town of Marion [Marion Station] at the black-smith business. In '63 the quartermaster ordered me to make all the wagons I could for the Confederates; I did so [and] he gave me a check for every one that they

carried off. I could not work for the people in the country. They moved the temporary [Confederate] hospital to Marion. [It is not known just where this hospital was originally located; could have been Old Marion, and its location in Marion Station is likewise unknown.] A white man named Hosey and I had to make the coffins used at the hospital. I shod horses for the calvary [cavalry] all the time.⁶

In '64 Sherman raided the little town [Marion Station].* I had two wagons marked C.S.; the Federal army seized them and General Smith told me if I had been a free man he would have paid me for them, but since I was working for the rebels he would take them. I also shod horses for the Union soldiers during their stay here. They wanted me to go with them, as they said I was doing more harm to the Federal government than ten men with guns. They wanted to press me into the service, but I begged them not to take me from my wife, who was ill, so they let me be. At that time there was nothing in the country to buy; the army destroyed everything. There was no salt anywhere; people had to dig dirt out of the smokehouse and let it drip like lye. I don't think there was a pound of coffee in Lauderdale County; people parched peanuts, ground them and made coffee in that way; some would use rye. There was no sugar; there was a little cane called African cane; they would make wooden [wheels], grind that and take the syrup and boil it in place of sugar.

In '65 after the surrender the commissary was brought to Meridian for the soldiers. I had saved all the money I had ever made and had about \$200 in gold and silver at the surrender. The man I belonged to knew I had it because he gave me some money every year. He told me that I was free now and ought to get me a home, and I paid him that \$200 for a part of his plantation. That was July 15, 1865. I moved on it about the first of September. He often came to see me and we would converse on general topics. He had been in the state legislature more than once and I took his advice, and today am proud of it. He had taught me to read and write so I could look after his business; he would always give me his mail to read. In time of war, to see what the army was doing I thought it very strange after I was enfranchised and allowed to vote and my best friends were disfranchised. E.A. Durr, Charlie Henderson, William Mayfield and Judge Brooks, who were my best friends. Therefore you may know I don't like the disfranchise clause today.

* The Union forces (Sherman's) who set up headquarters on the ground floor of the building at Old Marion that had once served as the county's courthouse apparently did not know that the county's records were still stored upstairs. The soldiers who burned the newer courthouse at Marion Station presumably thought that the fire they set there destroyed the county records.

This article appeared in the Sunday, June 13, 1909, edition of The Evening

Star, Meridian, Mississippi. Frank Durr, its author, during some of the 27 years from 1838 to 1865, had been a slave of E.A. Durr, who operated a drygoods, hardware and grocery business in Marion (Old Marion), and was reprinted "as was" by J.L. Hobgood in 1982.

The present writer has added information about certain events and individuals to clarify the remarkable story told by a remarkable man.

The 1870 federal Census for Lauderdale County lists Frank Durr's post office as Marion Station; he was living within the city limits. His former master, E.A. Durr, is not listed in Lauderdale County on that census. Apparently he left the area sometime after completing his work preparing the rail road-beds.

Frank Durr	39	b. Mississippi	1831
Betty, wife	22	b. Virginia	1848
Ida, daughter	6	b. Mississippi	1864
Chlora, daughter	6	b. Mississippi	1864
Lucy, daughter	4	b. Mississippi	1866
Robert L., son	2	b. Mississippi	1868
William F., son	2 mos.	b. Mississippi	1870
Annie	12	b. Mississippi	1858

The race of both Frank Durr and Annie, 12, who may have been a niece, is listed as mulatto. One Cas Durr, also age 12, mulatto, was in the household of Johnson G. Knox of Toomsuba, and presumably working for Knox.

Yet another Durr, described as black, was Jack Durr, 70 years old, having been born in South Carolina in 1800, who lived with his family at Marion Station. This Durr probably had also belonged to E.A. Durr. There was a May Durr, age 50, born in Virginia in 1820, at Toomsuba. Also at Toomsuba was Mary Dun, age 53, born in South Carolina in 1817, with her children. And last, one Richard Durr, of the Negro race and 21 years of age, born 1849, was working for Eliz. Pigford at Lockhart.

The 1860 Federal Census for Lauderdale County lists E(manuel) A. Dun in Beat 2, the boundaries of which are unknown today. Over the years, the boundaries have shifted many times, changing both sizes and shapes of the beats. The author believes the Durr household was in or near the present Topton area, somewhat south of Lauderdale.

E.A. Durr	53	b. South Carolina	1807	Farmer. Real Estate value \$21,00. Personal wealth \$90,335
Elizabeth H.	38	b. South Carolina	1822	
William W.	16	b. Mississippi	1844	
Sarah A.M.	13	b. Mississippi	1847	
Emanuel A.	10	b. Mississippi	1850	
Laura	6	b. Mississippi	1854	
J.W. Rhodes (student)	16	b. Mississippi	1844	E.A. Durr was in Mississippi by 1844
Sarah A. Rhodes	13	b. Mississippi	1847	

It is unknown what relation, if any, the two Rhodes youngsters were to the Durrs.

No effort has been made to trace the E.A. Duns after the family left the Lauderdale County area.

In its short existence — only about 25 years all told — Old Marion produced at least two strong women, the first being Margaret Henderson Warbington, who to the end of a rather short life would stand up for herself, though at the time she had no rights in law, and if she had followed the conventions of the day would have been seen but not heard. She would charge her husband with adultery with a female slave, and any who made light of her soon regretted having done so; she was an excellent markswoman, who did not hesitate to make use of her skills. "Aunt Muggie" seems to have had the respect of her nieces and nephews, at least, even if the esteem in which they held her was not universal. In the end she stood alone; she had married S.S. Shumate in 1840, shortly after her divorce, probably never knowing that he had testified against her in the court proceedings. She did spend her last few moments with Shumate, and indeed fired her last shot at him as he ran away from the gun-fight, just as the last of the Fishers cut her down.

Thus ended the life of Aunt Muggie, the first woman recorded in Lauderdale County as having stood up for her rights in a court of law. It would be decades after her death in 1844 in the brickyard at Old Marion before women would gain the right to vote and with it some measure of political power. She left one child, a daughter, Nancy Ann, February 4, 1825-December 30, 1861, thus about the same age as her mother had been when she died. Nancy Ann married a Dr. H.R. Wilson. She had a number of children, two of whom died young and are buried near her in the Old Marion cemetery. Nothing is known of her other children, and their burial places,

like that of Dr. Wilson, are not known, nor is it known where her mother's two husbands, H.B. Warbington and S.S. Shumate, were laid to rest.

Old Marion's other woman of renown was the other side of the coin altogether. She experienced a good marriage and lost her devoted husband to the injuries he sustained as a soldier of the Confederate Army. This second remarkable woman was Margaret Bragg Rea, wife of Cornelius (Con) Rea, publisher of Old Marion's Republican newspaper. It was she, and her children, who braved the courthouse fire set by the Yankee soldiers to rescue the county's records on the upper floor.*

Stephen S. Shumate

Just when this person arrived in the Old Marion area of Lauderdale County cannot be said with any certainty. General information seemed to indicate that he had been in Kemper County, but early Lauderdale County records seem to belie that. At any rate, Kemper County's 1850 census lists him as a man of 60, having been born in Maryland in 1790. After the death of his wife, Margaret Henderson Warbington, in 1844, he married Mary ___?, sometime in 1847. This marriage could have occurred in Kemper County. Lauderdale County's marriage records for 1845-1851 have vanished.

In the Shumate household were his wife Mary, 17, born in Alabama in 1833, a two-year-old son, James A., born in Mississippi in 1848, and a month-old infant, Mary E., born the year of the census in Mississippi. Information in the Pitts book on the Copeland clan indicates that Shumate had mistreated his wife, and that years later he would face his wife's brother, grown to manhood, who somewhat belatedly would beat the hell out of the abusive husband, said by some to be nowhere near as brave when faced by someone other than a defenseless wife.

Shumate seems to have had some connection with the Copeland outlaw clan while he was in Old Marion, and more so after he removed to Kemper County. See the history of the Copeland Gang for details of the events of 1857, after James Copeland divulged the names of the clan members. A number of Shumates were resident in Kemper County in 1850, but no effort has been made to trace the family of S.S. Shumate, who seems to have gone to Texas sometime between 1860 and the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861.

* Further details may be found in Paths to the Past.

Kemper's land tax roll of 1854 lists his property as 480 acres: 80 acres in Section 8, Township 12, Range 16 - E½ SW1 80 acres in Section 7, Township 12, Range 16 - E½ SE1 320 acres in Section 16, Township 12, Range 18

Both the 80-acre plots were near the Noxubee County line, and the 320-acre holding was just north of Porterville. Further information has it that he lived and owned a house in DeKalb, so he may never have lived at any of the rural sites.

He was known as an expert stonecutter, but otherwise remains some-thing of a mystery, no doubt possessed of cunning and a certain degree of skill at using other people. At the brickyard shootout in Marion, in 1844, when Aunt Muggie picked up the gun he had dropped and took aim at him, she left herself open to the fire of the sole surviving Fisher. Had her own aim been on the mark, she no doubt would have taken Shumate into eternity with her. Perhaps that was her intention, for she must have realized the chance she was taking.

Notes

1. Aunt Muggie Warbington was married first to H.(B.) Warbington. According to county records, both filed for divorce, each charging the other with adultery. A divorce was made final on (November 28, 1840) and Aunt Muggie subsequently married S.S. Shumate, in Lauderdale, Mississippi. Dr. J.R.S. Pitts' book on James Copeland connects S.S. Shumate with the Copeland gang on the local scene. It is assumed that Aunt Muggie may have been buried in the Old Marion Cemetery. On the other hand she may have been buried in what was then a cemetery at Old Magnolia, now an unmarked field.

It is entirely possible that she, as the legend goes, had knowledge of the Copeland gang activities, but the writer doubts that the gang had buried any gold in the Kemper-Lauderdale County area. The Pitts book indicates their gold was buried in south Mississippi.

James Copeland, in his confession, which named gang members, described S.S. Shumate (who apparently had been in Lauderdale County before removing to Kemper County) as a big dog in the clan.

2. Charles E. Rushing really lived at (or near) what is known today as Topton, a short distance from Old Marion. The area was no doubt considered part of the Old Marion community after the Magnolia community faded out of the picture (see Chapter One). The site of the Rushing homeplace today (1995) is the home of Dr. Frank Tucker Jr.

3. Con Rea was the noted publisher of the Old Marion newspaper, The Lauderdale Republican. It was his wife and children who would later save the old court-house at Old Marion after the Yankees set fire around it, leaving it to burn. Thus she was the heroine of that day for she also saved the records of Lauderdale County, which had been secretly stored on the upper floor. The Yankees did destroy the courthouse at Marion Station, thinking the records were stored there. (The life of Con Rea has been fully covered by Nan Fairley in a study to be published in the near future, and information on Rea is available at LCDA&H.)

4. The springs apparently became known at that time to Mr. Durr; their history goes further back. General Patton was a prominent person in the 1840s and no doubt connected in some way to Lauderdale. Lauderdale, Alamucha, Sageville and Old Marion (and Magnolia) were the first communities in Lauderdale County. Some earlier histories left out mention of old Magnolia. Further information in Paths to the Past.

5. The name was really Baines (or Banes).

6. The study of history and such items as the moving of the Confederate hospital to Marion Station brings a deep respect for the leaders of the days prior to Sherman's visit, for they, the people, really outsmarted the Yankees by giving the impression that all had been moved from Old Marion when in fact the county records had been moved back to Old Marion. But had it not been for Mrs. Con Rea, no early records would survive today. Hers is a shining example of the courage and talent women displayed in the early years of the county, seldom remarked on or given their just recognition in their own day.

*The Confederate
Orphans' Home
in Lauderdale,
Mississippi*



Chapter Three

Because many visitors and researchers over the years have expressed interest in learning whatever there might be to know about the Confederate Orphans' Home at Lauderdale, Mississippi, the writer has compiled available information for inclusion in the current publication.

It is known that the institution in its day published a semi-monthly newspaper, The Orphans' Home Banner, which sold for two dollars per annum (in advance). Only one copy of the paper has so far come to light, and that one in terrible condition. Someone had patched the torn sections together with tape, and as the tape aged it became discolored and obliterated the wording underneath it.

LCDA&H volunteer Birdie Mae Rogers undertook to abstract what was still legible from the fragments of the Banner, after which the remains were retired to the Archives' vault. The single edition of the Banner held by LCDA&H, which even in its fragmentary state offers a wealth of information, as well as insights on the prevailing attitudes of the time, was published as Number 3, for Wednesday, February 15, 1871.

Mrs. Rogers' abstract follows

THE ORPHANS' HOME BANNER: February 15, 1871 #3

Day's rest upon man and beast. He gives as result of his experience, not only upon the expedition but many similar ones, that apart from all higher motives, it is wise to keep the Sabbath as a mere matter of pecuniary consideration — that more work can be obtained from both men and animals by its regular observance as a day of rest . . . We rob God of a portion of His Day that we may add a mite to our possessions, forgetting that the earth is His and the fulness thereof.

"PRODIGALS": How many prodigals there are in this world! Many who have had temporal blessings without stint showered upon them, but they have taken their portion, and without one grateful feeling towards Him who bestowed all these rich gifts, are squandering them in pursuit of the pleasures and pomps and vanities of earth. . . All of their wealth however vast it may be, cannot purchase for them one crumb of the bread of life, one drop of living water, to appease the hungering and thirsting of their souls . . . 'Why will they continue to refuse to return to their Father, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not? . . . He is more willing to give the holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than an earthly father is to give good things to his children.

Fight Hard against a hasty Temper. Anger will come, but resist it stoutly. A spark may set a house on fire. A fit of passion may give you cause to mourn all the days of your life.

MOURNING: Among the Turks violet is the color for mourning dress; among the Persians, blue; among the Chinese, white; and among the Europeans, black.

The population of the U.S. is 38,307,300 — an increase since 1860 of 6,864,078.

"ORPHANS' HOME"... Notwithstanding [that] the weather, during a part of the winter, has been very severe, and our houses are rather indifferent, yet we are passing the season more comfortably than heretofore.* The contrast between the two localities is quite as apparent in winter as in summer and the advantage is more sensibly felt. At the Springs, the situation was low, flat, surrounded partly by a swamp, and the ground within the campus being all winter completely saturated with moisture, constantly exhaled a dampness that kept the air chilly at all times, and during the night excessively so. To make the matter worse, all the available firewood was the most execrable stuff that ever mortals were condemned to burn; it required about twice or three times its bulk in kindlings to coax it to burn; it often brought to mind the anecdote of the man who contributed a half-dollar to missions, and then gave a dollar to defray the expenses of the half to its destination. Not unfrequently the occupants of a room would shiver through the whole of an evening with the fireplace full of wood that obstinately resisted the action of fire. It was a perfect tantalization. The present situation is high, rolling, and so exposed to the heat of the sun's rays, and the action of the wind, that all moisture soon dries off and leaves it pleasant underfoot; then the firewood is quite convenient and excellent. We have the enviable luxury of good, warm fires, and the gratification of knowing that wood is not hard to get. The boys do not have such a task to provide it as they did at the Springs. Good firewood is a luxury that the home is now enjoying for the first time ... The whooping cough which was brought here in the early fall, had but little effect upon them ... taken generally, they are a large family of robust children. We have sickness occasionally, it is true, for there is no place or people exempt from it, but upon the whole, the children are healthy, and agreeably so.

* In the first Confederate Orphans' Home, a wooden building that in the 1850s had been a flourishing resort hotel, at Lauderdale Springs. It saw service as a Confederate hospital, beginning ca. 1861-62, and after the cessation of hostilities, in about 1866, underwent yet another transformation, into the institution that would offer a place of refuge to the orphaned children of Confederate soldiers.

"THE OLD NEGRO'S LOGIC". A clergyman asked an old servant his reasons for believing in existence of God: "Sir," says he, "I see one man get sick — The doctor comes, gives him medicine; the next day he is better; he gives him another dose, it does him good; he keeps on til he gets about his business. Another man gets sick; the doctor comes, gives him some sort of medicine; it does him no good; he gets worse; he dies. Now that man's time to die has come, and all the doctors in the world cant cure him.

"One year I work in the corn field, plow deep, dig up the grass and make nothing but nubbins. Next year, I work the same way, the rain and dew comes and make a good crop.

"I have been here going hard upon 50 years. Every day since I have been in the world, I see the sun rise in the East & set in the West; the North Star stands where it did the first time I ever saw it; the seven stars & Job's coffin keep in the same path in the sky & never turn out. It ain't so with man's works. He makes clocks & watches; they run well for a while, but they stand stock still. But the sun, moon & stars keep on the same way all the while. There is a power which makes one man die, and another get well; that sends the rain and keeps everything in motion ..."

"DISCOURSE ON THE DEATH OF SUPT. S.S. GRANBERRY."
Delivered in the Chapel of the Orphans home January 15, 1871, by Elder J.B. Hamberlin: ...

Supt. S.S.Granberry, a philanthropist and a Christian sitting in his own home conversing with family & friends . . . no unusual indication otherwise than that he would be living for months or years to come. . . giving all necessary directions for the management & well being of this vast institute ... up to within 4 days, next preceding 5 o'clock last Friday morning, he was though feeble, still at his post... He was a Baptist ... his father died when he was 14 years old ... was a Professor in Mississippi College ... left a lucrative situation in Sept. 1866 to become Superintendent of this Orphan's Home* ...The result has been that hundreds of destitute orphans, first of Confederate Soldiers and then of all others, have been fed, clothed and sheltered here.... Assistant M.J. Thigpen cooperated earnestly with him & contributed largely to the success of this Home.... As much may be said of Miss Mary Welch, the principal contributor to the Orphans Home Banner and as much also of other teachers & employees in due pro-portion.

* S.S. Granberry was in fact the first superintendent of the home

From a report on a meeting held on the Monroe County Courthouse at Aberdeen:

The sweet little children from the Orphans' Home were greeted by a very large audience on Tuesday evening at the Court House Hall.... The managers complimented Aberdeen, by giving her credit for the largest attendance they have had in the State. Of course the singing was not remarkable for its excellence, nor could excellence have been expected where 30 infantile voices were called into requisition .. Dr. Carter of Huntsville, Ala., was present and delivered a touching address, in which he bestowed well merited commendation upon Gen. Crawford and other gallant Federal soldiers for the interest they have manifested in the orphans of their fallen foemen. Frank Saunders Silver Band tendered its services ... Aberdeen Examiner.

TREASURER'S REPORT — Office of Treasurer Orphans' Home, Brooksville, Miss., Feb. 1st, 1871.

Report of Funds received in Jan. 1871

Mrs. Mattie B. Nelson — Vicksburg	\$60.00
Mrs. Lulu Moore, Brooksville — subscription to the Banner	2.00
S. Newton Berryhill , Bellefontaine	11.00
9 bales cotton, nett proceeds	608.26
5 bales cotton, nett proceeds	280.32
Total	\$963.58

T.J. Deupree, Treas.

A number of advertisements appeared in the Banner, as follows:

SUMMERVILLE INSTITUTE — a boarding school for boys and young men -11 miles from Shuqualak, M&O Railroad — 18th Annual Term Monday, Sept. 12, 1870. Board, tuition & washing for[unreadable] weeks — \$ 125.00. Thos. S. Gathright , Principal -Gholson, P.O., Miss.

LAUDERDALE ACADEMY, Lauderdale, Miss. W.P. & A.M. McBryde's School for boys & girls opens Sept. 5th. Rates of Tuition from \$15 to \$20 per session of 5 months. Board can be obtained in best families \$15 to \$20 per month. [No further information on this academy found.]

AGENTS WANTED — L.V. Deforest & Co.'s Aluminum Gold Jewelry - Broadway, N. Y.

T.J. KEETON — Bookseller & Stationer — dealers in all kinds of musical instruments — corner of Front and Rhodes Streets, Meridian, Miss.

"THE LITTLE SOLDIER" — Weekly Sunday School Paper — 8 pages beautifully illustrated sent to subscribers twice a month, 5N a year or every week

\$1.00 a year — J.W. Burke, Macon, Ga.

"**THE FREEMASON**" for 1872 — largest Masonic magazine in the world — Clubs 10 to 20 — \$1.50; 50 or more \$1.25 — Frank Gouley, St. Louis, Mo. Refers by permission to the Grand Secretary.

The following, the last article in LCDA&H's copy of The Banner, is the orphans' account of their long walk — some three to five miles — from the new Home to Lauderdale and back.

Dear Young friends: We promised in the last issue of the Banner to finish telling you about our Christmas.... We stopped at the Christmas Tree so we'll begin there again. Tuesday, we had nice dessert again of cakes & candy left from Christmas; next day more boxes came and on Thursday we had another nice dinner.... Saturday, the last day of the year, two of our teachers took us girls out for a walk.... all through Lauderdale one way and back another to let us see all the town. When we turned to come back, reckon the merchants must have got ready, for when we got to the stores, they came out with jars & boxes of candy to treat us. First Mr. Henry Chiles came out of his store, and when we got a little farther on, opposite Messrs. Eason & Ormond's Store, Mr. Wm. McBryde who preaches for us, came out with their jars of candy; and when we got to Messrs. Porter & Kennedy's, Capt. Porter came out with a box full of candy hearts with mottoes on them — said he wanted us to read as well as eat. That was the last store but it wasn't the last candy we got. A gentleman who lives in the neighborhood, Mr. Wm. Moore, happened to be in town.... he went into Messrs. Porter & Kennedy's & bought a great box of candy ... telling us to take as much as we pleased ... f it didn't go around, he'd go back & get more

Guess you are wondering now, how did they know when they'd given each child a piece in all that crowd. Why very easy: you see we were in a long procession two by two and they helped the two front ones, then the next two, and so on till we all passed by without breaking our line. To be sure we had to move very slowly, but we didn't mind, we thought it fine times.

It was a long walk ... our teachers and some of the smallest girls got pretty tired ... We stopped at two of the private houses to rest — one at each end of town.... We couldn't get in cleverly, but it was a pretty warm day, and we sat on the gallery rested. c ... people seemed glad to see us.... some said we looked like a swarm of butterflies. Reckon we did look bright for we had on our nicest dresses of all sorts of pretty colors; then we had on the hats that had just come from Jackson all

trimmed in bright, fresh colors....When all these bright colors are stretched along in one long line, it is a right showy sight. That ended the week. New Year's Day, you know was Sunday, and we couldn't have any fun — but we enjoyed it, for it was a pretty day and Mr. Wm. McBryde preached for us. Next morning we went to work again, so we are regularly at work and at school... Christmas time is a wonderful thing ... at least it is to us for we have so many good friends to make it all pleasant to us. Your grateful friends, The Orphans.

ORPHANS HOME'S DIRECTORY:

Officers of Board of Trustees:

President — Prof. Thos. S. Gathright, Gholson, Miss.

1st Vice Pres. — Rev. J.M. Lewis, Canton, Miss.

2nd Vice Pres. — Rev. T.J. Sellers, Starkville, Miss.

Secretary — Rev. T.S. Webb, Crawfordville, Miss.

Treasurer — Capt. T.J. Deupree, Brooksville, Miss.

Executive Committee:

Rev. T.G. Sellers; Rev. J.H. Cason; Rev. W.S. Webb; Dr. S.P. Kennedy; Capt. T.J. Deupree

1870 Federal Census of Lauderdale County

Regrettably, no listing specifically devoted to teachers and/or orphans resident in the Home has come to light, but the U.S. Census of Lauderdale County, Mississippi, does give the following helpful information:

In 1870 the Lauderdale Confederate Orphans Home was under the direction of Simeon 5. Cranberry. His household consisted of:

Granberry, Simeon S.	41 born 1829 in Mississippi
Elizabeth M.	35 born North Carolina
Henry J.	15 born Mississippi
James A.	14 born Mississippi
Simeon 5.	11 born Mississippi
Laura A.	4 born Mississippi
Delia	14 B maid born Mississippi

The orphans and/or mothers in the home at that time (1870) were:

Owen,	Adelia	35	born Tennessee
Her children were:			
	Lafayette	12	born Mississippi
	Mary	11	born Mississippi
	James	6	born Mississippi
Melton,	Martha A.	40	born Alabama 1830.
Her children:			
	Robert A.	13	born Alabama
	Carrie	11	born Alabama
	Martin	8	born Alabama
Smith,	Christina	33	born Louisiana 1837
Her children:			
	Frank	12	born Louisiana
	Della	10	born Louisiana
	Maggie	8	born Louisiana
O'Brien,	Susan	54	born Mississippi 1816
Her children:			
	Ambrose	15	born Mississippi
	William	13	born Mississippi
	George	9	born Mississippi
Jones,	Sallie F.	43	born Tennessee 1827;
Her children:			
	Melissa	11	born Mississippi
	Emma	9	born Mississippi
	Willis	7	born Mississippi
Barrett,	Virginia	38	born Mississippi 1831
Her child:			
	Nora	5	born Mississippi
Kellum,	Joshua	10	born Mississippi
	George	8	born Mississippi
Grantham,	Nancy	30	born — not known
	Mary	10	born Mississippi
	John	8	born Mississippi
	James D	6	born Mississippi

Williams, Mary C.	30	born Mississippi	1840
Her children:			
Carrie	11	born Mississippi	
Juda	9	born Mississippi	
Elizabeth D.	7	born Alabama	
Thigpen, Moses J.	30	born Mississippi	1840
(supt. Granberry's assistant)			
Isabella	25	born Mississippi	
Ida B.	1	born Mississippi	
Wo(a)nham, Andrew	45	born Mississippi	1825
Welch, Mary J.	43	born Alabama	
(teacher, from Wahalak, Kemper County)			
Davis, Theresa	32	born Tennessee	(probably a teacher)

The following were orphans:

Atkins, Thomas	13	born Alabama	
Joseph	10	born Alabama	
Anderson, Ella	14	born Mississippi	
Susan M.	11	born Mississippi	
Gates	9	born Mississippi	
Sallie	7	born Mississippi	
Berry, George	14	unknown	
Anna	14	unknown	
Beason, Bettie	10	born Mississippi	1860
Para Sue	8	born Mississippi	1862
Bearden, Mary	14	born Mississippi	
Curtis, Job	13	born Mississippi	
William	12	born Mississippi	
Isaac	10	born Mississippi	
Crosby, Perry	12	born Mississippi	
Matilda	10	born Mississippi	
Dunlap, John	13	born Mississippi	
Mary	11	born Mississippi	
Downer, Minnie	10	born Mississippi	
John	8	born Mississippi	
Davis, Alce	10	born Mississippi	
Feston	8	born Mississippi	
Nancy	6	born Mississippi	

Drake,	Mary	11	born Mississippi
	Wesley	10	born Mississippi
	Henry	8	born Mississippi
Dehan,	Minnie	8	born Mississippi
Ellis,	Thomas	10	born Mississippi
	Mattie	7	born Mississippi
Fisher,	Cynthia	12	born Mississippi
Fedrich,	Anna	8	born Mississippi
Granthan,	Martha	15	born Mississippi
	Alice	13	born Mississippi
Green,	Judson	14	born Mississippi
	Lafayette	12	born Mississippi
	Ida	11	born Mississippi
	John	9	born Mississippi
	Charles	7	born Mississippi
	James	5	born Mississippi
Goodwyn,	John	11	born Alabama
	Eunice	9	born Alabama
	Thomas	7	born Alabama
Gartham,	Leona	10	born Mississippi
	Viola	8	born Mississippi
Gosey,	Debra	7	born Mississippi
Glasgow,	Fannie	10	born Mississippi
	Katie	8	born Mississippi
Howell,	Rufus	16	born Mississippi
	Maggie	13	born Mississippi
	William	11	born Mississippi
Hasty,	Wayman	17	born Mississippi
	Mary F.	15	born Mississippi
	Jane	13	born Mississippi
	Nancy	10	born Mississippi
	Benjamin	4	born Mississippi
Hogan,	William H.	15	born Tennessee
	Mollie L.	12	born Tennessee
Hillyer,	James	11	born Alabama
Henley,	Albert	11	born Mississippi
	William	9	born Mississippi

Harris,	Ella	10	born Mississippi
	Henry	7	born Mississippi
Hoy,	Ellen	10	born Mississippi
	Missouri	8	born Mississippi
Hudson,	Eugenia	12	born Mississippi
	Lizzie	11	born Mississippi
	Josey	10	born Mississippi
	Mary J.	9	born Mississippi
	Thomas	7	born Mississippi
	Harvey	6	born Mississippi
Hightower,	Jersey	10	born Mississippi
	Tiny	8	born Mississippi
Jameson,	Nancy	12	born Mississippi
Jones,	Lizzie	9	born Mississippi
	Jefferson D.	7	born Mississippi
Jones,	Lastley	12	born Mississippi
	Jasper	12	born Mississippi
	Henry	10	born Mississippi
	Andrew	8	born Mississippi
Jones,	Anna	8	born Mississippi
Joyner,	William	12	born Alabama
	John	10	born Alabama
	Edward	8	born Alabama
Johnson,	James	11	born Alabama
	Clover	9	born Alabama
	Harper	8	born Alabama
Knight,	Sarah	16	born Mississippi
	Albert	14	born Mississippi
	Elizabeth	11	born Mississippi
	Henry	10	born Mississippi
	James	4	born Mississippi
Lewis,	Mary	16	born Alabama
Lee,	Nancy	12	born Mississippi
	Joseph	10	born Mississippi
Ladd,	Sallie	10	born Mississippi
Scott,	Luther	14	born Mississippi
	Josie	12	born Mississippi
Langford,	Nicodemous	11	born Mississippi

McGee,	Sylva	15	born Mississippi
	Addie	13	born Mississippi
McDonald,	Amanda	13	born Mississippi
Moore,	Gemele	13	born Mississippi
	James	12	born Mississippi
	William	11	born Mississippi
	Sidney	9	born Mississippi
Mason,	Kate	11	born Mississippi
Morris,	Vestula (F)	12	born Mississippi
Mixon,	John	13	born Mississippi
	Henry	11	born Mississippi
	Mary	10	born Mississippi
	Jane	8	born Mississippi
McKenzie,	Molly	9	born Mississippi
Meador,	Malcolm	18	born Alabama
	Daniel	15	born Alabama
	Alonzo	13	born Alabama
	Dave	11	born Alabama
Owen,	Thomas	12	born Mississippi
	Robert	10	born Mississippi
Porter,	Mary	14	born Mississippi
	Riley	11	born Mississippi
Peavy,	Sallie	13	born Mississippi
Pope,	Pattie	10	born Mississippi
Popham,	Susan	11	born Mississippi
Partridge,	James	10	born Mississippi
Pearson,	Rebecca	13	born Mississippi
	Jackie (F)	11	born Mississippi
	J.	9	born Mississippi
Robinson,	Mary	14	born Mississippi
Roy,	Charles	12	born Mississippi
	Mary	10	born Mississippi
	Robert	9	born Mississippi
Reynolds,	Priscilla	11	born Mississippi
	Jane	9	born Mississippi
Spellings,	Geneva	14	born Mississippi
Swain,	Jerry	12	born Mississippi
Smith,	George	11	born Mississippi

Saunders,	Tucker	10	born Mississippi
	Lee	8	born Mississippi
Sumrall,	Nancy	12	born Alabama
	James	11	born Alabama
	Malcolm	9	born Alabama
Sherman,	Rosanna	12	born Mississippi
	Arena	10	born Mississippi
	Ann	8	born Mississippi
Shelly,	Theodosia E.		born Mississippi (female)
	Victoria	10	born Mississippi
	Lovey	8	born Mississippi
Simpson,	Carrie	9	born Mississippi
Watson,	Lucy	14	born Mississippi
White,	Lucretia	16	born Mississippi
	Nancy	14	born Mississippi
	Caroline	12	born Mississippi
White,	Daniel	10	born Mississippi
	Abraham	8	born Mississippi
Travis,	Dallas	10	born Mississippi
Wooten,	John	12	born Mississippi
	William	10	born Mississippi
	Elizabeth	8	born Mississippi
Weaver	Malinda	12	born Mississippi
	Mattie	10	born Mississippi
Williams	Martha	15	born Alabama
	Sarah	13	born Alabama
	Nancy	11	born Alabama
	Kittie	11	born Alabama
Woodruff,	Sallie	8	born Mississippi
Ward,	Ophelia	8	born Mississippi
	Mary H.	7	born Mississippi
Walker,	Henry	8	born Mississippi
Henson,	Moose	42	born Virginia Black (probably an employee)

The article quoted next, given to LCDA&H by Mrs. Eugenia Fowler (Mrs. John) Bounds, of Marion, came from her aunt's scrapbook and is undated, but Mrs. Bounds' grandfather, Dr. Richard Fowler, came to the Lauderdale area in about

1868 from Monroe County, Alabama, and since he (Dr. Fowler) was serving as the Grand Treasurer at the time of the issue we may assume that the laying of the cornerstone took place some time in the latter part of 1870. The information concerning the three-story brick building that replaced the old wooden building — first a hotel and subsequently a Confederate Hospital before it was the first Confederate Orphans Home — has never before, to the writer's knowledge, been published.

CEREMONIES AT THE ORPHANS HOME LAUDERDALE, MISSISSIPPI

Agreeable to previous announcement the cornerstone of an edifice to be three stories (of) brick was laid in due Masonic form on Wednesday last 27th inst. [Thought to have appeared in the Confederate Orphans' Home newspaper, the article carries no date; this reference provides the only clue.] The Grand Lodge was opened in honor of the occasion with the following as Grand Officers:

George R. Fearn	M.W Grand Master
John G. McArthur	Dep. Grand Master
J.C. Porter	Senior Grand Warden
C.M. Kelly	Junior Grand Warden
Rev. J.L. Cooper	Grand Orator
Rev. W. S. Webb	Grand Chaplin
A.J. Herrod	Grand Architect
R.Fowler	Grand Treasurer
J.L. Power	Grand Secretary
J.M. Wood	Grand Senior Deacon
J.L. Simmons	Grand Junior Deacon
James Watts	Grand Marshall
G.J. Fortner	Grand Stewart
Z.C. Gathright	Grand Personivant
W. Henderson	Grand Tyler

George Bancroft [Methodist minister] carrying the Holy Writings and Duncan Kelly [of Toomsaba] the Book of Constitution.

The ceremonies of laying the stone were not only well conducted but very imposing. The Masons in the vicinity to the number of about sixty marched in procession to the northeast cornerstone of the foundation wall, proceeded by the children and officers of the home. The children formed a circle on arriving at the corner stone and were surrounded by the craft and a large concourse of visitors. 'While the stone was being lowered a beautiful anthem was sung by the children to the air

of "One Hundred" the words of which were printed at the Orphans Banner office only an hour previous.

The ceremonies of laying the stone having been concluded the audience were comfortably seated and entertained for almost an hour with music, speeches and dialogues by the children.

Rev. J. L. Cooper* was then invited without previous notice to address the audience which he did in a most appropriate and eloquent manner. He was followed by Grand Master Fearn during whose remarks the children adopted as wards by Subordinate Lodges were called to the platform when the Grand Master took each child by the hand, receiving them on behalf of the Lodges. The scene was well calculated to moisten the eye and to start the sympathetic tear.

Could it have been witnessed by the twelve thousand Masons in Mississippi there would not be an orphan at Lauderdale today who would not be registered and provided for as the child of a Lodge. Photographs of the children thus adopted are sent to the Lodge and a duplicate copy to the Grand Secretary.

The ceremonies of the morning were followed by a bountiful feast for the children provided mainly by the visitors who came with baskets and trunks filled with good things for the orphans.

The boys at the home have not only made all the bricks for the building now in course of erection but have made about two thousand dollars' worth besides which are being sold at market price and the proceeds applied to the payment of workmen and the purchase of subsistence.

The home for the last eighteen months has been supported mainly by the efforts of Rev. A.D. Trimble and his Orphan Concert Troupe — they have not been very successful — the past few months, the home treasury is almost empty. Under those circumstances the Secretary, the Board of Trustees, was directed to commission suitable agents to at once enter the field and gather up supplies so that our children of the Lost Cause may not be permitted to suffer for bread and for suitable shelter.

* The Rev, J. L. Cooper, who as Grand Orator was called upon to address the assemblage as noted, was from the Cooper Normal College at Daleville, while F.C. Gathwright, who would later attain prominence as a school administrator in Texas, represented the Gathwright School in Noxubee County.

Thus it appears that the laying of the cornerstone at the site of the new home was accomplished with ceremony and a certain degree of festivity. In summary, the home seems to have enjoyed wide support from both North and South, and orphans of both Southern and Northern soldiers were being accepted. Just when the home ceased operations is unknown, but it seems probable that it was in the late 1870s. No listing of the Orphans' Home, or orphans, appears on the 1880 Census for Lauderdale County. The author believes the home closed for lack of financial support after some two decades of service to the orphaned children of the area, who might otherwise have died of neglect.

Mrs. Betty Lawrence's *History of Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi**, attributes to the Mississippi State Baptist Convention, at its first meeting in post-war days, in the fall of 1865, the founding of The Confederate Orphans' Home of Mississippi (Its name would be shortened at some later time).

The Baptist board appointed the Rev. T.C. Teasdale of Columbus as agent to raise funds for the project, and a site was selected at Lauderdale Springs.

The Rev. W.C. Bush supervised the home until the summer of 1866, when the Rev. Simeon Sebastian Granberry, then a professor at Mississippi College, Clinton, assumed the duties of superintendent, Dr. Sidney Kennedy of Lauderdale serving as physician to the home.

Sam Goodwin was appointed to assist and supervise the boys' in their outdoor work. He was replaced by a Professor Williams, but the latter died, and was replaced in turn by Judson Thigpen.

So many had been left destitute by the war that there was no need to announce or advertise the opening of the home. With age limits set at 6-16, subject to the discretion of the superintendent, the home in its first year took in 200 children.

All those under the age of eight went to school, while the older children went to school and worked on alternate days. There were teachers on the staff, and a reference to what had once been a hotel ballroom serving as both class-room and chapel leads to the inference that the school the children attended was in the home.

*Years after the home closed, former teacher Mary Welch wrote a history that was recorded in Vol. VIII of the Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, which was the source from which Mrs. Lawrence gleaned her information.

In the latter part of 1869 heirs of the hotel's owner, citing the sale of the property as illegal, laid claim to the property, which had been improved and renovated at considerable expense after its wartime service as a hospital. Loss of the property was a blow, but the trustees of the home were determined to persist in their service to the helpless.

The new site of the Orphans Home, which boasted the hills — one of which would be for the boys' building, the other for the girls' — praised by the anonymous Banner writer for the excellence of their drainage, was three-quarters of a mile from Lauderdale as the crow flies, farther by road, the author believes, and to the north of the M&O railroad track, three miles from the first Confederate Orphans' Home, and itself the former site of the Howard Orphan Asylum, established by the federal government for the purpose of offering asylum to former slaves and their children. The Howard Asylum had been abandoned shortly after the war and its property purchased by a group of Quakers who founded a school for Negro children.

The premises were vacant at the time the Confederate Orphans needed a new home, and the property was purchased by their Baptist trustees. The move from the old Orphans' Home site to the new took several days, but it was generally agreed that it was well worth the effort.

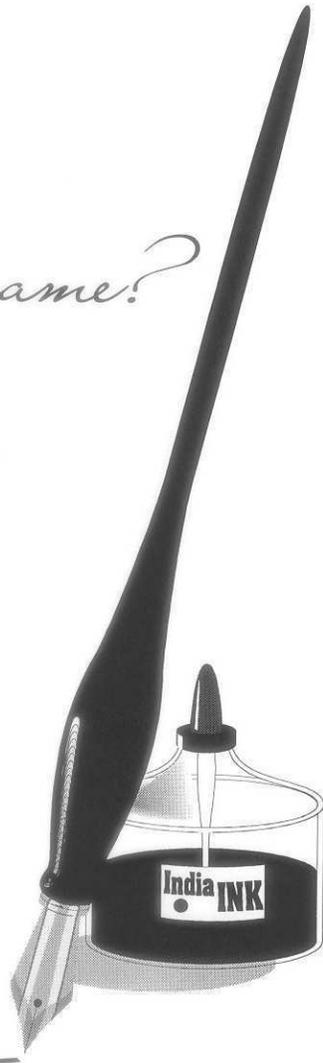
Professor Granberry died January 13, 1871, as noted above. His successors in the post would be Dr. T.J. Dupree, then a Reverend Trimble, a Captain Tower, and finally the Rev. R.N. Hull, the home's last superintendent.

By 1878 most of the original inhabitants were old enough to leave the home to make their way in the world, and some families had recovered enough from the hardships of the war and its aftermath to take in young relatives. The home, having accomplished its purpose, could close.

But the Masons who had undertaken support of the home from the beginning felt that a similar need persisted. They commenced new efforts in 1890 and by October 15, 1908, achieved their goal with the establishment of the Masonic Orphans' Home in Meridian.

Both Lauderdale County and the State of Mississippi can look with pride at the efforts of long-ago men and women who in a most terrible time gave food from meager supplies, shelter, and most of all love, to the youngest victims of a terrible war, the orphan children.

*What's in a name?
The three
Marions*



Chapter Four

In our county, two similar names — Marion and Marion Station — have caused a certain amount of confusion, as to which was which, and when. The first Marion (now also known as Old Marion) incorporated in 1838 but had come into existence by 1835-1836, the precise date unknown. It is known to have had a post office in 1837.

Then in 1855, when the railroad came through, it by-passed the old town and a new one called Marion Station came into being.

Merchants and other businessmen began to find it to their advantage to move their enterprises to the site favored by the railroad, and though the author has found no record of the incorporation of the new Marion Station, he does not challenge that it did take place.

This period saw a struggle for ascendancy that involved both Old Marion and Marion Station, as well as the upstart to the south, the town of Meridian, recently incorporated and vying with the older communities for the county's courthouse, the seat of power. The election of July 4, 1859, brought defeat to the Meridian faction. Marion Station was victorious in the October balloting. Sometime in 1860 the county's Board of Police moved the seat of government from Old Marion to the new Marion Station.

The move brought Marion Station to new heights. Its population had grown while Old Marion's was declining. On August 13, 1856, Marion Station opened its post office, which remains in operation at this writing (1995), though with a shortened name, plain Marion. Old Marion's post office ceased operations January 15, 1867, a reliable indicator that decline had taken its toll, and it had ceased to exist as a town.

The new and thriving Marion Station was to enjoy only a short period as the county seat. Meridian was growing and Civil War was on the horizon. Both the old and the new Marions (the new one really a transplanted version of the old, not only businesses enterprises but residences) were to suffer utter destruction in the war. Afterward Marion Station did prosper briefly as the strawberry capital of the world, and a new brick courthouse replaced the one burned by Sherman's troops, but the neighbor to the south resumed its growth after the cessation of hostilities, and it was only a matter of time before it wrested control. In 1870 the Board of Police decided to move the seat of county government once more, to the Con Sheehan building

on what is now Fifth Street in downtown Meridian*, where it functioned until a new courthouse was built. Marion Station changed its postal identity to Marion in 1911.

Today Marion continues as an independent town, carrying a name brought to the county while it was in its infancy, but whether the name was that of an early settler or perhaps a reminder of a settler's home place is unknown.

Summary

1838 (Old) Marion is incorporated as the county seat.

1856 Marion Station opens its post office

1860 Marion Station becomes the new county seat

1867 Official demise of Old Marion, with the loss of its post office

1870 County seat moves again, to a new home in Meridian

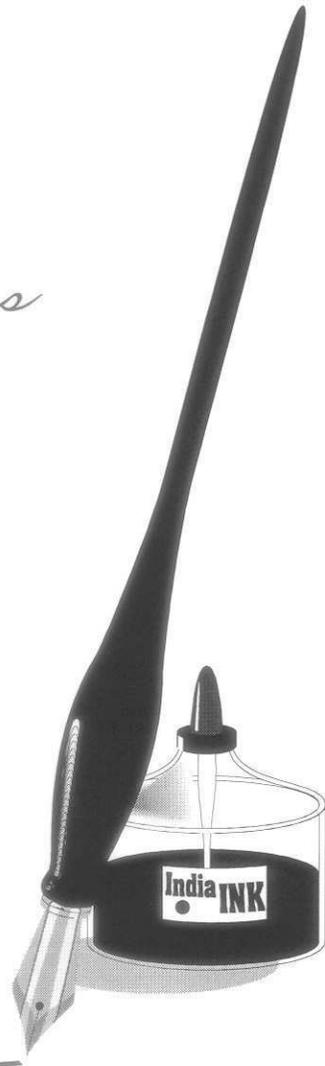
1911 Marion Station's post office changes its name to Marion

1971 Marion (formerly Marion Station) incorporates

Old Marion beat out Magnolia, became the first real seat of county government in 1838, and operated officially as such until 1860, a period of twenty-two years. Its successor, Marion Station, was county seat for ten years, until 1870, and Meridian, at this writing in 1995, has been the county seat for 125 years.

* This subject is treated in more depth in Dawson & Fairley: Paths to the Past.

The Vances



Chapter Five

Work on the Marion Riot of 1881 led inevitably to an interest in Edward

Vance's involvement in it, and the author then set out to identify and separate the Vances in the area, and get a picture of the various Vance families both before and after that terrible event, which affected so many people in so many ways.

The author's purpose is to bring to light information never published before, so the reader may draw his or her own conclusions. A tragic event, the riot caused the death of one of Edward Vance's sons and forced Edward and his family to remove from the area. One descendant reports that no one in his family ever discussed it, and many who remained here shared that silence, evidently also sharing the feeling that discussion would serve no good purpose. In fact, so little was said by Edward's relatives that present-day descendants do not know of, or believe in, any family connection with him.

This study is concerned with general information, leading into some-what broader coverage of the Edward Vance Sr. family of Lauderdale County, Mississippi, not strictly from a genealogical standpoint. The Jeanne H. Henry Family History and other materials in Lauderdale County Department of Archives & History offer more specific information. William L. Blanks of Meridian also has genealogical information on the Vance family.

George Vance, born February 14, 1822, in Derry County, Ireland, in August of 1849 married Mary Jane Page, born in Hinds County, Mississippi. By legend, this George Vance had landed some years prior to 1849 in New Orleans, where he worked for a while before making his way to the Hinds County area. One source has him arriving in this country in the company of two brothers, while another says his companions were two cousins. The James Vance who settled in Newton County could have been a relative, possibly a brother. George would live out his life in the Rio community of Kemper County.

1840 Census, Newton County, Mississippi

James Vance*	age 20-30	b.1810-1815
1 female	age 15-20	b. 1820-1825
1 male	under 5	b.1835-1840 employed 2 males

* This James was thus one of the first, if not the first, Vances officially listed as resident in Newton County.

Nearby

Elizabeth Page*	age 60-70	b. 1770-1780
1 female	age 15-20	b. 1820-1825

* may have been the grandmother of Mary Jane Page, born in Hinds County January 1, 1830, who would become George Vance's wife. The young female listed in the house-hold is the wrong age to have been Mary Jane, who was ten years old in 1840.

Newton County Cemetery Record by Mrs. Lois Strebeck

Erin Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery — only early inhabitants listed here:

Margaret Vance	September 1832	January 6, 1925
David Masonic Vance	May 9, 1825-	October 17, 1911
Josiah M. Vance	December 6, 1853-	March 3, 1919
James T. Vance	1851-	1937
James Vance*	June 23, 1836-	April 1, 1923
Elizabeth Vance	March 12, 1840-	March 21, 1921

* could have been the male under five years of age listed in the 1840 census. Many Vances are buried in this cemetery, and some of the very first graves may not have markers.

While the 1840 census shows only one Vance, the next survey, 1850, shows a number of Vances living in Newton County. The inference from all available information is that the majority of the earliest Newton County Vances arrived in the area in the 1840s, perhaps from the Hinds County area.

Continuing with information in the family history of Jeanne H. Henry and William L. Blanks:

1850 Census, Newton County, Mississippi

324/324	James Vance Sr.	b. Ireland about 1800
584/584	Francis Vance	b. Ireland about 1790
320/320	John Vance Jr.	b. Ireland about 1815
474/474	James Vance	b. Ireland about 1818

1860 Census

614/630 David Vance* about 1825

* Probably the David who married his cousin Margaret, daughter of Thomas Vance, who died in Hinds County, according to a Vance family newsletter.

Examination of the 1850 information shows none of these Vances, with the possible exception of James Sr. and John Jr., as close neighbors. The James born about 1818 could be the son of Francis.

Confusion over who arrived with whom, and when, and the family connections as siblings, cousins, and so on, has been compounded over the years by like names, e.g. there being at least two Roberts and/or two Davids.

For the moment let us assume that George and James were brothers, the first to arrive on the local scene, with an unidentified male relative (brother or cousin). It was known that George had a sister Sarah, as noted below.

Later in 1849 or early 1850, Robert, born 1822, arrived with a David Vance born in 1830 and an Edward Vance born in 1832.

These Vances — Robert, David and Edward — came straight to this area from Mobile, Alabama, no doubt because George was already settled here. David and Edward may have been younger brothers of Robert, and like him cousins to George. Another legend says a sister Jane came with them.

Let us turn now to census and other information regarding George, commencing in 1850.

1850 U.S. Census, Kemper County, Mississippi

Family Number

518	George Vance	38	b. Ireland	1822
	Mary	30	b. Ireland	1830
	Sallie	7	b. Mississippi	1853 (known as Fannie)
	Rebecca	5	b. Mississippi	1855
	William F.	2	b. Mississippi	1858
	George T.	1 mo.	b. Mississippi	1860

At dwelling 281 there were a Harry Vance, 21, born in Alabama in 1839 and his wife Mary A., 22, and at dwelling 370 there was a Charles Vance, 17, born in Alabama in 1843, in the household of James M. Adams, 45, born in South Carolina.

No connection made to George Vance or the other Vances who are the subject of this study.

986	William Moore	36	b. Ireland 1824
	Sarah (Vance)	34	b. Ireland 1826 sister to George Vance
	John	14	1846
	Ellen J.	11	b. Ireland 1849
	W.G.H.	8	b. Canada 1852
	S.A. (f)	6	
	V.E.S. (f)	3	
	R.J.V.(m)	1	

This Sarah (Jane) Vance had married William Moore in Ireland some-time before 1846. Their daughter Eliza, born 1843 in Ireland, was married by 1860 and living in Neshoba County, Mississippi. The son John born in 1846 was in Kemper County in 1870, while Ellen J., born in 1849, married and lived in Forrest (Mississippi) and William G. H., born July 31, 1852 in Quebec, lived in Lauderdale County.

Sarah and her family apparently came to Mississippi from Canada some-time after the birth of William in 1852.

Looking through the names of George's and Sarah children offered no clue to their own father's name, which may have been John. Their parents never came to America.

George Vance first owned land in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, on the western edge of what is now Meridian, then settled in the Rio area of Kemper County. He and members of his family are buried in the Zion Church cemetery. Vances by legend came to Lauderdale County by way of Hinds and Newton counties.

Members of the family of George's sister Sarah (her full name may have been Sarah Jane), born in 1824 in Ireland — who married William Moore in Ireland sometime before 1846 — are buried in the same cemetery.

The author thinks that one of the brothers (or cousins) who came to America with George was a William Vance. If this is true, it means George's companions when he arrived in America would be the James Vance of Newton County and the William Vance of Lauderdale County. The author has not discovered the year of William's birth.

Brief information indicates that George, James and William may have come to New Orleans as early as the late 1830s, and they could have made their way to

the Newton County area via Hinds County.

Lauderdale County, Mississippi, Probate Records Probate Court Docket, 1852-1855

April term, 1853; Estate of William Vance

George Vance applied to be appointed, and was appointed, administrator. According to Probate Record Book D, page 567, William Vance departed this life January 10, 1853, leaving no will. He died possessed of 80 acres of land, a small stock of horses and cattle and debts owed him. The estate was valued at about \$700. George signed with his mark. Later records show several notices directing George to appear to report on the estate, apparently to no avail, and the last such notice directed to Kemper County.

Lauderdale County Deed Book H, page 379

May 15, 1856 — J.B. and wife Sarah Ann McDonald, warranty deed to George Vance, administrator of the estate of William Vance, conveying 80 acres, W½, NE¼, Section 9, Township 7, Range 15E.

William's estate records listed no heirs, and the inference from that — and the appointment of George as administrator — is that William was unmarried, and was the brother of George. The writer has found no mention of this William in any other Vance material he has checked, and no mention of any missing or unidentified brother or cousin.

The Vances present at the estate sale were George, born 1822, Robert, born 1822, David, born 1830, and Edward, born 1832 — which would seem to indicate that the two sets of Vances were related — and a connection by marriage, George's brother-in-law, William Moore.

William Vance's land was in Section 9, Township 7, Range 15E. The deed may never have been recorded. Probate records reflect no final settlement of William's estate.

George, the James of Newton County and William could well have been the brothers who came to area after having arrived in New Orleans sometime in the late 1830s. Robert, David, and Edward likely were the Vances who arrived in Mobile in December of 1849, some years after the first of the Irish Vances had come to this area.

April 24, 1855, Edward F(ranklin) Vance married Sarah Elizabeth Gallespie. Lauderdale County records also show marriages of a Richard Vance in 1855, a James Vance in 1859, and a Robert Vance in 1861, but these men were not related to the Vances who are the subject of this writing. Some of these `other' Vances, born

in Alabama, lived in the Daleville area and are buried in the Hickory Grove cemetery near NAS Meridian.

Members of the family of George Vance, buried as noted above in the Zion Baptist Church at Rio, Kemper County include:

William Franklin Vance , born March 19, 1858, died February 2, 1925, age 67 years, 13 days, son of George.

Mary Jane, wife of George Vance, born Hinds County, Mississippi, January 1, 1830, died February 13, 1881.

George Vance, born Derry County, Ireland, January 14, 1822, died April 4, 1887.

The author will go with the birth date carved in stone, rather than the 1816 reflected by the 1870 census.

Mollie Stephens, wife of W.F. Vance born February 13, 1868, died January 15, 1953.

The William Vance who died January 10, 1853 is probably also buried in this cemetery, in an unmarked grave.

Lauderdale County 1858 Land Roll Tax List

David Vance SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ & SE of NE V4, Section 15, T 6, R 15E. 280 acres valued at \$1,400. This tract lies north of Key Field and Interstate 20. Old highway 80 West runs through the SE corner of the section.

Robert Vance W $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & SW of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 7 & 17, T 6, R 15E, 160 acres valued at \$1,120, in the South 22nd Avenue area of Meridian, later to become known as Southside.

Lauderdale County 1878 Land Roll

M.A. (Mary Ann, widow of David) Vance had 280 acres in Section 15 and 80 acres in Section 14, of T 6, R 15, plus lots 11, 12, & part of 13 in Meridian block 30. David, b. 1830 and deceased by 1878, is believed to be buried in the old Sageville cemetery.

John Vance (son of Robert) part of lot 97, M&O RR, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S 25, T 6, R 15, 40 acres. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S 26, T 6, R 15, 160 acres, east of Key Field and highway 11 South, just south of Interstate 20. There is no mention of Robert, who may have been living with his son John, or may have died.

Now for more on Robert, David, Edward and Jane Vance:

Lauderdale County 1850 Census

321/330	Robert Vance	26	b. Ireland	1824
	Elizabeth	26	b. Ireland	1824
	John	5	b. Ireland	1845
	Robert	3	b. Ireland	1847
	Jane	18	b. Ireland	1832 sister of Robert, David and Edward

B.F. (Buddy) Vance of Texas reports family legend to the effect that three brothers and their sister — Robert, David, Edward, and Jane Vance — landed at Mobile, December 24, 1849.

Lauderdale County 1860 Census

Robert Vance	38	b. Ireland	1822	farmer
Elizabeth	38	b. Ireland		
John	15	b. Ireland		
Robert	12	b. Ireland		
Mary A.	9	b. Mississippi		

Lauderdale County 1853 Mississippi, state census

David Vance males 2, females 2

David and his wife had a daughter born in 1852, and there is an additional unidentified male in the household

Robert Vance males 4, females 2

Robert had two sons and a daughter, so his household also had an extra male, perhaps Edward, who was 17 in 1850, and still not of age, being only 20, when the count was made in 1853. No indication of the purported sister Jane, who had been in Robert's household in 1850. It is also possible that she may have married.

Lauderdale County's surviving records don't show a marriage for Jane, but the marriage book covering June 12, 1845 to November 9, 1851 is missing. On the other hand, she may have removed to Newton County, or she may have died.

We do not know whether the Jane Vance born in 1832 had any other name(s). The Old Marion newspaper, the Lauderdale Republican for December 16, 1854,

reports the death of one Miss Martha Vance — perhaps Martha Jane? — thrown from her horse and killed as she was on her way to church. The site of the accident is not given.

While we have found no record of Jane in the 1853 state census, she could have been living with one relative or another, or working for someone. Her (twin?) brother Edward bought land in 1853, but he, too, is missing from the state census roll for that year.

There is no David Vance on the 1850 Lauderdale County census. 1860 U.S. Census Lauderdale County, Mississippi Beat 4, P.O. Sageville (very close to the Newton County line)

1012/990	David Vance*	30	5400/1750	b. Ireland	1830
	Mary A.	33		b. Alabama	1827
	Sarah	8		b. Mississippi	1852
	Mary	6		b. Mississippi	1854
	Margaret	5		b. Mississippi	1855
	William	4		b. Mississippi	1856
	Martha	2		b. Mississippi	1858

*David Vance was among the organizers of Meridian's First Presbyterian Church, in 1856. Fellow organizers were John T. Ball and L.A. Ragsdale. The church's second building stood at the corner of Johnson and Church streets, at this writing known as 25th Avenue and Seventh Street.

A C. Graham lived nearby, and one of David's daughters later married a Graham.

This is not the Newton County David (M.), who was born in 1825. The family newsletter furnished by Mrs. Rubye Harrison says that that David married his cousin Margaret, as noted above, whereas the name of the Lauderdale County David's wife was Mary A.

April 22, 1854

D. Vance and an R. Vance both purchased items from the estate of William Dearman, according to Probate Records E, page 291. The same book, at page 69, shows a purchase of calico, etc., by William Vance, in 1852, so presumably he had someone who perhaps made clothes for him.

At the sale, estate of William Vance, December 12, 1853, the following bought items:

Edward Vance	7 head of cattle	\$59.25
Robert Vance	bay colt	\$18.50
George Vance	4 cows and a saddle blanket	\$19
David Vance	2 head of cattle	\$15
William Moore	2 head of cattle and a pair of saddle bags	\$26
John Houston	saddle	\$10
Thomas Thompson	50 bushels of corn	\$28

Further information on the brothers Robert David and Edward, and their sister Jane:

As best it can be determined from one or more census records, their birth years were as follows

Robert	1822
David	1830
Edward	1832
Jane	1832(?) if this is correct, she and Edward may have been twins

Lauderdale County's 1850 Agricultural Production Schedule lists Robert Vance as owner of 4 milk cows, 4 other cattle, 4 swine and 2 bales of cotton. Value of the livestock is listed as \$66.

Lauderdale County Deed Book G, page 69

March 28, 1853 John W. Bailey, warranty deed to Edward Vance, for 75 acres, E 1/2 SW ¼, Section 5, Township 6, Range 16E. Land now within the Meridian city limits.

Lauderdale County Deed Book H, page 10

August 15, 1855 David Vance appointed guardian to William Atkins, minor heir of Andrew A. and Mary Atkins. William, born 1844, was about 10 years old in 1854. These Atkinses were not on the 1850 census. This appointment of David as guardian may give a clue to the identity of David's wife's parents, who may have married in Newton County.

Lauderdale County Deed Book H, page 320

December 26, 1855 George and wife Mary Jane Vance sold 66 acres in Section 8, Township 7, Range 16, to James Bell McDonald. This land lies a short distance southeast of present-day Bailey.

Lauderdale County Deed Book I, page 255

March 6, 1858 Robert and wife Elizabeth Vance, deed to Lewis A. Ragsdale, 40 acres, Section 17, Township 6, Range 16E. Land now within Meridian city limits.

Lauderdale County Deed Book J, page 96

March 7, 1859 Robert Vance bought from Henry J, Arrington & C.E. Rushing 40 acres in Section 5, Township 6, Range 16E (in the same area as the purchase by Edward Vance on March 28, 1853).

Sageville Methodist Cemetery, Beat 4

Alice Wineva Vance, daughter of H.M. and M.G. Vance, born March 10, 1912, died August 8, 1912

Mother Alice Vance Barfield, March 5, 1868-November 16, 1915

Father Amos H. Barfield, May 5, 1848-August 20, 1915

Alice was the daughter of John, son of Robert Vance

Mother Mary Kay Vance Graham, November 1, 1880 November 19, 1955

Also daughter of John, son of Robert

Mother Mollie A. Vance, October 10, 1847-December 6, 1911

Wife of John, son of Robert

Father John Vance, November 20, 1845 January 28, 1926 Son of Robert

Arthur Kendall Vance, August 17, 1892 July 30, 1903

It appears that the George Vance family were of the Baptist faith, while David's and Robert's families were Methodists and the Newton County Vances Presbyterians.

County school records indicate that John Vance (son of Robert) was very active in school matters in Beat 4, while his brother R.J. took the same sort of interest in Beat 1. There was a Vance school, with R.J. as trustee, in Beat 1 in 1885.

In summary, it appears that Robert Vance, born 1822, David Vance, born 1830, and Edward Vance, born 1832, were brothers who came to America in 1849, arriving with their sister Jane at Mobile on Christmas Eve.

Further, it appears that the Kemper County George Vance was a brother to William Vance who died in 1853, and that they may have had one or more brothers (one of whom could have been James) who settled in Newton County.

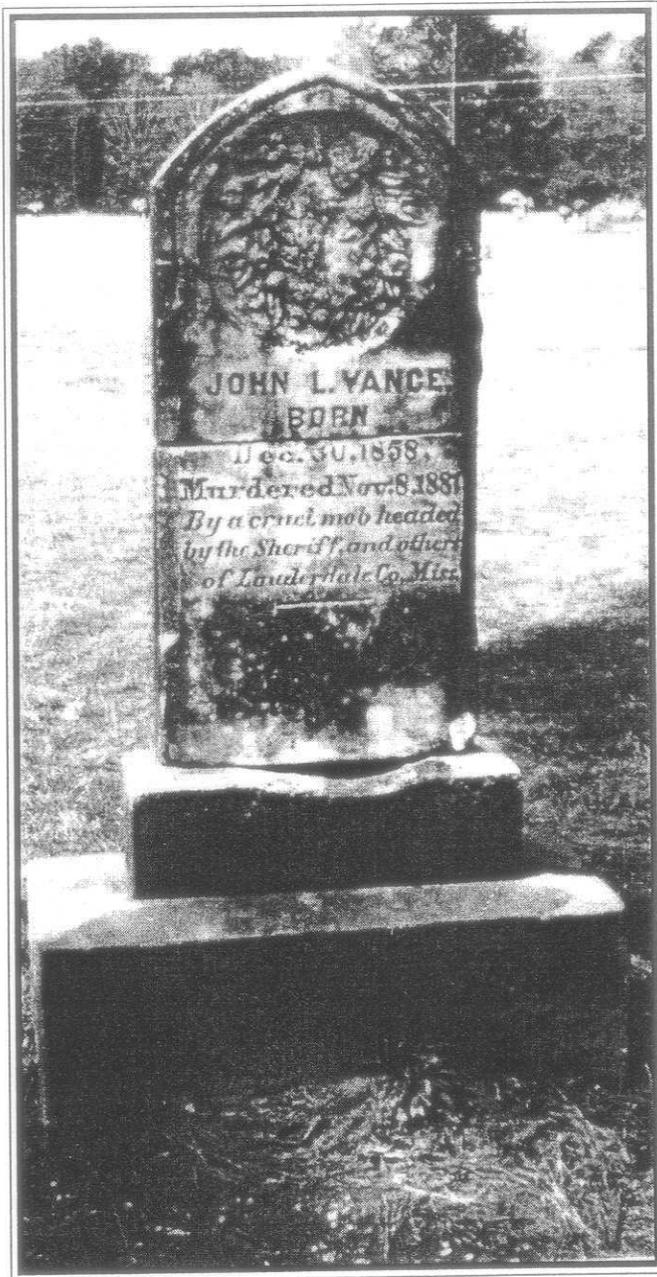
It also seems likely that George and William were related to Robert, David and Edward, and that all of them were related to the Newton County Vances, perhaps as first cousins.

As indicated above, David may be buried in the old Sageville Methodist Church cemetery. Robert may be in an unmarked grave in the McLemore Cemetery, alongside his wife, Elizabeth Vance, born Derry County, Ireland, August 12, 1815, and died in Meridian May 16, 1871, who is known to be buried there. The author could not discover death dates for David, b.1830, or Robert, b. 1822. David Vance appears to be the ancestor of the Beat 4 Vances, and the George Vance most likely the ancestor of the Stephens Funeral Home Vances (his son W.F. married a Stephens).

B.F. (Buddy) Vance Jr., great-grandson of Edward Vance hold a copy of a eulogy written by George T., son of the Kemper County George Vance, b. 1822, for the daughter of David Vance. The eulogy, signed `Cousin George,' would substantiate that George and David, Robert and Edward were cousins, so it does appear that the Lauderdale County and Newton County Vances were related. Edward Vance will be covered in the next chapter.

*Edward F.
Vance
and the
Marion Riot
of 1881*





Crim reminder of a terrible event

Chapter Six

Many people have seen, or heard about, the tombstone in the Forest Lawn cemetery near Barham Funeral Home, Mississippi 39 North, which reads

JOHN L. VANCE
BORN
DEC. 30, 1858,
Murdered Nov. 8, 1881
By a cruel mob headed
by the Sheriff and others
of Lauderdale Co., Miss.

The grave site until a few years ago had been surrounded by woods, the stone having been put up about fifty yards from what had once been the home of Edward Vance Sr.

John L. Vance, son of Edward F. and Mary Elizabeth Gallespie Vance, was indeed killed as a young man, during the Marion voting riot of November, 1881, as he was nearing his twenty-third birthday.

The following presents all the writer has been able to discover about the causes of the riot and after-effects as regards both the Edward Vance family and other residents of the area.

As to the general political atmosphere of the Marion Station area in the period before the riot, the area and its people were attempting to recover from the effects of Reconstruction in the aftermath of the Civil War. The political parties were the old-line Democratic — a survival of the era before the newly emancipated former slaves could vote — and the Republican, composed of some so-called Carpetbaggers, who encouraged the blacks to vote in and with their party. While the former slaves were acquiring the right to vote, many of the former Democrats, particularly those who had seen service on the Confederate side, were disfranchised.

The county had experienced rioting, in Meridian, in 1870. In addition, there had been a good deal of political activity in Kemper County. The 1871 elections had been won by Republicans, but as best can be determined, in 1875 the tide was turning back toward Democratic control. In the meantime, to add to the turmoil, some blacks were turning away from the Republican Party in favor of the Democratic. Edward Vance had been elected supervisor of Beat 1 (Meridian and some surround-

ing area) in 1871 but lost his seat in 1875 in the general power struggle or perhaps did not seek reelection. (The author has been unable to find any record of a November 1873 election.)

Some students of the period feel strongly that the Republicans abused their new power immediately after the war. Other factors in the upheavals of the time were diametrically opposed views of certain Democrats — some of whom felt duty-bound to assist the former slaves with their new right to vote while others were adamantly opposed to the very idea. The author does not pretend to political expertise and stands ready to be corrected in his assessment of the power struggle.

With at least these three forces, and perhaps more, involved, and no one dominant enough to take charge, matters came to a head in the violence that would leave lasting marks on many, not least among them the family of Edward Vance.

After the Civil War, from about 1866 through 1870, it appears, county offices were filled by appointment, a number of such appointments going to Northern men. The state Constitution of 1869 recast the voting process, and in 1870 the governing body that had been called the Lauderdale County Board of Police became known as the county's Board of Supervisors.

The first balloting since the war, held November 18, 1871, resulted in the election of Edward F. Vance as supervisor in Beat 1, and he took office January 23, 1872. Also taking office were Joe Jameson, beat 2 (who may have been black); J.L. McLemore and Samuel Jackson (race unknown, both perhaps white) in Beats 3 and 4, and William Clark (white) in Beat 5. Neither Jameson, McLemore nor Jackson appear on the 1870 census. Clark was probably a Democrat, Vance and Jameson probably Republicans. Political affiliation of the other two, McLemore and Jackson, is unknown, most likely Republican. Terms were for two years, so Edward Vance may have served for two terms.

On November 2, 1875, the following were elected:

W.F. Brown	Beat 1	white, born in Alabama
J.L. Nunnery	Beat 2	white, R(?), born in Maryland
J.A. (Jesse) Roberts	Beat 3	white, born in Georgia
William M. Vaughan	Beat 4	probably white
William Clark	Beat 5	white, D, lived at Whynot

November 3, 1877, saw the following election results:

James M. Love,	president	Beat 1	probably white, R?, not on 1870 census
J.L. Nunnery		Beat 2	white, R?, not on census
A.T. Pace		Beat 3	white, D?, born in Alabama, 74 in 1870

John Stinson	Beat 4 white, D?, b. Alabama, 45 in 1870
William Clark	Beat 5 White, D, b. Alabama, 52 in 1870

Only two years had intervened since the last election, and times were still unsettled. Appointments to office continued. On January 10, 1879, 59 year-old Joseph R. Dial, born in South Carolina, was appointed to replace James Love, who resigned, and on April 21, 1879, M.D. Lyle accepted appointment to the place of A.T. Pace, who had died in office.

November 2, 1879 saw the election of:

M.S. Jenkins	Beat 1	probably white
J.D. Miller	Beat 2	white, prob. D, b. Mississippi, 34 in 1870
John Brown	Beat 3	white, prob. D, b. Alabama, 56 in 1870
John Stinson	Beat 4	D?, reelected
William Clark	Beat 5	D, reelected

Available information seems to indicate this board had a Democratic majority (which could have precipitated an all-out effort on the part of the Republican Party to regain control of the board). Records are sketchy, unclear, or even blank. These supervisors probably took office in January, 1880, not quite two years before the voting riot at Marion Station in 1881.

As indicated above, Edward Vance could have held office for two two-year periods — from January 1872 to January 1876. Two-year terms for supervisors were the rule until 1895, when the four-year term was instituted.

In 1881, the Meridian riot was a decade in the past, Republican political activity rooted in Kemper County had eased off about 1878, Carpetbaggers were departing the scene and the Democratic Party was working to attract the black vote, so what brought on the Marion Station riot?

Let's review the senior Edward Franklin Vance. Born in Ireland, December 18, 1832, he arrived in Mobile in December of 1849 with his older brothers Robert and David and his sister, (possibly his twin) Jane.

Edward, known in the family as a hard worker, probably began life in his new land as a manual laborer, as did many of his fellow immigrants with little or no education. In 1855 he married Elizabeth Gallespie, daughter of AbsolumW. Gallespie, who had been among the first settlers of Lauderdale County. Gallespie is known to have been in the county by 1836, and by 1858 was no doubt considered a wealthy man, for in that year he possessed 600 acres south of present-day Bailey, and owned

a number of slaves.

As to what kind of a man Edward Vance was, county circuit court records reflect a charge of assault and battery lodged against him in 1857, and he was sued once for slander, but there is no further mention of the latter and presumably the action was dropped. It should be noted that the records of the day are full of assault and battery charges; in those days a person who did not stand up for himself was apt to be run over. The author found no record of military service, but legend has it that he did in fact serve, and returned home to care for his children after the death of his wife.

After the war, on February 14, 1866, he sued his brother David over a horse sold to David for three bales of cotton (Circuit Court file 3882). In fact this was not the first litigation for the brothers; he had sued David November 11, 1860, over money he claimed was due him, and their brother Robert had appeared in that case as a witness for Edward.

The writer has been unable to discover any source of written information concerning the relations, good, bad, or indifferent, of Edward Vance with his neighbors, but there is some indication that he enjoyed a fairly close relationship with his father-in-law, A.W. Gallespie, before the latter moved away after the war, and in fact at the time of the riot had in his employ some of his father-in-law's former slaves.

Minutes of the Board of Supervisors are similarly unrevealing, as to Vance's leanings, North vs. South. Could he have been neutral? There are indications he was not in sympathy with the South in the so-called 'war of the lost cause.'

Perhaps with some assistance from his father-in-law, Vance had gotten ahead in the world, and that may have engendered some ill feeling, particularly among fellow immigrants who had not done as well, as his aid to the freed blacks almost certainly did.

Marion Station at the time would have had a Negro population in line with that of Beats 3, 4, and 5. Beat 2, on the other hand, having had the highest number of slaves on its farms, after the abolition of slavery, had the county's highest ratio of blacks to whites, and a similar population distribution continues to this day. Was Edward Vance bitter over the Republican Party's going under, or unconcerned with party? We may never know the details of the events of November 1881, for the riot was not considered an appropriate matter for discussion among those who lived through it here, and absolutely nothing was passed on in his branch of the family, reports B.F. (Buddy) Vance of Bryan, Texas, a great-grandson of Edward.

What little information is available gives the following picture:

Edward and sons William J., John L. and Edward F. Vance, rode up to the polling place* in a buggy. Almost immediately Joe Barnett, reportedly drinking or drunk, became belligerent, even going so far as to go up to the elder Vance — who at the time was engaged in conversation with a black man, Sam Gallespie — and pull on his whiskers, declaring that while he loved most all Irishmen, there were some he despised. Tax Assessor Alexander Harvey, at the time up for reelection, did his best to persuade Barnett (who was his brother-in-law) to desist from his attack, but to no avail. Harvey had come through the Civil War wounded, but would not be so fortunate this day. He did his best to prevent what ultimately took place, and in so doing would lose his own life.

One of the Vance sons is reported to have yelled over to a gathering crowd of blacks, inquiring if they were `fixed,' that is to say wearing a protective breastplate. Legend has it that plowshares were made into such body armor. If they were indeed so prepared, it would lend weight to the idea that the blacks expected trouble when they showed up at the polling place.

Had there been threats? Whites were attempting to sway the newly en-franchised blacks to the side of the Democratic Party, and any attempt to lure them into voting Republican would likely have met with resistance of some kind.

The only thing Edward Vance is reported to have said was in response to Alexander Harvey's entreaty that he ignore Joe Barnett. Vance is said to have replied that he would do so unless Barnett struck him, indicating that Vance was not himself particularly hot-tempered, or spoiling for a fight with the drunken Barnett, whose insolence may be some indication that he was not alone in his dislike of Vance.

Joe Barnett struck out with the stick he carried, the blow landing on Sam Gallespie, who just laughed and moved on. But the black man's brother-in-law Allen Brown took exception to the attack, and shot Barnett dead. Another black man, George Johnson, caught Barnett as he fell, uttering "ol' Marse Joe," and was shot himself for failing to comply with an order to turn the white man loose. Johnson lived for a week after he was shot.

* The writer assumes the Marion Station voting site was where the Masonic building stands, once the site of a courthouse, and that the first shooting of the day occurred in front of the courthouse. Further (brief) information seems to indicate that the battle moved on and further gunplay took place near the Clinton barn (in the vicinity of the present-day site of the Wagner Sheet Metal Company.)

This gives some indication that Barnett did have at least one black friend, and that his anger may not have been directed at blacks. His brother, one Dr. J.A. Barnett, is said to have rushed up and demanded of Johnson "Are you dying for my brother?" which, of course, he was.

The shooting of Joe Barnett was the point of no return. Up to that point none of the Vances seems to have had any active involvement in any violence, but suddenly all hell broke loose. As best can be determined, the blacks fled and whites began shooting at them as they beat a retreat. The author sees the pursuit of the blacks as the second fatal mistake. The fleeing men could reasonably suppose they would all be killed unless they defended themselves by returning fire, and some did so, killing Vince Segars, his brother Jeff, and Alexander Harvey. It should be noted at this point the charging whites seem to have had no idea about any protective gear worn by the blacks.

Alexander Harvey died near Joe Barnett, as did the Segar brothers. That no blacks were killed in the immediate vicinity may be an argument for the idea that some were indeed wearing the breastplates alluded to above. It is not known what direction the blacks took in their flight from the scene, but indication seem to be that some went home and some as far afield as Alabama. Edward Vance, his sons, and some of the blacks took refuge in the Vance home. There was some pursuit, and no doubt if Edward Vance had been captured, he would have been killed on the spot. But the die had been cast and Edward's son John would pay with his life later in the day in a hail of bullets, while the elder Vance, and his son Edward eluded the angry mob, went into hiding (place unknown), then after two months returned, and went about preparations to remove from the area. William, in the meantime, was arrested but later re-leased.*

The Vance home was on a road that turns off present-day Mississippi 39 North, just north of the Barham Funeral Home, now the site of Forest Lawn Cemetery. The home faced the road, which led to Marion Station.

In 1878, Edward had land holdings of more than a thousand acres, all in Township 7, Range 16. His homestead included 280 acres in Section 16, Township 7, Range 16. Landowners who lived on neighboring properties in that year were J.A. Barnett, J.J. Barnett, J.A. Johnson, J.F. Tinnin, and G.B. Grice. Two other Vance tracts — one of 160 acres and one of 600 bordered Richard N. Gunn, the latter a friend who would be a threefold in-law, three of the Gunn children marrying three of the Vances. In our day (1995) Nathalie Gunn, who resides at the old Gunn family homeplace, furnished information for this publication.

* Edward seems to have been in hiding and William still in jail at the time of John L. Vance's funeral.

Miss Gunn told of a visit some years ago by the daughter of Sarah Vance Gunn, who knew nothing of her grandfather Edward or his life in Lauderdale County; her family never spoke of it. The visitor was taken to the site of the old Vance home and the grave of her uncle, John L. Vance.

The writer has not set out to assess blame, only to report what is known of this part of county history and leave the reader to his own conclusions. Let's review.

- Edward Vance, a Republican, aided the former slaves in exercising their newly acquired right to vote. Ill feeling arose, got out of hand, and resulted in the killing of his son, and others, undoubtedly an unforeseen result.

- The white Democrats apparently had no idea that some (not all) the blacks at Marion Station on the fatal day were armed, and some wore bullet-proof protection.

- Outsiders were involved. Joe Barnett lived in Meridian (but likely had a farm in the Marion Station area), the Segar brothers were from Lauderdale, and one source speaks of folks from Bailey and Meridian. (The blacks from Bailey may well have been former slaves of A.W. Gallespie, who lived south of that community.)

- No representative of civil authority seems to have been present, which seems to indicate that no one expected matters to get out of hand. Things took an ugly turn so quickly that Edward Vance may well have been in a state of shock, and whether or not the turn of events was his fault, his family paid for it.

- The events of the day ruined Edward Vance, who was believed by some, rightly or wrongly, to have armed the blacks. After the fatal shootings, the mob turned its attention on Edward Vance, which suggests some underlying ill-feeling toward him or his family, or both.

- And, as is sometimes the case, the real cause may have been hidden, and someone may have taken the opportunity to cast blame on an innocent man who made a good target.

Further

- Edward Vance had been seen talking with Sam Gallespie, the black man who laughed when Barnett struck him. This Gallespie, no doubt a former slave of Vance's father-in-law, seem to have been unarmed and not himself looking for a fight, but others may have been. Thus at least one of the black participants seems to have been close to Edward Vance when events erupted, and the incident may indicate that he (Vance) was not in control of the situation, although he was Gallespie's employer.

- There is some speculation concerning a few political radicals on either side, one

group determined that the blacks not exercise their right to vote, especially for the Republican ticket, and the other just as determined that they be allowed to do so. Some desperation over previous losses may have been involved.

- There is ample support for the notion that Edward Vance did encourage blacks to vote, and helped them do so, but there is no indication that he made any attempt to control them, or, for that matter, that he helped anyone other than those known to him through his having employed them himself, or through his father-in-law. The bit of information concerning the inquiry "Are you fixed?" addressed by one of the younger Vances to the blacks, was passed along years later by a black man who had been a youth at the time of the riot, but even in advancing years did not wish to be identified as having been present.

- There is a good chance that Edward Vance's non-Confederate war service* may have been a sore point with local residents who had suffered both the ravages of war and the burdens of Reconstruction. The local situation may have amounted to a powder keg. The participants in the violence who set out after Vance may have realized their error and that may be the source of the silence on the subject of Edward Vance.

In 1880, Edward had been listed on the federal census, page 52, as a resident of Marion Station, born in Ireland in 1832 and thus 48 years of age. In the household were his second wife, Julia Ann Beason, 32, born in 1848 in Mississippi, and children William J., 24, Sarah, 19, and Edward F., 17 all born in Mississippi.

The elder Edward had known want in his native Ireland, which may have been a determining factor in his attitude toward the black citizens he could well have equated with the depressed and suffering people he had seen all around him in the midst of the Irish Potato Famine of 1845-47. Thirteen years old at the beginning of the famine, he would set out for the New World just four years later. Nothing is known of the fate of his parents, but they may well have been among the 750,000 casualties of that calamity.

His befriending of the newly freed slaves may have enraged neighbors who themselves had suffered war and its aftermath, and afterward endured the calculated cruelties of Reconstruction. Too, they may have seen his action as a ploy intended to help restore the fortunes of the Republican Party, and thus, perhaps, prolong and intensify their own sufferings. Fault can be discerned on both sides.

* He did serve, but the name of his unit is unknown. Apparently he, like many others, spent a brief time in service, then returned home. Insofar as can be determined, he joined the Confederate Army toward the end of hostilities, then returned home on the death of his wife.

To return to the 1880 census, at the time, Edward's son John L., age 21, was listed as a farm laborer, living in the household of his uncle David's widow, Mary Ann Vance, in Beat 4. This John described his father as a native of Ire-land and his stepmother as a native Mississippian.* The circumstances of John's living with his aunt rather than on his father's farm may also throw some light on the events of the day. John was about six years old when his mother died. His father remarried about a year later, and the middle son of the three may have been less favored by either his own father or his stepmother than the elder, William J., or the youngest, Edward F., and thus fallen into difficulties at home. Lack of attention at home and the natural rebellion of adolescence could well have made a home with his aunt inviting. Part of the reason Edward Vance never discussed the riot may have been some perceived lack of judgment on the part of young John, which may have helped precipitate the violence that was his own undoing.

In any event, the whole incident came to be regarded as a disgrace by local residents, and it is not surprising that when Edward Vance returned to his home some two months later he began preparations to remove from the area, which undoubtedly held too many painful memories, and ill-feeling that could not be buried.§

Besides his own son, casualties of the riot included two prominent men, Barnett and Harvey, both of whom were married to daughters of a prominent resident of Meridian, W.P. Broach.

As to what became of the Vances and their family connections:

To the best of our knowledge, A.W. Gallespie,* Edward's first father-in-law, had removed to Grand Chenier, in Vermillion Parish, Louisiana, in October 1867. He sold his holdings in Lauderdale County to Richard N. Gunn, whose children would marry three of the young Vances.

The elder Edward and his second wife Julia Ann — daughter of William Richard and Eliza J. McDonald Beason — not long after the riot moved for a short time to the Fort Worth, Texas, area, where some of her kin lived, then went on to Decatur, a short distance northwest of Fort Worth, where Edward died. Insofar as is known, there was no issue from Edward's second marriage. It is thought that Julia remarried after his death; in any event, the local Vances had no further contact with her.

* Apparently John made sure that the census record reflected that Julia Ann Beason Vance was his step-mother.

§ During the two months they were in hiding, the fugitives undoubtedly had some assistance, and the dropping of all charges, which allowed the Vances to depart for Texas, hints at some sort of agreement, probably verbal, with officials. As father-in-law, William Richard Beason might well have been in a position to act as go-between in delicate negotiations.

Edward Vance Sr., seems by his actions in the political arena to have made a target of himself and his family. The local population, as noted, had endured terrible treatment at the hands of the Northern "carpetbagger" government after the long ordeal of war and on November 8, 1881, at Marion, emotions simply boiled over. We will likely never know just who was really responsible for triggering the event. We do know that Alexander Harvey gave his life in a vain attempt to keep the situation under control. No one knows exactly what transpired before the election, or exactly who all the participants were. Advising the blacks to protect themselves with body armor seems to indicate that trouble was in the wind, but not all were armed, so protection was likely the intention.

More than a century later, the only material reminder of the violence that took place that day is the tombstone of John Vance, who paid the supreme price. We are left with little beyond speculation as to the fixing of blame for the events of that terrible day. In attempting to assess the situation, it seems reasonable to assume that Edward Sr. concerned himself with affording blacks the opportunity to vote, as was their right under the law. The question — 'Are you fixed?' — shouted by one of the younger Vances (John?) near the polling place as the voters were lining up to cast their ballots seems more likely to have referred to the protective devices they were in fact wearing than to readiness to fight, or indeed to knowledge that any might be armed.

Joe Barnett took two ill-advised actions — pulling the beard of a prominent man and taunting him, then striking Sam Gallespie, only to have that laughed off — and his own ill temper seems to have gotten progressively worse at the reactions. But matters quickly escalated out of hand as Sam Gallespie's brother-in-law, Allen Brown of Bailey, took matters into his own hands and shot both a fellow black man, George Johnson, and Barnett, whom Johnson was trying in vain to protect. With the first real violence of the the day, the fat was in the fire, emotion took over, and the fury of the mob, rightly or wrongly, would be directed at Edward Vance and his sons.

Of Allen Brown, the author was able to learn only that fourteen years later he would be brought to trial in Quitman, Miss., and released. It would be interesting to know his background and just how he came to be embroiled in the events at Marion. He, at least, apparently was full of anger and ready to fight.

* Absalom Warrington Gallespie (Gallispie, Gillespie), who in 1826 in Alabama had married Sarah Mott, daughter of Lovelace Mott, an early settler of Lauderdale County. January 18, 1859, he would marry for a second time — Frances Harper, daughter of R.B.G. Harper, an early sheriff of Lauderdale County — Edward Vance serving as bondsman. Among the early settlers one often finds such interweaving of the strands of relationship within a small population.

As to fact, Edward Sr.'s nephew Robert J. Vance acted as his uncle's agent in the sale of his land within Lauderdale County, and in collecting the payments on it. The descendants of both Robert and David stayed on in the county, some of them attaining prominence, as did descendants of George Vance in Kemper County. The elder Edward never recovered from the events of the day, and never returned after his departure for Texas. He died there, within two years, at Decatur. Presumably, had the riot not occurred, Edward would have lived out his life here, as his brothers did, leaving descendants through the generations to our own day. His children married into the Richard M. Gunn family. Daughter Martha Gunn married William Jackson Vance, Mamie Gunn married Edward F. Vance, and Edward's daughter Sarah married Cullen B. Gunn, but from what we can gather, after the elder Edward departed the scene, there was little, if any communication between the families.

After tempers cooled, county leaders made it their business to see that order prevailed in future elections, and what Edward Vance may have been trying to do — see that blacks were allowed to vote without hindrance — would eventually come about. We can only wish we might have heard Edward's own account of what happened at Marion, but as far as we know, he took his story to the grave.

Family connections with baby brother Edward passed into obscurity as one portion of the family and another maintained silence on the matter, letting it be believed that he belonged to some other sets of Vances. Today, many Vances are beginning to recognize Edward and his kin as part of family history, but after generations of silence it seems unlikely that any further hard fact about the riot will come to light.