

The First Hundred Years of the Pine Springs Community



of Lauderdale County, Mississippi

by

Mary Ellen New White

Lauderdale County Department of Archives & History, Inc.,
Courthouse Annex, 410 Constitution Avenue
Meridian MS 39301
Mary Ellen New White
The First Hundred Years of the PineSprings Community
of Lauderdale County, Mississippi

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Dedication

Lovingly dedicated to the memory of my father



EDWARD LEON NEW

A man of honor, an old-fashioned
Gentleman of the South

* *

C O N T E N T S

DEDICATION

IN APPRECIATION

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IN APPRECIATION . . .

I hesitate to call this story a history, as I am neither a "Historian" nor a "Writer". I am a graying wife and mother with a love for local and American history. What I have written is a fascinating story, a real story about real people, as true as research can make it. Without the people who remembered and shared their memories, it could not have been told.

Where do I begin to thank all of you who shared your past experiences of Pine Springs? I talked to many of you, our older wiser ones, who spent years, long lives, in Pine Springs. Your collected memories are a treasure trove of events that happened in days gone by.

Aunt Myrtie Love (now two years shy of being a hundred), Jake and Ebbie Smith, Luna Brown and her brother, Burton Kinard, Atty. Leonard Lockard (now in Shreveport), Ray Downey, Colie Davis, my former teacher Thelma Bounds White, Clayton Harwell (born 1883, 107 years old and still counting!), Lula Lovett, and Leora Hudson, are to name a few who shared knowledge of past local happenings. "Cotton" Lockard told delightful stories about his Lockard and Chandler families and Dr. Sam Threefoot of New Orleans gave information on his forefathers. Dr. Reuben Johnson, who regards our community as 'family', wrote an essay for me, on life as it was here in the first part of this century.

Countless local folks and those who had relatives in Pine Springs gladly shared information they remembered. I spent enjoyable hours listening to Aubrey Smith, Ralph Snowden, Leo and Perry White and their sisters Louise and Imogene, Elliot Townsend and his brothers and cousins, Edna Hooks McDonald, Virginia and Talmadge Byrd - there is no space to thank you all. I queried Jack Pace so often he dubbed Pine Springs "the center the Universe"! To each who took time put up with my questioning, I thank you.

Jim Dawson and Nan Fairley, having recently published their work, Paths to the Past, offered guidance as I struggled through my fledgling endeavors. Archivist Will Henson and the volunteers

of LCDA&H helped me search county records for bits and pieces of factual evidence to back the oral history I collected. The ladies of Meridian Public Library were most helpful; The staffs of the Chancery Clerk and Circuit Clerk offices were relieved when I stopped interrupting their duties.

Greg Hatcher, descendant of early settler Sam Hatcher, offered valuable advise on preparing my manuscript for publication. My neighbor, Virginia White, proofread my final copy for errors. (I'm not a professional typist, either!)

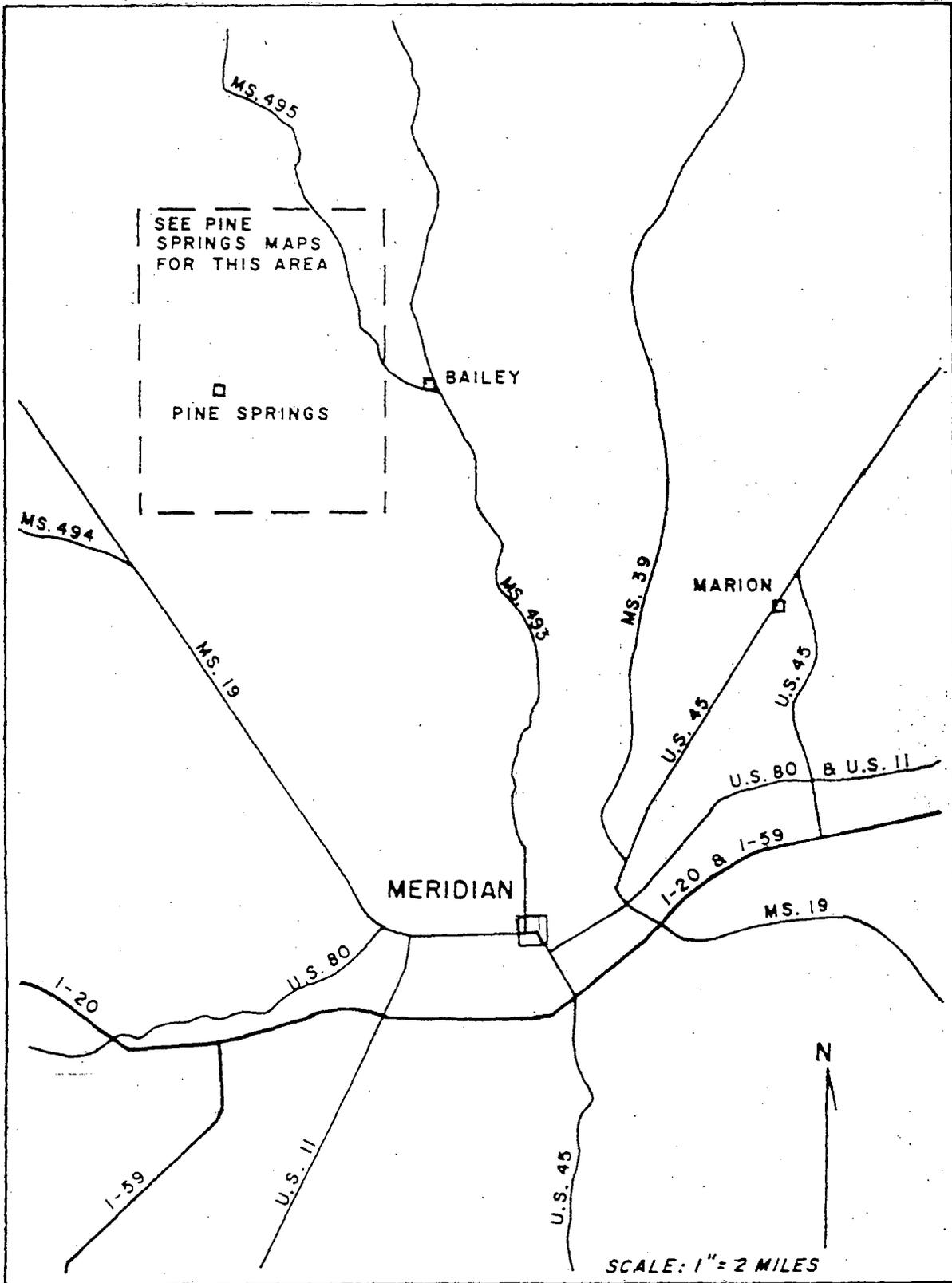
My sister Edna Mae and her husband, Ed Shields, went with me to take pictures and track down leads. They offered advice and comments - Ed handed me "The Bad Speller's Dictionary" after reading my manuscript. He lettered maps as I supplied data. My sister-in-law, Velma White, did the sketches of early Pine Springs life and worked with me for days making the index.

Not the least of the help I received was the encouragement and assistance of my long-suffering family. They allowed me time when I shunned their company when I was at the typewriter. My daughter Jan and her husband, Vern Ash, cautioned their children, "Don't bother Grandmother when she is writing!" (No. 1 grandson, Jimmie, says he will disown me if I don't call him and his little brothers by name. Hi, Jimmie, Brian and John! Thanks!) And thank you, son Jim, for spurring me on to regain speech and writing capability after my little stroke. You said I could do it!

Lastly, I'd like to say that this book could have not been possible without the constant encouragement and cooperation of my life-long best friend and companion, my dear husband. He read each story fresh off the typewriter and I came to eagerly await his approval before I continued. I was so engrossed with writing that meals were skimpy and house-cleaning was left undone, but James never complained at having soup (again!) for dinner, and directed his attention elsewhere from unswept floors. In a way, this book is his as much as mine. Thank you, my dear, from the bottom of my heart!

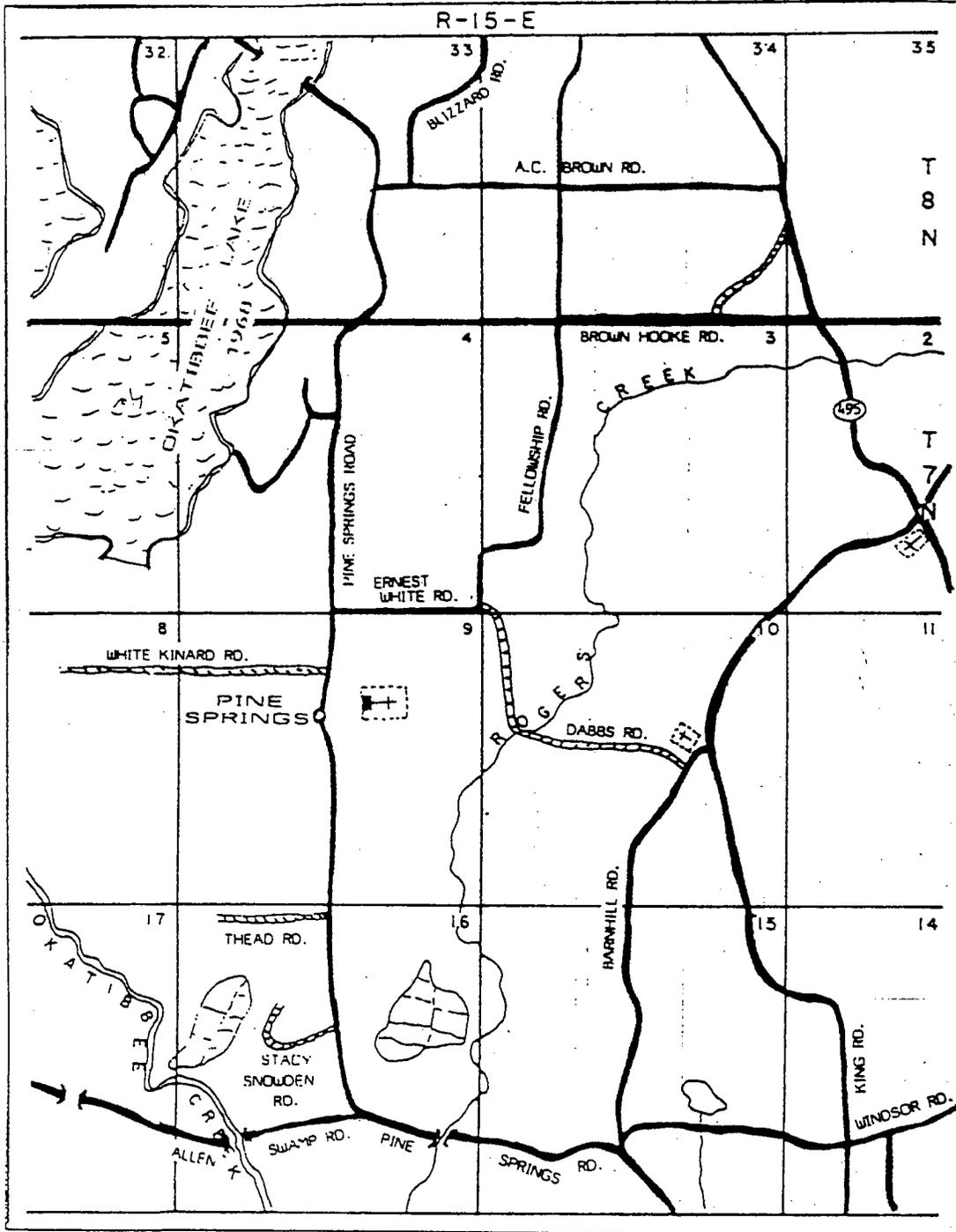
PORTION OF LAUDERDALE COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI

LOCATING PINE SPRINGS AREA
1990



PINE SPRINGS AREA

1990



SCALE: 2" = 1 MILE



I N T R O D U C T I O N

Now the road runs smooth and black past old farmhouses and new bungalows, over bridges spanning the streams. Often the road is crowded, for many people live on this road, and many others come with their boats to play and fish in the large lake.

It was not always so. Once there was a path through the woods, worn by the creatures of the forest and by the hunters who sought them for food. The hunters crossed the clear streams by wading the shallows or by walking fallen logs and sometimes stopped to trap the fish.

Many of these changes took place during the years of this account. Why has this been written? What is its importance?

Pine Springs is home, the place of my origins. This is the place to which I once said farewell... and to which I gratefully returned. The account began as a search for personal roots. It has taken on a life of its own. The poet wrote "I am a part of all that I have met", and over these last few years I have, through dusty books and brittle paper, through gravestones and tales from faint and foggy memories, met many of those who made the community which is home.

What is Pine Springs? As you read these pages and view the maps, you will become aware of a

small geographical area, of hills and streams and roads, of the land which sheltered and sustained its inhabitants. But as you read, you will realize that the story is not a lesson in geography, not a biological glance at the flora and fauna, interesting though they may be, not even a history in the usual sense. This story is the story of meetings and partings, of births and deaths, of fightings and reconciliation, of time of prosperity and time of 'toughing it out'. Pine Springs is people and this is their story. How and when and whence they came. How they succeeded and how they failed and how they dealt with each.

These people were farmers and storekeepers, teachers and preachers, moonshiners and soldiers. There were those who were here from the beginning, those who came seeking, and those brought against their will. A few rascals were part of the story, but for the most part they were honest folks, some hard workers while others leaned on the hoe and dreamed. All in all, they formed a community like others in this land, a roiling, toiling, forever-changing yet tradition-loving group of the people called Americans. Here is a record of their lives.

What is Pine Springs? It is America.

Early Mississippi Days, as told by an old-timer
who came to the wilderness:

"...the durndest...that ever came along.
Talk about Texas! It ain't nuthing to them
[Mississippi] hills. The etarnalist
out-of-the-way place for bar, an' panthers,
an' wolfs, an' possums, an' coons, an'
skeeters, an' nats, an' hoss flies, an'
cheegers, an' lizzards, an' frogs, an' mean
fellers an' drinkin' an' swapping hosses,
an' playin' hell generally, that ever you
did see! Pledge you my word, 'nuff to sink
it."

- William C. Hall, "How Sally Hooter Got
Snake Bit", April 13, 1850, Spirit of
the Times.

1/ A PROLOGUE

For thousands of years, through misty aeons of time, the green virgin forest had been waiting. The majestic Pines had grown unbelievably tall on the sand hills of our tiny spot in the vast wilderness. The Oaks had grown broad and mighty in the lowlands and swamps. Mixed among the great Oaks and Chestnuts were Beeches, Magnolias, Sourgums, Sweetgums, Bays, Walnuts - such a variety of trees, all growing wild and undisturbed, all waiting.

Deer, panthers, wildcats, bears, all lived on the springy floor of the forest, while in the swamps hid alligators, beavers, muskrats, otters. Bison roamed to feed on the tall grasses found in the natural meadows scattered among the giant trees.

Large birds were there without number; ducks, cranes, eagles, egrets and owls, too many to name. Among hosts of colorful parakeets were varieties of songbirds which trilled to the accompanying sigh of the wind, high overhead in the treetops.

Then, in a time whose only records are the handed-down legends, came the first Indians. These primitive people left us no name. Called the Woodland Indians by historians, their civilization was unorganized. They roamed the forest gathering tubers, berries and nuts, and killing wild animals for food. They chipped flint rocks into points and lashed them with leather thongs to wooden shafts to fashion spears and arrows to use for hunting. Today, sometimes, can be found an arrowhead, the remains of a shot that missed its mark and became lost.

The Woodland folk were a peaceable people, requiring only to be left alone to go about their quiet pursuits. They were moundbuilders. They built mounds to bury their dead, or perhaps, as some say, they used mounds as a defense, placing their women and children at the top, with warriors surrounding the base to protect what was theirs.

The traces of one of these ancient mounds can still be found in our community. Badly eroded and nearly gone, it lies under water near the eastern edge of today's Okatibbee Lake, just to the north of the Pine Springs Park swimming area. In 1985 the lake was drained, exposing the mound

for a summer. Many arrowheads, amulets, and pottery shards were found where the action of the waves had washed away the soil. One piece of petrified human skull was identified by Tom Goldman. Mr. Goldman, a Meridian attorney who has made a study of the Choctaw Indians, identified what was found there as being typical of the Woodland tribe, all made long before there was any trade or contact with white men.

Where did the Woodland Indians go? Nobody can tell us for sure, but it is believed that they were absorbed into the tribes and culture of the Choctaws, the Children of Nanih Waiya.

Henry S. Halbert, who worked for many years among the Choctaws and was one of the best known Indian authorities, spent time with the Indians and collected their legends and folk stories, which leave us with some sense of their beginnings. Halbert passed on the following legend:

A very, very long time ago the Choctaws and the Chickasaws lived in the far west under two brothers, Chahta and Chikasa. Their medicine men told them that far, far to the east, there was a country of fertile soil and much game. They gathered their tribe and went eastward, with half following Chahta, the other half following Chickasa, to find this happy land.

Each night as they journeyed they would push a long pole into the earth. The next morning they would travel in the direction toward which the pole leaned.

After many moons of travel, they came one day to a great mound called Nanih Waiya, that was on the bank of a creek. The Chief Chahta planted his pole at the base of the mound. The next morning they looked, and lo!, the pole was standing erect! The Great Spirit was showing them that their new land at last had been found!

Chahta had camped beside the pole, but his brother had crossed the creek and camped on the other side. That night a great rain came which continued for several days. The Nanih Waiya Creek was flooded and could not

be crossed. By the time the water had gone down, Chahta found that Chikasa and his party had already moved on, not knowing that they had arrived at the end of the journey.

Chickasa had moved to the neighborhood of the Tombigbee River and, as time went on, his followers became a separate tribe known as the Chickasaws.

Chahta kept his people where they were and they became known as the Choctaw Indians, the Children of Nanih Waiya.

The Choctaws were by far the strongest Indian tribe in Mississippi. Their homeland was in the central and southeastern parts, and they at one time owned over half the territory now included in the state. Too big to be ruled by one man, they divided their people into three groups, each ruled by a chief, known as a Mingo. No Mississippi tribe made greater advances in civilization than the Choctaws. They were good friends of their white brothers and were the only Indians that never fired a shot against white men. They even fought with the whites against other Indians in the Creek Indian War in Alabama in 1813.

Although all of what is now Lauderdale County was in the Choctaw homeland, there were no great Indian towns or villages of any size in Pine Springs. The largest Choctaw town was the town of Coosa, an Indian trade center near Lizelia (old Daleville), on Lost Horse Creek, not far from today's Meridian Naval Air Station. Chief Pushmataha, Mingo of the local Indians, made his home there. Not all Indians lived in Coosa, however, and there were Indian homes scattered throughout the county.

At least one Indian home, or perhaps just a campsite for hunting, was located in what later became Pine Springs. This site was in the northwest quarter of Section 9, about a quarter mile west of the old Pine Springs General Store. This land is not plowed any more and has reverted to woods and pasture, but it was an open field in the 1930's, when turning up arrowheads and artifacts with a plow was a commonplace thing.

Another place rich with Indian relics was in a field near Rogers Creek that was in the 1930's owned by Mr. Pat Harris. It was said that when parts of that field were plowed, the ring of stone upon the plowpoint sometimes sounded as if one were plowing through a bed of gravel.

Coosa, being a trade center, had well-worn paths leading to it from all directions through the forest. There were trails from Coosa to Okatibbee Creek and its swamps. The Choctaws

came to the creek to fish, to collect reeds for baskets, or for the herbs they needed for medicines. The Choctaw name "Okatibbee" means "water fight", according to Tom Goldman, so they probably had a battle there at some time in their past.

Around 1818, Christian missionaries began religious and education work in the area. White men began to settle and took Choctaw wives. During the time of association with the early white settlers, Choctaws learned to plant European fruits and garden vegetables. They learned to grow, spin and weave cotton for their clothing and to raise livestock and farmyard fowls.

By 1833, when Lauderdale County was organized from part of the huge amount of land acquired from the Choctaws in the 1830 sale, there were approximately 300 whites already here living among the Indians. It was sometimes difficult to tell the first white settlers from their red brothers by the way they lived and dressed. Indian and white both living in log cabins, had poor educations, if they were able to read or write at all, and generally followed the same lifestyle.

In the series of treaties from 1805 to 1830, the Choctaws surrendered their homeland and agreed to be moved to the Oklahoma Territory onto land that made up the southern half of that state. The main emigration took place during 1831 and 1833. It was a sad time for the Choctaws, reminiscent of the "Trail of Tears" earlier taken by the Cherokees when that North Carolina tribe had been removed to lands west of the Mississippi.

Over a third of the Choctaws chose to remain in Mississippi under Article 14 of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. Under this article, they were to receive reservations for land, provided they filed a claim within six months and lived on their claim for five years. Being unable to read, write, or even speak English, most were taken advantage of by unscrupulous white men and land speculators who got the promised land for little or for nothing. When Col. George W. Martin was appointed in 1833 to locate the reservations made under the treaty of 1830, only 69 Indian claimants had managed to get their claims filed on time. Thus, a large majority of the Choctaws received no land at all.

Some Indians who tried to claim their reservations found that their land had already been claimed by squatters, or had already been sold to someone else. There was no one for them to turn to for redress. It was not until 1849 that Congress approved an act authorizing the issuing of 'Choctaw Script' to be given to Indians who had lost their claims. Indians could then purchase public lands using this script. Two men who apparently were related to

to the Choctaws, or who had taken Indian wives, bought 80 acres each in Section 5 of Pine Springs in 1847, using Choctaw Script. They were John Steele and William Stringer.

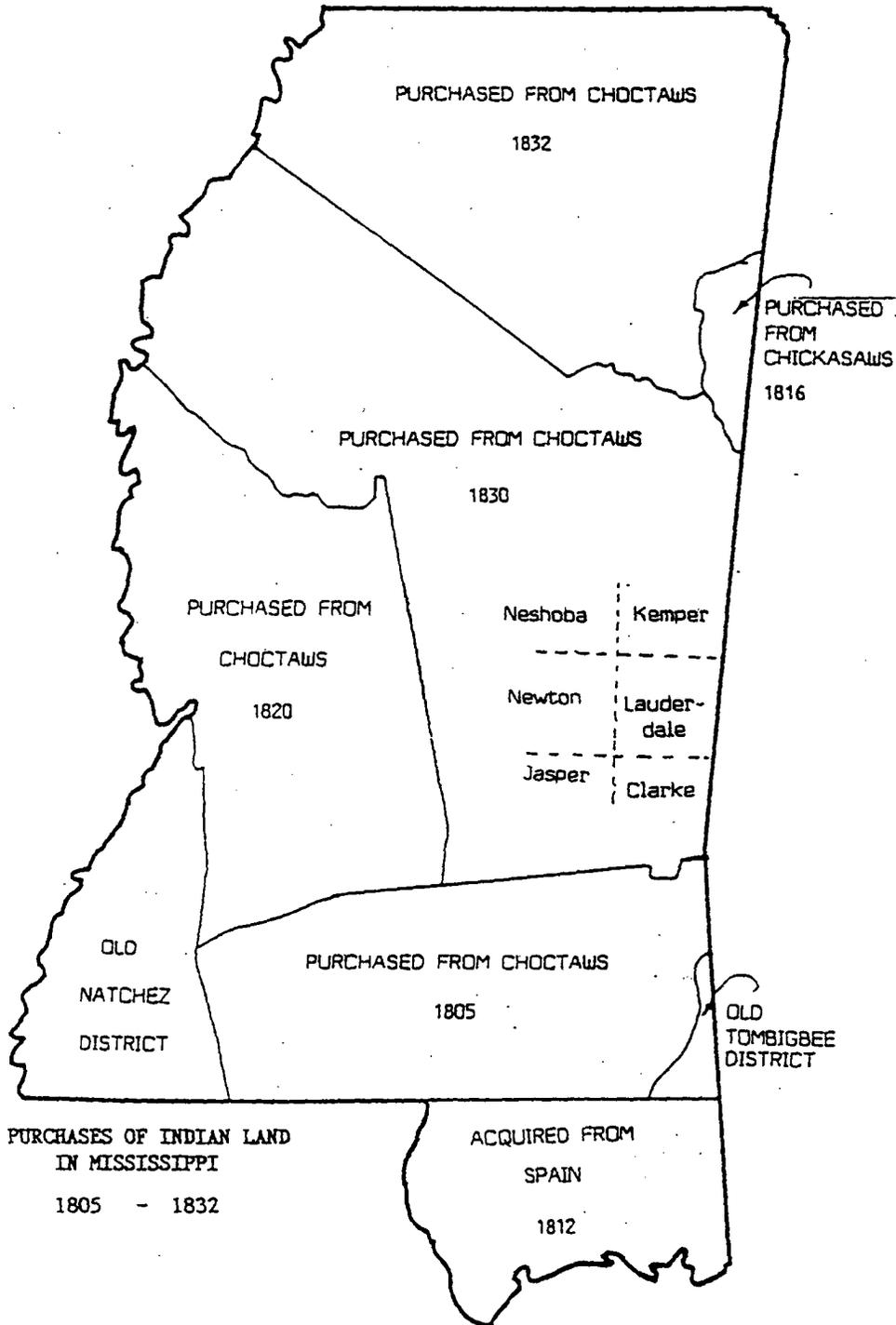
John Steele's eighty acres were located in the steep hills overlooking the swamp near today's spillway on Okatibbee Lake. Forty acres of Stringer's land were near Steele's, and another forty were in the swamp, which is now under the water of the lake. None of this land was suitable for farming.

Thelma Bounds White, who taught in Indian

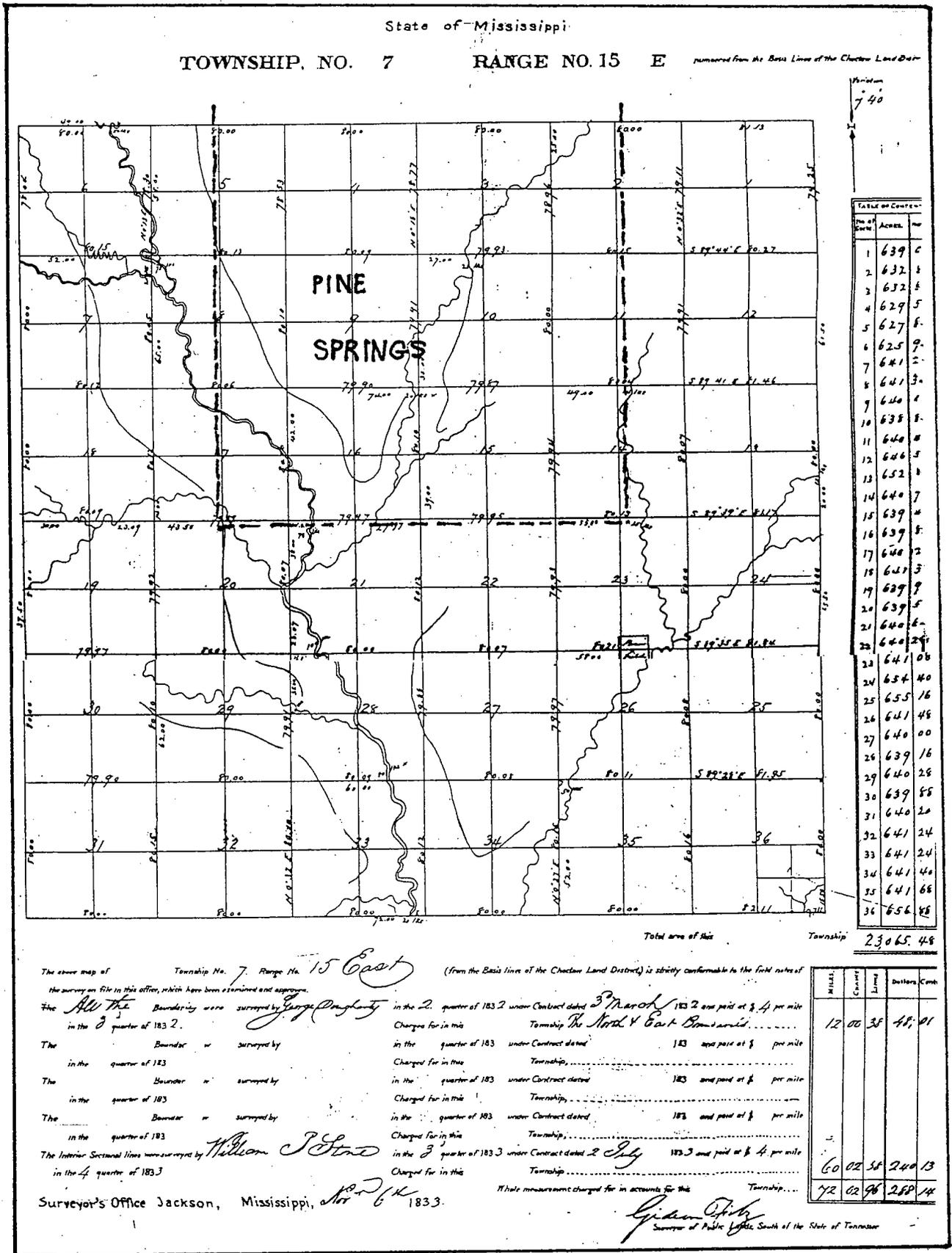
schools in Arizona and Mississippi, began her education in the one-room Pine Springs School in the early 1900's. She graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and then attended Mississippi College and the State University, and was employed by the United States Indian Service for 25 years before she retired.

Mrs. White (Miss Thelma) wrote a book, The Children of Nanih Waiya, in which she detailed the history of the Choctaws with an understanding viewpoint of the misfortunes that befell the Indians at the hands of their white "brothers".

* * * * *



ORIGINAL SURVEY OF TOWNSHIP 7, RANGE 15E, LAUDERDALE COUNTY



Copy of original 1833 survey. Pine Springs area has been added.

2/ SURVEYING THE LAND 1830-1833

The land purchased from the Choctaws in 1830 was intended to be sold to Americans, who, caught up in the excitement of the western expansion of the new country, were clamoring for more land to settle. Before it could be sold to individual buyers, however, the land first had to be surveyed. The Office of Land Management of the United States Government, Department of the Interior, undertook this monumental task.

The survey began in October of 1831 under the direction of Gideon Fitz, Surveyor General. Briggs was the gentleman in charge of the actual survey, and he gave instructions to his deputies who were superintending the work. Some extracts from his directions were:

...The lines must be carefully measured and Well marked. A tree standing directly in the line, should have a blaze and four notches from a Township Line...A blaze and three notches for a Section line on each side of it in the direction of the Line. All trees within a short distance on each side of your line should be simply blazed on the side facing your line...Plant a strong substantial post at every corner of a Township, and a smaller one at every mile.

The west side of each Township post, exhibits the number of the Township. The east side, the number of miles from the Base Meridian...and the north side...whether it be east or west of the said Meridian...

On March 3, 1832, George Daughtry was awarded the contract to survey most of the township and range boundaries in that portion of land that was to become Lauderdale County. He surveyed the north and east boundaries of Township 7, Range 15 East, where Pine Springs later came into being. He was paid \$4 per mile surveyed, and he eventually received \$48 for that particular segment of his job. He finished Township 7, Range 15E, in the third quarter of the year.

William P. Stone signed a contract on July 1, 1833, to survey the section lines in our portion of the county. He also received \$4

per mile, but he had more miles to measure and mark, so he received \$340.63. Of course, it was expected of each surveyor to hire his own chain-bearers and post-cutters and pay his own expenses.

In December of 1833, Lauderdale County, with a white population of about 300, was established. County officials were appointed, and the county became operational. The land was surveyed and ready to be sold. All was in readiness for the new settlers to arrive.

The US Department of the Interior, Land Management, opened offices around the state to handle the purchases of public lands by the settlers. Anyone could buy the land; there did not appear to be any restrictions attached, and they welcomed new settlers. All the land was sold on a cash basis for \$1.25 per acre. The settlers could come in, pick the land they wanted, mark off their selection, then apply to the appropriate office for the particular land they had chosen.

There was a US Land Office in the little town of Augusta, Miss., east of where Hattiesburg is today, that handled all the land sales in or below Township 7. This included land which became the greater part of Pine Springs. The settlers who came to Pine Springs and bought land in Township 8 had to apply to the Mississippi office in Columbus.

Keeping in mind that the majority of settlers coming into the county were rough frontiersmen from Alabama and Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky, and also from the southern portions of Mississippi which had been settled at an earlier date, it is a wonder that they ever located what land they wanted and applied to the proper office in order to buy it. As there were no public and few private schools at the places they hailed from, less than 2 percent of the population could read. Many had grown up where they were too worried about keeping their scalps to be concerned with such things as readin' and writin'. Fortunately, there were a few educated men about; gentlemen sons of the more well-to-do planters, who would help their neighbors in their plight.

Unfortunately, there were also a few educated rascals who took advantage of the ignorance of some of the newcomers.

Back in 1815 before an earlier land sale, the Commissioner of the Land Office, Josiah Meigs, had been concerned about how the available claims would be located by would-be buyers. Below is an extract from a letter written by Mr. Freeman, the Surveyor General, explaining to Meigs how some of the earlier problems had been settled:

You ask, How will purchasers know the townships and ranges they transverse? ...The difficulty to purchases and explorers...is not so great as may at first appear...That portion of it, clear of private claims, was offered for sale whilst the corner posts were standing; and its surface is now interspersed with settlements of purchasers, and intruders or squatters, who know the number township & range of their respective positions...and the relative position of other points, not sufficiently designated in the field, can readily be ascertained by inspection of the Maps...

The vacant sections & fractional sections lying between private claims and interspersed thru' the settlement will generally be purchased by the proprietors of the adjoining or neighboring tracts of their friends. The position of these vacant sections, with respect to the adjoining tracts, will be distinctly know the purchaser or explorer... We cheerfully give all the information applied for or required on this subject, which is generally satisfactory to applicant...so that no difficulty has yet occurred on this subject and I hope there will not be hereafter.

Many Americans, living the the surrounding territories and states, were already waiting for the news that the land was at last available. There had been talk of this government purchase with its pending sales to settlers for several years. When at last the time came, the good news traveled fast.

There were notices put out, of course, and posted in public places - trading posts, taverns, crossroads, courthouses - which told of the land available and how to apply to the land office. Perhaps some ads were placed in newspapers, but as papers were not too common and few read them, this was not the best way to get the word passed. The best source of news was from travelers and guides who had seen the new territory. Or maybe

Uncle Will or Cousin Jim on your wife's side would come back telling what wondrous land he'd found "out west" where a man could get started. How rich the soil was, "just a-beggin' to grow cotton. Why a man could become a rich plantation owner in no time a-tall!"

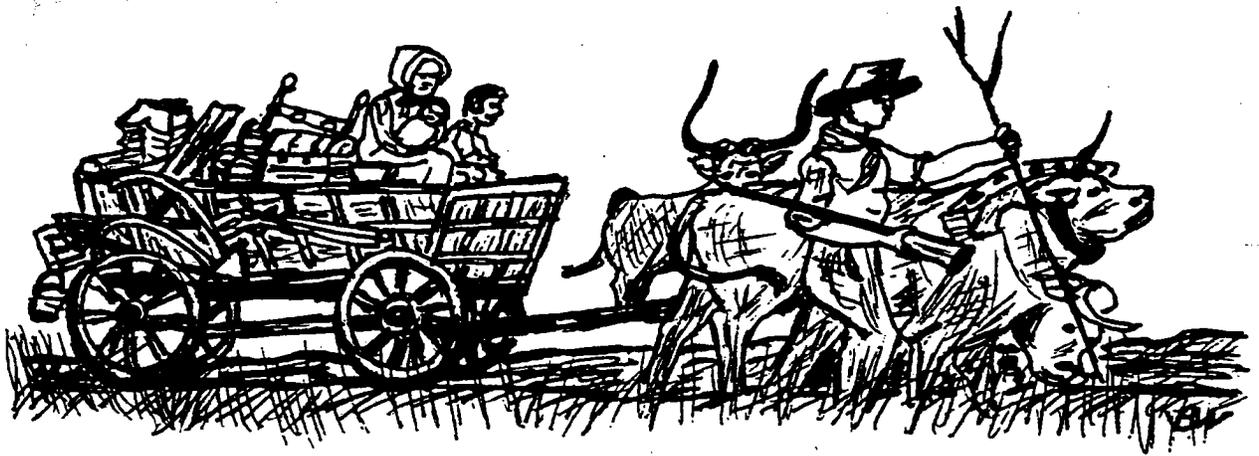
It was becoming "crowded" where they were. The planters who had large plantations and slaves to work their cotton fields had created such a demand for good land that its high price was edging out the small farmer, forcing him to settle on poorer lands with no hope of ever doing better. Sometimes a father with a house full of sons needed a place where his boys could buy a few acres to make farms of their own. Some young men, newly married, would take their wives and set out alone, ready to start their life together in a new place. Sometimes a young husband would take a younger adventuresome brother along to drive another wagon or to herd the livestock - an old sow, "Bossie" and her new calf, and perhaps a sheep or two.

More often, however, the seekers traveled in groups in trains of wagons. It was wild country and there was danger, not from the Creek Indians, who were too beaten to fight any more, but from highwaymen and robbers along the trails. It was best to travel with friends whom you knew, helping each other across streams or to find strayed cattle. Besides, that way a fellow would have his own people for neighbors when they arrived at the promised land and time came to build a new home.

People came to Lauderdale County for all kinds of reasons. Some, the speculators who had money, came to buy up as much land as they could, hold onto it a while, then sell it later at a profit. Some came simply to begin a new life or to find new adventures. Others came to rid themselves from intolerable conditions at home; a few came to escape trouble from the law. But come to Mississippi they did, and soon most of the desirable farmland was taken.

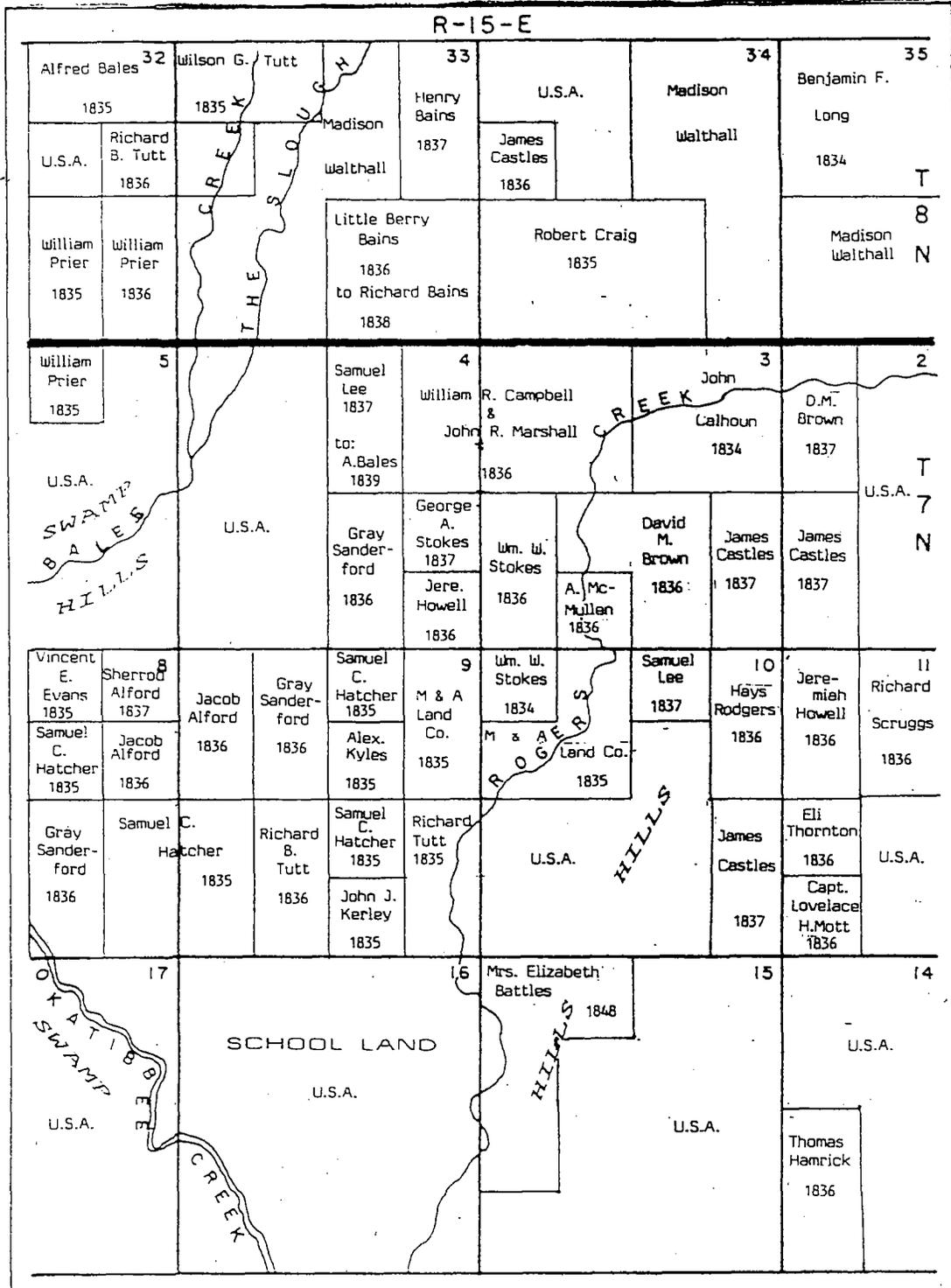
The most common of the newcomers were the hardworking farmers who planned to till their own fields, those who owned no slaves. They were men of action, impatient, but practical. They prospered in direct proportion to the amount of labor they put into their efforts. They cleared land in the forest, established farms, built churches and schools, and began to create the rudiments of a civilized society.

It was just such a group of mostly young, daring, adventuresome people that showed up in northern part of Township 7, Range 15E of Lauderdale County in the 1830's. They felled the trees, clearing the land to make the first homes in our neighborhood. They were the pioneers of Pine Springs.



FIRST LANDOWNERS

1833 - 1840



From BOOK OF ORIGINAL PATENTS

3/ THE FIRST ARRIVALS

1834-1840

Ransom C. Richardson and Miss Lucinda O'Neal of Johnston County, North Carolina, were married on October 2, 1833 at the time when several branches of the Richardson family were making up a group to migrate westward. Ransom and Lucy made their plans to go along to start their life together on the new frontier.

The Richardsons later told their children how the wagons were loaded and ready to leave the following morning on the night that the stars began to fall. They evidently took this spectacular display as a good omen, as their migration began the next morning on schedule. This meteorite shower was recorded on November 13, 1833, a little over a month after Ransom's and Lucy's wedding date.

Some of the Richardsons stopped off to settle in Alabama, but Ransom and Lucy pressed on to enter the Mississippi wilderness near the village of Lauderdale, the first county seat of Lauderdale County. Heading to the southwest after leaving the village, their long journey ended here in Lauderdale County; one of their horses got sick, and they could not go on. This happened one Thursday night in September of 1834, nine weary months and several hundred miles from Carolina. They slept that first night in their wagon.

The next day Ransom had a better look at the land where they had camped. The soil seemed good and water was nearby, so they thought they might as well remain right where they were. They built their little cabin near a beautiful all-year spring, which they named Drip Off Spring.

[Nearly a hundred years later the area where they made their wilderness home became known as Center Hill. Drip Off Spring is still there, in the northeastern corner of the crossroad where today's Grissom Road intersects with the Gumlog Road at Haguewood's sawmill.]

The Richardsons, the first settlers in that area, had no neighbors. On a frosty morning that first winter when Ransom went out to tend the stock, he was surprised to hear the distant ring of an ax. He knew that there had to be someone out there who had just moved in. He told Lucy to wrap him up a couple of biscuits with some

of that sowbelly left from breakfast - he was going out to find who was cutting wood.

Following the branch near his cabin, Ransom headed southwest until he came to a larger creek. Continuing to head downstream, he had traveled a little better than a mile when he heard voices coming from the steep hillside above the creek. Calling out to announce his presence, he found a family building a cabin. Ransom picked up an ax and began to help his new neighbor fell trees.

And thus it was that Ransom Richardson met Hays Rodgers, the first permanent settler of Pine Springs. The Creek that circled the base of the hill became known as Rogers Creek, and the hill where Rodgers built his home was called Rogers Hill.

[We shall call this neighborhood Pine Springs to designate the area, but depending on which location the local citizens picked up their mail, it was first called Daleville, then Rushing Store, and then Bozeman, Mississippi. It had no permanent name until the 1890's.]

* * * * *

John Calhoun's was the first deed that was recorded from this community, which showed that he bought the NE quarter (160 acres) of Section 3 from the Land Office in Augusta on December 9, 1834. [NE $\frac{1}{4}$; S-3, T-7, R-15E] There has been no evidence that he ever lived upon this land. However, in 1835, he bought another tract of land over near Sookalina (Suqualena). His early home in the county is not known. In 1839, John's name was on the county poll tax list, which revealed that he paid a tax for owning one slave. By 1840, he owned three slaves. (That was before they became so expensive.) By 1850 he lived near Marion, the new county seat, where he owned and operated a leather tannery. He made a name for himself as a cobbler by making sturdy boots for men as well as shoes for the ladies.

Census records show that Calhoun was a native of North Carolina, having been born there in

1804. His wife, Eleanor, was from Mississippi, where she was born in 1808. Their children, all Mississippians, were listed in the 1850 census as James, born in 1835; Milton, 1838; Malissa, 1839; John C., 1841; Julia A., 1846; and Perry, 1849. Living with John and Eleanor that year was an older female relative, Catherine Calhoun, who may have been John's mother. She was 55 years old, born in Scotland.

* * * * *

The parents of Hays Rodgers, our first settler, were James and Elly (Hays) Rodgers, Jr. (The family always spelled their Rodgers name with a "D".) James Rodgers, Jr., son of an American soldier, was from Greene County, Tennessee.

James, Jr. and Miss Elly, with several children, left Tennessee to move south to Clarke County, Alabama (then the Mississippi Territory) around 1811 or 1812, where James bought land and began to raise hogs and cattle.

The family had moved at just about the right time to become involved in the Creek Indian uprising in 1813. Hays Rodgers, the eldest son, born in 1793 in Tennessee, was in his teens when they moved. Hays and his younger brother, Absalom, enlisted in the Mississippi Territory Militia in February of 1814.

The Rodgers boys were assigned to Capt. Evan Austill's company of volunteers in Maj. Sam Dale's Battalion, which was cooperating with a regiment of infantry regulars against the hostile Creeks. After being called out on a venture under Capt. Austill, Hays and Absalom were disbanded with their company at Suggsville, about 15 miles from their home. They remained subject to call until October, 1818, but were called only once during that time, for a two month tour. On this tour they were in Capt. Lovelace Mott's Company in the 15th Regiment of Volunteers. Capt. Mott came to settle in Lauderdale County in 1835, buying land east of Hays Rodgers, near today's Bailey Store.

While at home but still subject to active duty, Hays was married on December 11, 1816, to Miss Mary Scott, a local girl from Clarke County. Their first child, a son they named Lewis, was born the following September.

Throughout the Indian War, marauding Indians harassed James and Miss Elly by raiding their livestock. The final blow fell when their home was burned, and the family moved to Mississippi to find relief. In Mississippi, James took possession of land in Copeiah County, which his father, old James, Sr., had received for his

military service in the Revolution. Hays and Miss Mary Rodgers and baby Lewis, also moved to Mississippi after Hays was discharged from the militia in 1818. Hays established a home in Copeiah, but his land was located in the part that later became Simpson County, so his records can be found in two places.

James Rodgers, Jr. died in Copeiah County in 1826, leaving a will. Miss Elly still had younger children to raise, so she returned to Alabama to live near a married daughter.

With the rest of the Rodgers family gone, Hays and Mary became dissatisfied in Simpson County. They had two small children, Stephen and William, who died while they were living there, although the rest of their brood appeared healthy. When the government bought more Choctaw land in 1830, Hays watched with interest as the sale progressed. By the time Lauderdale County was surveyed and opened for settlement, the Hays Rodgers' were already on hand to establish a home in the new county.

Descendants of Hays and Mary Scott Rodgers say that the couple first came to Lauderdale County before the land had been surveyed. There were a few squatters who had moved in while waiting for the surveyors to show up with their instruments so they could begin buying land. Whatever the year that Hays G. Rodgers first came, it is believed that it was in 1834 that he built a small cabin overlooking Rogers Creek bottom. It was not until September 26, 1836 that his first deed in Pine Springs was recorded, which was for 80 acres in the northeast quarter of Section 10, which he bought from the government. [E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$; S-10,T-7,R-15E] The exact site of a later, more permanent home, has been lost, but his first cabin was located in that tract of land.

Rogers Creek meandered through John Calhoun's quarter of Section 3. On either side of the creek Calhoun's land was flat and fertile; any farmer could see how well it would grow cotton. A month after Hays bought his first 80 acres, he offered to buy Calhoun's 160 acres, which he did, in October, 1836.

The Rodgers' permanent home in the eastern portion of Pine Springs was near a road, a wagon path which had evolved from an Indian trail through the wilderness. This narrow track came from the west side of present-day Meridian and snaked to northwest, keeping to the high land as much as was possible, on its way to Kemper and Neshoba Counties. As this road, later called the Philadelphia Road, passed the Rodgers' plantation, it wound down a steep grade in Sec. 10 to ford Rogers Creek at the bottom. This steep section of road was moved, much later, a mile to the east and is now part of Highway

495, but to older Pine Springs residents, it is still called Rogers Hill.

Rodgers' first cabin was probably a temporary affair made of poles and with a dirt floor, as were most of the settlers' cabins when they first arrived. Their later home, although still constructed of logs, was a more substantial structure. At the time they came, King Cotton was just coming into power. Farmers found that clearing fields, buying slaves and planting as much cotton as they could, was a quick road to wealth. Hays Rodgers was no exception.

Starting in 1836, when Hays bought the 80 acres from the government and the 160 acres from Calhoun, he continued, as finances increased, to enlarge his land holdings. He bought 80 more acres from Alex McMullen in Sec. 10 (1846) and 80 acres from Jeremiah Howell, and in a few years he controlled over a section (640 ac.) of land. He began buying slaves in the 1840's. In 1856 he was granted public land, which adjoined his plantation, from the US Government in payment for his military services when he was younger.

Hays and Miss Mary had seven children when they came to the county. They brought no slaves but they had sons who were mighty fine help. Besides Lewis, their sons were James and Allen, who were born in Copiah County and as teen-agers, they were strong and healthy enough to do almost a man's work. Next was a daughter, Susannah, fast becoming a young lady. Young Stephen's and William's graves were in south Mississippi, but their next child, little Mary, was spirited and bright and showed a lot of promise. Timothy was just a little shaver, and Hays, Jr., their first baby born in Lauderdale County, was born in 1832.

In Pine Springs, the family, still growing, added Wilson, 1834; John, 1836; and Elizabeth, 1839. Their 13th and last child, born in 1844, was Martha. A family favorite, Martha tended to be just a mite "spiled".

Mr. Rodgers, a Christian, was a Methodist, and tried to teach his sons to behave like gentlemen and to "do the right thing". At first, there were no Methodist churches about, but Hays read to his family from his Bible. His children all grew to become fine young adults.

George Stokes, a native of Virginia, migrated to South Carolina where he met and married a Miss Middleton sometime around 1800. George was struck by a wanderlust and never could stay in one place long enough to put down roots. Their second child,

William Wilson Stokes, was born in North Carolina on February 12, 1805, before the family began to move about on various American frontiers. The Stokes had subsequent children born while they lived in Tennessee, Kentucky, and the Louisiana Territory., but when they moved south to the Alabama Territory, the family suffered a real disaster.

The Seminole Indians attacked the Stokes cabin and George was killed in trying to protect his family. The remainder of the family were grievously wounded and were all left for dead, but somehow they all survived.

Mrs. Stokes tried to keep the family together, but when her son William became twenty, he made a trip to south Mississippi. He stayed a while in Simpson County, where his name appeared on the 1824 tax roll. He became a friend of Hays Rodgers while in Simpson and the Stokes and Rodgers families maintained their strong bond of friendship.

About 1827, Will Stokes returned to Alabama where he married Miss Martha McMullen of Clarke County. Miss Martha was a daughter of Alexander and Sarah (Childress) McMullen who had come from Virginia via Georgia. Will took his bride to his Mississippi homestead. They had four children, George, 1828; Thomas, 1829; Elizabeth, 1831; and Sarah, 1833, when Will sold out in Simpson to follow the Rodgers family to Lauderdale County.

Reared on the frontier, Will Stokes had little education nor money when he came to Pine Springs, but he was one of the earliest settlers and there was plenty of government land for sale. Will could only manage to buy one 40-acre tract for \$49.50 when he arrived on December 15, 1834. The only neighbors in that part of the woods then were Hays Rodgers and a few scattered Choctaw Indians. An Indian hunting camp was a quarter mile north of Will's home.

Will's land was loamy sand, nearly flat, the bottom land west of the creek and down the hill from the Rodgers' clearing. The land had a slight rise to the west where he built a rude shelter, a windbreak shed covered with bark to provide protection to get them through that first winter. Marthy had to do her cooking over an open campfire. At the bottom of the rise there was a spring that Will dug out, and hewed thick boards to keep back the sand.

[A hundred years later, Ches Love was cleaning the old spring, which had long been in disuse. He found the remnants of the hand-hewed White Oak timbers that had been put in

place in days long gone by. Buried in the cold mud and water, the timbers had been preserved with the mark of the settler's ax still plainly showing on the wood.]

All that first winter Will spent as much time as weather permitted cutting the undergrowth and killing the virgin trees to make way for fields. For the massive trees that were too big to handle, Will took a cue from the Indians and ringed them with his ax, causing them to die. At spring planting he simply plowed around the dead giants and left them standing.

The new ground was fertile, and Will made a good crop that year. After the harvest was in, he gave more thought to building a permanent home. His brother, George A. Stokes, had joined Will and Marthy and was right smart help in cutting and skinning logs for the house. When they had enough logs "skunt" and snaked to the site with the oxen, they invited the Rodgers and neighbors from a greater distance to come to a house-raisin'.

The womenfolks brought food, and the men came and put in a hard day's work. The men laughed and cracked ribald jokes when they were out of the ladies' hearing. (Men didn't talk ugly in front of women; gentle ears had to be protected.) The lithe young men showed off their prowess before the lasses, who giggled and pretended not to notice. A whiskey cask was nearby for the men to step aside from time to time to slake their thirst, and a good time was had by all. By evening the Stokes had a snug log house, and the neighbors went home to throw corn to their geese and milk their cows. Everyone was tired but satisfied with the day's accomplishments.

Will sited his house at the top of the rise, facing east toward the wagon trail that crossed Rogers Creek before it ran in front of his house. He could sit on his first gallery with his coon hounds in the cool of the evening and look across to watch his corn tassel and his cotton grow. He had yet to mix a mortar of clay and straw to build a fireplace, but the corners of the house were pegged sound as a dollar and the shutters fitted tight, and 'y gravy, he thought they had a right pert house. And none too soon, as Marthy looked like she was "freshenin' up" again, and they shore needed more room. They could add to the cabin later as more young'uns came.

The M&A (Massachusetts & Alabama) Land Company, with John Tappan, Sam Hubbard and Rufus Lewis over in Gainsville acting as trustees, bought the land to the east and south of Will Stokes in 1835. [E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ & NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-10] That same year William M. Lewis, an agent of the company, bought the land directly behind Will's house on the west

[E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9]. So, Will was boxed in on three sides by the land company. After his crop of 1836 he wanted to add to his farm, and the only direction that he could expand was to the north. That year he bought 80 acres directly north of his home. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-3]

About 1837, it occurred to George A. Stokes, Will's brother, that it was time for him to settle down. He began to think perhaps that he should get married. With this thought, George bought 40 acres of his own, located next to Will's, in Section 4. [NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-4] George found a girl to his liking, but then they left Pine Springs to move to the northeast portion of the county. Will was able to take over George's land. By 1840, Will's plantation had grown, all told, to 160 acres.

The Stokes family was growing, too. In addition to the four children Will and Marthy had when they came to the community, they had three more by 1840. They were Samuel W, 1835; Richard S., 1839; and John W., 1840.

* * * * *

Josiah Hatcher was born in Virginia in 1761, the son of an established family in good circumstances. A Revolutionary soldier, Josiah removed to Georgia following the war where, in 1788, he fought against the Creek Indians in the militia under Capt. John Fielder.

Josiah Hatcher and Jesse Clay had soldiered together against the Indians in Georgia, and in 1791, Josiah married Jesse and Tabitha Clay's daughter in Greene County. Josiah and Lavinia (Clay) Hatcher had eight children, with their son, Samuel C. Hatcher, born in 1802, coming along about the middle of the litter. About 1830 the Hatchers moved to Pike County.

Samuel C. Hatcher spent his early years in Greene County. As a young man he went to Jasper County where he married Miss Sarah Head on November 20, 1825. Young Sam was energetic; he worked hard and he fought hard to get ahead. He had acquired a sizable plantation and had four children when Sarah died, a young mother, in the early 1830's.

Sam became restless after Sarah's death. Whether it was a planned move or if he was acting upon a whim is not known, but Sam suddenly put up his plantation for sale, took his four children and left Georgia to visit his mother's brother, Samuel Clay, in Greene County, Alabama.

While visiting the Alabama Clays with his small children, Catherine A., 8; "Eliza" (Mariam Ann Elizabeth), 5; Samuel T., 3; and baby George Washington, Sam Hatcher renewed his acquaintance with his cousin, Mariam Clay. Mariam got along

well with Sam's kiddies, and petted the motherless orphans. Sam soon spoke to her about becoming his wife, and she accepted.

Hatcher looked for land in Green County, but his heart was not in it. His mind was set upon the virgin Choctaw country in Mississippi. Marium was agreeable to the idea of new adventures, so leaving his children in her care, Sam headed westward on his horse. He sought new worlds to conquer, and a place to build a home for his bride-to-be.

Every so often somebody would stop by Will and Marthy Stokes' on their way to pick out land to buy. Will would always invite them in to eat a good meal and to hear the news from the outside world. In the spring of 1835, there was a fellow, name of Sam Hatcher, that came through.

Hailed from Georgia, he did, and though he had a bit of booklearnin', he was a good talker and he and Will hit it off right away. They both liked to fox hunt with their dogs and both liked to see a good horse race. Neither man stood back when there was work to be done, either, as both were vigorous, rough-and-tumble sort of men, able to hold their own on the untamed frontier.

When Sam saw the lay of the land along the Okatibbee Creek in Pine Springs, he felt that he had found that for which he had been searching. He chose 280 acres of the government land located Sections 8 and 9, which he bought on May 18, 1835. There were no other settlers in these sections when he came.

Hatcher's land was not joined in one piece, but was made up of smaller tracts. [SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-8; W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] Sam had plans to buy more land later after his Georgia plantation sold. Then he would be able to buy up the land between what he purchased at first, and thus create an extensive plantation.

Will Stokes, having been all over the area hunting and fishing and was familiar with the area, said that Sam had made a wise choice; much of the land, in ~~the~~ lowlands along Okatibbee Creek, was a fine place to grow cotton. Sam chose the higher ground in the northeast quarter of Sec. 8 as the site where he would build his log home. Out of the floodplain of the Okatibbee, it had a spring-fed stream that would provide water for household use, as well as for livestock. They named it Polecat Branch. The house would be a little over a mile through the woods from Will, his closest neighbor.

At lay-by time when Stokes' crops were growing without further attention, Will turned to help Sam build his log house and barn. Rodgers and his boys, and other settlers, came to help. Indian

Jim showed up, too, from up the swamp a way, to work with the other men. Marthy and Miss Mary Rodgers fixed up a food basket and had it sent over at noon, and the men made out all right. On other days they worked, Martha cooked up a dinner and they cut through the woods at noon to eat at her table.

When the house was finished, Sam rode by to tell Will that he was on his way to Alabama to fetch his family. He would have to hurry to get there and back if he was going to have time to get his fields planted that year. He rode back to Greene County where, on the first day of May in 1836, almost a year after he bought his land in Pine Springs, Samuel C. Hatcher and Miss Marium G. Clay were married. They left at once for their Mississippi home.

Sam and Marium Hatcher were listed in the 1840 census of Lauderdale County. The children listed with them were two females between 10 and 15, who would have been Catherine and Eliza, two males between 5 and 10 who were Samuel T. and George. There was a little girl under 5, who was "Tabby" (Tabitha Ann Elizabeth), and two little boys under five, who were Jesse O. and Josiah Augustus. The last three were Marium's children. Marium later became the mother of "Vina" (Lavinia), Dulane F., and William Clay Hatcher. All six of the second Mrs. Hatcher's children were born in Pine Springs.

On September 7, 1835, Vincent A. Evans bought the 40 acres in Sec. 8 that joined the Hatcher's land to the north of their Polecat Branch home. [NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-8] Although it was kind of hilly land for farming, Sam was still "put out" that it had sold. He hadn't wanted a neighbor that close to his house. It was not but a year or so later, however, when Evans sold out to Hatcher, and Sam rested easier. He'd learned a lesson, though; if he expected to have his big plantation then he'd best buy up the land as soon as he was able.

It is unknown if Evans made his home in Pine Springs during the brief time that he owned the Sec. 8 land. It is noted that he was living in the county in Beat 4 when he was elected Justice Court judge for three years in the early 1850's.

Robert and Catherine Craig of Greene County,

Alabama, made the next purchase of government land in a northern section of Pine Springs on June 26, 1835. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-34, T-8, R-15E] There is no record of their ever living on this land; if they moved here they must have been dissatisfied and returned to Alabama. When they sold the property in June, 1841, they signed the deed "Robert and Catherine Craig of Alabama".

* * * * *

Benjamin J. Carpenter came to the county in 1834 with a wagon train made up of family and friends, and he bought land near today's Fellowship Baptist Church. [In S-27, T-8, R-15E] Well educated, Carpenter became one of the early Justice Court judges, a post he held for nine years. In 1838 he was elected County Tax Assessor and Collector. He did not live in the area that has been designated Pine Springs, but he was to play an influential role in the community's affairs.

The Carpenters were from a respected family of North Carolina who had, perhaps, just a touch more finessè than was usually found on the rough frontier. Oh, they were tough enough - they had to be to survive in the raw new land where disputes were often settled by fistfights. This was the wild west in those days, where men commonly wore guns at the waists or carried their rifles strapped to their saddles. It was no place for timid souls.

Intimately acquainted with the Alford, Tutt, Rice, Denton, Sanderford and Richardson families - and perhaps others - from Franklin County in North Carolina, the Carpenters had migrated with the others to Greene County, Alabama in the 1820's. These families had intermarried in several instances and thus became kinfolks, showing that in no other part of America were the ties of family as strong as they were in the South. It seemed as if the Southerner "cousined" half the folks he met.

Ben Carpenter had been born to John and Elizabeth (Upchurch) Carpenter back in Carolina in 1791, and, as the son of a prosperous tobacco farmer, was sent to school. He grew up in Franklin Co. where he married Miss Nancy Rice, daughter of a North Carolina Revolutionary soldier, John Rice, Sr., patriarch of another well-thought-of family. When Ben's parents migrated to Alabama with a group of friends in the 1820's, young Ben and Nancy brought their growing family and moved along with the rest.

Ben had done well on his plantation in Alabama, but he had skimmed the fertility from his land and the richer new soil in Mississippi, with its low price, beckoned. When the Carpenters came

to our county, some of their old friends and kinfolks from Carolina and Alabama moved along, as well.

Arriving in 1834, the Ben Carpenters built their frontier home in the great forest with few close neighbors. There were no roads; they kept in touch with the other settlers by walking the trails or by horseback. It wasn't until later that the wagon trails were cleared. Even the ladies rode horses, wearing voluminous riding skirts for modesty's sake and to keep the horse's hair off their dresses as they sat on their side-saddles. When they reached their destination, they slipped off their riding habit and draped it over the saddle until it was time to mount up for the return trip.

As soon as the immediate problems of shelter and their fields were taken care of, some of the settlers called a meeting to organize a church. Mrs. Nancy Carpenter, especially, wanted a place of worship, and she invited their nearest neighbors and friends to the Carpenter home one springtime day to discuss it. There, on the Saturday before the second Sunday in April of 1838, they organized a Baptist church.

Among those who met that day were the Carpenters' daughters, Elizabeth (Mrs. Gray Sanderford), and Willie (Mrs. Harvey W. Denton), both of whom lived close by. Mrs. Carpenter, being the lady she was, and taking into the consideration the hospitality of Southern families, more than likely served teacakes and sweetmeats and, perhaps, some cold buttermilk from the springhouse.

The members continued to meet in each other's homes until, in time, they began to meet at its present site in a log house that apparently was on the property when they bought it. [S-27, T-8, R-15E] Some descendants of the early members say that the slaves worshiped with their owners, the slaves sitting in one of the log rooms as their masters occupied the room across the hall.

The church that was organized in 1838 was named the Fellowship Baptist Church, one of the oldest churches in Lauderdale County. Located just north of Pine Springs, it set a standard for civilized behavior on the rowdy frontier, bringing a sense of order to residents of the surrounding area.

* * * * *

On October 27 in the fall of 1835, John J. Kerley, a native of South Carolina, bought 40 acres of government land in Pine Springs. [SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] It may have been that Johnny Kerley, a bachelor, had come to the county with other travelers to prepare a place for the rest of the Kerleys to come later. There is no record of when the rest of the family came, but three years later his 21 year old

sister, Caroline Kerley (b.Sept.17,1817,SC), married John B. Collins, a Lauderdale County deputy sheriff, on April 12, 1838. After their marriage, John and Caroline Collins moved near the new court house at Marion where they lived on a farm belonging to Gabriel Collins, John Collins' brother.

The Kerleys, who were poor, put up a settler's cabin with dirt floors. We do not know how many were in Johnny's family; they had no slaves but it appears they scratched out a little farm, hunted game, and otherwise looked out for themselves. As far as is known, they may have been orphans, although one older person, Arthur, may have been the father. Arthur's health was not robust. Johnny had a younger brother, Joseph.

Jacob Alford, whose family came from England, was another of the group of farmers from Franklin County, North Carolina who had migrated to Alabama after Whitney had invented his gin that had made cotton farming so profitable. Jacob and his wife, Milberry (Gray) Alford, bought land in Greene County near their friends, the Sanderfords, Carpenters, Tutts, Dentons, and others. (Milberry's name sounded like "Milbry" when Jake pronounced it, and often was written as Milbry or Milbra, on old records.)

After farming his Alabama plantation for several years, Jacob found his land did not yield as many bales of cotton per acre that it once had. As their friends were moving on to Mississippi to take advantage of the low-priced former Choctaw lands, Jacob had a mind to go, too.

Jacob left Greene County and brought his wife and the last of their children remaining in the household to Mississippi, where he bought land in Pine Springs on October 24, 1836. Jacob Alford was getting a little old to start all over again on a frontier, but his children had moved, or were moving, and he couldn't stand the thought of being left behind. He would have to establish a home for Milbry and his youngsters while he was still able to sling his old ax. Of course, he did have four slaves to help him. (Jacob's age is not known, but Milberry Alford was born in 1778 and was 58 when they moved to the community.)

His Milbry, a fine woman, had not much wanted to move at first. She had been through all this before when she had been younger; she knew what living on a frontier was like. But when Jacob asked her how she would like it when her grandchildren were all too far away to visit,

she agreed that maybe it was for the best that they all stay together. If her old fool husband wanted to tame another frontier, why then she reckoned she would be game enough to go along.

The land that Jacob Alford first bought was 80 acres in Sec. 9 [$W\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] and the adjoining 40 acres in Sec. 8, just east of Sam Hatcher's homeplace. [$SW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{2}$, S-8] This land had a mite more roll to it than Jacob would have liked, but it was far enough from the creek to be healthy. (In Jacob's experience, land too close to creeks was where fevers usually struck.) Another reason Jake chose that particular spot, although he wouldn't admit it, was because it was on the site of an old Indian place, and some of it had been cleared. He wouldn't admit it, but of late he was feeling lazy and looked for short cuts. He didn't trust his two younger sons to get enough work from his four slaves. He had worked his fields with slaves all his life, and was unwilling to turn them over to the boys, not yet.

The Tutt family, included with the Carpenter train from Alabama, may have been somehow related to the Alfords; Richard Tutt and Jacob were certainly friends. (Richard's brother, James Tutt, was related to Ben Carpenter, having married Ben's sister in Alabama.)

In 1835, Richard B. Tutt bought an 80-acre tract of Pine Springs public land [$E\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$, S-9], and in 1836 he bought another 80 acres in the same section. [$E\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] As he also bought land north of Pine Springs in Township 8, it remains unclear which parcel contained his new home. Richard advanced Jake Alford money to buy the Alford farm, as Jake's Alabama plantation was a little slow in being sold.

Jacob became more in debt when he bought out another Pine Springs homesteader, Alexander Kyles. Kyles had purchased a small plot, 40 acres, near Alford in 1835. [$SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] After a year, Kyles wanted to leave and offered Alford a chance to buy him out. Jake, short on cash, gave Kyles a promissory note. When in October, 1837, Jacob Alford had not settled, Kyles took Jake to court. Somehow Jake got the required money to keep the land and Alexander Kyles moved on.

We are not certain how many children Jacob and Milberry Alford had; those known settled Lauderdale County. Julius Alford was the oldest son, having been born in North Carolina in 1808. Julius had been apprenticed to a cooper, so he always had a trade to fall back on, although agriculture was his main interest.

Jacob had taught his boy to work with leather, and so Julius also earned extra cash by making shoes, saddles, and harness during the winter months when he was not outside in his fields.

Julius married his cousin Sarah Sanderford in North Carolina in 1825, just before the Alford family migrated en masse on that first long trek to Alabama in 1826. By 1836, when Julius and Sarah came to Mississippi, four of their ten children had been born. (Their oldest son, Warren F. Alford, became the most noted of the ten. Warren became deputy sheriff in Lauderdale County for four years before he was elected sheriff in 1858, an office that he held nine years. Following this tenure, he was elected county treasurer for several consecutive terms.)

The years were kind to Julius Alford, and he was able to have money enough to loan out on interest, and was also able to invest in more land. He did not live in Pine Springs, but resided north of the community in Township 8, although he later moved to the vicinity of Marion. He lived to be 55 when he was killed by a falling tree in 1858.

The oldest daughter of Jacob and Milberry Alford was Rowena, born in Carolina around 1807. In Alabama she married Walter Welch, a mechanic (carpenter) from Vermont, who was also a wagonmaker. It is possible that the Welch came along with Rowena's aging parents to Mississippi and lived with, or near them, in Pine Springs; records show that they were in the county soon afterwards. They apparently never had children.

Mary Alford (b.1809,NC) was about sixteen when Jacob and Milberry moved to Alabama. She married Samuel Fortson in Alabama, and her children, William L., 1832; Nancy Jane, 1834, and Joseph G. 1836, were born in that state. When Sam Fortson died in 1838, Mary and her three wee children came to live with her parents in Pine Springs.

When the Alford family came to Pine Springs, James Gray Alford (b.1809,NC) was 24, the oldest of the two sons still living at home. "Jamie" and his younger brother, Sherrod H. Alford (b.1816,NC), were a great help to old Jacob in getting the new plantation started. When Sherrod became 21 in 1837, he bought 40 acres of government land in Pine Springs next to his Pa's. [NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-8]

(There was an Owen Alford on the county poll tax list from 1836 through 1840. There has been no evidence seen that points to a relationship with our Pine Springs family.)

Closely allied to the Alford family was their friend and relative, James Gray Sanderford, a son of the North Carolina group of families that migrated to Alabama in the 1820's. Born in 1805,

Gray Sanderford married Ben and Nancy Carpenters' daughter, Betsy (Elizabeth), on December 2, 1828, in Alabama.

Gray Sanderford and Julius Alford, with a two year difference in the cousin's ages, had been friends all their lives. When he grew up, Julius married Gray's sister Sarah. Gray appeared to have a lot of respect for old Mr. Jacob Alford, and when their families moved to Mississippi, they all left at the same time. Gray and Betsy located on 240 acres north of Pine Springs on land adjoining the Carpenter's near Drip Off Spring, which was also near Julius and Sarah Alford's claim.

Sanderford did not only buy the land where he and Betsy settled near Drip Off Springs, but he also bought three 80-acre tracts near Mr. Alford's place in Pine Springs. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-4; E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9; W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-8] It is thought he did this as a favor for Jacob, to save the land from being purchased by some stranger. Jacob, who had less cash than Gray, planned to buy these tracts as he became more affluent.

Jacob Alford realized part of his dream of enlarging his plantation when he made arrangements to buy the tract in Sec. 9 from Gray in 1837. On this 80-acre tract, he replaced his crude settler's cabin with a sturdier log house. It had puncheon floors instead of tamped earth and offered more space. The new house was convenient to a spring, which was just down the hill. [Today's Pine Springs Southern Methodist Church now stands on part of this 80 acres.]

But time caught up with old Jacob in 1838. He died that winter, probably still in harness. It is not known where Miss Milbry buried her husband. The Fellowship Church, not quite a year old, was still meeting in the members' homes and had no graveyard as yet. Evidently, his family laid him to rest on a hillside near his wilderness home. Is it possible that Jacob Alford's grave became the first in Pine Springs Cemetery? With no permanent stone to mark its site, the grave is now lost, and so we may never know.

The Alford's long-time friend, Richard B. Tutt, helped Miss Milbry's son Jamie settle Jacob's estate. Jacob had acquired several debts in getting his plantation established. If he could have brought in a couple more cotton crops, he would have had his affairs more in order. His slaves had to be sold, but Miss Milbry was able to keep one servant who had been her own private property. Just before his death, Little Berry Baner and two business associates took Jacob to court to collect on a note that was due. Baner took 80 acres of Alford's land to satisfy the debt. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-8] [They did not keep the taxes on this land paid, and it reverted

to the state in 1847. The Mobile and Ohio River Railroad took it over in the 1850's, and it was not sold to private individuals again until 1900.]

Milbry Alford stayed in her home with her sons Jamie and Sherrod, and with her widowed daughter, Mary Fortson. Jacob had not been a churchgoer, but after his death, Miss Milbry began to attend Fellowship Church. She moved her church letter from Alabama to Fellowship in March, 1839, and the following month her daughter, Mary Fortson, also moved her membership to the local church.

Their family friend, Richard Tutt, moved his family and eight slaves up the country in 1839, selling his two 80-acre tracts in Pine Springs. Gray Sanderford bought one of the tracts, and the other was sold to William Prier. (William Prier's plantation home was north of Pine Springs and across Bales Creek, near today's water slide in the Water Park on the east side of Okatibbee Lake.) Mr. Tutt was listed in the 1840 census of Kemper County, where he died a few years later.

Gray Sanderford sold Mary Alford Fortson the land in Sec. 9 which he had purchased from Richard Tutt. [E½SW¼, S-9] Mary remarried in 1840 and her second husband, William McLenore, built their home within sight of the Alford's, as Mary's 80 acres joined her mother's land. Mary remained close by to be near her sprightly mother.

Young Jamie Alford took over the management of the Alford plantation. On December 6, 1840, he married Miss Harriet Eliza Barrett of Alabama. Jamie and Harriet made their home on the plantation with his mother and Sherrod.

Two men, business partners, pooled their resources to obtain patents on Pine Springs land. They were William R. Campbell and John R. Marshall, the latter being one of the early local attorneys. On January 22, 1836 they bought a quarter section in Sec. 3, and the adjacent 80-acre tract in Sec. 4. [NW¼, S-3; E½NE¼, S-4] Mr. Campbell died around 1844 leaving Marshall, as surviving partner, the sole owner of the land.

Mr. Marshall did not pay the 1844 taxes on the land for some reason, so in April, William H. White, the tax collector, sold the land to the highest and last bidder. Tax owed was \$1.80, which was paid by J. A. Horne. Horne's bid had been for \$4.80, so he got the 240 acres for a total of \$6.60!

Horne kept the land for two years before he sold it to Samuel A. Griffith for \$240. Griffith was a prosperous planter whose plantation was on Toomsaba Creek, the site of today's Lake Tom Bailey

in eastern Lauderdale County. Griffith kept this Pine Springs property for ten years, during which time he did not live on it, but rented it out to various tenants. There were a number of farmers who lived on land rented from absentee landlords. Leaving no 'paper trail', most of their names have been lost.

It was early in 1835 that David Montgomery Brown came to the wilderness in Lauderdale County to settle and begin a plantation. David, born in North Carolina in 1812, was the youngest son of a family of nine children. His father, James Brown, Sr., was a Continental soldier and fought in the American Revolution. His mother was Martha, daughter of John C. and Susan Gallman of North Carolina. The Browns were a family of means and young David received a good education.

Mr. Brown died in 1821 and young David, after collecting his share of the inheritance, saddled up his horse and set out westward to start life on his own. He settled, for a while, in Alabama, buying a plantation in Dallas County. [The community around his plantation became known as Browns. His attractive one-story house with its well-kept grounds was still occupied in 1938, although it has since burned.]

In Alabama, David met a charming Southern belle that quite took his fancy.. She was Miss Eliza Ann Fort, the aristocratic eldest daughter of Burrell J. Fort, Sr., an established plantation owner who lived at Forts (renamed Marion Junction in 1875), located about eight miles from Browns. David Brown found Miss Eliza delightful.

Seeking to improve his fortune, David M. Brown traveled to Mississippi to buy more land. He traveled to the Natchez area, found it "over-crowded" and expensive. He had liked the lands in eastern Mississippi better for his purposes and returned to the new Lauderdale County to make his purchase. The land he bought was located near Drip Off Spring, and there he began his new plantation.

Sometimes hiring help, but working alone much of the time, David spent long days clearing his land, working until every muscle ached. He planted his new fields with cotton that first year, and when it was picked and sold, he set about building a log home for his future wife. He cut his own trees and hewed the square to build his walls and hewed 12 inch wide boards of long leafed Pine for flooring. He rived out shingles for his roof. His finished home had two large square rooms with wide open fireplaces, and an open hallway between,

A wide veranda ran the front length of the house. The kitchen was detached from the main building, as was the custom. It was not an elaborate home, but it was sturdy and comfortable and it suited their needs. [The house, later covered with weather-boarding, stood for well over 100 years in surprisingly good condition.]

David invested the profit from his cotton in more land. He enlarged his plantation, but in 1836, he also got a patent on 120 acres of public land in Pine Springs. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-3]

With a home to offer his lady, David returned to Alabama to ask for Miss Fort's hand. Her father was agreeable - and 16-year-old Eliza certainly was - so David Brown and Eliza Fort were married at her home on January 5, 1837. The journey from Alabama to Mississippi became their honeymoon.

Little Berry Banes had early bought land in the area of Pine Springs and engaged in land-swapping and trading about the neighborhood at considerable profit to himself. In 1838 David Brown, needing cash to buy slaves, spoke to Banes to see if he was interested in buying his Sec. 3 Pine Springs acreage. L. B. Banes was delighted to take it off David's hands.

By that year Eliza had borne David his first son and another baby was on the way. With a servant to help, she could spare her pretty soft hands, and, more important, with a couple more field workers, David could clear and cultivate bigger fields of cotton. He was to buy more slaves as time went on, and he increased his plantation's size to 1720 acres.

[David and Eliza had ten children, mostly sons, before she died in 1858. David took Rebecca Richardson, daughter of settler Ransom Richardson, as his second wife, and she gave him nine more children. Although David M. Brown was not a resident of Pine Springs, several of his many descendants were; we shall meet them later.]

* * * * *

Marthy Stokes' parents, the McMullens, with their children all married and their old age fast approaching, moved from Clarke County, Alabama to settle near Will's and Marthy's place in Pine Springs. Without a doubt their coming took a worry off Miss Marthy's mind. Alexander and Sarah McMullen bought 40 acres of government land in Sec. 3 in May of 1836. [SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-3]

Traveling from Alabama had been a long and trying trip for Mr. and Mrs. McMullen. With them had come their daughter Rebecca and her young husband, Jeremiah Howell, and the Howells' little girl, Martha Ann.

The young couple, Jeremiah and Becky, had married in Clarke Co. (Alabama) at Christmas in 1833. They were poor, but on May 18, 1836, Jeremiah and Mr. McMullen went together to the land office to get land, each buying 40 acres next to the Stokes. Jeremiah's 40 was in Sec. 4. [SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-4]

Jeremiah was impatient to get a farm bigger than the small tract he had, and he prevailed upon Richard Tutt to advance him money to buy another 80 acres from the government. This additional acreage was on top of Rogers Hill, adjoining the east side of Rodgers' farm. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 11]

Sadly, this new land venture proved too much, too soon, for the Howell family. Jeremiah could not pay the note when it was due, and Mr. Tutt sued, attaching the land as payment. Tutt then sold the tract to Hays Rodgers and it became part of the Rodgers plantation.

Still in debt, Jeremiah turned to his brother-in-law for help. Will Stokes bought Jeremiah's original tract in Sec. 4 where they had built their cabin. Will let his relatives continue to live on the place, but he kept the title in his name.

Jeremiah and Becky Howell were good people; they just had bad luck getting on their feet. They were to have four more children born in Pine Springs; Jane E., 1840; Nathan, 1842; Daniel M. 1856; and Mary, 1857.

* * * * *

The Sec. 3 land that Little Berry Banes bought from David M. Brown in 1838 was not the first that Banes bought in Pine Springs. On December 12, 1836, Banes, a 27-year-old North Carolina native, arrived with his wife, Penina, and their baby, Leah, from Alabama, and bought 160 acres from the government land office at Columbus, Mississippi. Located in Sec. 33 in Township 8, it was on the northern edge of the Pine Springs area. [SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-33, T-8, R-15E]

It is hard to say just what Little Berry had in mind when he started buying land, because it became apparent over the next few years that he was not interested in becoming a cotton farmer. He found more than one way to make money off the wilderness land. [In 1854 the Lauderdale Republican described Mr. L. B. Banes as a "rubicund visage and portly person" and as having "a good-natured and ever smiling countenance".]

When Banes bought the 120 acres in Sec. 3 from David Brown, he turned around and sold it to Mr. Alexander McMullen, making a profit. Banes then bought 40 acres in the same section from Will Stokes and then sold that to Mr. McMullen, realizing more profit, of course. Stokes swapped, "even-Steven", half of his 80 acres in Sec. 3 to his father-in-law

or a different 40 acres (part of the former Brown and) in that same section, because it adjoined tokes' plantation. Everybody seemed pleased over ll this swapping and trading, and Banes went away miling, counting his money.

In 1837, one Henry Banes bought 80 acres of public land in the northern half of Sec. 33, while about that time Little Berry Banes sold his 160 acres in the same section to a Richard Banes. Little Berry, Henry, and Richard must have been related, but now the family connection is not known. Richard Banes lived in Sec. 33 for a number of years and joined the nearby Fellowship Baptist church, although he was later excluded from the church for drunkenness. He was mentioned in the church minutes again in March, 1859 when new converts were to be baptized "at the schoolhouse near Richard Banes".

In 1842, Little Berry sold the 160 acres in sec. 34 that he had bought from the Craigs when they returned to Alabama. At this time Little Berry and Penina moved to Marion, the county seat, and Little Berry opened a blacksmith shop. He hired Walter Welch, Jacob and Milbry Alford's wagon-maker son-in-law, to work in the shop. Welch worked for Banes for some time, holding different positions as Banes' enterprises expanded.

Gregarious, friendly, talkative, Little Berry Banes became a widely recognized personage about town. In 1847 he was elected to the Board of Police Supervisors), and acted as its president from 1847-1851. He and Penina were listed in Marion with several children in the 1850 census.

Little Berry's fortune continued to grow. In addition to his smithy, Banes opened a business in the town square, Harper & Banes Store, which sold shoes, clothing, hardware and sundry supplies.

Banes bought the Fisher House Inn & Tavern and modeled the old wooden structure to open it as the Banes Hotel in 1854. Banes Hotel, a two-storied brick building, was the finest in town, and everyone dining in Marion or traveling through went there to dine. Walter Welch was Banes' bartender.

L. B. Banes lost most of his wealth during the Civil War. Penina died about that time, and Little Berry married again. On September 20, 1865, he was appointed Postmaster of Wahalak Station in Marion County.

* * * * *

James Castles, one of the early county officials, bought a number of land tracts in the 1830's, with speculation in mind. In 1837 he bought 160 acres in Sections 2 and 3, which he sold to the Rodgers plantation. Castles was President of the Board

of Police in 1838 as well as being a deputy sheriff. He never lived in Pine Springs.

* * * * *

Alfred and Barbra Bales could neither read nor write, and each county clerk had a different idea about the way their name should be spelled. Al and Barbra signed their deeds with X's while the officials wrote their name Bails, Bayles, Bailes, or Bales. A creek that begins in Kemper County and runs southward, and passed through Sec. 5 in northwest Pine Springs in the days before Okatibbee Lake was built, is spelled Bales on the maps, and that is the way the family's name shall be spelled here. The Indians called this creek "Oka Tapa", signifying "Water Cut Off"; white men named it "Bales".

Al Bales brought his family to this area where, in 1835, he bought several acres of land near the headwaters of this stream that bears his name. He was an uneducated ruffian, but he did well for himself when it came to buying and trading land. The family apparently lived near the Kemper-Lauderdale County line when Alfred Bales, with five members in his family, was listed in the Kemper Farm Census of 1837. The census showed that Bales had only five acres under cultivation, but that he owned five female slaves.

In 1839, Alfred Bales bought 80 acres in Pine Springs' Sec. 4 from its original purchaser, Samuel Lee. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-4] Lee had bought the tract in 1837 from the government for \$98.36 and sold it, still unimproved, for \$350 two years later.

Bales kept this Pine Springs land for several years and if he lived on it, he left no mark. There was no land clearing nor planting done. It remained an untouched virgin forest.

The Bales did not appear to maintain a permanent home. On November 20, 1839, Bales bought 120 acres from the government for \$120, near the future site of Marion Station. He sold this land a little later to M. E. Rhodes for \$1440! On December 3, 1839, Bales bought 240 acres from Peter and Susanna Usery, who had moved to Newton County. In May, 1840, Alfred Bales sold another 120 acres, just north of Marion, to Abe Carr for \$550.

Bales, as many men of his time, was a rough, tough, brawling frontiersman. In April, 1838, Absalom Schamberger took Bales to court in a suit for damages when Bales gave Schamberger a pounding. Al Bales had beat him up pretty good in front of a number of witnesses. On November 26, 1840, Bales was back in court, this time when he and William Elliott got into some kind of squabble over the sale of a male slave named Bill.

Alfred and Barbra Bales had several children; one son, Brice (sometimes called Bricie), was Constable of Lauderdale County's Beat 4 at one time. It is not known where this family went, but census records show nobody by that name living in the county in 1850. Apparently they loaded their wagon and migrated to parts unknown.

So this was the earliest beginnings of Pine Springs from the 1834 coming of the white men until 1840. It was a busy six years, a time of change and upheaval as people came to the new country to get a fresh start. It was a time of optimism and expectations.

Starting with practically nothing but their own strong backs, and with surprisingly few tools, the settlers used the materials they found on the land to make their cribs and cabins among the great trees. Some quickly gave up, for one reason or another, and moved on. There was much speculative land buying going on. But the Rodgers, Stokes, Hatchers, Alford's, McLemores, McMullens, Howells and Kerleys came to stay. They were the true pioneers.

These pioneers began to clear and plant, but most of the land remained an untouched, pristine wilderness. Occasionally, one would come across a clearing with its squatter's cabin or find an Indian hunting camp, but for the most part, these eight families were the people here in 1840.

There was the beginnings of a road that led through the settlement on the east, a narrow trail hacked out to get their ox-wagons through to the cabins. There were no fences; ear-marked cattle roamed free, finding graze in the waist-high grasses and cane-breaks in the swamps.

There was little law to help if a dispute erupted between neighbors. They learned to work out their differences themselves. If they could not settle their quarrels amicably, it was no disgrace to have a good fist-fight, especially if one's honor or manhood was questioned. They lived hard and they fought hard, and drinking their home-made whiskey was the expected thing to do. A nearby church had been started, but religion had as yet not changed their way of life.

The frontiersmen learned to be self-sufficient but, knowing what trouble meant, they were quick to offer help where it was needed.

They were a hardy lot. They were Southerners.

DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS IN THE 1840's

Citizens took turns supervising and/or working on the roads in the early days. They came when called or were liable for fines if they did not comply. Excerpts from the Board of Police Minute Book:

Mar. 12, 1848: "It is ordered that the return of John B. Collins as overseer on the Upper Decatur Road from A. W. Gillespies to the twelve mile post [from Marion] on said road be received and that Lovelace H. Mott be appointed overseer on said road for twelve months, to warn and make work the following hands; Wm. Stokes, Lewis Rodgers, George Stokes, Thomas Stokes, Thomas Clarke, A. F. Gary, John J. Kerley, Sam'l C. Hatcher & hands, Sam'l [T.] Hatcher, George W. Stringer, Hays Rodgers & hands, James Rodgers, Lovelace H. Mott, William Stringer, Pascal H. Walker, Jesse Womac, H. B. Bozeman, Jeremiah H. Howell, Lawson Gunn, Wm. Brown & hands, Wm. H. Strebeck, B. S. Walker, John W. Hamrick, [Capt.] John Hamrick & hands, Thomas J. Hamrick, James Brown, Aaron Crawley, Hugh W. Davidson, & George W. Fane, & that work be extended to the 12-mile post."

Feb. 1848: "Ordered the return of Lovelace H. Mott as overseer on the Upper Decatur road from A. W. Gillespie to the 12-mile post be received & Joseph Kerley be appointed overseer on said road for the term of twelve months to warn and make work the following hands; L. H. Mott, Wm. Stokes, Lewis Rodgers, George Stokes, Thos. Stokes, Thos. Clarke, A. T. Gary, Sam'l C. Hatcher & hands, Nathan Mott, George Stringer, Samuel (T.) Hatcher, Hays Rodger's hands, Wm. Stringer, P. H. Walker, Jesse Womac, Bartlet H. Walker, John Hamrick & hands, Thomas Hamrick, Henry Davidson, Thos. Wells, John Battle, James R. Battle, Joseph Stringer, John Perry, Rob. B. D. Landston, John B. Collins, E. T. R. Miles, James Bailey, Henry Williams, James M. Stringer, Meredith Chandler, Jas. B. McDonald & hands, Farquash Wooton, John W. Hamrick, James Phillips."

Aug. 30, 1848: "Ordered that the petition of John Trussell & others to review out a route for a road from near A. W. Gillespies by A. [Alsa] Pace's to the line of this county in a direction to Philadelphia be received and that the clerk issue...the Sheriff with the same commissioners as before named."

4/ THE FORBIDDEN LANDS

At the time of the Choctaw Indian land survey, the US Government set aside one square mile (a section) out of every thirty-six miles (36 sections) to be kept solely for the use of schools. In trying to choose a site situated nearest the center of each 36-section block so that no child would be too far from a schoolhouse, they designated each Section #16 of each 36-section block as being "school land". No land from ANY of the 16th sections could be sold to settlers who arrived to buy land to homestead.

Most of Pine Springs land is located within the 36-section block that makes up Township 7, Range 15East. Some of the most desirable farmland in Pine Springs - fertile, nearly level bottomland lying within the wide forks of the Okatibbee and Rogers Creeks - is located within a 16th section. When newcomers came to pick and choose the land they would buy, they must have eyed that particular section with rueful disappointment. The land around Section 16 was sold within a short time, but the Section 16 school land remained untouched.

When battered and road-weary travelers pulled up and said "Whoa!" as they reached their newly purchased acres, the first thing they generally did was to jump off their ox-carts, ax in hand, to begin clearing fields. It was essential to get their planting started quickly so their plow-horse would have some mubbins of corn, and the family would have something to eat besides "possum, Poke sallet and Hickernuts" in the coming year. They had to get their pea patch planted. If they wanted any ~~money~~ to buy tools and tobacco they had to get a cash crop (cotton) a-growing, too.

Most of the young parents had grown up without a chance for booklearnin' - only 2 percent of the population could read - but they thought it would be mighty nice if their young'uns could read and cipher. But even with school lands set aside, without funds to build schoolhouses and to pay teachers, these reserved lands remained idle.

The better financed planters and land speculators eyed the vacant 16th section lands going to waste. They studied about how they could manage to stick

a plow into that tempting newground to increase the size of their cotton patches and to fatten their purses. Since there was no funding for schools, they said, and since the land could not be sold, then why not just lease the land from the government, with the lease money helping to establish schools? Why not, indeed! The practice of leasing was started, but as far as is known, the lease money went to other causes and no public schools were built.

Elias C. McLelland was a well-to-do planter who lived in Kemper County. His name appeared there on the 1840 census records. On the 25th of February, 1842, he paid \$700 cash for the lease of 400 acres in Pine Springs' Section 16. [$\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ & S $\frac{1}{2}$ of S-16] The term of the lease was for 99 years from said date, and was signed by William C. Foster, President of the Board of Police, Lauderdale County.

On October 7, 1844, less than three years later, E. C. McLelland, still residing in Kemper, sold his lease on the greater part of the Pine Springs 16th to John Matthews of Sumter County, Alabama, for \$480. As McLelland continued to make his home in Kemper, we assume that he never came to Pine Springs to live. It is possible that he rented the land to tenants, or he may have had some slaves with an overseer to raise his cotton there.

The same John Matthews of Alabama who bought McLelland's lease in 1844, also bought 80 acres from John M. Wooton of Sec. 21, just south of Sec. 16. Wooton's Sec. 21 land had excellent cotton land but, being on the banks of Rogers Creek, was subject to flooding during wet weather. It is believed that Matthews rented his land to tenants. This has not been proven; none of the tenants' names survived the passage of years. Some evidence does support the belief that John Matthews removed himself and wife to Smith County, Mississippi, still retaining his interest in the Pine Springs land.

Ten years later in 1854, Cincinnatus W. Matthews (John Matthew's son?), bought the 80 acres that make up the east half of the northeast quarter of Sec. 16. It is thought that Cincinnatus rented

the land to tenants and lived elsewhere in the county.

Later, the management of school land was taken from the Board of Police and given to a Board of School Commissioners. On July 17, 1854, Joseph Lowery, President of the County Board of School Commissioners, wrote a deed in favor of C. W. Matthews (Cincinnatus) in which he stated that "by an act of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi which was approved on the 25th day of February, 1854, the Lauderdale County Board of School Commissioners are authorized and empowered to advertise and sell [not lease!] at auction the 16th Section lands and in said county, and whereas the Commissioners did duly advertise the same, and the day and place of the sale, the Commissioners did expose at the courthouse door in the town of Marion, the following, and other public lands, viz; the East $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, Township 7, Range 15E, to C. W. Matthews, the highest and last bidder, who purchased the said land for \$1.96." The deed was signed, "Joseph Lowery, School Commissioner."

On February 7, 1857, three years later, C. W. Matthews and his wife, Derina, sold 560 acres of their Pine Springs land to Charles E. Rushing of Lauderdale County. The land had been in the Matthews family for 13 years, and it is safe to assume that somebody in the family must have been making money from it. [The Matthews family has not been researched by this writer.]

* * * * *

Charles E. Rushing was an immensely wealthy gentleman who owned thousands of acres scattered all over the county. One of Rushing's stores was located not far north of Fellowship Church. A post office there, established in the 1850's, was where residents of Pine Springs picked up their mail. The Rushing home, a mansion, was near the town of old Marion, out toward the Topton community. Rushing apparently liked the idea of owning land, which he collected with the ease of dogs collecting fleas. Rushing held onto this 16th Section land for several years.

* * * * *

Isam Pace, who was Sheriff in 1836 and 1837 and was later on the School Board, had a plantation located off (today's) King Road north of Meridian. In 1842, Pace leased the East $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 16 for himself. Apparently, the concept of 'Conflict of Interest' had not yet arisen. About a year later, on May 15, 1843, Pace sold

the remainder of his 99 year lease on this 80 acres to an assignee, William Brown.

William Brown may have been related the John Matthews mentioned earlier, as William's sister, Martha Brown, had married into the Matthews family. Martha and William were children of John H. Brown (b.1783) and his faithful wife, Sarah (b.1784).

John H. and Sarah Brown were married (around 1800?) in South Carolina, and thereafter moved into Georgia. They were dirt poor and this condition did not improve during their sojourn there. They scratched out a living in Georgia long enough to have children - Martha; Arthur, 1804; Randolph (called Randall) who had a twin, 1805; and William, 1807 - before they collected their few belongings and moved westward to the Mobile area, then in Florida.

John, Sarah, and their children were near Mobile on August 30, 1813 when the Creek Indians went on the warpath and massacred the people living in nearby Fort Mims. Sarah was pregnant when the Browns joined neighbors in 'forting up' near Ft. Mims and her son, John Brown, Jr., was born that October inside the fort while her husband was out fighting Indians. John H. Brown, Sr. fought throughout the Indian war. Their daughter Martha married the Matthews and lived in another fort which was attacked by the Creeks, but she and her husband were spared.

John and Sarah had more children born in Alabama before they moved to Jasper County, Mississippi and then, later on, to Lauderdale County. Not all the names of their large family are known. They had a daughter Sinai who married Thomas J. Hamrick in 1834 in Alabama. It is thought that Henry, born 1821, and Stephen P., born 1823, were their sons, but this has not been proven.

The Brown were poor but were a close-knit group, showing loving concern for each other, their shared hardships strengthening family bonds. They grew up in poverty, but their lives improved after moving to Mississippi, their sons proving financially capable men. A religious family, they were strict members of the Baptist church.

Almost all this family came to Lauderdale County, and a number of their descendants have lived in Pine Springs. [This Brown family is not to be confused with the North Carolinian David M. Brown's family who established near (now) Center Hill.]

William Brown, who bought the land in the 16th Section of Pine Springs, had grown up in Monroe County, Alabama, where his parents had moved during the Indian war. He married Martha Hamrick, daughter of Capt. John C. Hamrick, in Monroe County on Christmas Day in 1838.

A military man, Capt. John Hamrick had fought in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815 with Gen. Andrew

Jackson. After the Americans defeated the British in the War of 1812, Capt. Hamrick marched with Jackson on his return to Tennessee when the Jackson Trail, a military road, was cut. Discharged in Tennessee, the Captain returned home to Georgia.

Hamrick lived in Milledgeville, Georgia until 1820, at which time he took his wife Katie (Katherine) and their children and relocated in Monroe County, Alabama. He developed a plantation in Monroe and accumulated a moderate degree of wealth. The plantation was productive, located in the bottomlands of the Alabama River, but was an unhealthy place to live. Capt. Hamrick wanted to sell out and begin again in the new Mississippi lands.

In the 1830's, William and Martha (Hamrick) Brown were making plans to move to Mississippi with William's father. Capt. Hamrick went to his son-in-law with a request. Concerned that the best land would be bought up before his Alabama plantation could be sold, he asked William to scout around upon his arrival to find likely land to buy for him in the new country. When Capt. Hamrick came later with his family, he would buy the land from William. William agreed to help.

When William and Martha and their three babies arrived in Lauderdale County, William bought land in Sections 23 and 24 [T-7, R-15E], sited east of the Philadelphia Road near Gunn Creek. Capt. Hamrick got his business affairs in order two years later and came to Mississippi. William transferred the land he had bought to Capt. Hamrick. [This land is southeast of Pine Springs, lying east of today's King Road and north of Meridian.]

William Brown began his own plantation near the settlement of Chunkyville in the southwestern part of the county on the Chunky River. In 1843, he bought a lease on part of the 16th Section in Pine Springs, but as he lived at Chunkyville, he subleased this land to other farmers. Brown kept this lease four years. On December 11, 1847, William sold the Pine Springs lease to John and Susan Perry, whom we shall meet later.

William, a man of great physical strength, made a reputation for himself as a fighter. As in the later time of the famous boxer, John L. Sullivan, people came from miles to see William Brown fight, and placed bets upon the outcome. Some thought that 46-year-old William injured himself in a fighting match when he died in 1853. Dr. J. P. Welch, who knew the Brown family well, lived in the county at that time and wrote that William died of dysentery.

William had advanced his plantation and number of slaves, providing his family with a comfortable living. He was on his way to becoming wealthy

when his untimely death occurred. He left a young family of 10 children, which Martha raised with the help of her father-in-law, John H. Brown. Mr. Brown was appointed legal guardian of William's minor children.

[Pine Forest Sanitarium now occupies the site of the former village of Chunkeyville, and some of William Brown's descendants are living next to the sanitarium on part of the old Brown plantation.]

* * * * *

McLelland, Matthews, Pace, Rushing, Brown, Hamrick, Perry - these were among the first leaseholders of the 16th Section school land in Pine Springs. Since the first 1842 lease was issued there has been controversy over the ownership of the 16th Section. At first the deeds specified "lease", but as time went on and the land changed hands, the word "lease" was dropped and the term "sell" came into use. Those who bought the land claimed an outright deed were (are) still required to pay lease money for its use. In an 1873 case in the Circuit Court, Pine Springs' Sec. 16 land was sold by a direct order of the judge (to settle a dispute). Recently, the state of Mississippi made an edict that all former sales of school lands were illegal and ordered new leases negotiated. There are now cases pending action, their outcome uncertain.

In this history the writer shall make no attempt to explain further about 16th section lands. Indeed, no explanation on this confusing issue is possible. The history of the people that controlled the land, whether by sale or by lease, will be explored, but legal ownership of the land will be left to the courts.

* * * * *

As the big rush of land sales slowed and the countryside became more stable, concerned parents began thinking about educating their children. A group of fathers went to David M. Brown to ask if he would teach their would-be scholars. Knowing of his interest in books and seeing that he was already holding classes for his own brood, they asked him to consider opening a school for the neighborhood's offspring. Word was passed and a meeting was held under a certain large oak and, at the appointed time, the neighbors gathered.

At the informal conference it was decided that a one-room log cabin that was on Brown's place was the most desirable site. Brown loaned this cabin, which had a fireplace and windows that

closed with wooden shutters, and the community men split logs for student benches. About a quarter-mile from Drip Off Spring, it was a crude but fairly comfortable building.

Prof. Brown taught for a number of years, in this school named Drip Off. Attendance was by subscription; the poorer parents could not afford to send their children if they had a large family. But most of the neighborhood children went when they could be spared from farm labors.

With no student records surviving, it is not known if Pine Springs students attended the early school. As it was established when there were so few schools about the county, in all likelihood they did, especially the Rodgers and Stokes children who lived in the eastern part of Pine Springs.

There were later schools also paid, as they all were then, by private subscription. Started in the late 1840's by Prof. John Rivers, the Rivers

Academy was about half a mile west of (today's) Bailey Store. Quite well-known for its excellent teaching, it operated until the Civil War. Another school, Marion Male & Female Academy, was a boarding school in Marion established in 1842. Pinckney Vaughn's school near Suqualena was of fair size and employed several teachers. There is some evidence that a school was taught in Pine Springs in the 1850's.

Well-off planters sometimes hired live-in tutors for their children, but in the 1840's there were none in Pine Springs that had that kind of money. (Unless it was Hays Rodgers.) In cases where the father read, he taught his own sons. (Pretty girls don't need edycatin', they said.)

Public schools, paid for by tax money, were non-existent until after the Civil War, between 1868 and 1871. One wonders what became of the county's 16th Section lease money ear-marked for public schools?

* * * * *

LOCAL ROADS IN THE 1850's

From Minutes of the Board of Police, Marion, Miss.:

Feb. 25, 1850: "...James Brown appointed overseer on Upper Decatur Road commencing at A. W. Gilliepie's to the 12-mile post for the coming 12 months...to work the following hands; Wm. Stokes, Thomas Stokes, T. G. Gary, G. Stringer, Sam'l Hatcher, Jr., Lawson Gunn, John Hamrick's hands, T.W.Wells, J.R.Battle's hands, J. Stringer, John Perry, James W. Stringer, J.B.McDonald & hands, W. Hatcher...Stephen [G.?] Clay, Thomas Hamrick, Aaron Jones..."

March, 1850: "...assignments of Road Overseers for coming year; ...Chas. W. Stephenson, Jackson Road from Forks of [old] Daleville Road to the Kemper Line [through Shucktown?]....Bennet R. Pace on new road commencing on the Philadelphia Road & the said B. R. Pace is hereby directed to warn all hands liable to work on said road within 3 miles of new road to cut out said road according to law & make a report of the same to this Board the last Monday of August next...Jesse Wooton from John Trussells to County line on Philadelphia Road..."

March 25, 1850: "Bennet R. Pace, appointed overseer on the new road commencing at A. Gallaspeys [sic] to Bales Creek for & during the ensuing 12 months, is to warn and make work the following hands to wit; ...James Wilson [name marked through], Sherod Wilson, N. Mott, Wm. Stringer, Hays Rodgers & hands, Rice Carpenter,... Jerry [Jeremiah] Howell."

Apr. 20, 1857: "Ordered that the return of A. M. Prince, overseer on the Decatur Road from Stringers Bridge to the 12-mile post [from old Marion] be received and that Thomas A. Chandler be appointed overseer on said road from the next 12 months, and that he warn and make work the following hands to wit: Chandler's hands, A. M. Prince & hands, S. T. Hatcher, Wm. M. Strebeck, James Smith, Tilman Smith, D. [Dink] Collins, Henry Smith. P. S. Walker, Thos. M. Wells, and A. W. [Abner?] Pace."

"Ordered that the return of James B. McDonald, overseer on the Decatur Road from A. W. Gallepie's to Stringers Bridge [over Okatibbee Creek south of Pine Springs] be received, and that he be reappointed overseer on said road for the next 12 months, extending his work to Eli McDonald's on said road and warn and make work his own hands and Eli McDonald's hands."

5/ SETTLE IN, SETTLE DOWN
1840 - 1850

Alsa Pace of Kemper County, after buying 240 acres from Little Berry Baner for \$700 on December 29, 1843, moved to Pine Springs in 1844. The gently rolling farmland he bought when Baner moved to Marion was all in the south half of Sec. 34 on the northern edge of the community. [SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$; S-34, T-8, R-15E] It is not known if Pace built the log house where he made his home, or if it was built by Baner before Pace came. The log house faced west, a short distance from the east side of the early road that led down Rogers Hill and continued northward to intersect with Daleville-Philadelphia Road above Fellowship Baptist Church.

Alsa was the oldest son of Rev. Edmund Pace, who was born in 1764 on Little Fish River in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Surry County in northwestern North Carolina. John Pace, Jr. and John Pace, Sr., father and grandfather of Edmund, had both been killed during the American Revolution. The Paces were Loyalists; standing for King George and the Crown, they were killed by revolutionists, giving their lives for England. Young Edmund was about 11 when his father and grandfather died.

Edmund Pace grew up in Surry County. When he was 20 he married Miss Sarah Elizabeth Walker (b.1766,NC), the wedding taking place on Christmas Day, 1784. Edmund and Sarah had four children born in North Carolina before they migrated, around 1800, to Warren Co., Tennessee, where their fifth and last child, Edwin, was born. They lived in Tennessee for 25 years, during which time their children became adults, married, and began families.

Alsa Pace, born in North Carolina on March 30, 1796, was a lad when his parents moved to Tennessee. He grew up in Warren County where he married Miss Rhoda Jarvis. Five of Alsa's and Rhoda's thirteen children were born in Tennessee before the entire Pace clan moved to Greene County, Alabama. The Patriarch of the family, Rev. Edmund, in his 60's, migrated with Sarah and their married children.

The Paces established homes in Greene County between 1825 and 1829. Rev. Pace, a Baptist, preached in Greene County. Edwin, following the father's footsteps, also was a Baptist minister.

The Paces met and became friends with some of the families who later came to Lauderdale County.

One record shows that in 1831, Rev. Edwin performed the wedding of Harvey W. Denton and Miss Willie Carpenter, daughter of Ben Carpenter, before they came to Mississippi and helped form Fellowship Church.

In the early 1830's, Rev. and Mrs. Edmund Pace migrated to Mississippi, their children settling in Noxubee and Kemper Counties. The old minister died in Noxubee on August 28, 1834, but Miss Sarah died later in Kemper in October of 1840. The Pace daughters settled with their husbands in both Noxubee and Kemper. The young minister, Edwin, settled in Kemper, as did his brother, Alsa. Both lived not far above the Lauderdale County line. Alsa was elected JP in Kemper in November, 1835, and again in 1837.

By the time Alsa and Miss Rhoda Pace moved to Pine Springs in 1843, their children, including a set of twins, numbered 12. Their 13th and last child, who was afflicted, was born in Pine Springs the year they came. Alsa Pace's children were:

Burrell F. Pace, 1817 TN, was married to Sarah Beeman, lived in Beat 3, Lauderdale Co., had a "housefull" of children.

Bennet Rose Pace, 1819 TN, a bachelor, was 25, living at home.

Laura Ann Palmer, 1822 TN, Mrs. Sandy Alexander Palmer, stayed in Kemper.

Minerva Gwinn, 1824 TN, Mrs. Haley B. Gwinn of Kemper. Haley was a grandson of old Samuel Clay of Greene Co., Ala.

Sarah Irene Pace, 1826 TN, was 18, unmarried.

Abner W. Pace, 1829 AL, a 15-year-old teen-ager.

Perlina Jestina] 1831

Perlina Elizabeth] 1831 AL, twins. They were 13.

Joseph N. "Jasper" Pace, 1835 MS?, was 9.

Cornelius Resizh Pace, 1837 MS, was 7. Called "Ziah", but when he wrote his name, he spelled it "Xi".

Rhoda Enraline Pace, 1839 MS, was 5.

Alsa Carroll Pace, 1842 MS, was 2.

Edwin Jabez Pace, 1844, Pine Springs.

Mr. Pace, living between Pine Springs and Drip Off, had a foot in each community, so to speak,

and became a familiar figure in both places. In his late 40's, he was a public-spirited, energetic gentleman, and as most Southerners, he was vitally interested in Politics. He did not hesitate to stump for his favored candidate. He had an abiding religious faith, which was not surprising when one considers that he had been raised in the shadow of the Baptist church. Old Rev. Pace had been a believer in God, Country, and Education; these precepts had taken root in both his sons.

Alsa and Miss Rhoda moved their memberships to the nearby Fellowship Baptist Church in November (1843) upon their first arrival in the community. They were already known to many of the members and were respected by the congregation.

Before the twins were born in 1831, Alsa promised that his next daughter would be named Perlina. When there were two baby girls, Alsa, not to be outdone, named them both Perlina! The little twins were always together, their escapades bringing added joy to the lively family.

Alsa's faith was put to test in 1846 when one of the twins, who were then 15, died. The girls had been so close that adolescent P. Jestina was lost in grief at P. Elizabeth's death. By the time Jestina as ready to face life, it had passed her by. She never married.

Old Rev. Pace believed that slavery was wrong and Alsa apparently held the same belief. Alsa could have bought slaves but preferred to hire help as it was needed on his plantation. Bennet Pace remained at home and was Alsa's best help when it came to running the farm. Taking responsibility seriously, Bennet waited until he was 29 before he married.

Bennet married Miss Sarah Anne Hodges of Sumter County, Alabama on January 20, 1848. He wanted to continue helping his father but, at the same time, he wanted a farm of his own. Alsa agreed to sell him part of the plantation so that he could do both. That February, Alsa sold Bennet 80 acres on the eastern side of the plantation. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; S-34, T-8, R-15E] Bennet built a log house on this land and there, in 1848, his first child was born. The little one was named Mary Elizabeth Melissa Pace. They called her Melissa.

The early churches, on the frontier where drunkenness, profanity and fighting were rampant, encouraged an emotional response from its converts. The old-time preachers were poorly trained, amateur farmer-preachers who pounded their Bibles and and shouted warnings of hell and damnation to their followers. Caught up in a religious fervor,

converts would jerk, jabber unintelligibly, make barking noises, and would sometimes give a wild shriek before falling to the floor, appearing to be dead. Often, following these conversions, would be lapses into sin as the effects of the moment wore off in the following week.

Proponents of the "Old Time Religion" saw no need for religious education. They had their Bibles to read and the Word of God was enough. They turned a deaf ear to any doctrines not found in the Bible. Others, who believed that Christianity should be practiced with mind as well as heart, began to want a change. These two approaches and a difference of opinion over the question of missions caused a rift in the Baptist Church in general and the physical division of the local Fellowship Baptist Church.

In 1849, the rift started in the local Baptist church, or was brought to a head, in February when it was reported in church that Jeremiah Howell had joined the Sons of Temperance. This was an organization of anti-liquor crusaders whose movement was gaining prominence throughout the country in the early 1840's. Members were required to "take the pledge" of complete abstinence from alcohol. A local chapter had started in Marion where Ebenezer Holder rented them his hall for a meeting place.

Since the Sons of Temperance was not of the church, some of the more conservative church leaders thought it was a bad thing. They sent Bro. William Stringer and Deacon John Brown to visit with Bro. Howell to show him the error of his ways. [Deacon Brown, Jr. was a younger brother of William Brown, and son of the John H. Brown mentioned earlier. He and his wife, Eliza Davidson, had moved to the county from Monroe County, Alabama in 1846 and bought land just east of today's Gumlog Church.]

Jeremiah Howell, a conscientious man, said that with drunkenness causing so much grief, he though the Sons of Temperance was needed. He refused to drop out of the organization.

At the next church meeting (March) a statement of church policy was read and adopted, which stated that the church would not share fellowship with any person who was a member of Theological Schools, the State Missionary Society, Tract Society, Society of the Sons of Temperance, nor any society that paid tribute to the Missionary Plan as currently existed in the United States. They voted to exclude Jeremiah from church for contempt.

Jeremiah and Becky Howell, disgusted, began to make plans to pack up and move to Texas.

The members discussed church policy all that summer, the Missionary group and the Anti-Missionary group holding opposing views. In September the final break-up came. All the members agreed that

they would remain friends, but any member that wanted to withdraw to form a new church could do so, without loss of faith or favor.

The anti-missionary group formed a new church with Bro. Austin Keeton becoming the pastor and Bro. John Brown the new church clerk. The two Baptist churches were separated by only a mile's distance, and both retained the name of Fellowship.

The Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church, which held to the old beliefs, continued to meet in the dirt n' sawdust floored building made of Sweetgum logs. To specify which church one had in mind, it was sometimes called the Gumlog Fellowship. In time, the church was named the Gumlog Church.

The other Baptist Church (the missionary group) took the church records and moved to a new location, the site where the present Fellowship Baptist Church now stands. The members called their old friend, Rev. Edwin Pace of Kemper County, to be their new pastor.

Rev. Edwin Pace served as minister from October 1849 until December of 1855, with his brother, Alsa, serving as its clerk from 1849 until 1869, a period of 20 years. During this time, again to distinguish one Fellowship Church from the other, Rev. Pace's Fellowship Church came to be called "Pace's Church". (It was not until the 1930's that its members made a conscientious effort to remember to call it Fellowship, its true name. Old habits are hard to break.)

Both of these early Baptist churches were strict disciplinarians of their members, frequently calling them to account for such misdeeds as drinking, card playing, adultery, use of profane language and dancing. One fellow was brought up on the charge of being seen playing tenpins at the alley in Marion. If the accused did not seem contrite and ask the church's forgiveness, they were excluded from church membership.

This strict religious code of conduct, which seems rather harsh by today's standards, may have been a good thing at the time. It helped bring civilization and order to the rough, wild country.

* * * * *

By the 1840's there were celebrations happening one after another around the home of Hays and Mary Rodgers' as their older children began to wed. The Rodgers were living more comfortably with their plantation established and a few slaves to help with their labor. They could afford to enjoy the rewards of all their hard work. They gave each child a good send-off with wedding parties and feasts attended by family and guests coming from some distances to join in the festivities.

The first of the Rodgers children to get married was their oldest daughter, Susannah. After her marriage on January 28, 1841, Susannah followed her husband, Jackson Chatham, to live in Jackson Parish, Louisiana, and raised a family of several children.

The oldest Rodgers son, Lewis, was 24 when he married Miss Nancy Powell Ward on April 8, 1841. They bought 80 acres of land (near today's downtown Meridian) and there they began a family of nine children. Around 1858, Lewis sold out and moved to Texas. He enlisted in the Confederate Army in Texas and fought in the Civil War. After Nancy died, Lewis was married twice again and had two more children born to his second wife. He died in Texas in 1890.

Allen married next. He married Miss Judith Walker McGehee in January of 1843, but remained in the county to become a plantation owner. He was named on the 1848 county tax list when he paid taxes on ten slaves.

Mary Ann Rodgers married Rice Benjamin Carpenter in 1846. Rice was a son of Ben and Nancy Carpenter. Rice and Mary Ann lived with her parents after their marriage, while Rice clerked, it is thought, at the nearby Rushing Store. Their first child, Martha, was born in 1848.

James Rodgers, the second oldest son, married but stayed close to his father. James married Martha Sanderford, one of Gray's and Betsy's daughters, and bought 160 acres of land. Their land was not in Pine Springs, but was more to the outer edge of the community to the northwest. [NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-35, T-8, R-15E] The new couple owned one slave in 1848, which may have been a wedding gift. Their slave was a young man named Bill.

The home that James built on his farm was well-constructed of square-hewn mortised logs. Facing south, it was sited on the southwest corner of his property, and was about three quarters of a mile due west of Gumlog Church.

The front door opened into a main, great room, about 20 X 26 feet in size, in which there was a wide rock fireplace, mortared with mud and straw. Used for cooking as well as for heat, it was the only fireplace in the house. The dark red sandstone must have come from Hays Rodgers' place, as the Rodgers' hill had an outcropping of such stones, which were turned up as fields were plowed. Native rocks were hard to come by in Pine Springs.

On the southeast corner of the great room was a sturdy staircase, with a landing, leading to an open loft where children could sleep. The loft had only one open window, which could be closed with two solid shutters. Downstairs, tucked under the staircase, James built Martha a pantry,

just big enough for a few crocks of preserves, and maybe a couple barrels for flour and cornmeal.

Behind the great room were two shed rooms, bedrooms, each measuring about 10 X 12 feet. [Another small bedroom, which may have been added at a later date, was built onto the east end of the main house.]

Without pretensions, James Rodgers' home had an honest, sturdy, country air about it, and was made to last for years. The careful quality of workmanship more than made up for its rustic appearance. It was plain that the owner had built it with love and had planned ahead to provide space for a family. James' and Martha's first son, young Allen, was born in that house in 1849.

* * * * *

The census records show that Aaron Jones was born in South Carolina, and his old Bible gave the date of his birth as October 23, 1812. Nothing is known of his early life, nor of his parents. Evidently he was from a God-fearing home for he was a deeply religious young man, and he became one of the old-time circuit-riding ministers of the Methodist Church.

John Wesley's Methodism was adapted to the sparsely settled communities on the frontiers as American settlers moved westward, the system making it possible for a single minister to reach many settlements a month. Riding horseback, these ministers traveled many weary miles a week to bring their worship services to scattered Methodists, and to convert those that were not saved to their church. They would preach anywhere they could get a group together; in taverns, log cabins, or in the open, and they visited new communities where a church might be started. They trained local leaders to carry on their work in their absence, and these amateur lay preachers, like the Baptist farmer-preachers, were often uneducated men, but full of zeal, with eloquence that could sway the most stubborn of souls.

At 21, Rev. Aaron Jones was an itinerant preacher living in DeKalb County, Georgia when he married Elizabeth (Frazier?) on December 5, 1833. They had a wondrous year and a half together before tragedy struck. Aaron was delighted when their son, Daniel Frazier Jones, was born in May of 1835, but it was a terrible loss when his beloved Elizabeth died following the birthing. Her death was on June 9th, a month after her child was born.

Rev. Jones stayed with the Methodist church and, five years later in 1840, he was still in DeKalb. Some of Aaron's church members were

affluent planters who had gained wealth from their slaves and cotton. One was the Terry family of KeKalb County.

Mr. Terry had other business ventures that contributed to his comfortable Southern planter's life. He had an interest in the water system which supplied the village of Atlanta. (After the little town grew, Terry remained on its Water Board.) Even at that early date, he was investigating means of inducing the new "steam cars" to route their rails through the sleepy little town.

One of Terry's biggest assets was his beloved daughter, Miss Harriet. Harriet had been born in 1818 before the Terrys had left South Carolina. Given the best of upbringing, she had developed into a well-bred, though somewhat independent, young lady. At 22, Harriet had shown no interest in beaux, although most of the belles married at sixteen.

When Miss Hattie first met the tragic figure of Rev. Aaron Jones, her heart reached out to him. A trifle shabby, he looked as if he needed someone to look after him, to see that he had some good meals. Sometimes he would bring his young son along on his circuit, riding on the front of his saddle. The five-year-old boy needed mothering. Miss Hattie invited the pair of waifs for dinner. In time, Aaron's and Miss Hattie's interest in each other began to grow and then to bloom. Mr. Terry was appalled when the good Reverend called to ask for Hattie's hand in marriage.

Mr. Terry explained to Rev. Jones that he could not allow his daughter to marry an ill-paid traveling preacher to go traipsing off to God knows where with no servants to take care of her needs. Harriet was a sheltered lady, a gentlewoman, who could not be expected to cook and handle household chores like some cracker's wife. He forbade the marriage.

Miss Hattie was determined to marry Aaron Jones, with or without her father's blessing, whereupon Mr. Terry said that if she did she could darken his door no more. Harriet Terry married Rev. Jones on August 13, 1840, right there in DeKalb County. Mr. Terry disowned his daughter.

A little over a year after they married, Rev. and Mrs. Jones, with the boy Danny and their new son, George Washington, loaded onto a creaky log wagon and joined a train of wagons, headed westward. They had hardly any money, but they were happy and life seemed good as they headed for the new country. The year was 1841.

The Jones family came to Lauderdale County in 1842 and, with no money to buy land, they rented places to live. Aaron rented a farm from Mr. Sam Griffith, who leased out his 160 acres in Pine Springs. Aaron rented 80 acres of Griffith's farm [W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-3], and Tom Clark, who had the small

adjoining farm but wanted more land to cultivate, rented Griffith's other 80. [E₂W₄, S-3]

Griffith's tenant house on the place was a rude log cabin that was not big enough because the Jones family kept growing. Their daughters, Sarah Elizabeth and Martha Jane, came along in 1843 and 1845. Another son, Milton Banard Jones, was born in 1848.

Times were hard for the Jones' in their first year in Mississippi. Aaron had his call to preach and worked in the Methodist Alabama Conference, which at that time included Lauderdale County in east Mississippi. Riding a circuit, Aaron preached in Lauderdale and Kemper Counties, with the little money he collected from the churches hardly covering his traveling expenses. He put in as much crop as he could each year so his family would have food to eat; what little cotton he raised went to pay rent.

Hays Rodgers, down the road and on the other side of the creek, was Methodist, and he became Aaron's friend. As there were no Methodist churches in the Pine Springs area, Hays suggested that the spot alongside the road at the top of the hill would be a good place to put up a brush arbor to hold a revival meeting. This sounded like a good idea.

On the top of the hill alongside the road there was a stand of Poplars near a spring with a strong stream of cold, good water. The fern and Sweet Williams grew there in abundance in the shade of the trees, and the woodland area had a park-like appearance. They cleared a flat area above the spring and, after putting up posts, they constructed an arbor by making a cover from the brush and limbs from the fallen trees. When all was in readiness, the word was passed through the surrounding communities and in the other Methodist churches that a revival was planned.

Rev. Jones had a good crowd at his first Methodist revival. The farm families, eager for entertainment to relieve the tedium of their work-filled days, came by the wagonload. Some were already Methodist who, not having a church nearby to attend, welcomed the Methodist preaching. Baptist came to hear the preachin' but returned to their own churches to worship. Some just came to meet up with their neighbors, and some young rowdies came to have a good time and sat near the wagons to watch the young ladies from a distance. Aaron preached his heart out. Hattie, who brought all their children, swelled with pride and love as she listened to his fiery exhortation.

The meeting, a success, was the beginning of a new Methodist church that was soon built on the ridge of hills that bounded Pine Springs on the

southwest. Built on the highest knoll on the west side of the road a short distance from the Rodgers' home, it was named Poplar Springs Methodist Church.

The records have been lost, but it is thought that the church was constructed around 1850. Descendants say that it was not made of logs but was made of lumber and had a balcony over the back pews for its black members. Some say that Hays Rodgers' dressed-lumber home was built near this time; the Rodgers' home and the Methodist Church were the only buildings in Pine Springs not made of logs until after the Civil War.

Tradition has it that Rev. Joel Wedgeworth, living in Alabama in the early 1850's, came to help organize the new church. [Rev. Wedgeworth was later assigned the Sweetwater Circuit, which included the Mars Hill Church in Newton County, but later he lived in Obadiah in Lauderdale County.]

Early Methodist members of Poplar Springs Church (besides the Jones) included the Rodgers family, the Lackey family, the Maggards, the Collins, and the family of Capt. John Hamrick. Later, the Vincents, the Wedgeworths and some of the Chandlers were members.

Rev. Jones gave up his circuit to locate as minister of Poplar Springs Methodist. Besides giving him more time at home to make a better living, he enjoyed being the leader of his own flock. He liked to be called upon in times of trouble or to be asked for counsel. He enjoyed seeing his family in their pew before him on Sunday mornings.

His two precious daughters, Sarah and Martha, were the joy of Aaron's life, and he loved to hear their children's voices as they played about the house. In 1850, they both became ill with some childhood disease. Martha, five years old, died on the 19th of April. Ten days later, Sarah, who at eight was the stronger of the two, lost her battle and died on April the 29th. They were both buried in the churchyard of Poplar Springs Church.

That year, Aaron had almost enough cash to buy the land that he was renting, but waited for his fall cotton crop. He waited too long. In July Mr. Griffith sold the Pine Springs land to newspaperman James P. Dement and Aaron was crushed. Hattie reminded him to talk to God about it.

When James B. Tutt (Richard Tutt's brother) died in Kemper County, James P. Dement, a printer from Columbus, bought his land for taxes. Dement and his wife, Emmaline Newberry, moved to Kemper where Dement published the DeKalb newspaper.

Not satisfied in DeKalb, James and Emmeline Dement next moved to Lauderdale County, making their home near Marion.

It is not known why Mr. Dement purchased the Pine Springs land from Sam Griffith. He may have had some idea of turning from publishing to planting but, more likely, he was merely investing his money. [John Joseph Dement, son of James and Emmaline, later established a printing office in Meridian. Today, this same Dement Printing Co. is still operating.]

After Rev. Jones sold his cotton that fall, he and Tom Clark both went to see Mr. Dement about buying the land they had been renting. The outcome was that on October 19, 1850, Thomas S. M. Clark bought 80 acres [E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-3], and Aaron Jones bought the 80 acres where he was living. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-3] In addition to the acres in Sec. 3, Aaron Jones was also able to buy the adjoining 80 acres in Sec. 4!

Aaron rode home to tell Hattie that at last they owned a farm, 160 acres, that was all their very own!

* * * * *

The Clarks had come to the community in 1846. Thomas S. M. Clark was born in North Carolina in 1813, but his wife, Emmaline, was born in Tennessee. There were several Clark families in the county at that time, but no evidence has yet been found that links the others with Thomas Clark of Pine Springs.

In March, 1846, the Tom Clarks bought 80 acres from old Mr. Alexander McMullen and moved with their small son, William A. (two years old), into the aging couple's cabin. [N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-3]

A month later, the McMullens sold young Hays Rodgers, Jr., the balance of their farm. [SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE, S-3 & NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-10]

[Old Mr. Alex and Miss Sarah McMullen probably moved in with one of their daughters. In 1853, they went to Bastrop County, Texas, accompanied by, it is assumed, Jeremiah and Becky Howell. Mr. McMullen, having passed his four-score years, died in nearby Austin in 1861, having gone there for treatment]

Tom Clark was 33 when he came to Pine Springs. His second son, James R., was born the year they came, and a daughter, Elizabeth, was born in 1849. Thomas had no slaves to till his fields but he was young and strong, and he cultivated all the land he could manage.

There was no thought of Emmy working in the fields to help out; it was unheard of for the 'gentler' sex to do farm labor. Women took care

of the home and children, which was as much as a body could do.

[The women picked, gathered, and washed vegetables for cooking, and cooked meals over fireplaces. They spun, wove, dyed and hand-stitched the family's garments; made lye soap from ashes and grease in iron pots; laundered clothes in a nearby stream, spreading shirts, breeches and linens to dry on the sweet-smelling grass. They picked down from their geese, if they had any, or gathered shucks to sew into ticks if they didn't. They saved seeds for next year, hanging them from the cabin's rafters next to dried herbs and spices they had gathered.

With a young'un hanging onto their long skirts, they swept cabins with brooms made from sage they cut; pinned a crawler's apron-dress to the floor with a bedstead leg to keep the little bugger safe from the fire when they dashed out to chase the hogs from the garden-patch. They put molasses on a fretful baby's hands and handed him a feather to keep him entertained while they swept fallen leaves from the doorway with Dogwood sapling brush-brooms to guard the cabin from wildfire.

They set broody hens and guarded the chicks, milked the cow and stored milk in the spring, churned butter and made molasses-cakes, hunted berries and crabapples to make jelly and preserves, and sat near the coals late at night with a candle to see how to quilt a coverlet or knit socks to keep their family warm.

They took time from their labors to nurse the family's illnesses, and cried when their little ones died early from a childhood disease.

The gentler sex? There was nothing gentle about the life of a pioneer woman.]

For a while, William Stringer, Jr., about 20, lived with Tom and Emmaline to help Thomas with the plowing. [William was the son of Deacon William Stringer of Fellowship Church, late of Clarke Co., Alabama. The Deacon and Mrs. Anne Stringer bought land east of Pine Springs toward the Bailey settlement, and census showed their slaves and land valued at \$12,000.]

In 1851, Thomas and Emmaline Clark sold their 160 acre plantation to Rev. Jones. They had lived quietly in the neighborhood and they left quietly, giving no clues of their destination.

In 1860, young William Stringer, still in Lauderdale County, was sharing a cabin with another bachelor.

* * * * *

The first known progenitor of the Pine Springs Collins family was Elisha Collins, born 1759 in Virginia, who fought with the Virginia Militia

against the English in the Revolution. Near the end of the war he married Miss Frances Madison, cousin of future President James Madison, on April 21, 1783 in Halifax County.

Soon after their marriage, Elisha and Frances Collins migrated to Boone Station in Kentucky, where life on wilderness frontier was a constant battle with the Indians. The Collins had ten children born in Kentucky, with the third child, born in 1787, being Nathaniel Madison Collins. Elisha and some of his children moved to Greene County, Alabama, where he died in 1842. Mrs. Collins had died earlier in 1830.

Nathaniel M. Collins grew up in Kentucky, but married Miss Susan Burroughs of Tennessee in 1810. In the War of 1812, Nathaniel fought with Gen. Andrew Jackson in New Orleans; he was not wounded but his horse was shot from under him in the battle. While he was away from home fighting, his second son, John Burroughs Collins, was born back home in Kentucky on November 3, 1812.

Nathaniel liked the country he saw while passing through south Mississippi and, after his discharge, returned to the state with Susan and the children to settle in Marion County. Their home was near Columbia, where Nathaniel worked as a tanner as well as a planter. The Collins had eight children before Susan died in 1825. Nathaniel married Mrs. Lucy (Brumfield) Statham, and had three daughters from this second marriage. He was around 75 when he died in 1860.

After Jasper County was formed from the 1830 Choctaw land purchase, young John B. Collins, son of Nathaniel, went there to make his fortune. He did not make a fortune, but he did run up a few debts and left to go to Lauderdale County. He was about 22 when his name first appeared on the county poll tax roll in 1835. In 1836, he got a job as a deputy sheriff.

As the new town of Marion was being laid out for the county seat, John bought five quarter-acre lots from the Board of Police in September 1836. [Lots 27,32,33,34,35] In the following year John was elected Justice of the Peace from the Central District. [Beat 1] On April 12, 1838 he married Miss Caroline Kerley of Pine Springs.

Gabriel Slaughter Collins, John's brother, came to the county shortly after John. Gabriel bought some Marion lots, too, but "Gabe" also bought 80 acres of land in the country, two miles north of Marion. John and Caroline and their baby, Susan, lived with Gabe on his farm, with Caroline keeping house.

In June 1839, Gabe borrowed \$600 from their father, Nathaniel M. Collins. As security for the loan, he wrote his father a deed for his place,

which stated that the land was then occupied by John B. Collins, and he included, as additional collateral, "1 mule, 1 Dearborn wagon, 12 head of cattle, and 25 hogs."

Judge John B. Collins was elected JP of the Center Beat for a second term in the election held on the 4th and 5th of November, 1839. After his two-year term was completed in 1841, he was so heavily in debt from law suits that he could not run for re-election.

John had gone into business back in Jasper County with one John F. G. Hargis, and their creditors were filing suits. In 1839, a part of Judge Collins' Marion lots were sold at a public sale by Sheriff Sam Cochran, who was acting upon a judgment against Collins and Hargis from the Jasper County Circuit Court. Again, in 1840, Collins and Hargis were named in a suit. When two more suits were filed against Judge Collins, he must have thought it was time to change his occupation. Having already been relieved of his remaining Marion lots, he had nothing left to sell.

John and Caroline Collins apparently moved to Pine Springs (where Caroline's family lived) to lay low and lick their financial wounds. They came to rest near Okatibbee Creek in the northwest corner of the 16th Section on land that was leased to Benjamin Johnson of Kemper County. Johnson had a 99 year lease on this acres in Sec. 16. but there is no record that shows he lived there. We do not know what agreement the Collins made with Johnson, but they lived there for some time and built a small log house in the northeast corner of the section.

The Collins house was small, having two rooms in front and two more shed rooms in the rear, and had a detached kitchen. The front rooms each had a door that opened onto a front porch that ran the length of the house. They were poor, but the Collins family kept increasing in the 1840's. The children, in addition to Susan, who had come in 1839, were "Dink" (Nathaniel Monroe), 1840; Mary E., 1841; Albert Goodwin, 1844; John B., Jr., 1846; and James Madison, 1848.

John B. Collins was not highly educated, but came from a family who valued learning and had obviously been sent to school. There were doctors and lawyers among older Collins relatives, and John was more of a reader than he was a farmer. An individualist, John was not afraid of a scrap, politically or physically, a trait which would cause him some grief. Collins gained a reputation for helping poor folks with their legal problems, but his own affairs were beset with troubles.

Nothing definite has been learned about the

makeup of Mrs. Caroline Collins family, the Kerleys of Pine Springs. It appears that although the 40 acre plantation in Sec. 9 was patented to John J. Kerley, Arthur Kerley, somewhat an invalid (or maybe very old), seems to be the father (grandfather?) of the clan. There is no evidence that Arthur had a wife, which leads us to believe that Mrs. Kerley must have died before they moved to Mississippi. The three known Kerley children were Johnny, Caroline Kerley Collins, and a younger boy named Joseph.

The Kerley boys, perhaps because of the debilities of the father, seemed to lack a sense of direction as far as improving their plantation was concerned. They usually had a corn and pea patch, and the boys hunted game and worked for wages on their neighbors' farms, leading a hand-to-mouth existence. When a William E. Fort bought land next to the Kerley's in 1840, their life became somewhat brighter.

The year after Eliza Ann Fort married David M. Brown (1836), her father, Burrell J. Fort, Sr., in Alabama, died rather unexpectedly. William E. Fort, Burrell Fort's son and Mrs. Eliza Brown's only full brother, lived with his step-mother for a time, but he soon left the Fort plantation, married, and brought his wife to Mississippi to live near his sister.

On October 28, 1840, William E. Fort and his new wife, Mary, bought 40 acres of land in Pine Springs from Samuel C. Hatcher [NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] and 80 acres more in the same quarter from William Prior. [E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] This land was adjacent to the Kerley's 40 acres, and apparently William, who was 21, and Johnny Kerley, about the same age, became buddies. William likely had Johnny and Joseph Kerley help him and his two slaves when he built his log home.

William Fort's house was more than a squatter's cabin; it was a double-cabin log home located in the northwest corner of his new plantation. They all worked together to clear the land along Rogers Creek for planting.

The Forts and Kerleys had been neighbors a couple of years when Johnny found a girl he liked. Mrs. Mary Fort encouraged him to get married. Johnny's girl was young Miss Jane Elizabeth Bland, and she consented to be his bride. One wintry January day in 1842, Johnny, with William along to be his bondsman, rode to Marion to get a wedding license. They met Elizabeth's father, Mr. E. Bland, at the courthouse, as he had to sign his consent because the bride was under age. John Trussell, acting in his official capacity as a member of the Board of Police, performed the civil ceremony, and Johnny brought his bride

home to the squalid Kerley cabin in Pine Springs.

Then a sad thing happened. We do not know how it came about, but on July 27, 1844, William E. Fort, only 25 years old, died. What a blow that must have been for his young wife! There was not a stone to mark where William Fort was buried; the Forts were Baptist, as were David and Eliza Brown, so it is likely he was buried at Pace's church. Since his grave has been lost, it is equally possible that he was buried in the nearby Pine Springs grave yard.

Young widow Mary Fort, with David Brown to advise her, administered William Fort's estate. They had no children; Mary was William's sole beneficiary. When the operation of the plantation proved too much for Mary to handle, she offered to sell it to Johnny Kerley.

Oh, how Johnny wanted that land! The Kerley's cabin was cramped with John, his wife, old Arthur, and the teen-ager, Joseph. Johnny went to Julius Alford, who often had money to lend, to see about getting a loan. Alford made the loan but required Joseph to sign the note with John.

In February 1847, John J. Kerley, with both David M. Brown and neighbor John Perry signing the deed as witnesses, paid Mrs. Mary Fort \$225.50 for her house and 120 acres. [We lose sight of Mary Fort after the sale. Perhaps she stayed with David and Eliza Brown before she went back to her people in Alabama or perhaps, being young, she quickly married again.]

By adding to his original acres, Johnny now owned the whole southeastern quarter of Sec. 9. Johnny and Elizabeth moved into the bigger house, leaving Mr. Kerley and young Joe in the old cabin.

Tale-bearers and gossipers speculated on how easy-going Johnny Kerley was able to buy such a fine farm. He usually didn't have 2¢ to rub together. The talk among the people (and possibly drinking customers) was that the Kerleys were selling corn whiskey, and it turned out to be true! Soon after John and Elizabeth moved out, the sheriff came to the old Kerley cabin to arrest Arthur, the head of the clan, for retailing liquor. Possibly because of his physical condition, Arthur was not taken immediately to jail but was ordered to appear at the 1847 September term of the Circuit Court to stand trial.

[It was not illegal to make or sell whiskey, but without a retailer's license to sell "spiritous beverages", the penalty was considerable. This law was passed to cut down the number of grog-shops where eye-gouging fights often happened.]

Caroline's husband, John B. Collins, incensed over Arthur's treatment, went looking for blood. He whupped-up on some fellow and was arrested for

assault and battery with intent to kill. Collins appeared at the March 1848 Circuit Court term, but his lawyer asked for a continuance. It was granted. Complete court records are not available so we do not know who John assaulted.

In September 1847, Collins and the boys somehow transported Arthur Kerley to town. The frail man must have presented a pitiful figure, for the court told him to "go hence, with the state to pay the court cost." Scarcely a month after Arthur's acquittal, Johnny and Elizabeth put the 160-acre farm in Joe's name and left the county.

After Johnny left and the whiskey sales were curtailed, Arthur Kerley had no income. Neighbors helped out, but David Brown went to the Board of Police and was allotted \$5 per month for the support of indigent Arthur Kerley. In February 1849, Joe, farming the place, took over Arthur's upkeep and the Board of Police allowed him \$60 for Arthur Kerley's support for the year.

In the final days of Arthur's illness, John Barnett took him into his home to be nursed by Mrs. Barnett. He was with the Barnetts' four months before he died in June, 1850. Mr. Barnett was paid \$35 from the county fund for Arthur's keep and burial expenses. [The county had no poor farm, but took care of its few paupers by collecting a special poor tax.]

With Arthur Kerley dead, there was no reason for Joe to remain in Pine Springs. He sold the farm to Thomas W. Wells of Tennessee. It was not noted which road he took when he left, but he was young and free and the world beckoned. No Kerleys have been found on subsequent census or county records.

The State vs John B. Collins case of assault came before the Circuit Court in 1849. John, by asking for a jury trial, was acquitted. It was hard to get a jury of peers to convict on assault cases; many jurors had been in fights of their own and were inclined to be sympathetic toward the accused.

Collins went back into politics. He stumped for the office of Justice of Beat 3 and was elected in the November 1849 election. Jubal Hancock, Probate Court judge, was John's bondsman when John was sworn in. Life became easier for Collins after the election. With age and experience, John had gained wisdom.

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The settlement of the estate of the late Jacob Alford and the sale of his land was a complicated process which took until the late 1840's to get straightened out. Old Miss Milbry took along her

slave to cook for her and her youngest son Sherrod, age 24, when they moved to Daleville. Sherrod had bought forty acres near Daleville and he and his mother went there to live around 1840-41. They lived there together for over ten years.

James Gray Alford and his bride moved into his late father's house and he continued to operate the Alford plantation after his mother and Sherrod moved out. James' first three children, born in Pine Springs, were Rowena (Roena?), 1842; John; 1846, and Ellen, 1848. James and Mary Alford loved their big sister, Rowena, because they both named a daughter after her.

Gray Sanderford, thought to have been Mrs. Milberry Alford's nephew, sold each of her two daughters an 80-acre tract of land in Pine Springs. He had bought three tracts to hold as a favor for his uncle and close friend, Jacob Alford, and had already transferred one tract to Jacob, the site in Sec. 9 where Jacob had built his permanent home. After Jacob's death, Sanderford had no reason to keep the other two, and he sold them to Alford's daughters, Rowena and Mary. He sold them to his cousins, not to their husbands.

[Milberry Alford had been a Gray before her marriage. It is reasoned that Gray Sanderford's mother, also a Gray, was Milberry's sister. Gray Sanderford would thus have been Milberry's nephew and her children were his cousins.]

Gray Sanderford sold another of his 80-acre tracts to Milberry's oldest daughter, Mrs. Rowena Welch. [$W\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{2}$, S-4] The Welchs lived in Marion where Walter worked for L. B. Banes, and never made use of this virgin land. They sold it to Charles E. Rushing in 1856, and that wealthy gentleman, collecting land like a kid collecting marbles, let it sit idle over the next 18 years.

[This land is located on the NE corner of the "Forks" where today's Ernest White Road intersects with the main Pine Springs Road.]

Walter Welch was no farmer. He worked for Mr. Banes in Marion. In 1848, he was elected County Ranger, an office he held on several occasions.

Mrs. Alford kept house for Sherrod until she got too old. Sherrod worried her at times. He and another fellow were tried in Circuit Court on some charge, probably for fighting. The other man pled guilty and was fined \$100, but Sherrod's plea was "not guilty" and he was acquitted.

In the late 1850's, Milberry and Sherrod moved to Marion to live with Rowena and Walter. She was well into her 80th year when she died in Marion. Sherrod left after his mother died. He never did get married.

Mary Alford Fortson McLemore lived "next door"

to James with her second husband, William McLemore, on the third tract of Sanderford's Pine Springs land. William, like Mary, had been married previously, and they both brought children when they began their marriage. William McLemore's children were Amos, 1830; Frances P., 1834; William, Jr., 1836; and Sarah A., 1838. Mary and William McLemore's two children, born in Pine Springs, were John, 1843, and Roena (Rowena?), 1847.

In 1847, William McLemore became the guardian of Mary's two Fortson sons, William and Joseph. Mary's daughter, Nancy Jane, was already married to Eli Dawson by that time. She lived in the area, but not, it is thought, in Pine Springs.

Mr. McLemore, born in South Carolina shortly after 1800, was a younger brother of Richard McLemore. Sometimes called "the father of Meridian", Richard had, in 1834, purchased 700 wilderness acres where the city of Meridian now stands. William was in the lumber business, and in 1839, the brothers together bought several lots in the town of Marion.

In the late 1840's, William and Mary moved to 'town' (Marion). But, in the early 1840's, they had built a home in Pine Springs and lived there. [This log house was on the crest of a low hill about half a mile south and across the road from today's Pine Springs Southern Methodist Church.]

William and Mary McLemore both died in the 1850's after they moved away. William passed away in the early part of the decade; Mary died later on August 27, 1857. They were both buried in the McLemore Cemetery (now inside Meridian).

After all the Alford estate debts were paid and their land titles were clear, James and his mother began to sell his late father's plantation. In 1847, Miss Milbry gave James a quit-claim deed to her dower land so he could sell it along with the rest. Knowing that Will Stokes had been itching to buy the "M&A land", which lay directly behind the Stokes home, James and Eliza gave him first chance at buying that 80-acre portion of the plantation. The land had not been cleared, but Will did not mind. Will had enough land to plow, but he just didn't want neighbors near his back door.

Two months later, James Alford sold Sam Hatcher 120 acres, the last of the Alford place. [SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$, S-9] Sam was elated by his purchase; with it he owned 500 acres. Step by step, his dreams of being a rich planter were coming true. Hatcher's purchase included the site of the Alford's home, (and the site of old Jacob Alford's grave?).

All of the Alford family were gone from Pine Springs by 1848. James and Harriet Eliza moved to another farm they bought, and Mary and William McLemore lived near Marion, where Julius and Sarah later bought land. Rowena and Walter Welch, of course, also made Marion their home, where Sherrod lived until his mother died. Mrs. Milberry Alford, a hardy pioneer lady, died in Marion after a long and interesting life.

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Henry Miles, an Irishman, came to New York shortly after the Revolution and married Jane Ballard. Henry and Jane traveled to Georgia to establish their home, where Joshua Miles, one of their sons, was born on 11 November, 1794.

Joshua Miles was 22 in 1816 when he married Miss Elizabeth Prior, a Georgia girl. Tradition says that Elizabeth Prior Miles had five children before she died, although most of their names have been lost. Ebenezer T. R. Miles, born in Georgia in 1824, was one of Elizabeth's children.

Joshua Miles married a second wife, Miss Elizabeth Hale, in 1828, and moved the family to Alabama. Joshua and Elizabeth Hale Miles lived in Alabama for some time - long enough to have nine children - before they moved to Lauderdale County, arriving around 1846. Joshua bought land, 320 acres near the northern edge of today's Lake Okatibbee Reservoir. In August, 1849, Elizabeth Miles moved her church letter to Pace's Fellowship Baptist Church. Her 10th and last child was born in Lauderdale County. It was Joshua's 15th child.

Shortly before the Civil War, Joshua and Elizabeth took their minor children and moved to Neshoba County, buying 900 acres of land on the Cutussy Creek near Philadelphia where Joshua opened some sort of mill. His new plantation was producing well, but he still owned several debts when he died. Elizabeth, who knew nothing of business, trusted the wrong people to help her settle his estate. His heirs were left with nothing.

One of Joshua's married sons who stayed in Lauderdale County was Jasper Miles, born in 1840 in Alabama. Jasper had married Mary Ann, a daughter of James M. McDonald, whose plantation was just east of Hays Rodgers. Jasper's family was prominent in Pace's church and was well known in Pine Springs.

And then there was Ebenezer T. R. Miles, Jasper's older step-brother. Eb Miles was the only son of Joshua's who came to live in Pine Springs.

There were few little girls around in the early years, so Mary Ann Rodgers and the Stokes sisters, Elizabeth and Sarah, a short distance through the woods from each other, became the best of chums.

They played together at the Rodgers' where Miss Mary taught them needle work. On June days they would go berry picking and pull off their shoes and stockings, when nobody was looking, to wade in the creek. Sometimes they tucked their pinafores into the top of their drawers and chased minnows in the shallows. Mary Ann was the first to get married, and the sisters missed having her around to share their secrets. Mary Ann and her husband, Rice Carpenter, lived with her parents so she was still close by, but she wasn't as much fun after she became an "old" married woman.

Elizabeth and Sarah enjoyed going to neighborhood dances and other socials with the family, but as they got older, they began to dance the reels with partners other than their Pa and older brothers. The Stokes were a fun-loving family and, although they were not set against religion, they didn't take much stock in the disciplines laid down by the local preachers. Will Stokes and his boys enjoyed the companionship of people along with their horse-racing, and the sharing of a drink or two with their friends.

The younger Stokes daughter was the first to get married. Sarah did not have a special beau until a certain young Irishman began showing up at the local social gatherings. This sporty young man was Eb Miles, lately of Alabama, and he was just the "purtiest" man Sarah had ever seen. He had a lot of blarney about him and a ready laugh that livened up any gathering. It was not long until Will and Martha Stokes planned their daughter's wedding celebration.

They had a wedding feast, followed by a bonfire being lit in the meadow at dusk. With slaves to play the fiddles and beat the straws, they danced "Stole my partner, Skip to me, Lou" into the night. Will, naturally, supplied the customary liquid refreshment.

In 1849, Will Stokes was able to buy the land south and east of his home from the M&A Land Company, so he at last owned the entire northwest quarter of Sec. 10. With this sale Will's first 40-acre tract had grown, in 14 years, into a plantation that totaled 400 acres.

Will's new son-in-law wanted to go into the merchantile business. So, in 1849, Will and Marthy set aside 20 acres of their new land for Eb to build a store. [SE $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-10] Eb took Rice Carpenter as a partner and they went into business. The log store they built was on Will's new land along the road on the east side of Rogers Creek near the foot of Rogers Hill. At the same time, they built a dwelling where the two young couples could stay. The 1850 census shows Rice and Mary Ann (Rodgers) Carpenter with their 2-year-old,

Martha, listed in the same household with Ebenezer T. R. and Sarah (Stokes) Miles. In 1851, Eb paid his father-in-law for the 20 acres and recorded the deed.

Miss Elizabeth, Will's and Marthy's oldest daughter, was married on January 31, 1850. She married Andrew Jackson Babers, son of John and Martha (Elkins) Babers of Barnwell District, South Carolina. Andy Babers, born 1825 in Carolina, was a horse-fancier and cattle man. About the time they married, A. J. Babers bought a farm near Bailey where the new couple settled down. Their farm was listed in the 1858 tax roll as being 80 acres in the southeastern quarter of Sec. 11, in Township 7, Range 15E. By 1860, the Babers had six children.

Will and Marthy Stokes had married off their two daughters, but they still had five sons at home. After John, their 7th child and 5th son was born in 1840, they were blessed with James S. 1842; Columbus C., 1845; and baby #10, another GIRL! - Amanda M. Stokes, 1848. Marthy must have been glad to have another little helper around the house. Of course, by that time Marthy had slaves to help her keep her hungry boys clean and fed.

* * * * *

Elmira Hamrick was the second daughter and fifth child of Capt. John and Katie Hamrick. She was 17 when the Hamricks moved to Mississippi, but the record of her marriage to Lawson Gunn has not been found. We do not know when or where her wedding took place.

Elmira may have been in delicate health. The Gunn's only child was born on 2 January, 1847, when Elmira was nearly 28 years old. Elmira lived three days, long enough to name the baby Catherine after her mother, Mrs. Katie Hamrick.

Julius Alford had a lease on 40 acres in Sec. 16 'school land' in Pine Springs. [SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-16] It was too far from home to plow and troublesome to keep rented, so Alford sold the land to Lawson Gunn in August, 1847 for \$200. Gunn found another wife and married her the same year that Elmira died. He collected baby Catherine from her uncle Thomas Hamrick and moved with his new wife, Susan Jane, to Pine Springs.

Lawson opened a blacksmith shop near his Pine Springs cabin. The following spring (Feb. 1848) he was able to buy 40 more acres in the same quarter section from William and Margaret (Snowden?) Wooten, who were moving up to Shucktown. Between sharpening plows and mending wagons, Lawson was able to put in a small crop.

At the July term of the Lauderdale County Grand Jury in 1849, Lawson was indicted with one Paschal Walker, for fighting. (Fighting was a common offense, along with assault, causing a melee, and fairly often, murder.) Walker was tried by a jury and was acquitted, but Gunn jumped bail and the sheriff was sent to bring him in for trial.

Although Gunn was not convicted when his trial came up in March, 1849, he had forfeited bail and that cost him \$150. He had to sell his 80 acre farm to Lee (Levi) Perry, who lived up in Sec. 9. Apparently, the Gunns remained on the land where Lawson continued to operate his blacksmith shop; he was still there in 1849, nailing horseshoes, instilling gins, and making coffins. He was again indicted for assault and battery six years later, as follows;

...Lawson Gunn...on the sixth day of September in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty-five...with force and arms, an assault did make in and upon one James R. Battle, there and being, to the great damage of him, that same James R. Battle, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Mississippi...

Witnesses were W. F. Alford and Gunn's neighbor, John B. Collins. The judge, Hon. John Watts, set Gunn's bail at \$200 plus two securities of \$100 each., and commanded the sheriff to have Gunn present at the March, 1856 term of the Circuit Court to stand trial.

In 1857, Sheriff R. B. G. Harper reported to the court that he could not find the defendant in Lauderdale or Kemper Counties. It appears that Lawson Gunn had hurriedly moved away.

It is not known what became of Lawson and Susan Jane. They possibly returned to Alabama; there was a Lawson Gunn who joined the Confederate Army in Choctaw County, Alabama, in 1862, and died in Spinks, Mississippi at a respectable old age in 1901.

Elmira Hamrick Gunn's daughter, Catherine, was 9 when her grandfather John Hamrick died in Lauderdale County in 1856. Capt. Hamrick bequeathed Catherine a female slave and \$300, which she was to receive at such time when she either came of age or got married.

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The the early 1830's, John Perry, Sr., son of William Perry of South Carolina, was murdered, leaving his wife, Mary Freeman Perry, with children

to raise. Mrs. Perry never remarried, but came to settle in Lauderdale Co. with her sister's family, the George Gallespies.

Around 1846 in Lauderdale Co., Mary Perry's son, John, Jr., married Susanah Gallespie, oldest daughter of settlers Absalom W. and Susan Mott Gallespie. In December 1847, John and Susanah Perry took over (bought/leased?) 120 acres of land in Sec. 16 from William Brown (then living in Chunkyville). [E $\frac{1}{2}$ & NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$] It was excellent cotton land; Rogers Creek ran a quarter-mile length on the east side of the place. John was industrious and the rich bottomland produced.

The Perrys had an infant daughter, Sarah Marie, when they came to the community. Their son, John Wesley, called Wesley, was born in Pine Springs in 1950. It is believed that John's mother and brothers came to live with John and Susanah.

John's brother, Lee (Levi) Perry, first appeared in September 1846 when he and Sherrod Alford were witnesses for the defense in the case of State vs Thomas J. Hamrick. (Hamrick, a neighbor, had soundly thrashed some gentleman and was tried for assault and battery. He was acquitted.)

In 1848, Levi bought 80 acres [W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] near Okatibbee Creek, just south of the Samuel Hatcher home. Also, he acquired land in the 16th Section from Lawson Gunn when Gunn had his difficulty. He must have been planning his wedding, for in 1849, he and Rebecca Anne Gallespie, Susanah's sister, were married. Their first child, Nancy Jane, was born, probably in the cabin Gunn had built, in 1850.

A third Perry that lived nearby, was Benjamin Perry, who may or not have been John and Lee's brother. He married and settled across the Okatibbee from John and Lee Perry in the late 1840's.

In the early days the Board of Police (now the Board of Supervisors) did not build nor repair roads. They required each landholder to maintain any road that crossed or bordered his property. If unusual expenses were incurred, the Board of Police paid for materials used.

When the Board met on Monday, January 11, 1850, it ordered a bill from Benjamin Perry be paid. Ben Perry had charged the county \$109 for materials used in build a bridge across Okatibbee Creek "near the home of John B. Collins". Collins' home was in the far northwestern corner of Sec. 16. This first bridge to cross the creek from Pine Springs (to travel to Suqualena) was a half-mile north of today's bridge on Allen Swamp Road.

[Okatibbee Creek and its swamps formed a natural barrier between settlers in Pine Springs and those on the western side. The swamp, often covered with water, made day-to-day contact impossible. The only crossing, before the new bridge, was north at

Trussell's bridge, which had been there some time before 1843, on the Upper Decatur Road. It crossed a short distance south of today's Center Hill-Martin Road causeway. To cross further downstream, one had to go south to the Lower Decatur Road west of today's Meridian.]

Benjamin Perry's home was on the west side of Okatibbee Creek. Ben and wife, Sarah A. Townsend, moved their church letters to Pace's Fellowship Church in November, 1850. They crossed over Ben's new bridge to travel through Pine Springs on their way to preachin'.

* * * * *

Dr. James R. Battle of Nash County, North Carolina, was in a rather curious position in 1836. He had fallen madly in love with Miss Elizabeth M. Arrington, the ward of a wealthy widow of the same name, Mrs. Elizabeth Arrington. The young doctor was not financially secure. Mrs. Arrington, in order to preserve the young girl's rather large inheritance, had a marriage contract drawn up. The condition of Mrs. Arrington's signing consent for the minor Miss Elizabeth to marry, was Dr. Battle's agreement to sign this contract.

Under the terms of the marriage contract, the daughter signed over all her capital, a considerable amount, to her guardian (mother?). The future Mrs. Battle would receive all the interest and profits from the estate for her own personal and exclusive use; Dr. Battle could not touch it. All three signed the agreement on November 14, 1836, and the marriage took place shortly thereafter at the Arrington home in Halifax County.

We lose sight of the Battles for a time, but they showed up on March 4, 1848, when Mrs. Elizabeth M. Battle bought 160 acres of government land in Sec. 15 in Pine Springs. [N $\frac{1}{2}$ & SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$, S-15] This land included flat cotton land along Rogers Creek, as well a hillside part in the row of steep hills that forms Pine Springs' natural southeastern boundary.

The Battles built a well-constructed, two-story log house in the eastern heights of Elizabeth's land. The house was not reached from below; the hills were too steep for that. Instead, they chopped and cleared a narrow trail that started at the top of Rodgers Hill and curved southward around the ridges to the new house site. It was the beginning of today's Barnhill Road. Elizabeth Battle had her own money and she used it, as her mother had stipulated, for her own comfort.

Dr. Battle carried on his medical practice. His name crops up now and again on early probate records as attending physician of the deceased's

when some of the early estates were settled. Not all of his patients died. Lewis Latham, ward of Robert Brown, nearby plantation owner, quickly recovered under Dr. Battle's care. James Battle doctored most of the illnesses in Pine Springs during the years he lived in the community.

Dr. Battle became engaged in some sort of legal dispute with one William Woolf in 1850. The judgement was against the doctor. To satisfy the debt, the Sheriff seized Henry, one of the Battles' slaves, to hold as security. This caused both James and Elizabeth Battle to go to court to prove that Henry was not Dr. Battle's property at all, but belonged to the doctor's wife. They got Henry back. During this suit, Dr. Battle had to post bond, pending the outcome of the case. Capt. Hamrick, his neighbor, posted bond for the doctor. The poor doctor didn't have money of his own.

The Battles lived in the part of Pine Springs that was omitted from the 1850 census (more on this later), but they were counted in a census taken by the state in 1853. The state census did not give the names or ages, but it showed that in that year there were 3 white males and 5 white females, other than the parents, in the household, so they did have children. They were the only Battle family listed in the county at that time.

* * * * *

Steadily, Samuel Clay Hatcher's fortunes improved. The dark rich soil along Okatibbee Creek afforded plenty moisture and the South's long growing season, coupled with hot nights, made conditions ideal for raising cotton. Sam's oldest sons were getting big enough to make a showing as they worked the fields beside their pa. Before long, Sam was able to buy two slaves. Strong male slaves were too expensive, so Sam settled on two wenches, Lucy and Lidey.

Lucy was not real young, but she was strong and sound and would be a lot of help in the field. She could plow and pick cotton and pitch hay like a man. He wasn't too sure about Lidey. She had some sort of eye infection, but he had her at a good price and he'd get Marium to doctor her and see if her eyes wouldn't clear.

Lucy's infection cleared, but it became plain that she was losing her sight. Marium began teaching her tasks to do about the house that did not require good vision. She became a whiz at picking seeds from cotton, and would quick fill her shoes and then help Massa's chilluns get their little shoes full, too. (Sam with no

gin near, made it a rule that each night all members of the household had to pick enough seeds from the fluffy lint to fill their shoes before they went to bed, no matter how tired they were.) Marium also taught Lidey to spin and weave, and it was surprising how well the girl could do by feel. She could weave ten yards of homespun in a day's time, which was good, since it took a lot to keep the menfolks in shirts and breeches.

Marium also taught her two step-daughters, Catherine and Marium Eliza, the housekeeping arts a woman needed to keep a farm home running smoothly. She taught them to knit socks and sew shirts, which plants to gather to color the skeins of thread they spun at the wheel, how to pluck goose down to fill their ticks, and to make beaten biscuits. They had to know the right phase of the moon to have their gardens planted, and how to make a chest plaster for pneumonia. Marium didn't want it said that she had neglected her girls' education.

The Hatchers walked to Fellowship Church from time to time to attend preachin'. In June, 1845, Sam and Marium both moved their church letters and became members. Sam was secretly pleased that, at the same meeting, he was chosen a delegate to go to the Baptist Association convention to represent Fellowship Church with Deacon John Brown and Bro. William Stringer.

Lauderdale, in the northwestern part of the county, was a growing town, with numerous wagon trains and settlers coming through from Alabama and other places east. Abia, Stephen W., Thomas J., and Obadiah Clay, all Marium Hatcher's brothers, came from Alabama (Greene Co.) to Mississippi to settle in or near the town in Lauderdale County, or just over the county line in Kemper. After their mother died, their old father, Samuel Clay, came to Mississippi to live with his son Stephen W., just above the town of Lauderdale.

Most summers, after the crops were laid by, Sam Hatcher hitched up the road wagon and took his family up to Lauderdale for a visit. After one long trip, Stephen's wife, Betsy (Elizabeth), claimed that had she known they were coming she would have fixed a better meal. As it was, all she could offer was fried rabbit, chicken and dumplings, tender young turnip greens, field peas with sowbelly, roastin' ears AND buttered creamed corn, butterbeans, baked sweet 'taters, big dishes of ripe red tomatoes and little green onions, and corn pone, along with an assortment of watermelon rind pickles, chow-chow, pear preserves and such, all sitting on the middle of the table so one could help himself. Usually, she had a

choice of desserts, perhaps blackberry cobbler or fried green apple pies. Betsy would quick set the plates and send a helper to fetch cold buttermilk from the spring.

Stephen and Betsy Clay had not been married long. When Stephen's first wife, Nancy (Jones), died in 1845, he married Nancy's sister, Betsy. No stranger to the family, Betsy was a good step-mother to Stephen's young'uns.

Old Sam Clay and his nephew, Sam Hatcher, used to swap tales about the Clay family. They would tell of the old days in the family and keep the children entertained.

The Claye family in America had started with John Claye of Wales who arrived in the Colony of Virginia on the ship "Treasurer" in 1613. John came to the new world as a 26-year-old grenadier in the Royal Army. He was twice married in Virginia, but left only four sons when he died in 1656. John's son, Charles, born in 1638, married Hannah Wilson, and their son, Henry Clay (I), born 1672, lived on Swift Creek in Chesterfield County, Virginia, with his wife, Mary Mitchell Clay.

Henry Clay (I) died suddenly one night at the supper table when he was 92 years old. He also left four sons - and several daughters - among whom was his namesake, Henry Clay (II). Henry (II) married Lucy Greene in 1735. The sixth and last child of Henry (II) and Lucy Clays' eleven children was Abia Clay, who was born in 1747 in Cumberland County, Virginia.

Abia Clay (I), old Sam Clay's father, joined the Mecklenberg County Regulars on March 13, 1776, where he received his commission as a Lieutenant and fought in the American Revolution. That same year he married Miss Sally Skinner. After Independence was won, Abia moved to Georgia, having been appointed Tobacco Inspector of the State. Abia died in Georgia in 1792 and, in his will, he left everything to his only child, eleven year old Samuel Clay.

Samuel Clay was 17 when he married his cousin, Miss Tabitha Clay (daughter of Jesse and Marium Clay) in 1798 in Oglethorpe Co., Georgia. Samuel and Tabitha migrated to Greene Co., Alabama, where they were living when Samuel Clay Hatcher married their daughter, Marium. After Tabitha died, old Sam left Greene County to live with his son, Stephen W., a short distance below the Lauderdale/Kemper line.

Samuel and Tabitha's children were:

Levinia, 1799, who married Chesley R. Gwinn in Alabama in 1819. Their oldest son, Haley B. Gwinn, married Minerva Pace, (daughter of Alsa Pace who came to Pine Springs).

Abia, 1802, married Mary "Polly" Watter in Perry Co., Alabama, but came to Lauderdale Co. and started a plantation near Lauderdale. He was elected JP in 1838 and, in 1850, became a member of the Board of Police. When he died in 1854, Polly took over the management of the plantation and raised their 11 children. Abia's second son, Stephen Augustus "Gus", later located in Pine Springs.

Hannah, 1803, married Jeremiah S. Beason, lived in Kemper Co.

Jesse, 1804, migrated to Drew Co., Arkansas in 1850 to live on Sam's Military land grant.

Samuel, Jr., 1805, married Tabitha Haynes (possibly stayed in Alabama?)

Stephen W., 1806, JP and constable in Choctaw Co, Alabama, 1836. His wife, Nancy Jones, died in the 1840's, and Stephen married her sister, Betsy (Elizabeth), and moved to Lauderdale Co. Mr. Sam Clay died in this home in the early 1850's. Stephen moved to Kemper (Enondale) in the 1860's.

William Wiley, 1808, married Lucinda Susan Jones, had land near Lauderdale where he died in 1856.

Obadiah, 1812, with wife, Martha Gary, lived near Pace's Fellowship Church. In 1857, a committee was sent to see why Obadiah had not been attending services. Alsa Pace found and reported that Obadiah was in the habit of rolling tempins and drinking at the alley in Marion, and all were aghast! They could not make him give up this sinful behavior so they regretfully took back his church membership. He had also been seen playing cards...

Royal G., 1812, Obadiah's twin, came to Miss., sold out in 1850 to his nephew, Haley B. Gwinn, and moved away. His wife was Jane Eleanor McGraw.

Thomas Jefferson, 1814, married Clarissa Hamner in 1835. Miss Clarissa was a passenger on the Loftin and Hudson Stage Line that came from Alabama to Chapel Hill, Kemper Co. in the late 1830's. The stage line built a hotel there for an overnight rest stop. Miss Hamner became ill on the coach and was taken to the hotel at Narkeeta (Kemper) to rest. Young Thomas Clay worked at sawmill in the vicinity, and hearing of the lady's misfortune, came to offer assistance. They fell in love and married. Thomas later operated his own stage line down to Marion. He would blow his bugle as he approached a stop and the station hands would hasten out change his team. His stage may have been the one that came passed through Pine Springs.

Marium G., 1816, was the daughter that married Samuel C. Hatcher, and migrated to the county to live in Pine Springs.

Tabitha, another daughter married William Cooksey.

The Hatchers usually stayed with the Clays' a week, or until Sam got restless and wanted to get back home to see about his crops and livestock. When they visited, after his two older daughters became young ladies, the girls would whisper and talk about their new beaux most of the way home. Catherine liked a young man named George Fane, but Marium Eliza dreamed of her cousin, Gus Clay, a son of Uncle Abia's. His name was Stephen Augustus, but everyone called him Gus.

Sam bought a young buck Negro to help him with the plowing and other heavy chores in 1846, although the circumstances of this sale have become somewhat obscured with the passage of time. Old church records, trying to use delicate language, do not give us a clear picture of what actually happened, but the sequence seems to have been as follows.

Nancy Jane Fortson, the late Jacob Alford's grand-daughter, had married William Eli Dawson on February 8, 1845, and was living at the time somewhere in or near the Pine Springs area. It seems that Cato, Nancy Dawson's male slave, had become interested in one of Hatcher's female slaves. Sam, in order to help the romance along, gave Cato "visiting rights" to his plantation.

Sometimes, if a slave from one plantation "took up with" a slave from another, it could cause troubles for all concerned. Sam Hatcher went to Nancy Dawson and bought Cato so the mated pair of Negroes could be together and thus prevent future problems.

At the October meeting of Fellowship Baptist Church, Sam made the announcement that he had heard ugly rumors about him and about his slaves, and since he had done nothing wrong, he would appreciate it if the gossip on him would stop. The church held an investigation and may have listened to the wrong people for, at the next meeting (Nov. 1846), Sam Hatcher was charged with improper conduct in purchasing a certain Negro slave from Nancy Fortson Dawson and, in knowing that he was harboring said Negro, was thereby placing a blemish upon the church. Hatcher had not been at that meeting, and his case was laid over until the following month.

Tempers flared, the outcome being that Sam Hatcher was excluded from church membership. Marium Hatcher stood with her husband, and sent word to the church she was withdrawing her membership as well. A delegation was sent to tell Marium that it was not necessary for her to give up her church fellowship, whereupon Marium replied that there were some members of the church whose fellowship she could well do without! Boy, that tore them up! After a time the excitement cooled

and things went back to normal, but the Hatchers never "repented" nor asked the church to forgive them, and Sam kept Cato, who became his right-hand man.

Sam Hatcher bought his last land in 1848 when Jamie Alford sold out Jacob Alford's estate. With this purchase, Sam owned 500 acres, and with his sons and Cato's help, Sam planted all the cotton they could possibly take care of. With so much land in cultivation, it seemed like a prudent time for Sam to buy his own gin.

That winter, Sam had to go to Marion for supplies and ran into Charley Stephenson at one of the taverns. Sam told Charley he needed one of those gins he was selling but, as he had not recouped from buying the Alford land, he was going to have to wait until next year. Charley said Sam could go on and get a gin now and pay for it after he sold the present year's crop. Sam thought about it on the way home. He sure wanted that gin. He stewed about it, and in March he sent this note:

Mr. Price & Mr. Stevenson, this is to certify that I send my man Catoe after one of your mills under a certain contract made by myself & Mr. Stevenson under the authority of a certain young man coming to me in the Town Marion on last Monday and saying you said for me to do so as I tole Mr. Stevenson istich[?] up to it yet. If you will send me one of your best mills & come down forthwith & start it I will you give the contract that is two bails of good cotton waying five hundred lbs. each.

March this 8th, 1849

Samuel C. Hatcher

Edmund Price delivered the one-horse gin to Hatcher's plantation that summer and set it up. Hatcher sent for the blacksmith (Lawson Gunn) down the road to come help. Sam's boy, Joe, was headed over to Stokes' to ride the horses, and Sam sent word by him for Will to come on over and see his new machine. He was that proud!

Wanting everything to be ready to start ginning fall, Sam had James B. McDonald, from the other side of Hays Rodgers, pick up some burlap and rope when McDonald made a trip to Mobile. In early June, McDonald bought 50 yards of bagging and 47 pounds of rope for Sam and had it shipped up the Tombigbee by riverboat. It cost Sam 72¢ per mile to get it.

Joe (Josiah, or Joseph) was 10 that year, and he had a way with horses. It has been said that

Mississippians rode as if born in the saddle, but Joe rode with a fluid motion that makes horse and rider a single animal. He could make a horse jump a five-rail fence and his shirt-tail wouldn't even raise up in back. The Stokes' had an interest in horses and Joe, near the age of Tom and Sam Stokes, spent a lot of his free time at the Stokes place, making a name for himself as a fast rider.

Samuel Hatcher had seven horses on his place, but being work-horses, none were particularly fast nor handsome. He heard that mules were better animals than oxen or horses to work in the fields, and had begun breeding his mares to produce mules. He already had two likely mule colts and had plans to breed more.

When Sam's third mare came in season, Joe begged his pa to let him take her over to the blooded stud that Mr. Richard McLemore had. Seeing how important it was to his son, and privately thinking how proud he would be if Joe had a horse that could win the local races, Sam and Joe took the mare to Mr. McLemore's spirited, high-stepping stallion. He WAS a beauty! When the sporting young men raced their horses over at Will's track, a foal from this fine animal would certainly improve Joe's chances of winning.

The Hatchers' oldest daughter married her beau George H. Fane that summer. Catherine looked beautiful in her wedding dress, and she wore her new storeboughten leghorn hat when she rode off with her husband to her new home in Kemper County. Marium Eliza and Gus Clay had an 'understanding' by then, but Gus wanted to make more money before they were married.

It was a good crop year. Sam, his family, his slaves, all had worked, side by side, throughout the long hot summer, and harvest came at last. The hay was in and the cotton pickin' was under way.

Sam felt a little tired as he went to bed one October night. He had been working steadily and his muscles ached from unaccustomed bending over the cotton stalks. The thought crossed his mind that he wasn't as young as he used to be.

Sam awoke in the night in a rigor. He shook and moaned so that Marium became alarmed. Knowing that Dr. Sam Eiland (married to Sam's cousin Mary) was on a trip to Mobile, she sent Cato for that new doctor, Dr. Battle, who had a plantation down the road.

Dr. Battle did everything he knew to do for Sam, but nothing seemed to help. About the third day of Sam's fever, Marium also became ill and had to be put to bed. Somebody hastily sent for Dr. Eiland, who returned by river packet as fast as he could, and Will Stokes, fearing the worst, sent one of

his boys riding fast a-horseback to get the Clays word that they'd best come quick because Marium and Sam were mighty low.

In the eighth day of Sam's illness, October 23, 1849, Sam died. Two days later, Marium Hatcher did what she had always done; she followed Sam - this time to the grave. Although there were no tombstones to mark their graves, it is believed they were buried near the gravesite of their late neighbor, Jacob Alford. Samuel Hatcher had owned that land since he had bought it from old Jake's son. No longer members of Fellowship Church, they would not have wanted to be buried with the Baptist.

Neighbors had been helpful during the Hatchers' illness, bringing in food and sitting up at night. Mrs. Mary Rodgers took the youngest children to keep them from underfoot, and Will saw that Cato tended the livestock. Susan Perry came to help with the housework - all the neighbors were kind.

Some of Marium's family came from Lauderdale to see about the sick couple and then stayed for their funerals. Catherine Fain came from Kemper to see her pa buried and, afterward, took baby Dulane Hatcher home with her. The Clays took the youngest children home for a while, but the older children stayed behind to finish picking the cotton.

Marium Eliza Hatcher and Stephen A. Clay were married at about the time of her parents' deaths. No record of their wedding has been found, but Gus began living at the Hatchers at about that time and on subsequent records he was listed as her husband. They apparently had a quiet wedding following the Hatchers' funerals.

Gus came at an opportune time when the eight Hatcher orphans most needed a stabilizing influence. He was young, only 20 years old, a year older than Sam Hatcher, Jr., but he "took a-hold" of their situation and helped keep their lives in order.

The first order of business was to get the rest of the cotton in. Gus worked with the youngsters and the slaves to get the cotton from the fields and the corn gathered and into the cribs. He, Cato, and Sam, Jr., using the new gin, baled the cotton, and then stored it into the cotton house until they could decide what to do with it. The first two bales were earmarked, of course, for Charley Stephenson to pay for the gin.

Bills began coming due. Lawson Gunn told Gus the Hatchers still owed for lumber he had used in making the two pine coffins, and also Mr. Hatcher had not paid him for some work he did when helping install the new gin. There were sizable bills from three stores where the Hatchers had traded and had it "put on the book" until fall harvest. Even Richard McLemore sent word that he was owed a \$5 stud fee for the use of his stallion.

Dr. James R. Battle handed them the following bill:

Oct.18	Visit at night to self	\$2.50
1849	perscription	1.00
	Blue mass & Morphine	.25
	Castor Oil & spirits of Turp.	.25
	Blistering	1.00
	Bleeding	1.00
Oct.19	Visit in the day	1.25
	Quinine	1.25
	in the evening	1.25
Oct.20	S.C.Hatcher & wife visit	2.50
	perscription	1.00
	Bleeding wife	1.00
	Blue Mass & Morphine	.50
	Caster oil & spts. Turp	.25
	Quinine for wife	1.00
	Salts & Mag.	.25
Oct.21	Detained all day, self & wife	10.00
	Divers of injections	
Oct.22	Self & wife at night	2.50
	Detained all night & all day	10.00
	Calomel & Morph. to wife	.25
	Castor Oil & Spts. Turp.	.25
	Four blisters Comp.	4.00
23	S.C.Hatcher, self, detained all night	10.00
	Five blisters of Span.	5.00
	Injections of quinine at sumary times	2.00
Oct.24	Visit to wife in the day	1.25
	Detained all day & night	10.00
	Quinine & attention, etc.	3.00
Oct.25	Visit & attention, etc.	2.00
	Consultation with Dr. Eiland	10.00
		<u>\$ 87.25</u>

To the children, it seemed they owed everybody they knew. They became alarmed, fearing that all their parents had left would be gone and they wouldn't have anything left to live on. Gus and Sam, Jr. went down to see Mr. Collins, seeking advice. John B. Collins was JP of Beat 3 and would know what to do.

Collins said that the thing to do would be to have the estate probated. That way, anybody who turned in a bill to the estate would have to prove that it was a true debt, and the children would less chance of being cheated. He would be glad to go with them, if they wanted.

So the process of probating Sam Hatcher's estate was started. Stern old Jubal Hancock, Probate Judge, appointed Sheriff Richard B. G. Harper to administer the estate. Then he appointed Hays Rodgers, Will Stokes, and Hiram D. Mahan (who lived near Bailey) to appraise the estate to find out just what was there. They were told to select

and set aside provisions for one year for the upkeep of the eight children, so they allotted 135 bushels of corn, 170 lbs. pork, 75 bushels sweet potatoes, 75 lbs. lard, and \$35 cash to buy sugar, coffee and salt.

Gus took Cato and rode through the Okatibbee swamp, rounding up all the hogs and cattle that had the Hatcher earmark, and drove them up for the appraisers to count. (Gus charged the estate \$80 for this service and for his work in ginning the cotton. He was thinking ahead to the time when Hatcher's land would have to be sold, and thought they could use the money to buy some of it back.) The appraisers went through all the livestock, farm equipment and household furnishings that belonged to the Hatchers, placing a value upon each item. They measured the cotton, corn and fodder that had been raised on the place, and when they were done, they told the court that the estate, not counting the slaves and land, was worth \$2248.82.

The court ordered a sale be held so the estate could be equally divided among the heirs. After posting sale notices - "...to be held at home of Samuel C. Hatcher, deceased, located on Okatibbee Creek..." - as ordered in three public places for three weeks prior to the sale, everything Hatcher had owned was auctioned off. They had a good crowd.

Hiram Mahan bought a sorrel horse, a cow and calf and 5 head of cattle. Marium's brothers, William and Obadiah Clay, attended. Will bought only a horse, but Obadiah bought a mule colt, a cow and calf, and some small items such as plows, a frow, 2 pair of sheep shears and such. Richard McLemore bought another of the mule colts and a M. W. Hinds bought two cows and calves. Humphery and Thomas Wells, brothers, each bought a cow and calf, and Thomas also bought a "lot" of corn. Seventeen goats went to Jack Fairchild, from as far away as the other side of Suqualena. John Perry, from just down the road, bought 14 of Marium's prized geese for his wife, Susan. W. E. Wooton, former neighbor from Sec. 16 who now lived near Shucktown, bought a drawing knife and a square, 7 barrels, 2 boxes and a cask, a quilt and a side-saddle. Capt. Hamrick picked up some single-trees, axle grease, some weeding hoes, and 10 bushels of oats. W. R. Beeson bought the scythe and cradle and a Mr. Page bought Sam's old saddle, but he didn't give but 62¢ for it. (It had seen a lot of hard use and wasn't much 'count.)

A. Creel bought all their books; Eb Miles bought the mantle clock, which had been Marium's father's. J. Ward, O. S. Mason and Mr. Collins each bought

corn. Deacon John Brown of Gumlog rented Lucy for a year for \$41. (All the slaves were later sold.)

Benjamin F. Parke, who wrote pretty and worked as clerk for the county courts, showed up and bought fodder for his horse. He lived in Marion and didn't need farm tools.

W. P. Lasley and William H. White, both from the eastern part of the county, showed up late, but each bought a horse. Lasley took the sorrel, and White took the bay and some fodder.

The biggest sale of all went to Stephen A. Clay. Knowing they needed things for housekeeping, Gus bought the featherbeds and quilted covers, one bedstead and a trunk. He bought the loom table, some tin pots, and such things as the coffee mill and a water bucket. Gus also bought three horses (two sorrels and a gray), 2 yoke oxen, 10 head sheep, 48 hogs, the road wagon, a lot of plows, 14 beegums (hives), Sam's writing desk and rifle gun.

He bought Sam's whiskey still and apparatus, six chairs and table and one bugle. (A bugle? Must have had sentimental value.)

Gus rented the land and Sam's gin for the coming year for \$50, and he rented Cato for \$182. They said that blind Lidey and her baby weren't worth renting (Lidey was pregnant again), so they let him keep her and the child for their room and board.

The minor Hatcher children became scattered after their parents died. Although John B. Collins represented their interest in court proceedings, he was not appointed their legal guardian and they were separated when permanent guardians and homes were found. We are not sure what became of all the children, but the information found tells us this: (The oldest four were from Hatcher's first wife, Sarah Head.)

Catherine A., 1827, m. George H. Fane, 1849, lived in Kemper County.

Marium Ann Elizabeth "Eliza", 1829, m. Stephen A. "Gus" Clay. (More later)

Samuel T., 1830. More on him later.

George Washington, 1834, m. Lucinda Catherine Clay, 1853, daughter of Stephen W. Clay. They lived in Lauderdale Co., were in Kemper in 1860. He fought in the Civil War, later went to Noxapater, Winston County, and left descendants there.

Tabitha Ann Elizabeth "Tabby", 1837-1957, Uncle Stephen Clay was her guardian, but lived with Uncle Thomas and Aunt Clarissa Clay of Lauderdale. She died, age 20, and was buried at Pace's Fellowship Church.

Jesse O., 1839, ten when his folks died, stayed in Pine Springs until 1853, lived with his brother George in Kemper Co. in 1860. Fought in the Civil War.

Josiah Augustus, 1840. Called Jody when small, found as Joseph on some records, his friends called him Joe. William Stokes took him to raise, became his legal guardian. Unmarried, he was killed on a battlefield in Georgia on July 23, 1864.

Lavinia "Viney", 1842, was taken in by J. B. Collins when small, but was reared by Uncle Stephen Clay. Was in his home (age 18) in 1860 census.

Dulane "Buck", 1846, was taken to Kemper County where he was reared by his oldest sister, Cathy. Married Susan Yates and fought with CSA. Died 1887, and his widow was granted a Confederate military pension. Home was near Moscow in Kemper, where he left descendants.

William Clay, 1848, raised by guardian, Gus Clay. Stayed in Pine Springs until moved to Kemper with Gus and Marium ELiza in 1859. Records show that that William C. Hatcher enlisted in CSA from Noxubee Co. in 1864.

Of all the Hatcher off-spring, only Mrs. Marium ELiza Clay and Samuel T. Hatcher lived in Pine Springs after they became adults. The other children, with the exception of Gus Clay's ward, Willie, and Will Stokes' ward, Joe, soon left the community to live with other relatives.

Young Joe was more comfortable staying with Will Stokes than he was staying with his uncles. Stokes, with his house full of boys, enjoyed an easy informal style of life - racing horses, hunting and fishing - and Joe fit right in with this lifestyle.

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Thus far there has been no mention of anyone who lived north of The Forks, today's intersection of Pine Springs Road at the Ernest White Road (which was not in existence in 1850). The upper segment of the main Pine Springs Road existed only as a widened footpath or ox-trail leading north through the wilderness to join the Upper Decatur "Stagecoach" Road near the northeastern corner of Section 4. The undeveloped land on the east side of this trail was held by absentee landowners, and the land on its west side was unsettled public land still owned by the government.

This northwestern portion of public land in Pine Springs was made up of hills which reached to the swamps of the Slough and Bales Creek. Too

steep to farm or too wet to plow, it was passed over by early settlers in their rush to establish plantations. With so much good farmland from which to choose, why waste money on land that was unsuitable?

Closing its land offices in 1850, the US Government turned over all its passed-over, least desirable land to the State of Mississippi. Settlers who wished to buy public land after that year applied directly to their local Boards of Police to make their purchases. By that time the only public land left in Pine Springs were the hills and swamps in the western portions of Sections 4, 5, and 8, the southeastern hills that arose above Rogers Creek in Section 15, and the Okatibbee Swamp down in Section 17.

The county, as a whole, remained sparsely settled in 1850. The Federal Census that year, which was started by William Harrison White on August 25th and completed on the 15th of December, showed a total of only 1025 dwellings in the entire county. Mr. White rode throughout the county, following every highroad and byroad, every cow-path and Indian trail, recording in his pretty script all the names of each man, woman and child in each township and range - but he left off the western portion of our community. Gus and Marium ELiza Clay with Sam, Jr. and the other Hatcher orphans, the Perrys (John and Lee), John B. Collins, the Kearly's, Dr. and Mrs. Battle, possible the McLemores and Alford's, all proven to have to have been here, were omitted.

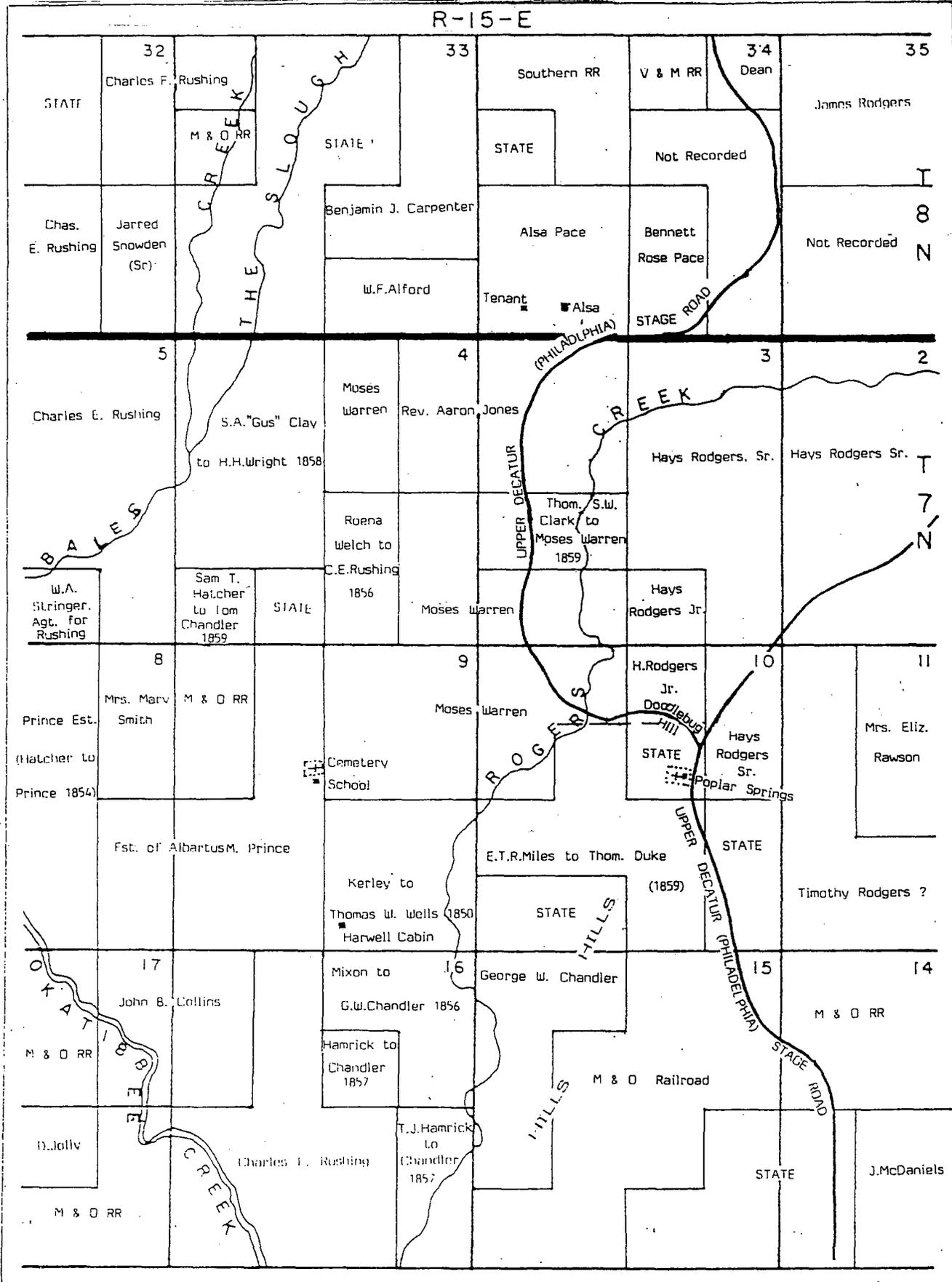
It must have been a clerical oversight that caused White to skip this half of Pine Springs. W. H. White knew the Hatcher plantation was there; he had attended the Sam Hatcher estate sale earlier that year and had purchased one of Sam's horses.

White enumerated the eastern half of the community, which included houses on the Upper Decatur Road. Riding south on this road, he listed Alsa Pace, Rev. Aaron Jones, Thomas S. M. Clark, William W. Stokes, Ebenezer T. R. Miles. Then, climbing Rogers Hill, he continued in the direction of Marion to count Hays Rodgers, and then, as he was leaving Pine Springs, James B. McDonald. But somehow, he missed the western half of Pine Springs, and thus a bit of our history became lost. It is now impossible to tell who was living here in 1850, unless their names were on deeds or other county records that establish their presence in the community.

* * * * *

1858 LANDOWNERS

(FROM TAX ROLL)



6/ BECOMING CIVILIZED

1850 - 1860

A week after the new year began in 1850, another auction was held at the late residence of Samuel C. Hatcher, deceased, to dispose of his lands and Negroes for the final division of his estate.

Cato, 41 years old but healthy and strong as a young mule, was sold to Richard McLemore for \$1015.00. Gus Clay wanted to buy him but just couldn't bid that price; Gus was saving his cash to put into land. One can only wonder at the anguish in Cato's heart as he was led away from his gentle blind Lidey and his two small children.

John B. Collins bought Lidey and her infant, paying \$75 for the pair. The blind wench didn't cost much and she could do simple tasks around the house. Maybe she would make a good mammy for his own little loves. He didn't have cash for her older child.

Reaney, her 22-month-old pickaninny, was a cute little booger. James W. Snowden of Shucktown, son of pioneer James and Mary Margaret Snowden, bought her for \$275. Reaney was too young to work but was likely, and she would grow fast.

Lucy was already rented to John Brown and was at work on his Okatibbee Creek plantation south of Pine Springs. She was not sold at the auction so her fate is unknown.

Benjamin F. Parke, court clerk, learned of the sale from the court proceedings and came to get land at a good price; sometimes, he could pick up right smart bargains. He bought three 80-acre parcels of Hatcher land, one in Sec. 8 and two in Sec. 9, for \$300. One tract was the 80 acres where the old Alford home stood, and another held the former Mary McLemore cabin. (Ben Parke was no planter; two years later he and Aletha Parke sold all three parcels to another gentleman.)

Another 80 acres, the undeveloped tract due east of the former Alford home, was taken by the county to pay for court cost and taxes. That fall W. G. Ragland, Sheriff, sold it to James B. McDonald at a courthouse sale. (McDonald held this land five years before selling it to another investor.)

The important sale of the day, to the Hatchers, was made to Lee Perry, who bought land where the

Hatcher home was located. Perry already owned land in the Okatibbee bottom adjacent to the Hatcher homestead. Before the auction began, Lee Perry struck a deal with Gus Clay; if Gus would not bid on the Hatcher homestead and run the price up, then Perry would buy it. Following the sale, Perry would sell the Hatcher home back to Gus, together with the land Perry already owned (that he wanted to get rid of, anyway.) Gus and Marium Eliza would then have a 160-acre farm, and the Hatcher children could continue to live in their pa's old house.

It sounded good to Gus, and that was what they did. Perry's bid bought the old homestead on January 8, and on January 21, Stephen A. Clay bought both 80-acre tracts from Lee and Rebecca Perry. Gus could not come up with the full amount so he made Marium Eliza's brother, Sam, pitch in his money and made him a partner. The Clays and the Hatcher sons, Sam and little Willie, stayed on in the old log cabin and kept it as their home.

Sam Hatcher, 20, often found excuses to ride up to Lauderdale, supposedly to visit the relatives there. In 1851, he married Miss Emma Clay of Lauderdale, taking a lot of ribbing when he came riding home with a wife. She was Mary Emmaline Clay, daughter of Stephen W. Clay, Sam's late step-mother's niece. Sam moved Emma in with Gus and Marium Eliza.

Emma became pregnant right away, and Sam's first child, Nancy Ann Hatcher, was born in 1852, the same year that Gus' and Marium Eliza's firstborn, Emma Adeline Clay, made her appearance.

A gentleman planter, Albartus M. Prince, came to the county around 1853 with a poke full of cash and began to buy up Pine Springs land. He bought the land in Sections 8 and 9 from Ben Parke and moved into the log house that had been built by William and Mary Alford McLemore. Not one to get his hands soiled, Prince hired Sam Hatcher to oversee the slaves he brought with him. Mr. Prince let Sam know that he was interested in buying Gus Clay's (and Sam's) 16 acre farm to add to his holdings.

It is not known what arrangement the partners made, but on January 24, 1854, Sam T. Hatcher

paid Stephen A. Clay \$240 for his share of the farm, and Gus and Marium Eliza moved out. Four days later, on the 28th, Sam sold the same farm to Mr. Prince for \$840.

Next spring, Gus and Marium Eliza bought 240 acres of virgin public land, located up in Sec. 4, from the state. [NW $\frac{1}{4}$ & N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-4] It is not now known if Gus hired help to build the house on his newly acquired farm, or if he had a house-raisin' party, but a well put-together log home was constructed in the southeastern corner of the northeast quarter section, on the narrow trail that connected their new homestead to their closest neighbors, about a mile to the south.

[Joel New owned this land when this log house was torn down about 1920. Joel had his son, Joe, help a hired man to do the job. Later, Joe told about what a hard time they had with all those logs, which had been pegged together in such a way that they had difficulty getting them apart. Joe said there was no way the house could have ever fallen down. The old kitchen was still used as a smokehouse until the 1940's.]

The log house had two rooms on each side of a wide, dog-trot hallway, and a porch across the entire front. The front of the house faced east toward the trail, and the detached log kitchen was built a few steps from the left back corner of the main house. An opening was cleared around the south of the house near the kitchen for a family-sized vegetable garden which they enclosed with thin white-oak stakes, closely spaced, to keep out the farmyard animals and coon-dogs.

Gus built his barn below the garden, close enough to be handy, but far enough to keep down horseflies. The good-sized barn was built by first putting up a stable and a corncrib, spaced at least 20 feet apart, forming a hallway that had ample room through which a haywagon could be driven. The wood-shingled pitched roof spanning them both had high rafters to form a hayloft.

Across the front eave of the barn a shed was constructed, with a horse stable on each side of its hall. The same arrangement was repeated in back, except there was a stable at only one end. The other end had been left open to provide Marium Eliza a place to get out of the rain while she did her milking. Each of the three small stables also had lofts for storage.

Sam and Emma Hatcher stayed on at the old Hatcher home another year after Sam sold it, apparently still working for Mr. Prince. In 1854, Sam and Emma had another daughter, Sarah Eunice, who they called "Necie". In 1856, their son, Samuel Clay Hatcher (Sam Hatcher, III), was born. Emma died with the birth of their son.

In August of the year Emma died, Sam bought 40 acres of state-owned land in Sec. 4,, as near as he could get to his sister. [SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,S-4] In the beginning of the sharp hills a half-mile west of the trail, it was not good farmland but it had a good spring. He put up a tiny cabin and, while he worked, Marium Eliza baby-sat his two little girls and infant son.

Sam Hatcher needed another wife and, fortunately, he didn't have far to look.

* * * * *

John Perry made a comfortable living on his 16th Sec. farm and Susanah, a happy young wife, was busily caring for their children, Sarah Marie and Wesley. Cotton prices were good and John plowed their rich land up to the creekbank. They were accumulating money to put aside for a bigger place. Their third child, Rutha Jane, came in 1852.

A young couple, they took part in community life in Pine Springs. Susanah and other housewives often got together for such things as a quilting, or going on walnut and chinquapin-gathering jaunts in the fall woods. Sometimes the ladies sat together at night, their children "played-out" and asleep on pallets, while their menfolk were out hunting foxes or 'coons. Their pleasures were simple, homespun entertainments found in daily living.

In spring, 1853, John Perry became grievously ill. He seemed to know he would not recover, for, on April 2, as he lay dying, he wrote his simple will. He left one fourth of his estate to Susanah and one fourth to each of his small children. It was witnessed by Susanah's Uncle Absolom Mott, E.J. Chatham, and by a friend and neighbor, James B. McDonald. John died the next day.

Susanah's father, A. W. Gallespie, administered the modest estate. He rented out the Perry land and slaves but kept the cabin so his daughter Susanah, and his grandchildren, would have a place to live. Susanah was appointed her children's guardian and, in April 1855, she sold the small plantation to Theodore Mixon at an auction for \$1000.

Susanah's little baby, Rutha Jane, had followed John in death. When the estate money was divided, only Susanah and the two older children shared the inheritance.

By 1856, Lee and Rebecca Anne Perry had saved enough to buy a bigger farm and moved down to Wayne County. That December they sold their Pine Springs land to Thomas J. Hamrick, son of Capt. John Hamrick. [N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,S-16] Shortly thereafter, the Lee Perrys left with their small daughters, Nancy Jane (b.1850) and Sarah V. (1855).

[When the Civil War came, Lee Perry enlisted in the Confederate Army in Wayne County. There were four Perry children when Lee was conscripted in Waynesboro in the fall of 1863. He joined Moorman's Battalion, Miss. Cavalry, in 1864, and was paroled at war's end at Gainsville, Alabama.

Lee and Rebecca had five more children born after the war. He died in Wayne Co. in 1889. Rebecca applied for his soldier's pension in 1912 when she was 80 and died Nov. 5, 1920.]

Back in Pine Springs, the widow Susanah Perry and her children went to live at Bailey with her father, Absolom W. Gallespie, and her young stepmother, Frances (Harper), after her home sold. She and Sam Hatcher, being friends, knew other's predicament. Being single parents, their mutual need drew them together. On November 3, 1857, they were married by George L. Pace, M.B.P.

Susanah, as Mrs. Hatcher, was five years older than Sam, and had lived a more sheltered life. She may have found it difficult to adjust to their marriage. Sam had come along when there were few schools and had never learned to read. At 27, he was more interested in attending the races over at Will Stokes and trying out at local turkey-shoots with his buddies, than he was in being a farmer. He made a living, but he had a tendency to plant too late or to let the grass get ahead of him in his fields. He was not ambitious as his father had been. He was basically a good man, but some of his rough edges showed through.

Sam and Susanah Hatcher had been married about three years when they sold their 40 acres in Sec. 4 to Thomas L. Chandler (Dec. 1, 1859). They moved to Bailey first, and then, after the Civil War, they moved northwest of Pine Springs near Martin where they bought another farm.

Sam enlisted in the 41st Infantry of the Confederate Army when the war came. Apparently, while he believed in the South, he was not one to continue on after it became obvious that the war had been lost. His service record shows that he fought on for several months after the Confederacy ran out of money to pay its soldiers, and then he deserted. Mindful of the hardships his family suffered at home, he left after the battle of Chickamauga. He simply walked away.

Susanah and Samuel had only one child, Calvin, who was born the year before they left Pine Springs. Susanah kept her membership in Pace's church, and Sam buried her there when she died in 1872.

In 1873, Sam married his third wife, Amanda Clay, half-sister to his first wife, and had five more children born to that union. Sam and Amanda moved to Enondale, just above the Kemper Co. line,

north of the town of Lauderdale. Sam bought a farm there, where he and Amanda lived their remaining years. Samuel T. Hatcher's children were:

Nancy Ann C., 1852	Calvin, 1858	Carvee, 1883?
Sarah Eunice, 1854	Lorenzo, 1874	Henry, 1884
Samuel Clay, 1856	Lula E., 1878	Onie, 1888.

The oldest daughter, Nancy Ann, was the only child who returned to Pine Springs as an adult.

Gus Clay and Sam Hatcher both sold out and moved from Pine Springs at the same time. The Clays found a buyer first, selling to H. H. Wright, in October of 1859, and the Hatchers' sold out a little over a month later, in December. Both lived for a time near the Martin Community, where Gus bought a farm on Ginn Creek. The Clays moved to Enondale in 1863, and Sam joined them after after the war. Marium Eliza and Sam had a strong attachment to each other; the sister and brother remained close all their lives.

Stephen A. and Marium Eliza Clays' eight children were:

Emma Adeline, 1852, m. Will Stoke's son, William T. Stokes.

Susan A., 1853, m. another of Will's sons, John Henry (or John W.?) Stokes.

Abia, 1855, m. (1) Florence C. Wilson, and (2) M. J. Taylor.

Samuel Augustus, 1858, m. Hannah E. Wilson.

Wesley Constantine, 1858, (Sam's twin), m. Pinkney Alice Stokes.

James M., 1863, m. Florence Haley.

Stephen Alonzo, 1867, m. Hattie Maynard.

We do not know when Gus died, but Marium Eliza lived until 1899, when she died at age 80 in Kemper County.

A new neighbor, Thomas W. Wells, came to Pine Springs in November, 1850, and bought the southeastern quarter of Sec. 9 from Joseph W. Kerley. A young family man (25), Tom was married to Sarah E., a girl near his age, from South Carolina. The Wells moved into the log house that had been built by William Fort ten years earlier.

[It doesn't appear that our Tom Wells was closely related to the Carolina Wells - Jacob, Humphrey, and Thomas Wells - brothers who had been in the county almost since its beginning. Our Tom Wells hailed from (Giles County?) Tennessee.]

Tom and Sarah Wells had three children when

they moved to Pine Springs, little girls named Mary E. and Martha W., who were three and two years old, and an infant son, William H. (After they came, they had four more children: Susan E., 1853; John C., 1854; Thomas J., 1855; and Catherine, 1858.) The Wells family settled into their new home and became a part of the community.

A "p'tracted meetin'" was held at Pace's church in the summer of 1850 after the crops were laid by so that all the farmers would be able to come. It must have been an inspiring meeting, as several people were "saved". Tom Wells was one of the number who joined the church and was baptized. He brought his family to church regularly, and that November, Sarah Wells also joined the church.

In 1857, a widow with 10 children, Mrs. Susan B. Harwell, came from Giles County, Tennessee, and moved into the small tenant house (John Kerley's old cabin?) on Thomas Well's plantation. Mrs. Harwell evidently was related to Tom Wells (his sister?), although she may have been just a close friend from "back home". Her husband had recently died.

Mrs. Harwell appeared in the September, 1857, term of the Lauderdale Co. Probate Court, stating that her husband, Clayton A. Harwell, late of Giles Co., Tennessee, had died intestate, leaving at the time of his death an estate valued at \$3000, consisting of Negro property which was then in Tennessee. She was desirous of being appointed legal guardian of the Harwell children. This was granted, and Mrs. Harwell was bonded for \$4500, with Tom Wells and Will Stokes acting as her securities.

A year later, Mrs. Harwell had still not been able to recover the Harwell slave property. She had Tom Wells appointed guardian of her children and gave him her power of attorney, and off he went to Tennessee and collected the balance of what was due the family.

The ten Harwell children were all born in Tennessee, but when they came to Pine Springs in 1857, their ages were: Martha Jane, 18; Mary Elizabeth, 16; Saphronia "Sophie", 15; Sarah, 14; Maria, 12; William A. "Bud", 10; Hartwell L. "Holly", 8; Emma, 7; Susan, 6; and little Anna, 4.

The two fetching older girls married the year after they came. Martha married Daniel Crane in 1858 and her sister, Mary Elizabeth, quickly followed her example. Mary Elizabeth married her young neighbor, John B. Hamrick, son of the Thomas J. Hamrick that lived in Sec. 16 on the land purchased from Lee Perry.

* * * * *

In 1662, Charles II of England, a Catholic, decreed a religious Act of Uniformity under which nearly all the Presbyterian clergy were forced to resign their livings. Among 13 Presbyterian ministers who were ejected from Scotland was one Rev. Adam White, who removed his family to Ireland.

After a time, two of Rev. White's descendants, Moses and Hugh White, embarked from Ireland on a journey to seek religious freedom in the American colonies. Arriving in Pennsylvania in 1722 to find no Presbyterian church in the area, both White brothers joined, with other "newcomers from Ireland", the Neshaminy Dutch Reformed Church in Bucks County. [This church was soon taken over by the new members and was renamed Neshaminy Presbyterian Church.]

Within that same year, Hugh White moved his family to the Susquehanna Valley in Lancaster County, and Moses White, a schoolmaster, moved with his children to New Castle, Delaware. We have no record of Moses' wife's name, but his children were named David, Jane, Joseph, James, Mary, and John.

David, the oldest son, was told of the killings and persecutions that had occurred in Scotland, and remembered the voyage to America. He passed this bit of family lore on to his descendants, along with the family Crest that had been issued to Sir John White, Lord Mayor of London, who had been knighted in 1563.

The younger son, John, migrated to the Waxhaw area of the new Anson County in North Carolina. He had married his wife Keziah before the Revolution but he joined the colonies' fight for independence. John and Keziah moved to Georgia a few years after the war, along with their married sons, Joab, Robert, James, and David.

John's son David was born in 1780 in Anson County at the close of the Revolution. The Presbyterians believed in educating their children so they could study the Bible, and David had been sent to school. He grew into a stalwart youth who was blessed with an abundance of self-confidence. Walking tall, his slightly beaked nose imparting a jaunty air, he was a rough and tumble sort of a fellow who took for granted that his companions would follow his lead, which they usually did.

Young David fell in love with Miss Jemima Williams and he asked her to become his bride. Fortunately (for him) she accepted and they were married, according to family tradition, in Anson County. Miss Jemima saw through his devil-may-care exterior and became his lifelong lover and friend.

In 1809, John and Keziah White, along with their married sons, became a part of the western migration when they moved their families to the Mississippi Territory to settle in Clarke County (Alabama).

David and his older brother, Joab, joined other frontiersmen to protect their homes when the Creeks took to the warpath in 1813.

Placing their families in Ft. McGrew for safety's sake, Joab and David joined the militia where David was made an Ensign. They were out with ten other men when they were ambushed by the Indians near the settlement of Bashi (Clarke Co.). In the skirmish, Col. William McGrew and Capt. Bradbury, with three other men, were killed. By the end of the war David was a Captain, although as the southern gentleman aged he was called "Col. White" as a title of respect.

The David Whites had five daughters and three sons. The oldest son, John (b.1800.NC), married in Clarke County and made that his home. The second son, Green Berry (b.1809), married Miss Martha Walker and removed to Dallas County to live near her father, John Walker. The youngest of the three was James Wesley White. Later, James' daughter, Mary Anne, was to note in her Bible that James White, eleven months old, played about the floor of the fort while the men were outside fighting Indians. James was the son who became David's right hand, always at his side, for the rest of David's life.

Following the Indian Wars, David and Jemimia, along with his elderly parents, lived in Wilcox County. After old John White died in 1831 (he was over a hundred years old), they moved to Milton's Beat in Sumter County to settle on the Sucarnooche where David and his son James operated a ferry. A now extinct village, made up mostly of the Whites and David's sons-in-law, was designated White's Ferry. David and Jemimia prospered. When they moved to Lauderdale County, Mississippi in 1836, David owned five slaves and had a respectable account at the Livingston (Alabama) Bank.

James and his married sisters settled in Lauderdale County near their parents. Col. White purchased a land patent located on Possum Creek south of the town of Lauderdale. In 1840, James married Miss Elizabeth Emily "Eliza" Pierce, daughter of another frontiersman, John Pierce, and cleared a plantation next to his father's. In addition to growing cotton, David and James operated a primitive sawmill, one of the earliest seen in the county.

The old soldier's fondness for home-made whiskey increased as the years passed. He and his friends - old Col. Sam Dale was one - would get together to drink and talk about old times. James was always there to help his mother get David to bed when the old man came riding in so drunk that he could hardly sit his horse. It was James that held the

plantations together and kept the family from losing everything.

Back in Alabama on Christmas Eve in 1835, Green Berry White died when he and his horse were swept away in rain-swollen Bogue Chitto Creek. He left four children, and Martha was pregnant with their fifth. The infant, born the following June, was named Greenberry Wesley White. Martha and her children moved in with her parents, John and Nancy Walker, and old Mr. Walker spent much time with his newest grandson.

John Walker was a respected hero of the Revolution. He had a saber scar on his face from fighting the British, and his later exploits against the Creeks added to his local esteem. The old gentleman was 104 when he died in 1847, and 12-year-old Greenberry was the only grandchild that he named in his will. Walker's children inherited the bulk of his estate, but to sober-minded young Greenberry he left his fine horse, saddle, bridle and a body-servant, Saunders.

When old Col. White died in Lauderdale County in 1852, Greenberry was also named in his Grandpa White's will. He visited his Uncle James in Lauderdale County when he came to check on his new inheritance. James and Eliza had children by then, and had sold their farm on Possum Creek and had relocated in (today's) Obadiah community.

Mary Anne, born 1841, was the oldest child of James and Eliza White. The young girl was impressed when her handsome cousin Greenberry came riding in from Alabama. Fresh out of school, the young man sat proud in the saddle on his prancing horse, which he handled with grace and ease. He had his own man Sanders to keep him company on his travels, and he set all the female hearts a-fluttering. Wonder of wonders, he chose Miss Mary Anne above all the others, and they were married on June 29, 1857. Greenberry was then 23 but Miss Mary Anne was only sixteen.

Near the time of their marriage, Greenberry was hired by Albartus M. Prince of Pine Springs to replace Sam Hatcher as overseer on the Prince plantation. Greenberry and Mary Anne moved to the big farm.

* * * * *

Okatibbee Creek runs north and south the length of the entire western half of Section 8 in Pine Springs. This land along the creek was made up of marshes and reed-brakes and, being untillable, was left untouched by the early settlers in their quest for plantations. Western Sec. 8 and eastern Sec. 17 remained with the US Government until all the public land was turned over to the State

of Mississippi in 1850.

An act of the Mississippi legislature was approved March 16, 1852, which was entitled "...an Act to provide for the reclamation of swamp and overflowed lands, and the improvement of the navigation of various rivers and streams in this state." Under this act, the Mississippi Secretary of State was authorized to issue free land, no smaller than 40 acres but no longer that 640 acres, in the swamplands in the different counties where they were found. Swamp Land Commissioners were appointed in the different counties to issue script for land grants to whomever they chose, with approval by the governor, and with the understanding that the swamps were to be drained by the new owner.

Then came along Albartus Prince, arriving in Pine Springs the year following the Land Reclamation Act's passage.

Nobody can be found who knows where he came from, but Prince seemed to have had friends in 'high places', and a lack of money was not a problem. He had applied for free land of 320 acres in the marshlands along Okatibbee Creek under the Reclamation Act and must have felt fairly secure in getting it, as he began buying up the adjoining good land in the eastern part of Sec. 8 and in western Sec. 9, which was already owned by previous settlers. It was plain that Prince aimed to have a large plantation.

The first land purchased by Albartus Prince, in August 1853, was the three 80-acre tracts in Sec. 9 from Benjamin F. Parke of Marion. (This was the former Hatcher land, and included the site of today's Methodist church.) In January, 1854, Prince bought 160 acres in the east half of Sec. 8 from Sam Hatcher (II), and engaged Sam to become the overseer of his 20 slaves.

The following January (1855), Prince bought the 80 acres of the late Mary Alford McLemore's estate from her son, Joseph G. Fortson [E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9], and moved his family to Pine Springs to live in the log house there. Having no spring nearby, Prince had a well dug near the house. [Older residents of Pine Springs recall the old well, with its counter-levered pole to raise the water, beside the old house site when they were young. Some residents remember plowing around the site when the land was still under cultivation. The site is north of today's home of James Crenshaw, on a grassy knoll in the C&R Farm pasture.]

With the house enlarged, renovated and made ready, barns and slave quarter constructed, Prince brought out his lady, Mrs. Eliza A. Prince (27), and little daughters, Miss Rebecca (b.1849Ms)

and Miss Saphronia C. (1854Ms). Another two daughters, Penelope A., 1856, and Claudia T., 1858, were born in Pine Springs. The Princes' had no sons.

In August 1855, Prince's first grant for 160 acres came from the Swamp Land Commissioners, which was approved by the governor, John J. McRae, and signed by the Secretary of State, A. B. Dilworth. [NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-8] The following summer, his second grant of 160 acres came through. [SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-8] It was about this time, 1856, that Prince hired Greenberry White to oversee his slaves as they were put to work draining the Okatibbee Swamp. Prince's third grant was for another 160 acres on the Okatibbee, downstream from the first two, and was located just west of John B. Collins' 16th Section land, in Section 17. [NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-17]

When Greenberry and Mary Anne White married, they moved into a house on the Prince plantation where Greenberry spent many long, hot days in his saddle, keeping the 20 or more Prince slaves working. In addition to the work in the swamp, it was his job to see to planting the fields each spring and to the gathering of the harvest in the fall. It was only in the dog days of summer when the creek was low and the crops were laid by that they could work at digging the ditches and trenches to drain the marshy land.

It was slow work, cutting big trees and digging trenches in the humid climate of the low-lying bogs, and care had to be taken to not overwork the slaves in the terrible heat. Mr. Prince rode by on his horse to check their progress from time to time. Prince was short-tempered when he was in his cups, which was becoming more often than not, and his reputation as a cruel Massa was known in all the quarters.

Slowly the work got done. Greenberry had the blacks dig deep ditches to divert the main stream while the creek channel was deepened, and then dug several trenches through the bog to empty into the creek. It took several summers to accomplish the job, but the ditches are still there and may still be seen along that section of Okatibbee Creek, 130 years later.

[The deed to Gus Clay from the government has not been found. One wonders if Gus had the same type of grant from the Swamp Land Commissioners when Gus bought public land up in Section 4 near that same time? At some time in the past, a deep channel was dug between two loops in the crooked Slough as it passed through the western part of Clay's property. This channel was called "The Canal" by later owners of this land, and was a favorite place for youngsters to swim. Although the land next to the Canal, with its resulting portion of

dried-up creek-bed, had grown up in tall trees, eroded rows of long forgotten fields could still be discerned in the woods along this creek. The Canal is now underwater in Okatibbee Lake but in the 1930's folks wondered who had dug this big ditch to divert the water, and why?]

When she was an old lady in her eighties, Mary Anne White would tell of how she helped tend the slaves when they lived on the plantation. Slaves had become a valuable property and their health was guarded as well as possible, considering the available medical knowledge. Mary Anne made a tonic of Whiteoak bark, lined the slaves up, and dosed them all each spring, to "clear their blood".

It was considered standard weekly fare for each slave to be issued a peck of cornmeal, a quart of molasses, and four pounds of meat (sowbelly) to be cooked by the mammies in the quarter. The slaves were allowed to have garden patches to supplement their rations with fresh vegetables. Sometimes the slaves would slip off to go 'possum hunting or fishing in the nearby creek. They were not allowed guns, but they caught rabbits in snares to add more meat to their diets. There was always more cooked than could be eaten at the "big house", and the black cooks became adept at stealing leftovers from Massa's table to take home at night. At hog-killing time they had a feast when they were given the cast-off pieces of meat - chitterlings, cracklings, pigs' feet, hogshead cheese.

During this time the Negroes who died from heatstroke, malaria or other causes were buried on the north side of the community graveyard, which was then owned by Albartus Prince. There were few white folks buried there, with a fence between them and the black graves. If the cemetery had a name then, it has been lost with time. It was also during this era that a dirt-floor cabin was built in a grove of trees just south of the graveyard, to be used as a schoolhouse for the neighborhood children who met with a private teacher. Sometimes, a visiting preacher would have a call to preach and would hold a meeting there.

In 1857, Mrs. Prince moved her church letter to Pace's church. The following September (1858), when the fall protracted meeting was held, Mary Anne White joined the church. Mary Anne joined on Monday night and her parents, James and Eliza White of nearby Obadiah, joined by letter on Tuesday. The next Saturday afternoon following the meeting, the congregation met with the preacher near Pace's church on Bales Creek up in "Tolbert's bottom", and the new converts were baptized. Greenberry, who belonged to a church in Alabama,

moved his letter to Pace's church after Mary Anne became a member.

There were several members of Pace's church from Pine Springs who walked together to go to preaching. Since there were few rail fences to cross, they took the shortest route through the woods and meadows. Sometimes they rode horses, but they mostly walked the short distance. The trails became wider as they were used and, by the 1860's, road wagons were used to give the ladies a ride. The roads were so narrow the driver had to take to the bushes if they met somebody going in the opposite direction.

As times got better a few buggies and surreys began to appear, although most still walked or rode their wagons. In the late 1850's, Mrs. Prince had a surrey for her and her daughters, with Sam, their black servant, as their driver. Sam stayed for preaching and sat in the half of the log church reserved for blacks, and in July, 1860, he joined the church.

Greenberry and Mary Anne White sometimes visited her folks following Sunday service. It was on one of these visits that they stayed for supper, which caused them to get back to Pine Springs after dark. As they turned into the Prince lane and passed the big house, they saw a pale figure standing in the bright moonlight. Drawing nearer, they could see that it was Mr. Prince, au naturel, wandering about in the road near his home. He had imbibed strong spirits and was shouting course, profane language.

The regard that Southern gentlemen held for the weaker sex is legendary. From childhood they were taught to shelter and protect their ladies, and that their mothers and other gentlewomen were the fairest and purest of all God's creatures. Greenberry was enraged as he gallantly hurried Mary Anne's 'delicate' eyes and ears away from the vile sight and sounds of his employer. It wasn't until Mary Anne was safely inside her own home that Greenberry returned to persuade Mr. Prince to go to bed.

In laughing about this story years later, Mary Anne said, "Mr. Prince was roaring drunk and naked as a Jaybird!"

Greenberry had enough of the Prince plantation and was looking for another job when Albartus M. Prince died. No record of the cause of his death has been found, but it appears that he departed this life with short notice; he did not leave a will.

Greenberry changed his mind about leaving when Mrs. Prince, in tearful entreaty, urged him to stay on to manage the plantation. He consented to stay to help her out, and the Whites remained

there until 1861, when Greenberry took Mary Anne and their three little sons to stay with James and Eliza White, and rode off to fight in the Civil War.

The White's children who were born in Pine Springs were John David, 1858; James Monroe, 1860; and a small son, William Wesley, who died during the terrible war.

* * * * *

It was in 1850 that Thomas S. M. Clark made up his mind to leave the community. Rev. Aaron Jones said that Tom had been a good neighbor and he disliked seeing him go, but if his mind was made up, why then, he would be pleased if he would sell him his farm. Thomas Clark sold his 120 acres in Sec. 3 to the Reverend. [N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-3] The Jones' farm now totaled 320 acres.

With his fields doubled, Aaron thought that the time had come that he should build the new house he had been promising Hattie. He and their two sons, Danny (now 16) and Wash (10), got to work with their four male slaves and cut logs from their woods. When time came to get them to the new house site, Hattie cooked up a big dinner and all the neighbors came to help the preacher with his log-rolling.

The house Aaron Jones built was a double-cabin log house, a popular style at that time. The front was two big cabins separated by a wide, open hallway. On the back of the north cabin they built another big room, with smaller room attached. A wide porch crossed the entire front, and another wide porch was built in back along the two back rooms, an extension of the open hallway. As was the custom, the kitchen was set apart from the house.

The next ten years were peaceful, profitable, satisfying years for the Jones family, which continued to grow in size and number. In November 1851, another daughter, Amanda, was born, followed by Laura, 1854; Stephen, 1856; Mary Florence, 1858; and Parks, 1860. To Aaron and Hattie, the time passed quickly, caught up as they were in the activities of their church and community and with the operation of their farm and home. Aaron was 48 years old in 1860, and Hattie was a matronly 42 years. Aaron had been able to purchase a few more blacks to help him with his work (he had 8 slaves in 1860) and he owned his own gin to bale his cotton.

Rev. Jones taught his own children when they were small, but as they became old enough to go away to school, they attended the Rivers Academy, which was within walking distance, on the far

side of Poplar Springs Methodist Church. They all had a good basic education.

One incident made such an impression upon the family that it was never forgotten; Aaron whipped one of the slave girls.

It happened when Hattie was still in bed following the birth of a baby. The girl was in the kitchen making coffee to take to Miss Hattie and for some reason, she was miffed with her mistress. Maybe Missy Hattie had been too demanding or too particular about the way the work had been done. Whatever the reason, the slave wanted to 'get shed' of her mistress. She picked some poisonous wild Jimson weed, mashed it up, and added a potion to Hattie's cup of coffee.

The girl did not see Wash Jones come up and watch from the kitchen doorway. Seeing what the girl did, he told her that he would take Ma her coffee, and sent the girl out on some other errand. After she left, Wash discarded the 'doctored' coffee and poured Ma a fresh cup.

When Aaron came in, Wash told him about what the slave had tried to do. Never in their life had any of them seen Pa so angry. In a white heat of fury he grabbed the slave, tied her to a post on the back porch, and beat her mercilessly with his horsewhip. His own children became afraid and ran to hide. By the time he realized what he was doing, the unfortunate girl was nearly dead. Descendants forgot what became of the slave, but they never forgot the whipping she got that day, and passed the story down.

* * * * *

The decade of the '50s were also good years for Hays and Mary Rodgers. Their married children had farms of their own, and their other children continued to marry, one by one. Grand-children came to liven up their family gatherings.

James Rodgers was doing well on his farm up the road from Hays and Mary. By 1860, he and Martha had four children, with the oldest already in day school at the Rivers Academy. In addition to Allen, they had Mary J., 1852; Martha E., 1856; and William H., 1858.

In 1860, Mississippi took an agricultural and manufacturing census to see how much the state was producing. James Rodgers was listed with the food raised on his 160 acres that year. James reported that, with the help of his three slaves, he had a total of 50 acres under cultivation, with 110 acres of his land being unimproved. He owned 4 "milch" cows, a pair of working oxen, 3 other cows, and 36 swine, all valued at \$260. He had raised 450 bushels Indian corn, 25 bushels peas and beans,

60 bushels sweet potatoes. He had a cotton crop which produced two bales of cotton. That year his slaughtered animals produced \$115 worth of meat.

Mary Ann's husband, Rice B. Carpenter, became an up-and-coming merchant after they sold out in Pine Springs. He and a partner opened a flourishing general store near the M&O railroad track that came through the county in the 1850's. As more businesses and homes came, an embryo village sprang up along the track at Marion Station. Rice was a city alderman of the growing town. They had three children by 1860, although another died at age 2. Their children were Martha, 1848; Benjamin, 1851; William, 1854-1856; and Charles, 1858.

Timothy Rodgers, showing no inclination to marry, lived on a farm he bought next his parents. He was 30 in 1860.

Hays Rodgers, Jr. married in the mid-1850's and had Mollie (Mary Isabelle) and John Lewis born by 1860. His wife was Lucinda Graham, daughter of James and Isabelle Morgan Graham of Pickens Co., Alabama, and a sister of G. M. Graham. Graham married one of the Rodgers' daughters in 1857.

Hays, Jr. and Lucy made their home on a farm they bought (the old McMullen place in Secs. 3 and 10) adjoining his father's plantation. Their house was alongside the road on the east side of Rogers Creek on the hillside almost due east of Will Stokes'. Hays, Jr. farmed, and was also listed in the Agriculture and Manufacturing Census of 1860. It showed Hays, Jr. had 25 of his 75 acres improved and under cultivation. He had a mule and an ass, one "milch" cow and seven other cattle, and had raised 20 swine. Hays did pretty well with his cotton that year, producing three bales. He also produced 200 bushels of Indian corn, 300 bushels sweet potatoes. He averaged a pound of butter a week from his cow, producing 50 lbs. for the year. He butchered \$38 worth of meat.

A staunch Southerner, Hays, Jr. was vitally interested in politics. He attended the Know Nothing meetings, although it is not known if he became a member. He did, however belong the Democratic Party, where he was active.

When 18-year-old Elizabeth Rodgers married G. M. Graham in 1857 and went to live at his home in Pickens Co., Alabama, the three children of the old couple remaining at home were Wilson, John, and Martha. Martha, the youngest of them all, was a little minx, and she wrapped her father and the rest of the family around her dainty finger. Times were easier when she was growing up and she, more than the other daughters, turned into what has become the stereotype of the antebellum Southern belle. She was the Scarlett O'Hara of Pine Springs, as we shall later see.

Life was more gracious for the pioneer settlers, Hays and Mary Rodgers. They had worked long and hard, but in their declining years they could afford to sit back and enjoy what they had accomplished. Steadfast Methodists, they had raised their children in the shadow of the local church they had helped to organize. All their children, including their daughters, had been educated. They had made a profitable plantation from a wilderness and had money to invest in the new railroads. Through it all, they had remained the same; plain, decent country folks who greeted all their neighbors as friends.

In 1860, Mr. Rodgers owned 13 slaves and his 640 acre plantation, valued at \$6,800, covered a square mile. He owned \$600 worth of farming implements and machinery. He had two horses, three asses or mules, ten milk cows, four working oxen, sixteen sheep, and sixty swine, with a total value of \$1000.

Also, that year he produced 50 bushels beans and peas, 20 bushels Irish potatoes, and his sizable orchard grew \$50 worth of orchard products. He made 10 lbs. honey, 250 lbs. butter, and butchered \$320 worth of animals. And he raised 29 bales of cotton for a cash crop.

It is not known how much he had invested in slaves, perhaps the most valuable property he owned.

* * * * *

Thomas Jefferson Hamrick was the oldest of the eight children of Capt. John and Katherine Hamrick. Born in Milledgeville, Georgia in 1810, he was a boy when the family moved to Alabama where, in 1834, he married Sinai Brown, daughter of the John H. and Sarah Brown who came to Lauderdale County. (One of Sinai's brothers was William Brown, husband of Martha Hamrick Brown of Chunkyville.)

Thomas and Sinai moved to Mississippi to settle where, in 1835, Thomas bought land just southeast of Pine Springs. [E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-14] Sadly, Sinai died about the time they came, leaving Thomas with six young children.

Thomas Hamrick's second wife was Sibby (Sabrina Phillips). Sibby was kind to Sinai's children, and they all loved her. Thomas and Sibby went on to have six more children.

In April 1854, Thomas J. Hamrick bought the late John Perry's 40-acre farm in Sec. 16 in Pine Springs. [SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-16] When old Capt. Hamrick died two years later, Thomas used part of his inheritance to buy the adjoining land in the same section from Lee and Rebecca Perry when they

moved away. [NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ & SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-16] The Hamrick children numbered 7 when they changed farms, but their oldest child, Elmira, was not with them. She had eloped with Joseph L. Houston, a darkly handsome young man who claimed to be the son of Gen. Sam Houston of Texas, the result of a liaison the general had formed with an Indian maiden while living with her people in his younger days.

Gen. Sam Houston had fought with Capt. Hamrick under Gen. Jackson in the War of 1812. Later, when Sam Houston was elected Senator and was sent to Washington, his wife remained behind in Texas. Young Joseph proved an embarrassment to his socially prominent step-mother, so Houston sent Joe to his old comrade, Capt. Hamrick, in Mississippi.

Arrogantly proud, dark like his mother's people, Joseph had come riding in from Texas one day, his saddlebag full of money, looking for Capt. Hamrick. His prancing horse wore a hand-tooled Mexican saddle and bridle, each decorated with silver conchos the size of quarters. One look and 15-year-old Elmira Hamrick was in love. Before a cat could lick his whiskers, they eloped and were married, much to her father's consternation. Joe and Elmira bought a farm east of Pine Springs where they raised horses. [This farm was in S-12, T-7, R-15E, although they moved to Collinsville after the Civil War. It has been reported that the couple had 19 children, which included two sets of twins, although now nobody can be found that can name them all. One son later came to live in Pine Springs.]

John, Thomas Hamrick's oldest son, was 21 in March, 1858, when he married a Pine Springs girl, Mary Elizabeth Harwell. Mary Elizabeth was lately from Tennessee, having come to the community with her mother to live on the neighboring Wells' farm. John and Mary E. made their home across Okatibbee Creek. [Three of John's eleven children found mates in Pine Springs.]

Margaret Hamrick married Jacob Wells in February, 1858. Margaret was left with three little girls when Jacob was killed at Iuka, Mississippi in the Civil War. Margaret and her children went home to live with her father.

Three of the late Sinai Brown Hamrick's sons, Thomas, Jr., Joseph, and James, were boys when they lived in Pine Springs. Tom and Joseph were adolescent, much too young to be soldiers, but they fought in the Civil War. They did not return from the battlefields. James Hamrick missed the war; he was not old enough.

Thomas and Sibby Hamrick's first children were two little girls, born in 1848 and 1850. The first died young, but the second, Molly (Mary

C.) came to Pine Springs with the family when she was two. Sibby's next two were Virgil C., 1852; and Alice, 1855, who were both born in Pine Springs.

George W. Chandler bought the Sec. 15 home and plantation of Dr. and Elizabeth Battle, but Chandler was not satisfied with the small size of its cotton fields. He made Thomas and Sibby Hamrick a good offer on their place because it touched on Chandler's land, and they sold it to him in 1857.

Judge John B. Collins, acting administrator of the late John Trussell, told Hamrick that Trussell's estate land was on the market. Hamrick made a trip across Okatibbee Creek to look it over more closely.

The main house on the big Trussell plantation was a stagecoach stop over Trussell bridge on the Daleville-Philadelphia Road. The tavern, called the Wayside Inn, was located on Twitley Branch, which emptied into the west side of Okatibbee Creek. Thomas Hamrick by then had fifteen slaves, counting those he inherited from his father, so he had enough help to run the mile square plantation. When the Trussell estate was auctioned off that September, Thomas J. Hamrick was the highest bidder, and he moved his family from Pine Springs to the Wayside Inn that fall. The last two Hamrick children, Nellie and Burrell, were born after the Hamricks moved away, but they both died young. Thomas Hamrick started a family plot, within sight of the tavern, where several generations of Hamricks were buried. Thomas J. Hamrick was buried there when he died in 1881.

[The Wayside Inn burned (during the Civil War?) but the Hamrick Cemetery may still be seen near the entrance to today's Collinsville campground on Okatibbee Lake.]

* * * * *

Dr. Battle had more legal problems after Lawson Gunn, as before mentioned, beat him up in 1855. In 1856, he and Will Stokes' 22-year-old son, Samuel, got into a fight. The October 1856 Grand Jury charged the pair with an affray, stating in their report:

James R. Battle and Samuel Stokes...on the 28th day of October 1856, with force and arms...an affray did make by then and there willingly fighting together, in a public place, to the terror of the good people... against the peace and dignity of the State of Mississippi.

Witnesses were H.D. Boutwell, Thomas Stokes (Sam's older brother), Brice Mayfield, and W. G. Calhoun. Battle's bail was set at \$200 plus two securities (C.F. Rushing and N.P. Deen), for \$100 each. Stokes' bail was the same amount, with his

securities being his brother-in-law, Ebenezer T. R. Miles and Samuel T. Stokes. When the trial came up that next summer, the doctor pleaded guilty and got off with a 1¢ fine and court cost. Sam Stokes was found not guilty by a jury and was released to "go hense".

Elizabeth Battle and her feisty husband either sold or lost their home to debtors after the doctor's latest trial. The Chandler family took the farm over and there was nobody named Battle listed on the 1860 Lauderdale County census. Perhaps Mrs. Arrington knew Dr. Battle well when she had him sign his marriage contract.

He seemed to have been a good doctor.

* * * * *

George Washington Chandler was born in the State of Georgia on the last day of October in 1803. His family migrated to Alabama when he was young, where records of his various family members may be found in Sumter County.

Around 1831, George Chandler married Nancy, a Tennessee girl, who was born in 1813. Her descendants say that her German parents died, and Nancy worked early in life to earn her living. Her early experiences taught her to be frugal. She developed a fine business sense, a trait which later proved invaluable to George as he labored to make his fortune.

Tradition says that George Chandler received a land grant (patent?) in the 1830's on land located near New York (now York), Alabama. The original paper was destroyed by a house fire so the exact date is not known. As it was signed by Pres. Martin Van Buren it must have been between 1837 and 1840, the time of that president's single term in office.

By dint of considerable labor, and aided by the wise counsel of his astute wife, George had a small fortune in land and slaves by 1850. In 1857, he heard of Dr. James and Elizabeth's troubles, and he was able to take over their Pine Springs farm.

The Chandlers moved to Mississippi and settled into the log home that had been built by the Battles. The house, near the crest of the hills in southeastern Pine Springs, had a view of the cotton fields stretched out below along Rogers Creek.

George was in his early 50's when they came. He and Nancy had eight children, all born before they left (New) York. Their two sons and six daughters were; Mary R., 1833; Thomas A., 1834; Martha, 1836; Amanda, 1838; Tempy, 1840; Jim (James L.), 1846; Latitia, 1848; and Nannie (Nancy), 1850.

Mary R. Chandler had married Iredel W. Regan

at the Chandlers' York home on August 21, 1849, and being established in Sumter County, remained in Alabama. Martha Chandler was married to a Dr. Smith, although it is not now known where they lived. (They later lived in Meridian.)

Amanda Chandler had recently "married well" and she, too, stayed behind in Sumter Co. She was the bride of Edward H. Lockard, a bachelor and a gentleman son of a wealthy planter. Edward, ten years older than his young wife, had inherited the extensive Lockard plantation, which was located west of Livingston.

The unmarried Chandler children came to Pine Springs with the parents.

The Chandlers coveted the former Perry land in Sec. 16, seeing it as an attractive enlargement to their new plantation. Theodore Mixon bought part of it in January, 1856, and had it planted in cotton. When Mixon's \$1000 note on the place came due in 1857, he agreed to sell. With Mixon's land and the land George bought from Thomas Hamrick, Chandler's 120-acre plantation expanded to 360 acres.

George and Nancy Chandler, believing that land could bring profit as well as cotton, bought other acreages around the county. Among the land they invested in were some lots in a village springing up around the Mississippi & Ohio River Railroad at Sowashee Station (now Meridian). Ragsdale had blocked off land near the track, and George bought a portion of the Ragsdale survey. Another rail line, the Alabama and Vicksburg, was on its way to connect the area with the Mississippi River; the Sowashee flag stop was bound to grow and the land to appreciate.

The 1860 census slave schedule shows that George W. Chandler owned 17 slaves (although his descendants claim he had fifty). The Chandlers' accumulated money and they could live graciously, but they continued to lead their ordinary simple lives. Nancy wore homespun and calico and lived in their log home, not seeming to need the furbelows of fashion. Living much like the earlier pioneers, Nancy smoked contentedly on her corncob pipe before her warm fireplace. They were not stingy or miserly; they bought whatever they needed. They were generous with their children, but their gifts were more the practical sort. They did not stint on the children's education, but sent those to school who wanted to go.

Their oldest son, Thomas, had finished his schooling and was being groomed to take over the family affairs. He had waited until he was 25 before he married Louisa, the year he bought land in Pine Springs to begin his own plantation. Thomas bought the 40 acres in Sec. 4 from Sam

and Susan Hatcher and moved his bride into the cabin Hatcher had built. [SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-4] It was not much of a home, but it would do for a beginning, and it was only two miles up road from his father's. George and Nancy gave the couple a slave for a wedding present.

* * * * *

When Stephen "Gus" Clay sold his log house and 240-acre plantation in the western half of Sec. 4 on October 5, 1859, its new owners were Mr. H. H. Wright and wife, Letitia.

Letitia was a younger sister of George W. Chandler, and George's daughter, Letitia, was her namesake. No doubt George had influenced his sister and her husband to move to Pine Springs.

The Wright's former home had been east of the town of Lauderdale, within Lauderdale County but touching the Alabama state line. Mr. Wright, born 1816 in South Carolina, was in his early forties when they came and Letitia, born in Alabama, was 38. They were childless.

When Albartus Prince died, Mr. Wright, living about a mile north of the Prince plantation, was one of the neighbors called to appraise the large estate. In early 1860, the elderly Hays Rodgers, along with Mr. Wright and two other new neighbors, Thomas Duke and Emanuel Warren, undertook the appraisal, a rather large task.

We know little about the Wrights. In the 1860 census, H. H. Wright and his wife, Letitia, were listed as living at Rushing Store (the post office where the community picked up its mail). There was a 75-year-old female, S. J. Britton, living in the household. Who was she? We do not know.

Also, there was N. L. Pace, 21, male, who could have been Napoleon Pace, the son of Rev. Edwin Pace, living with them. Pace may have been hired help, or perhaps a boarding Schoolteacher? Clerk? Preacher? We haven't found a clue.

* * * * *

After John B. Collins was elected Justice of Beat 3 in 1849, he ran for re-election for four more terms, making him a JP ten consecutive years. The term of public office was for two years then, as opposed to today's four year terms. Some say this was because Southerners enjoyed having elections so much. They enjoyed the oratory at picnics and rallies when their favorite candidate took to the stump. Speechmaking had developed into an art form and often the candidate who had the more fluent tongue was the one elected, never

mind what his platform was. A form of entertainment, an all-day political picnic would be eagerly anticipated and would always be good for at least one fight or two. Politicking back then was serious business, where friendships were formed and bitter enemies were made.

The ladies would bring baskets of food to the gatherings. Generally one of the candidates supplied a barrel of whiskey where the men gathered to "raise their spirits". Southern Americans had little class consciousness - other than the whites against the blacks - and at these gatherings the well-heeled planter would place his hand upon the shoulder of the poor dirt farmer and call him by first name.

It seems likely that some of these political picnics, as well as other gatherings and celebrations, were held in a shady grove just south of the community cemetery on Albartus Prince's land. The road made a bend around a small log school before it turned down the hill by the graveyard, and this area came to be used for a meeting place.

Neighborhood children who lived near by - the Prince girls, the Wells, Collins, Harwells, Hamricks, and perhaps the Hatchers and others - met there to begin their first studies. There were still no public neighborhood schools, so local parents pooled their money and hired a tutor for their youngest scholars. It was a sporadic effort as best, and when the children (who were lucky enough) went on to higher learning, they went to one of the various boarding schools scattered about the county.

With no proof, it is wondered if the small local school was perhaps organized by John Collins, or at least he may have taught there. (In later years a school opened there was called the "Collins School", and this was after the Collins family had already moved away.)

Toward the last of his tenure as J.P., John Collins had a chance to supplement his meager income of fees he collected from his duties as judge. He became involved in the settlement of a rather large estate.

John Trussell, one of the first white settlers in the area, a large plantation owner and proprietor of the well-known tavern, Wayside Inn, died in 1852. Trussell left a large estate and his old friend, Josiah Collins of Greene Co., Alabama, was his named executor in his will. Josiah Collins found it difficult to adequately manage the estate settlement from such a distance, so he gave John B. Collins, his nephew in Pine Springs, power of attorney to dispose of the late Trussell's Mississippi property.

Trussell's affairs took considerable time in

probate and John Collins made numerous trips to the Marion courthouse on the estate's behalf. When all was settled, he charged the estate well for his services.

John and Caroline Collins changed their status from tenants to landholders. Benjamin Johnson of Kemper, who held the 99 year lease on the 16th Section land Collins rented, moved to Smith County. In December, 1859, Benjamin and Margaret Johnson sold their lease "on Okatibbee Creek near Rushing Store" to John B. Collins for \$100. [W¹NW¹/₄, S-16] After more than ten years in Pine Springs, John and Caroline became land-holding citizens.

The oldest Collins daughter, 17-year-old Susan, married Mr. Van Buren Phares on Nov. 27, 1856, and moved to Jackson Parish, Louisiana. It is not known whom her sister, Mary E., married. Mary was not listed with the family in 1860.

In the 1860 census, John gave his age as 49 years, with Caroline being listed as 45. Their real estate was valued at \$2500, their personal property valued at \$4000. The children remaining at home in 1860 are listed below, with their birth dates as recorded in the Collins Bible.

(Susan B., June 2, 1839, married, not listed.)
Nathaniel M. "Dink", Jan. 10, 1840
(Mary E., May 17, 1841, married, or deceased?)
Albert Goodwin, Nov. 2, 1844
John B., Jr., Apr. 10, 1846
James M., Jan. 8, 1848
Franklin J., Sept. 28, 1851
Lucy P., Sept. 22, 1853
Walter, Nov. 17, 1855
(Frances M. "Fanny", Sept. 11, 1860, not listed.
Fanny was born after the census was counted.)

* * * * *

Alsa Pace continued to devote himself to his beloved Pace's church. As clerk, he seldom missed a service, and one by one, most of his children were saved. The first was in 1849 when 9-year-old Rhoda Enraline was saved. Mrs. Minerva Pace Gwinn attended from Kemper, having moved her letter to Fellowship Baptist in December, 1849. In June 1850, Jestina was baptized, followed by Irene a month later.

Abner had not committed yet, but Alsa had hopes that he, too, would soon see the light. Abner had married Elizabeth, a fine Christian girl, and they had started a family. Alsa took Elizabeth to the Baptist convention on one occasion, the time they met at Salem Church in Noxubee County. Abner was finally "converted" and joined the church at the protracted meeting the following year.

At that time it was the Christian duty of the

members and elders to report unseemly behavior of the brothers and sisters of the church. The faithful would then pray with the offender to encourage them to turn away from their sins. They would usually accept the poor sinner back into the fold if he - or she - appeared contrite and asked for forgiveness. It was difficult to keep to the narrow path of righteousness amidst life's temptations and many were reported for their sins. Those who were caught had to have a mighty good story to tell or they were in grave danger of being excluded from the church's fellowship.

Gray Sanderford reported that he was perturbed about a rumor going around that he had used profane language, and he wanted to say that the report was false. Abner Pace confessed that he had a difficulty with Sam Hatcher, but that they had settled the matter between themselves. Alsa Pace reported that he had seen one of the Trussell boys intoxicated. Even James B. McDonald, one of the community leaders, confessed and was forgiven for drinking strong spirits.

Obadiah Clay was reported to have been intoxicated, but he denied the charge and no action was taken. Later, Deacon David M. Brown said Bro. Obadiah had not been to church in a time, and that he was in the habit of rolling tenpins over at Marion. In 1859, Alsa Pace reported that Obadiah had been seeing playing cards! A committee was sent to see Obadiah to hold prayer with him. It is not known what transpired at that prayer meeting, but Obadiah was excluded from the church the following session.

Others were dismissed from Pace's church on similar charges - drinking, dancing, card playing, an occasional report of fornication. (The fornication charges were always against the women, making it appear that they had somehow learned to commit adultery without a partner!) The church censorship of morality was harsh, but it helped bring a sense of propriety to the society of that era. Respectability came to be valued, and when folks sinned they became adept at keeping it under cover.

After six years Rev. Edwin Pace resigned as pastor of Fellowship Church. After Bro. Edwin left there was a succession of preachers elected, but none served as long as he. Alsa was called upon to preach upon occasion, but not on a regular basis.

Bennet R. Pace continued to farm the land next to his father's plantation. Sarah Ann had given him twins, a son and a daughter, in the summer of 1851. To their sorrow, the babies did not live. Sarah Ann recovered and ere long she

became pregnant again with a second set.

The summer of 1852 was long and hot for Sarah Ann. She carried on her household duties, but she was ailing much of the time. When her babies came that October, they were fine and healthy, but it was the mother that didn't make it this time. Bennet named the new twins Calvin Lysander and Madora Adelaide, names that Sarah Ann had picked before she died.

Bennet's sisters took turns coming over to care for the three children and doing the cooking and washing for the household. With little Melissa and the infant twins, Bennet was sorely in want of a wife. (Neither Alsa nor Bennet owned black servants. One wonders if they, former residents of Tennessee, did not condone slavery. Many from Tennessee did not, which almost kept that state from seceding with the other Southern states.)

Martha Jane Deason was born in 1826 in Monroe County, Alabama. Her aunt, Betsy (Elizabeth) Deason, had married James Davidson, who had been born in 1788 in County Cork, Ireland. Uncle James and Aunt Betsy had met and married in South Carolina and had migrated to Alabama in the early 1820's. They started a plantation in Monroe Co. and raised twelve children. One of the twelve was Jimmy (James L.), a year older than Martha Jane, and was, perhaps, her favorite cousin.

Martha Jane Deason and Jimmy Davidson had always known each other, and neither entertained thoughts of marrying anyone else. Their marriage in Monroe County on December 29, 1843 was followed by six years of happiness. Jimmy, with his laughing eyes, had inherited his father's Irish wit and charm. In 1849 their little girl was born. In 1851, 23-year-old Jimmy Davidson was dead.

The cause of Jimmy's death is not now known, but Martha Jane resolutely laid her grief aside to think of her little girl. She took little Eliza Frances to Mississippi and they lived with her brother in Lauderdale County. Also in the county were some of Jimmy's family, cousins she knew well. [Mrs. Eliza Davidson Brown, wife of Deacon John Brown of Gumlog Church, was Jimmy's older sister.]

Mrs. Martha Jane Davidson and widower Bennet Rose Pace met in Lauderdale County. By mutual need, they were married October 8, 1854 by Samuel Simmons, JP. They continued to live in Pine Springs in the house Bennet had built for his first wife. They had three children born before 1860; Ann Marie, 1855; Pyrrus McLemore, born 1858 but lived only 11 days; and Adrian Alonzo, 1859.

The crowd began to thin out around Alsa and Rhoda Paces' home as more children married and moved away. In 1854, Laura Ann, 22, married Sandy

Alexander Palmer (from Cumberland Co., North Carolina) and moved to Kemper County. Abner and Elizabeth Pace moved over toward Schamberville in the western part of the county with their four children, requesting letters of dismissal from the church in March, 1859.

Ziah (Reziah) Pace, 23 and unmarried in 1860, was "batching" near Rushing Store where he worked as a blacksmith. Jasper (Joseph) Pace was also working away from home and had moved out. Enraline Pace married Fetherston J. Cross (everyone called him Pendency) in 1856, with Judge Collins of Pine Springs performing the ceremony. They lived near the Kemper line.

Carroll Pace married Miss Pinkie Deason in 1858, with Judge Collins again doing the honors. Carroll had his brother-in-law, Pendency Cross, go with him to get his wedding license and be his bondsman. Miss Pinkie was a sister of Martha Jane, Bennet's second wife.

Mr. Pace's friend and life companion, his wife for so many years, died in the spring of 1859. Miss Rhoda had been a good mother to their 13 children, a buffer between Alsa and his offspring when he became too harsh in his discipline, overly strict in his zeal to teach them the ways of the Lord. Rhoda was 55 when she died and Alsa, at 63, would sorely miss her. She was laid to rest at Pace's Fellowship Baptist Church.

The 1860 census shows Alsa living in Pine Springs with three children; Irene, 33; Jestina, 22; and his handicapped youngest son who would always remain a child, Jabez, 17.

Although Mr. Pace did not own slaves, he had white tenants live on his farm to help with the work. In 1850, 40-year-old Joseph Parsons with his 35-year-old wife, Elizabeth, lived on Pace's farm. In 1860, there was a J. W. Grice (48) and wife Nancy (30) living there. The Grices had a housefull of children. There is no way to know all who had lived there in the years between.

* * * * *

Eb and Sarah Miles were living at their home in Sec. 10 in 1856 when Eb received a military land warrant (#22793) for his service (in the Mexican War?). The military warrant entitled Eb to the 80 acres [N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{4}$, S-10] just south of the 40 he had been sold by Will Stokes, Sarah's paw. Encouraged by the acquisition of this grant, Eb bought another 80 acres of public land from the state. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-10] The 1858 county tax record shows him owning 200 acres, all in Sec. 10.

Eb Miles and Rice Carpenter had done pretty well with their trading post, but Rice and his family

left for Marion Station to open Rice's new store. Eb said that with all his new land, he might as well try his hand at being a planter.

On November, 29 1857, Eb and Sarah sold out to a fellow named Duke and moved with their two slaves to Ft. Stephens on the Kemper-Lauderdale County line. After one year farming, Eb was ready to go back to store-keeping.

The Ft. Stephens Post Office was established in July, 1857 with Harvey E. Snowden, the oldest son of pioneer James Snowden, being appointed postmaster. In 1858, Ebenezer T. R. Miles took over Snowden's mail job, probably working from Snowden's store.

Eb and Sarah were listed in Ft. Stephens in the 1860 census, still with no children. It is thought that Eb Miles fought in the up-coming Civil War.

* * * * *

The Dukes, Thomas Melton (b.1826) and Sarah Salinah (b.1830), were both born, raised, and married in Alabama. We know nothing of Thomas' early life, but samples of his penmanship and grammar indicate that he was more educated, perhaps, than would have been possible at some frontier school.

Tom and Salinah were a young married couple in their early 20's in 1851 when they first came to Mississippi. When they came to the state they had two youngsters, William R., who was about three, and Louisa G., a toddler about a year old. By the time they moved to Pine Springs in 1857, they had three more small children, John N., 1852; James R., 1854, and Adeline H., 1856.

The Dukes first lived in the small cabin that Eb and Sarah Miles had built on Rogers Hill. However, it is believed that Thomas built a new house on the place, probably at the top of the hill on today's Barnhill Road. That road was a narrow wagon trail then that led south from Poplar Springs Church through the virgin Pines to the home of George and Nancy Chandler.

When Duke bought the Miles farm, he and his two slaves cleared giant trees along Rogers Creek to plant cotton. An industrious farmer, Tom and his slaves worked side by side. Some whites said white gentlemen could not tolerate the hot southern sun and field work was best left to the darkeys. Tom didn't know that, and kept right on tilling his own fields.

Wherever men gathered in 1860 there was talk of an approaching war. As planters discussed their crops, most thought it smart to raise cotton on all available land. Cotton was bringing a good

a good price, but it was bound to go even higher if war came and England was forced to buy from the South when the northern cotton markets closed. Good land appreciated in value as it became more in demand. In the 1860 census, Duke's land was valued at \$6000 and his slaves were valued at \$7000. On paper it looks as if the Dukes were eating fairly high on the hog, but they continued to live modest lives.

Baby Salina A. Duke was born in Pine Springs in 1858. A religious family, the Dukes collected their children in their wagon to attend preaching over at Gumlog's Primitive Baptist Church, where Tom moved his membership. Like the average country people, they led honest decent lives which followed simple rules;

Always keep yo' fences up so your hawgs cain't root down yo' neighbor's cornpatch.

Pay back more than you borrow.

Mind yo' manners; say "Yes, Ma'am" and "No, sir".

Respect and take care of ladies.

Take off yo' hat 'fore you come to table.

Wait for grace 'fore you commence eatin'.

Iffen it ain't yours, don't tetch it.

Never back down from an honest fight.

They lived in simple dignity.

* * * * *

Miss Jane Wilson, spinster sister of James Wilson who lived between Pine Springs and Gumlog church on the "new" Philadelphia-Decatur Road, lived to be quite old. In her later years she would sit and slowly fan herself with her fancy turkey-wing fan while she reminisced to her grand-nieces about the good times they had "befo' the Wah". One niece recalls being told how Aunt Jane attended grand horse-races at the Stokes plantation when she was young. Carriages and wagons arrived over the stagecoach road from miles around to deliver gentlemen and wide-skirted ladies with dainty parasols to wager on the horses.

Aunt Jane told of fights that sometimes erupted over the betting. On one occasion, she said, a heated argument began over a wager that ended with a gentleman being shot and mortally wounded. The young niece listening, alas, does not now recall the name of the unfortunate gentleman after all these years, nor if the case was brought to court.

Something happened to cause Will Stokes to suddenly decide to sell his Pine Springs plantation in 1859 and move away, but we haven't an inkling that shows what it was. No deed was recorded, but Will transferred his 450-acre horse farm to Moses Warren, which leaves us open to speculation.

Did Will bet too heavily on his horses, or did the duel at his racetrack somehow precipitate this change? Perhaps it was simply that Will, at 55, and Miss Marthy pushing 50, needed to slow down and Warren offered them a good price.

Will Stokes bought a smaller place (80 acres) about a mile south of today's (now closed) Martin schoolhouse, where the Stokes were counted in the 1860 census. The census shows them with the younger six of their twelve children. Joe Hatcher, at 20, was still living with his foster parents. Will's smaller plantation was valued at only \$2400, but his 17 slaves were valued at \$17,000, so he wasn't faring too badly.

It is not now known what became of their oldest son, George. He was 23 in 1850 but by 1860 he had either married, died, or had gone to Texas. The second son, Thomas, went into politics.

Thomas was elected Constable of Beat 1 in 1855. He was married after the election (Nov. 15) to Melissa M. Harper, daughter of Sheriff Richard B. G. Harper and Mary Ann Thomas. Thomas bought 160 acres in the Prospect community, east of Bailey Store, from his father-in-law, but sold it two months later to move to Nellieburg. He later served as deputy sheriff and bailiff.

In 1857, Thomas and Melissa Stokes located near Dresden, Navarro Co., Texas, where they bought a farm. In 1862 he sold this place, taking Confederate dollars for payment, and enlisted in the Confederate Army. The Long Star State, published in 1893, reported:

After nine months of service he [Thomas Stokes] was discharged on account of rheumatism and returned home. He found his farm gone, his money worthless, and he was obliged to farm on rented land. After seven years he bought 100 acres of his present place [in Navarro County], to which he has added until he now owns 265 acres...Mr. Stokes has resided in this county for thirty-four years, has never been sued, nor sued any one, has never attended court except as a witness, and has never owned or carried a pistol, as has also his four sons....Mr. Stokes is a Democrat in his political views; socially, is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and religiously, his wife and six of their children are devoted Methodists.

The Stokes' daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah, were, of course, already married. In 1858, Sam Stokes married Emily A. E. Brown. Emily was a well-brought up daughter of established plantation owners, John C. and Elizabeth Brown of Hookston,

and grand-daughter of original settler, the late George Brown, whose plantation along both sides of Okatibbee Creek below Pine Springs was purchased in the 1830's. [No relation to David M. Brown or John H. Brown families.]

Dick Stokes (Richard), also married in 1858, when he was only 19. (Will had to sign permission.) His bride was Miss Elizabeth Rawson, whose mother also signed consent for the young bride. Dick and Elizabeth moved to join Thomas and Melissa Stokes in Texas after their marriage. Dick also became a Confederate soldier, enlisting in Texas.

John Stokes was 20 in the 1860 census. He fought in the Civil War, but returned to marry Susan A. Clay, daughter of Gus and Marium Eliza, late of Pine Springs. They bought land in what later became Collinsville.

Jim Stokes, 18 in 1860, was killed at Richmond, Virginia in the Civil War. It is believed that Columbus Stokes, 15 in 1860, was killed with his brother Jim. In all, William and Martha Stokes sent six sons off to the war; two were killed and two were wounded at Richmond. Joe, Josiah Augustus Hatcher, also died fighting for the Confederacy. Joe was killed July 23, 1864 on a Georgia battlefield.

* * * * *

Moses Warren, Southern gentleman, descended from an old Virginia family whose immigrant ancestor, William Warren, came to the American colonies as a young man in the 1730's. William's was the 16th generation in direct line of descent from Sir Edward of Warren, High Sheriff of England, who was knighted in 1599. William's second wife was Miss Mary Hackley of the Virginia Colony, and since that marriage, each following generation of Warrens had a son which bore the Hackley name.

Moses Warren, several generations removed from his immigrant ancestor, was born in Georgia (Lincoln County) in 1794, a son of a wealthy planter, a genteel member of the "Southern Aristocracy".

With gracious hospitality a tradition, Southerners enjoyed having house guests. Relatives sometimes came for a short visit and ended up staying with their host for weeks at a time. It was not surprising that the Warrens took a ward to live in their home. Miss Sidney Carter, a young relative who had been orphaned, was taken in and made to feel one of the family, and lived with the Warrens for several years. She and one of the Warren sons, Moses, found they loved each other, and when Miss Sidney became 16, they were married. That was in the year 1816.

Moses and Sidney Warren, with some of Moses'

brothers, left Georgia for Alabama (Greene Co.) where they established plantations and did well. Later, they relocated in east central Mississippi and increased their wealth.

Moses and Sidney had moved to Kemper County in the early 1840's where they lived for some twenty-odd years. For reasons unknown to us, they sold out there and moved to Pine Springs in 1859. Moses bought Will Stokes' plantation in Sections 3, 4, 9, and 10 (over 400 acres), as well as the adjoining land above Stokes in the northwestern corner of Sec. 4 that had belonged to Alfred Bales. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-4] He also bought 80 undeveloped acres east of the community cemetery and schoolhouse land, which James B. McDonald had earlier bought, a part of the Sam Hatcher estate. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] Warren acquired a sizable plantation, all told, with much of the good cotton land cleared and under cultivation. Since he did not bother to record his deeds, the sale dates and number of acres cannot be given, but it can be estimated to have contained well over a square mile. Warren brought with him everything he needed, 26 slaves, mules, oxen, horses, buggy, wagons, a gin, plows, hoes, cattle, swine, and sheep, to equip his new plantation.

Sixty-six years old when he came, Moses had turned the management of his fields over to one of his sons who was interested in agriculture. Hack (Thomas Hackley) Warren, at age 26, was industrious and liked the job of being his father's overseer. He had been educated, but as yet had not found the time nor inclination to marry.

The Warrens had two other unmarried sons, the last of their eleven children, with them when they moved. Emanuel Warren was a 29-year-old carpenter; it is likely he that built the Warrens' new Pine Springs home. Martin V. Warren was 17, the youngest of the family, who was in and out of home as he attended boarding school. The other children had started their own families and were scattered in Lauderdale, Kemper, Neshoba and Newton counties.

Mr. Warren had money to buy lumber to build his house and could have had a manor worthy of the name. However, he was used to living in a log house, and a fancy home didn't mean much to him at his age. He was more interested in warmth and comfort than in appearance.

Compared with the usual dwellings in the community, the house the Warrens and their slaves constructed was of good size. The square-hewn log house had two large rooms downstairs with two shed rooms across the rear. A stair leading to roomy bedrooms on the upper floor was placed in the parlor on the left, the largest of the downstairs rooms. Bricks were fired from native red clay to make chimneys for two fireplace openings

downstairs, and two fireplaces upstairs to heat the bedrooms. The kitchen was built at the left rear of the house where food was prepared, but the shed room behind the parlor served as the dining room.

The logs were cut from the plantation by some of the many slaves, as were the heart-pine roof shingles. Surprisingly, the windows were left unglazed, covered only with the traditional wooden shutters. One section of a hefty log was hewn to form steps to the front veranda. The house faced south in a grove of virgin timber on the south edge of East $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4. It was a comfortable home, but a far cry from Tara.

Moses and Sidney Warren were Baptists of the old school, and moved their church letters to the Gumlog Fellowship Church. Two of their married children, living in the county, also became members there. These were their daughter Sarah, wife of John L. Meeks, and their son Charles R. Warren, who had married Miss Judith Bruton. Another Warren daughter, Serena, married Jordon Newton and lived near Bailey's store next to Prof. Rivers' Academy, but the Newtons were affiliated with another church.

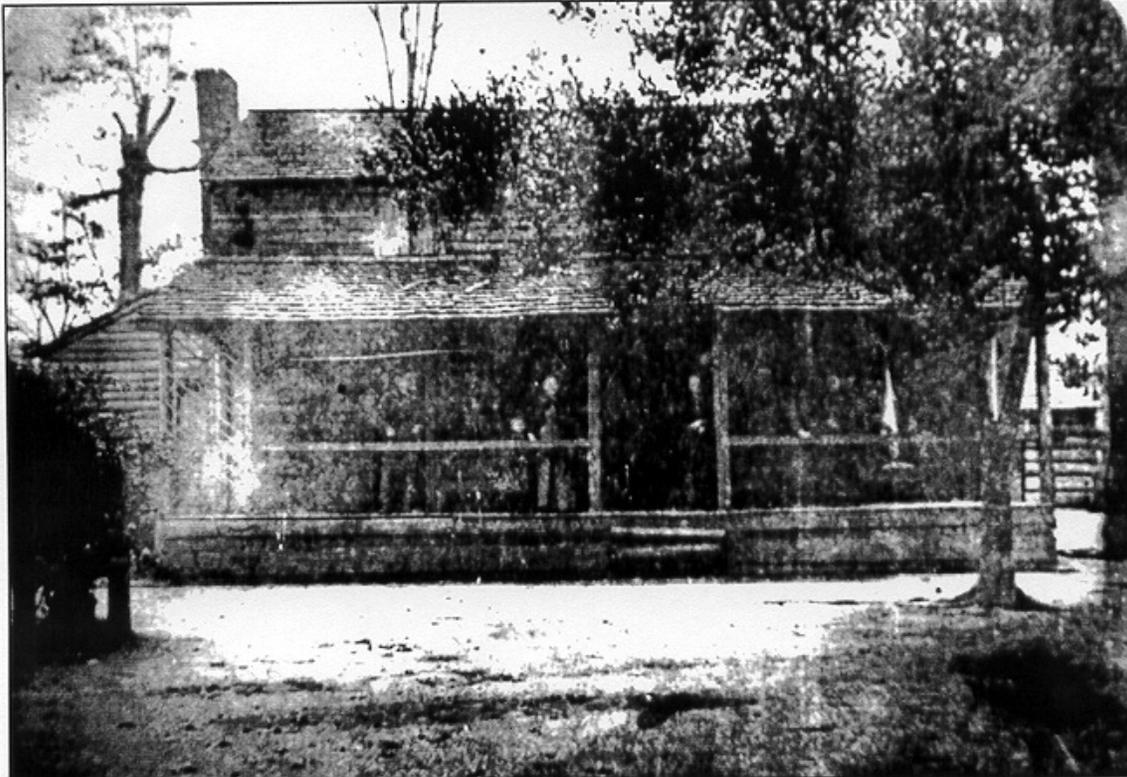
It was a busy time, getting re-established, but it was a peaceful, happy time for Moses and Miss Sidney. Their sons were educated and their daughters were happily married, giving them delightful grandchildren. Moses was not vigorous any more, but neither was his dear wife. They were looking forward to many days of quiet contentment in their twilight years.

* * * * *

The land tax record of 1858 shows Mrs. Mary Smith owning 80 acres in the eastern half of Sec. eight. [E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-8] We know nothing of this Smith family; apparently they lived there a short time before their land was sold to Albartus Prince. Mrs. Smith was not listed in the 1860 census, but a Charles Smith (47) and wife, Lucy (46), were still on the land and were counted with their six children. George Chandler bought this land from the Prince estate after Mr. Prince died, and apparently the Smiths moved away. We do not know who they were.

* * * * *

In the decade following 1850, the community was coming of age. Pine Springs was not yet a mature lady, but she began to wear shoes and was brushing off her skirts. The first mad scramble



Log home of Moses Warren, built in 1860 by Emmanuel Warren using slave labor. Pictured here with some of the Felix Vincent family after they bought the house in the early 1870's.

for land had passed and larger farms were established. There were no gracious ante-bellum homes; they were not important to the pioneers. They had been too busy getting their farms, churches, and schools started to spend money on the trappings of wealth. It would be for the next generation to build on what their fathers had brought forth in the wilderness.

Progress had been made in areas outside farm life. One new church (poplar Springs Methodist) had been built in Pine Springs to aid the two nearby Baptist churches serving the community's spiritual needs. Church attendance had become a weekly family outing where isolated farmers and their wives met, visited, and exchanged news. Often, entire families loaded onto wagons and, taking their lunch, made a day of Sunday services. With all the preaching and admonishment, their actions were bound to be affected. The citizens did not become overnight saints, but they were developing a more civil manner of living together. The churches had strict rules of morality, and with them watching, it took the fun out of a good fight.

The county provided a public school for each of its five beats, but closer private schools were springing up here and there. Some schools offered boarding facilities for students who lived at some distance, but a small grammar school had been started at Pine Springs where the little fellows were taught by a paid tutor.

The men of Pine Springs were all Democrats. Alsa Pace was named to the Democratic Nominating Committee in 1855. On September 15 that year, the Pine Springs men rode their horses to Marion to an Anti-Know-Nothing Party meeting. Those who went along were Alsa Pace, Rev. Jones, Hays Rogers, A. M. Prince, and Will Stokes, as well as other friends they met along the way.

[The "Know-Nothings" were bigots who called themselves the American Party, and were hostile to the masses of immigrants, largely Roman Catholics, from Europe. The famine in Ireland brought an accelerated flow of Irish men, and the American Party members swore a secret vow not to vote for any candidate who was not a Protestant or American

born. Whenever members were asked about their bigotry, they claimed to "Know-Nothing".]

The Anti-Know-Nothings fought to disqualify the American Party. Local candidates were quick to disclaim any connection with the Know-Nothings, else they would have lost the election. Will's son, Thomas Stokes, made a proclamation that he was against the Know-Nothings when he ran for office. Irish emigrants were welcome in Lauderdale County.

The wilderness was giving way to more cultivation, and zig-zag rail fences were appearing along the roads to close off cattle. Rushing and Bailey had each opened general stores near the community, well stocked with farm supplies and household goods. These stores cut down on long trips to Marion or Daleville. Pine Springs even had its own local store for a time, although it didn't amount to much. A post office opened at Rushing Store so Pine Springs dwellers did not have to ride all the way to Daleville to pick up their mail.

The coming of the iron horse was a big thing in the early 1850's. In 1856, the Legislature passed an act which gave the railroad companies ACRES of the public lands, which could be sold to finance the coming of the "cars." The Mobile & Ohio Rover Railroad received land grants all over the country, with several parcels lying in Pine Springs. The M&O cars began passing through the country in 1856, and the A&V (Alabama & Vicksburg) track arrived in 1861, but none passed through Pine Springs.

It was the practice for land-owners to be responsible for the upkeep of public roads, which resulted in some of the main trails being widened and made passable. Stagecoach lines were used along the more highly traveled roads. The January 17, 1854 issue of The Lauderdale Republican reported on a stage ride taken by State Representative Green B. Chandler, who rode from (old) Daleville to Jackson on the stage. Rep. Chandler was quoted to say that the rough ride "gave one the horrors" and when he arrived he was "a used up man." Apparently, he traveled the road north of Pine Springs to cross the Trussell Okatibbee bridge.

The main road through Pine Springs, as referred to on at least two different deeds, was called "the Philadelphia, or Decatur, Road." The Board of Police called it the "Upper Decatur Road." It snaked southward off the Daleville-Decatur Road to pass Rushing Store and then Pace's Fellowship Church, entering Pine Springs near Alsa Pace's home. It followed, more or less, today's Fellowship Road through the eastern part

of the community.

The road continued to the south across Will Stokes' land, crossing Rogers Creek farther upstream than today's bridge on the present Dabbs Road. It led straight up the hill east of today's abandoned Poplar Springs Church cemetery near the present Mr. Ed Stennis' Store. Traces of this old stage road can still be seen, if one looks closely.

John W. White (b. 1872), who came to Pine Springs after 1900, recalled the stage road from when he was a boy and pointed it out to his children. Mr. John Ethridge of Lauderdale recalls his late uncles, veterans of the Civil War, telling how they saw two big eyes coming down the Philadelphia Road one night. The eyes were coming fast, and they couldn't make out what kind of a varmint it was. As the eyes approached they saw that it was lamps on a stagecoach - they had never before seen headlamps on a stagecoach.

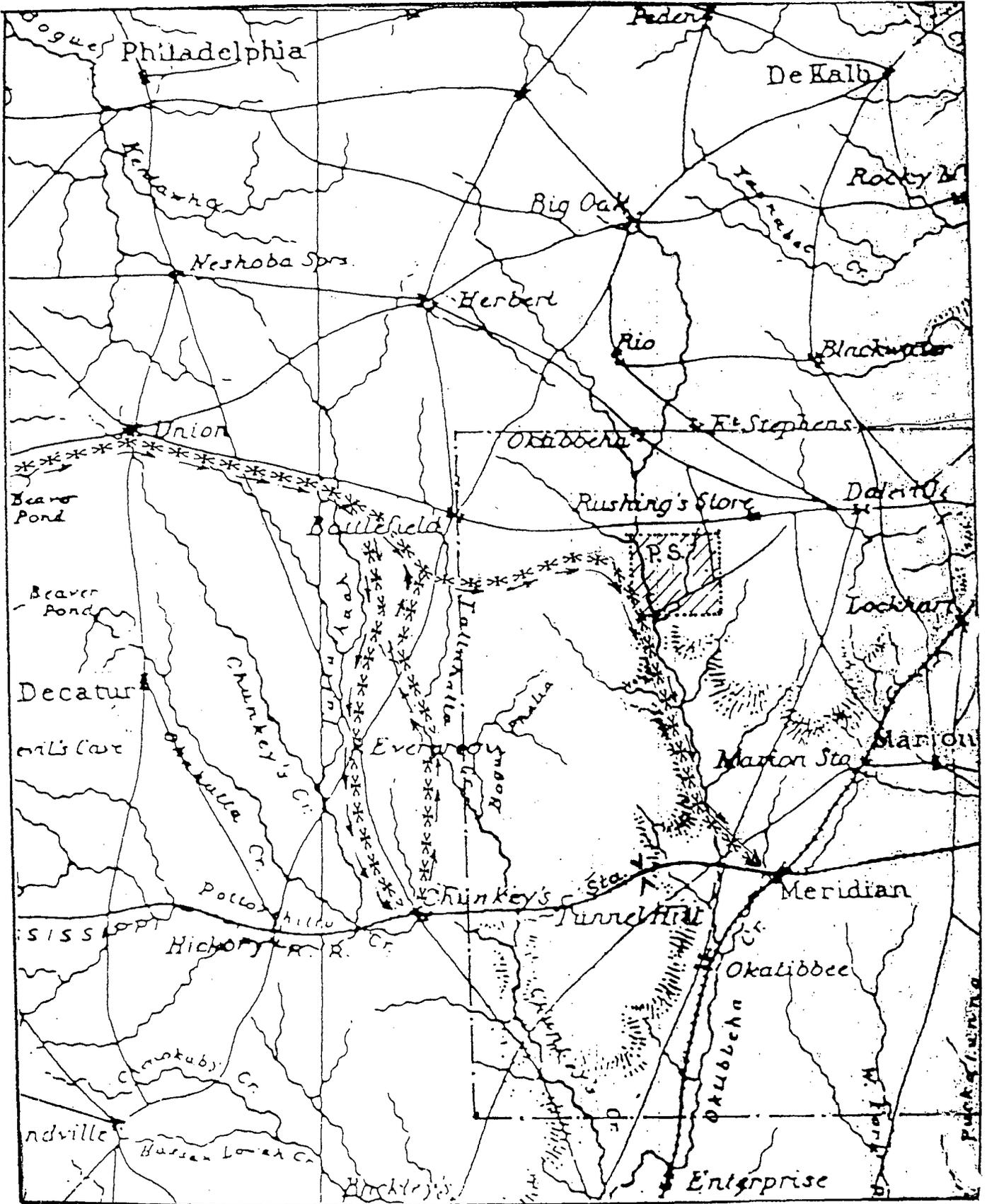
The uncles also related that Rogers Hill in Pine Springs, in the old days, was called "Doodle Bug Hill" by coachmen and freight-teamsters. They said one team could not pull the long steep grade of Rogers Hill. The teamsters would have to wait for each other in wet weather to help each other up. They would hitch both teams to one wagon at a time to get to the top.

Other than church activities there were few social diversion in the community; fishing and hunting for the men, an occasional wedding or "social" by a neighbor. The men enjoyed attending court when it was in session, and often a community name or two would show up on the jury list. Everybody loved the political picnics, and community 'business' would pick up during election.

Sometimes families traveled miles to a horse race, or a turkey shoot where a fine bull-yearling was the prize. Country stores benefitted from the crowds. Through all the activities, talk turned to States' Rights, and increasingly, to talk of war. Southerners had enough criticism and pressure from the North and were at the point of taking action. They talked of secession, of forming their own country, and the North be damned!



PORTION OF PLATE CLV.
 CONFEDERATE MILITARY MAP, 1863



----- Western portion of Lauderdale County. Pine Springs (P.S.)
 --*-*-*> Sherman's approximate line of March from Union via Chunky to Meridian

7/ SURVIVING THE WAR
1861 - 1865

The southern air was first charged with frustration, then with anger, which soon changed to excitement and finally, to exhilaration. When Lincoln was elected to the United States presidency, the South, long frustrated by the treatment it had received by the northern states, realized that something would have to be done. The political situation had become intolerable. On December 20, 1860, just days following the November presidential election, South Carolina seceded from the Union. Three weeks later, on the 9th of January, 1861, Mississippi voted to become the second state to withdraw.

It was on the same day that Mississippi seceded that South Carolina fired upon the 'Star of the West', a Union ship that Lincoln had ordered to provision Ft. Sumter, a Federal garrison in the Charleston harbor. On April 13, 1861, Ft. Sumter fell and the South was jubilant. The war had finally come!

Already in South Carolina there were small local skirmishes as the quickly organized Confederates took over other Federal arsenals and garrisons located on Southern soil. All over the South young men, "a-spilin' fer a good fight", hastened to join the new Confederate States Army to go show those Damn Yankees a thing or two. It would not take long - they could "whip those trashy Yankees 'fore breakfast, and still be home 'fore time to plow!"

In Marion Station - and Lauderdale County - there was a gay, carnival-like atmosphere. Ladies of the more well-to-do families were in a frenzy of sewing as they stitched new crinolines to wear to the cotillions being held to raise money for the South. They made uniforms for their gallant men, gray suits with wide, yellow cummerbunds, so their soldiers could parade in style, and they sewed gaudy banners to decorate the Marion streets.

The old men made rousing speeches about the Northern abolitionists efforts to free the Southerners' slaves. Even the boys from poor families, who had never owned a slave in their life, signed up with the Confederate Army.

The A&V Railroad line was completed from Alabama to Vicksburg, and its first engine arrived at the

Sowashee station in May, 1861. A huge barbecue was held to celebrate the occasion at which moving, patriotic speeches were made. The band played Dixie and men joined the army in droves, eager to get into the war before the excitement was over. Some signed up to impress their girlfriends; some joined because they believed in their cause and wanted to preserve their way of life. The more thoughtful joined with secret doubts about the course the Confederacy was taking, but they were determined to stand with their new country.

It seemed as if the entire county was at the picnic, amid the flag-waving, parades, and oratory, and, in all probability, it left Pine Springs pretty nigh deserted. Some of the community's sons joined the Confederate Army on the spot and made plans to leave home.

* * * * *

Greenberry and Mary Anne White were still living on the Prince plantation in 1861, but Greenberry was not one of the very first to go. He may have wanted to leave right away, but Mary Anne was pregnant again, and he wanted to be with her when the new baby came. Another consideration was that Mrs. Prince would be left alone and unable to handle all her slaves. Greenberry waited long enough to get the fields broken and the cotton planted.

After the crops were laid by that August, Greenberry signed up and left to join the fighting. Surely it would all be over and he could be home in time to oversee the cotton picking that fall. He was first in the 8th Miss. Regiment, but was later in the 46th under Capt. Knox and Col. Wilson. As most Mississippians, Greenberry was an expert horseman and was made a Lieutenant in the Cavalry.

Greenberry's third son, William Wesley White, was born in 1861, but died at age two, before the war had ended.

Mary Anne's brothers, John James and James Knox Polk White of Obadiah, also fought in the war.

* * * * *

Mrs. Eliza Prince must have felt that she had been thrown to the wolves when Greenberry left to join the army. Her measured, protected life had already been shattered by the recent death of her husband, Albartus. She was already in a battle with the estate's administrators and gave no more than a passing thought to the war. To her, it was just another nuisance. She was just thankful that her four children were young ladies and would not have to leave.

Mrs. Prince relinquished her right as the widow to administer the Prince estate. She felt quite helpless to take care of all that business. In the Feb. 1860 term of the Probate Court, James B. McDonald and Mr. J. D. Tolson were appointed joint administrators of the large estate, after entering into bond for the sum of \$15,000. After the property's appraisal was completed, the judge said the estate was worth more than had been estimated, so he required the administrators to enter into a \$5000 additional bond. The judge authorized them to keep the estate intact and operating for the rest of that year, or until the crops were gathered that fall.

The administrators wanted to sell all the land except the 80 acres where the Prince home stood. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$, S-9] The judge considered their testimony and ruled that it would be expensive and unprofitable to keep the farm, and selling it would conduce to the benefit of the widow and children. He ordered that the land be sold. The sale was duly advertised in the weekly paper, The Marion Observer, and notices were posted in public places. With the exception of John B. Collins, who bought 80 acres in Sec. 17 next to his 16th Sec. farm, there had been no buyers.

The Prince plantation, the largest in Pine Springs, contained over one and three-quarters square miles. It was a fine plantation but nobody wanted it at the time. With so many young men going to war, most folks already had more land than they could take care of, and land prices sharply declined.

They were able to hire out the Prince slaves to other farmers, however, and this afforded some income, although the land stood idle after 1861.

Eliza's friend and neighbor, Mr. McDonald, who had been so understanding, died in the fall of 1861. His passing left Mr. Tolson, who was all business, the sole administrator. Eliza felt so poor when she had to go to Mr. Tolson to practically beg when she needed money for herself and her girls. He held the money and paid her bills, and heaven help her if she bought anything that he deemed unnecessary! He thought she spent unwisely, but everything was so expensive and

her growing daughters had to have clothes, sometimes!

Mr. Tolson suggested that Eliza go to court to ask for her right of dower. (This would entitle her to one third widow's share of the estate rather than just a child's part, which, in this case, would be only one fifth.) In November 1861, she requested her dower. The court named Emanuel Warren, Hays Rodgers, Jr., and Thomas Duke commissioners to set apart by metes and bounds, a third of the land in like size and value, Mrs. Prince's share. This was not done until after the war; Emanuel Warren and Hays, Jr. left to join the Army. Due to the press of wartime, Eliza did not get her dower measured until 1866, after the war had ended.

In November 1863, Mr. Tolson again went to court, this time to gain permission to sell some of the Prince slaves. Mr. Mayfield, the children's guardian ad litem, objected. Mayfield argued that a sale was unnecessary to pay debts, and as rent from the slaves provided income, they should be retained. Mr. Tolson argued that the war news was not good - there was a possibility that the South would not win. As Mr. Lincoln in the White House had already abolished slavery, it might be but a matter of time that the darkies would no longer be a part of the estate. Sell now, he said, before it is too late!

The judge ruled that the slaves could be sold, and Mr. Tolson placed an ad in the The Eastern Clarion to sell all the slaves he could. He wanted to sell Sam and his family, but Eliza put her foot down. She needed them to help around the house, and for Sam to drive her carriage. The judge ruled that she could keep Sam. [Black Samuel Prince was later excluded from Pace's Fellowship Church. It is not known what happened to the slave after he gained his freedom.]

It took several years, well into the 1860's, before the Prince estate was finally settled. With all her assets, Eliza Prince had to return to court to plead for money enough to live on until the paper work could be sorted out.

* * * * *

Mr. H. H. Wright from Sec. 4 was hardly in the community long enough to become acquainted. We do not even know his full name; all records on him give just his initials. He was 47 when he died in the winter of 1863, and his estate was probated in Lauderdale County. It is not known if he died at home or if he lost his life in the army. His grave has not been located.

Letitia Chandler Wright waived her right as widow of the deceased. A Mr. Seke K. Smith, after making \$5000 bond with George W. Chandler acting as

security, was administrator. Neighbors Hack Warren, Alsa Pace, and Andy Babers (Will Stokes' son-in-law from Bailey) were chosen the estate appraisers. As the Wrights had no children, the entire estate became Letitia's. Before the year had ended she married 59-year-old William H. (Hugh?) Lacy, a planter whose plantation was near Chunkyville in Beat 4. He was a good bit older than Mrs. Wright, but she could not manage her farm without a husband, and he needed a wife and a mother for his children.

William and Letitia made their home in Beat 4 through the remaining war years, while Letitia's Pine Springs farm remained idle. It appears that Letitia never had children of her own. [Some of William Lacy's descendants are buried at Goodwater Baptist Church near Meehan.]

* * * * *

After George Chandler bought his Pine Springs plantation and added the land in Sec. 16, he bought an additional 80 acres of virgin land in Sec. 10 from the state. [S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-10] This last purchase brought his Pine Springs 'home' plantation to 520 acres, but he held other parcels of land in the county. He also owned 20 slaves in 1860.

George later told his grandchildren that he never allowed his "servants" to be whipped. Although some masters would not let their slave marry, George said, he encouraged his to do so, rather than have them "live in sin". The result was many little babies whom he, their master, had to provide for, but from who he could not expect much work for a number of years. To have been smart, he said, he should have sold off the infants and the infirm, but he could never bring himself to sell any of his people. He told his grandsons that he was secretly relieved when the slaves ran away near the end of the war; keeping that many darkies fed and clothed during wartime had cost him more than their work was worth. (Not that the slaves' up-keep cost him very much.)

The Chandler slave quarters formed a small but self-sufficient village. They had vegetable patches and made homespun material for their clothing, scanty attire with little or no under-garments. Their dresses were usually ill-fitting shifts. The able-bodied men and women worked the fields, but the older blacks, and those that had been taught trades, had other work they were expected to perform.

[Ruford Greenwood, son of black John Greenwood, owned part of the former Chandler plantation in the 1930's. His house was on the eastern edge of today's Barnhill Road but his farm stretched

down the hillside on the western side. Ruford told Ralph Snowden (of Pine Springs) that his father had shown him the remains of concrete leather-tanning vat on his land that had been used in a slave quarters that had been there "in the old days".]

The Chandlers' oldest son, 27-year-old Thomas, left Louisa and his little girls to join Co. A of the 35th Regiment when it was organized in Kemper Co. in Feb. of 1862. Their second son, James L. Chandler, was too young at first, but joined Co. H of the 36th Regiment when he was 17. Thomas was wounded and died in a Georgia hospital in 1864. Jim was captured in the last year of the war and was sent to Rock Island prison where he remained until the war ended.

We have no record of what became of Mrs. Louisa Chandler and Thomas Chandler's young daughters. Eventually Tom's father bought their 40-acre farm in Sec. 4, so it is presumed that Louisa married again.

In February 1864, word came that Gen. Sherman was coming from Brandon "with the whole damn Union Army" to take Meridian. The county had been looking for the Yankees ever since Vicksburg had fallen, although Confederate officers were convinced that the Yankees would try for Mobile first. But now they were on their way, looting and burning, and tearing up the railroad tracks as they came.

George Chandler was ready for those polecats. He and Nancy had never had faith in Confederate money and had refused to accept it, insisting on payment in gold (or land) instead. Now George took the gold they had collected, with Nancy's wedding ring and a few pieces of other jewelry, and tightly stitched it in cowhide. He dropped the pack into his deep well and threw the rope in after it. Those devils might find his gold, but they would have to draw the whole well dry to get it. And they'd better send a passel of men, too, 'cause he was still a pretty good shot with his old buck 'n ball.

Coming from the west, Sherman divided his troops after leaving Decatur (in Newton Co.), sending part of his men south to take Chunkyville. After the Chunkyville raid, the Union troops came together again on the Tallahatta Creek west of Pine Springs where they made a corral for their supply wagons. Continuing eastward across the Bogue Phaliah (Filiah?) Creek, they entered Lauderdale Co. and marched to just west of Okatibbee Creek north of Pine Springs before turning southward. Burning and pillaging the farms on the western side of the Okatibbee, the Yankees did not cross the creek, and thus Pine

Springs was temporarily spared. To slow the Yankees' march, the Confederates (or local residents?) burned the Perry bridge in Pine Springs and this, along with the wet February road through the Okatibbee swamp, may also have been a factor in sparing the community.

Marching through Suqualena, Sherman continued on his path to Meridian. Confederate soldiers had burned the bridge below Pine Springs (near State Blvd. Extension), but the Union soldiers built another and crossed there to continue up the hill above the creek, entering Meridian near the location of today's Highland Park. They marched into town approximately where 8th Street is today. Much has been written about how Sherman laid waste the towns of Meridian, Marion, and the new Marion Station.

While "raising Cain" in Meridian, Sherman deployed part of his troops to sack the surrounding towns. It is believed that when his soldiers were sent to raid the town of Lauderdale they passed through the eastern portion of Pine Springs.

In later years, Mr. Chandler was to tell that on this foray the Yankees burned the home of his neighbor (Thomas Duke?). Pointing down the road (Barnhill Road) toward the Chandler home, they asked Duke where that road led.

"It doesn't go anywhere. It's just a trail to the swamp," the neighbor told them.

The soldiers continued north and missed the Chandler plantation. George was so grateful to his neighbor for saving his skin that, after the soldiers had withdrawn, he had his neighbor's house rebuilt. [Chandler descendants, both Chandlers and Lockards, passed this story on, but none could give the name of the burned-out neighbor. We assume it was Tom Duke, as both Hays Rodgers and his wife, Mary, had died in 1863, the year before the Yankees came in 1864.]

Mary Anne White's parents, James and Eliza White, lived in the Daleville area (now Obadiah), and later told that the Yankee troops "came from down the Philadelphia Road". The Whites had their gin and barns burned by the invaders, but their home was spared upon the pleadings of a female slave. Miss Eliza, never known for her refined language, followed them about the house as they ripped up her feather beds hunting for hidden treasure. It was good that they did not search her person, as their cache of money was in her petticoats.

George and Nancy Chandler, thinking of the time when the war would be over, were buying more land. In January 1865, when most of the county was without the necessities of life, the Chandlers were able to buy the 80-acre farm in the eastern

half of Sec. 11 from William and Mary Jane Rivers. (William Rivers may have been a son of Prof. John Rivers of the near-by River's Academy which was discontinued due to the war.)

* * * * *

John and Caroline Collins lived in Pine Springs throughout the war years. They had added to their 16th Sec. farm by buying the adjoining 80 acres in Sec. 17 (along Okatibbee Creek) from the Prince estate. [E₂NE_{1/4}, S-17] Their three oldest sons, Dink, Albert, and John, Jr., were the right age to be caught up in the war activities.

Dink had finished his education (some say he became a lawyer) and was 21 when he joined the Confederate Army. He was in the 8th Miss. Regiment with Sebe Smith, who came to Pine Springs after the war.

Albert was a teller of tales who was known to make his stories more attractive by adding a sprinkling of spice to the truth. Once he told his sister Lucy that he had just seen fifty blackbirds sitting on a fence.

"Now, Albert, are you sure? That's a lot of birds."

And Albert replied, "Hell, you're not gonna call me a liar over a few blackbirds, are you?"

Albert, 19 when the war came, fought with the Confederates, although we do not know his regiment. He and his older brother both returned after the war.

At 15, John Collins, Jr. was too young to volunteer when the South seceded, although he could have been conscripted two years later when the Confederacy began to draft men between the ages of 17 and 50 when the shortage of manpower became acute. We do not know what happened to John; he may have been a war casualty, since no record of him has been found after the 1860 census.

[In April 1862, the Confederate Congress passed the first national draft act in American history. The age limits specified were between 18 and 35, but a lack of soldiers in 1864 caused the age limits to be expanded to between 17 and 50, although there were many occupational exemptions.]

The other five Collins children weathered the war with their father and mother in Pine Springs.

* * * * *

Thomas W. Wells resigned his guardianship of the Harwell children (those who lived on his place) after he returned from Tennessee with the money from their father's estate. Tom brought them \$2500 to be divided between the Harwell heirs and was

relieved of this legal duty by the court. Susan Harwell, their mother, took over as their guardian.

Thomas, at age 36, became another Pine Springs husband who left home to fight for Dixie, leaving Sarah to mind their farm and seven children. Sarah put up a good front, smiled and cheered him on, telling Tom that with the help of the Lord and their two slaves, she could manage nicely. She put ham n' biscuits and fried apple pies in his saddlebags, and off he went.

Sarah was lonesome after Tom left, but life went on the same. At first, anyway. Sarah was outdoors more as she directed the slaves at their tasks, but the girls were big enough to cook dinner and mind the house. The three Wells sons, Bill (11), Johnny (6) and Tommy (5), were all safe from becoming soldiers, but were also too young to be of much help in the fields, either. Bill was right smart help, and could plow 'most as good as a man. During the last year of the war, both boys and girls pitched in to chop cotton or thin corn and such. Her two big girls, Mary and Martha, were getting right particular about the way they looked when they went to preachin' on Sundays. They were growing up.

Sarah tried to go to church regular, but sometimes she was just too tired. But she never forgot to pray. Most times they went to church, however, and the oldest daughter, Mary, joined Pace's church and was baptized in September 1864. The Well's slave woman, Ella, who did not run away after the Yankees came, also joined the church.

It was good to have the Harwells nearby. With no slaves and only two boys, Susan Harwell had to work to support her children. Sarah Wells had her Bill plowing with the Harwell boys, and all the youngsters from both families would share in such jobs as picking up potatoes or raking hay. Everybody had to work to keep things going, but the young people laughed together, teased and scuffled, and it did not seem too bad. At least they could grow food in the garden and always found something to eat.

Clayton Harwell (he is 107 in 1991!) tells that his father, Holly Harwell, told him that, near the close of the Civil War, Confederate troops would come through Pine Springs looking for draft dodgers. When the soldiers came, the men who were evading conscription hid out in the Okatibbee swamp. Sometimes they would be caught and marched off to camp. Holly's older brother, William, was old enough for the draft by the end of the war, but did not enlist. He could not leave his mother and his brother and sisters to starve.

Thomas Wells returned after the South fell; he didn't look too pert, but at least he was all

in one piece. Sarah was a little on the gaunt side, but she was waiting at home with all their children. They considered themselves fortunate.

Gen. Sherman said that the South could not have held out against the Union as long as it had without the brave efforts of its heroic women.

* * * * *

It is not clear why Thomas M. Duke did not join the Confederate Army with the other men of the South. He was about 35-36 when the war came and had six children, but as the Confederate States did not exempt fathers with children, it is surprising that he was not conscripted. William Duke, his oldest son, 13, was too young to soldier, so the family was spared the horrors of battle. Life on the home front was grim enough, however.

This was a war in which all suffered. Practically nothing could be replaced once it was broken. When cooking pots and kettles were beyond mending, there was nowhere to get new ones and they were forced to do without. Pins and needles were guarded as if they were made of gold. Combs all had broken teeth, and Sarah Salinah hardly had enough forks to set the table. When they didn't have candles they used cups of grease with a bit of torn rag for a wick.

The hardest thing to try to keep up was their farming tools. Plows were sharpened so many times that they were scarcely wide enough to turn the earth. Weeding hoes were ground away to almost nothing. Horses and mules had gone to war, leaving the slow oxen to work their fields. The Dukes' two slaves left home toward the end of the war.

Through it all, they had plain farm foods to keep away hunger. Their hogs had roamed the woods and fed themselves on acorns until it was discovered that they were likely to be stolen unless they were penned close to the house. Wartime had driven up the price of corn and meat, and foodstuff became a valuable commodity. They raised as much as they could to sell to the army.

In the last two years of the war, Thomas, one of the few men left in the neighborhood, was called on only too often to help with the estates of their friends who had died. James B. McDonald died in 1863, and Tom was named one of the five commissioners to appraise and divide his friend's slaves among the heirs. He was also asked to help divide McDonald's other property. In March 1864, he was appointed one of the appraisers of the estate of Sam Warren, and then almost immediately he had to appraise the estate of Moses Warren's other son, Martin.

Thomas and Sarah Salinah Duke continued to

to attend the Gumlog Primitive Baptist church; in August 1865, the church elected Tom Duke delegate to the Baptist Association convention. That September, Sarah Salinah was converted and was baptized into the church.

* * * * *

At the first shout of war, Hays, Sr. and Miss Mary Rodgers saw their sons off to join the Confederate Army. In a patriotic fervor, amidst bands playing and flags waving, one by one the Rodgers' sons signed up to fight to preserve their Southland. Hays, then 68, must have been proud to send his boys to serve their new county. The only regret the old soldier may have had was that he was too old to go along with them. They were good men and would make fine soldiers.

If Miss Mary had any fears for her sons, she kept them well hidden. She waved her flag proudly along with her husband, but quietly offered prayer that they would all return safely. All the Rodgers sons fought in the Civil War.

James and Martha Rodgers had four children when their baby, Necie (Pernicia A.), was born in 1861. After the crops were harvested that year, James enlisted in the Confederate Army. Young Allen was 12 when James shook his hand and told him to look after his mother and the younger children. Their slave, Bill, would do the hard work, and his father, just down the road, would keep an eye on things while he was gone. James was in the army less than a year when he was killed on October 12, 1862.

Not long after James fell, Martha became ill and then she died, too. Her father, Gray Sanderford, still living near Drip Off spring, was appointed the legal guardian of the five orphans, but they went to live with their Granddaddy Rodgers. (They grew up with relatives, married and left descendants in Lauderdale County.) Sanderford petitioned the court for permission to sell the orphaned Rodgers' farm, and this was done.

Allen T. Rodgers, Hays Rodgers' third son, was an up-and-coming planter in Lauderdale Co. when the war began. He also became a Confederate soldier who died in the war. Allen was not killed on a battlefield, but died of a fever. The fate of his widow, Judith, and his children, is unknown.

Mary Ann and her husband, Rice B. Carpenter, were living in Marion Station at their store when Rice enlisted. Rice was killed December 3, 1862 in the Battle of Murphreesboro, Tennessee, leaving four more Rodgers grand-children without a father. The following year his baby, not quite a year

old, died during the painfully hard time of the war.

Before the war was over, Mary Ann married a widower, William Fades Jolly (b.1817), who was older and had not joined the army. Mr. Jolly's first wife, Harriet Carpenter (Rice's sister), had been buried at Pace's Fellowship Church in 1863. As Mary Ann and William Jolly had both married into the Carpenter family, they were well acquainted when they married on February 3, 1864. When they married, William had seven children, and Mary Ann had three who were still living. Mary Ann's Carpenter children were Martha L., 1848; Benjamin H., 1851; and Charles Clinton, 1848. After she and William were married, she had three more, Alice E., 1865; Ludie (Sarah Louella), 1867; and John Fades Jolly.

William Jolly bought the orphan's farm from the James Rodgers estate from Gray Sanderford, and lived there until the war was over. (Mary Ann's home and store in Marion Station was probably burned during Sherman's raid.)

Timothy Rodgers, still unmarried, enlisted in the 46th Miss. Volunteers on Feb. 8, 1862. Four and a months later, the family heard from him from an army hospital. He was never heard from again and it is presumed that he died there. He never came back and his farm was sold.

Hays G. Rodgers, Jr., just across Rogers Creek from the old Stokes home, was 29 when he left Lucinda and his three youngsters to join Co. H of the 41st Regiment of the Mississippi Volunteers. Their baby, named Jefferson Davis after the president of the new Confederacy, was born in 1861, the year that Hays, Jr. rode away.

Hays, Jr. fought through most of the Civil War. He was transferred to Co. C of the 41st when he was made corporal, and then was promoted to sergeant of December 1, 1863. Sgt. Rodgers was in the battle near Atlanta when he was stopped by a Minie ball in his arm. His arm thereafter hung useless at his side; he was thankful they had not cut it off. He was sent home during the final days of the war.

William Rodgers, 27 years old and still living at home, joined Co. H, 41st Volunteers with Hays, Jr. on April 21, 1861. Before he was shipped out, he married Miss Sarah J. Graham. When last heard from he was sick (injured?) in a Confederate Hospital in 1864. He did not live to see his daughter, Cornelia, who was born in 1862. When the war ended, Mrs. Sarah Rodgers married L. C. Fairchild and lived in Beat 4, Lauderdale County.

Before the war, Elizabeth Rodgers Graham had moved with her husband to live near his people in Alabama. G. M. Graham was in the Confederate Army

but survived the war. They raised their large family at Gordo, in Pickins County.

John W. Rodgers caught a ride on the cars to Corinth, Mississippi where he caught up with the 41st to join the same outfit with his older brothers, Hays and Wilson, on June 1, 1861. He had made sergeant and was near Jonesboro, Georgia on September 1, 1864 when he was killed, shot in the abdomen.

At seventeen, Martin V. Warren, son of Moses and Miss Sidney Warren of Pine Springs, was a student when the South seceded. Full of bravado and derring-do and afraid that the fun would all be over before he got out of school, he hastened to join the Confederate Army. In the fall of 1861 he came home on leave and, on the 7th of November, he married the popular belle, Miss Martha Rodgers. Martin soon returned to the war and Martha, a married woman of 17, waved her gallant husband good-bye.

As the war dragged on and bad news from the battlefields brought sadness and tears, Martha's life changed from a time of excitement to a world of dreariness. Accustomed to new gowns and pretty things, Martha was forced to re-trim her old bonnets and make her dresses last. Barbecues and balls were still held with an atmosphere of forced gaiety, and many attended and tried to keep up each other's morale. Martha, as a married lady, sat on the sidelines. Still young, she missed the innocent flirtations, although there were few men left except those that were too old, or on crutches, or had an empty sleeve pinned across his chest. Worse than being unable to dance were the losses within her own family.

Martin, gone three years, had become a stranger to Martha; sometimes she felt that she had been tricked into getting married. The whole war was an old big dirty trick. Two days before her third wedding anniversary, Martin was killed. He fell on November 5, 1864.

Martha told Martin's brother, Hack Warren, that she didn't want anything to do with settling his estate. Martin had not owned very much; a small piece of land, two slaves (Jane and Lydia, whom he had inherited from his late father), a mare with a colt, a few personal items. Hack sold all of these and gave Martha the money. Before the year was out, Martha was married again.

Martha's second husband was James K. Meeks, a Confederate soldier home on leave. It is believed that he was a relative of John L. Meeks, husband of Martin's older sister, Sarah. James Meeks returned to battle where he was killed in the final days of the war. Martha was twice widowed before she was twenty.

The Civil War, entered upon by the Southerners with such confidence that they would win and with a righteous belief in their just and holy cause, ended in devastation and ruin. Six Rodgers sons and three son-in-laws gave their lives for the cause. During the times of great privations at home they had lost a daughter-in-law and at least two grandchildren. Neither Mr. Rodgers nor Miss Mary lived through the war so thus were spared the knowledge that, after sacrificing so much, the Confederacy ended in defeat.

Hays Rodgers was 70 and Miss Mary was nearly that old when they died in 1863, and once more their Pine Springs neighbors offered prayers for the grieving family. J. D. Tolson and Hays' friend, David Maggard, served as administrators of Rodgers' estate. Due to the size of the estate, the required bond was \$20,000. George W. Chandler acted as security on their bond. Alsa Pace, A. W. Gillespie and Hack Warren, all neighbors, appraised the estate, but it was not divided until Hays, Jr. returned from the war. Other than the oldest son, who lived in Texas, Hays, Jr. was the only son surviving to take this responsibility.

The Rodgers' graves have not been located, but it is believed that they were buried at the Poplar Springs Methodist Church near their home. If they had headstones they have since been destroyed in the now abandoned cemetery.

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For some time before the war, whenever men got together, all conversations turned to States Rights, Northern abolitionists, and going to war to put an end to Yankee domination. The Reverend Aaron Jones listened and held his own counsel, but finally he was caught up by the fervor and rhetoric of the times. If he had been a few years younger (he was 49) and didn't have all those sweet children to raise, before God, he would have put on a uniform and gone to teach those vile Northerners their manners! And he said so from his pulpit!

When the tumult and shouting turned at last to action, Aaron was proud to send his sons, Danny and Wash, to join the valiant men to whip the Yankees. He was pleased when Hattie and the girls made them little gifts - a wee needle case, an extra pair of knit socks - to take along. In the months ahead, many times Aaron must have asked, "Lord, what we done? Have we done the right thing?"

The first two years were not bad. Hattie fussed about the inflated price of cloth and other "store-boughten" goods, and it was virtually impossible

to find things they really needed, such as salt, but they had plenty food from their farm to eat. They got by all right.

There was sadness about the neighborhood as sons were reported killed, or when word came that they had been captured. Every day Aaron rode over to Rushing Store to look at the casualty lists, searching for his sons' names. When he recognized the name of one of his young friends, he rode by the stricken home to offer prayers and to console the family.

In the summer of 1862, death did come to the family, but not from where it was most expected. Their bright two-year-old son, Aaron's namesake Aaron Parks Jones, died. He was buried beside his older sisters in the Poplar Springs cemetery. How long, oh Lord, how long?

Not long after the funerals of Hays and Mary Rodgers, Mrs. Warren sent for Rev. Jones to come. "Ole Massa Moses, he done taken mighty sick."

Mrs. Sidney Warren was Hattie's closest neighbor and they were always helping each other out. Hattie grabbed her bonnet and went along to see what she could do. Aaron and Hattie did what they could, but dear old Mr. Warren passed away. He had been a true gentleman of the old South.

Vicksburg had fallen! The news put a chill into their hearts. There was nothing to stop those Damn Yankees now. Pine Springs waited and watched as Gen. Sherman began his march across Mississippi. The war was coming home.

Small troops of Rebel cavalry, greatly outnumbered, hit and run, hit and run, trying to slow the Union soldiers' approach. The Confederates' General Polk, camped near Marion, was too far outnumbered as the bluecoats came eastward. Knowing that he did not have enough men to hold the town, and rather than have his men slaughtered for nothing, Polk pulled his troops back to Demopolis on the far side of the Tombigbee. There was no help to come from any quarter now. They were all in the Lord's hands.

And the Lord did send help, in the form of Washington Jones! Dirty, ragged, hungry, exhausted, Wash showed up at Rev. Jones' farm. The family couldn't believe their own eyes. Their son had come back! He was with a group not far away and stopped to see about his folks. He ate and ate while everyone talked at the same time. Hattie sent him to the creek to scrub himself to get shed of any "cooties" before she let him get into her clean bed. He could stay only a few hours and as luck would have it, a Yankee patrol came up the stagecoach road while Wash was at home.

Wash slept late next morning - Aaron hadn't

the heart to wake him - and Hattie thought that this was a good time to get her week's wash out. She and her girls had the clothes nearly dry on the lines when one of the neighbor's boys (Johnny Duke?) ran up to tell them that some Yankees were coming up the big road. Oh, dear Jesus, so soon? Quick, Mary, run and get Wash up! Where did Aaron get off to? Milt! MILT! Where's your father?

Wash bounded from the house in his drawers and snatched what passed for his Confederate uniform off the line. As he quickly put on his clothes, thoughts raced through his mind. From what he had seen, the first place those sonofa bit—, yeah, the first place they'll look will be in the smokehouse. He sent young Milt to the shed to turn out the calves and chase them off into the woods. He said for him to chase any hogs off, too, if he saw any near the house. He told Laura to take the old mule out of the lot and go tie him to a tree 'way down there in a tall ticket somewhere. He and Stephen started clearing the smokehouse of all the hams and sides of sowbelly that they could carry. They jammed the meat through the crawl-hole into the attic and went back for more. Amanda and little Mary were helping Ma bring jars of peaches and blackberries they had worked so hard to can and passed them up to the attic. When the smokehouse was cleaned out, Wash took his Enfield rifle and climbed up, telling Stephen to button the door behind him.

Hattie had just grabbed her Bible and, smoothing her hair, had gone to sit on the front gallery, her children grouped behind her chair, when the four Union soldiers rode up. Hattie sat, stiff and proud, and tried not to show how her insides were quivering.

They asked for her husband. Hattie said she did not know where he was. Any men on the place? No. Got anything around here to eat? No. The soldiers didn't believe her, started searching. Finding little outside, they came into the house to look around. About to go, one of them spotted the attic crawl-hole. What's up there? He grinned at his comrade and reached for a chair. The trap-door flew open and Wash poked his head through the opening.

"The first one of you bastards that tries to climb up here is going to get his head blown off!" he said.

The startled soldiers stumbled over each other getting out the door. Taken unawares, they ran back to their horses. They rode off a distance and stopped for a conference. It was getting late and maybe they would go away. No, here comes one of them back.

The Yank spurred his horse and rode into the

yard at a gallop. Without pausing, he rode by the yard fence and snatched one of Hattie's drying pillowcases. He made a detour out to the bee trees and swung from his saddle. Kicking over a hive, he quickly scooped handfuls of honeycomb and filled the pillowcase. Returning to the road, he trotted off to join the rest of his patrol. They headed south from whence they came.

Years later, Amanda Jones Vincent told her grandchildren that she would never forget the sight of the Yankee soldiers trotting off, leaving a trail of dripping honey in the dusty road.

Washington Jones left for Alabama to catch up with his company. A month later, March 22, 1864, he married Mary Lucretia Williams, an Alabama girl, in a hurried wartime marriage at the Choctaw County courthouse.

Both Jones boys returned from the war. Daniel seemed like his old self, but Wash - well, Aaron couldn't quite put his finger on it, but Wash wasn't the same. He was so jumpy. Well, he would pray about it.

Aaron and Hattie had one more child born about the time the war ended. She was a pretty little thing, and they named her Ida Louella. Ida was the last of Aaron's children, but the family continued to grow as the older children began to get married.

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Pvt. Andrew J. Babers enlisted in Co. C, 36th Miss. Inf. Reg't, C.S.A., leaving Elizabeth (Will Stokes' daughter) with 7 children at their farm between Hays Rodgers' and Bailey Store. When he left, he took his black servant along to look after him.

Time passed without a word from either of them. When Sherman made his sweep into the county, burning homes and bales of cotton, stealing cattle and taking all the food, Elizabeth Babers waited with dread for the marauders.

They finally came and diligently began to roll out bales of cotton to be burned. About that time two little girls, Andy's and Elizabeth's six-year-old identical twins, came skipping around the house. They had long red curls and just looked just alike. They were not afraid and talked to the soldiers. The men were delighted with the cute little girls, Anna Jane and Josephine, and they searched their pockets for coins and little gifts. Then they rolled the cotton back without burning it and left without taking or damaging anything.

Elizabeth, having been raised in a house full of brothers, was doing a creditable job of managing their farm while Andy was away. She woke up

one night to a tapping at her window. It was Andy's slave, wanting to speak to Missey. He said that Massa was seriously ill and would die if she couldn't find a way to help him.

Elizabeth mounted a horse, and the slave helped her sneak through the enemy lines. Somehow she managed to get Andy aboard a train, and hid him between the seats, covering him with her full skirts and petticoats. Since Elizabeth was a good-looking woman, the Yankee soldiers allowed her to travel back through the lines, and they got back to Meridian safely.

Elizabeth nursed Andy back to health. Then, he and his faithful slave were off again. He was shot three times but returned home at the end of the war to resume management of his affairs. He took a lot of good-natured ribbing from family and friends, for it appeared that Elizabeth had done a better job of running things than he did.

Under Yankee rule in the post-war reconstruction days, things were so bad that Mr. Babers moved the family westward. In the fall of 1865 they went first to Bienville Parish, Louisiana, then later to near Natchitoches where they lived 20 years on the Cane River. Babers became a cattle farmer and did much buying and selling of livestock. When the Babers retired they moved to Corsicana in Navarro County, Texas. They had twelve children.

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The Warren family was well represented on the Civil War battlefields. Moses Warren had at least five (possibly six) of his seven sons who fought for the South. Hack, already acting as overseer, was told by his brothers to stay home and look after Ma and Pa. Keep the farm running, they said, and we'll do the fighting. When the Confederate Army began conscription, Hack had an occupational deferment, as landholders with a number of slaves were exempt in order to produce valuable corn and other food supplies.

After the defeats of the Confederates in the second year of the war, the South came to realize that winning this war was going to take longer than they had thought. The US blockade of southern ports began to be felt as luxury items and even necessities became harder to find. Southerners grew accustomed to doing without, accepting their sacrifices as their share of the burden.

The Warrens, making-do with what they had, felt themselves better off than most. They raised food, of course, and had plenty to eat, although it wasn't exactly their usual fare. Miss Sidney learned that parched rye and sweet potatoes made

"Confederate Coffee". and that tea could be brewed from Sassafras roots. She had no white sugar to preserve fruits or make cakes but they had Sorghum molasses.

Sidney's stored wheel and loom were dusted off and she and her women began to make homespun as they had in the earlier days. She cut up extra blankets for warm jackets to send to the brave fighting men whose uniforms were threadbare. In a renewed spirit of neighborly support, the local wives shared what they had with each other and traded hard-to-get items among themselves.

Hack was glad he had stayed home for, in 1863, Moses Warren's health broke down. Partly due, no doubt to worry about his sons, Moses died that October in his 69th year. Because of wartime conditions, no stone was placed at his grave, but it is now thought that he was buried at Gumlog Baptist Church where he and Miss Sidney had their memberships.

Hack Warren administered his father's estate. When Hack was required to sign a \$30,000 bond he called upon his neighbors, George W. Chandler and Absalom W. Gallaspie of Bailey. Neighbors Alsa Pace, Rev. Jones, and Thomas Duke appraised his estate. His slaves were divided among the heirs at once, but it was not until the year following the war that his plantation land was divided and sold.

It was in 1864 when the really bad news from the Warren soldier-sons began coming in. Mr. Warren was gone by then and Miss Sidney and Hack bore their grief alone. In the spring, just months following Mr. Warren's death, his son, Capt. James C. Warren, was killed at Lovejoy, Georgia. James Warren's plantation was in Newton County where he had left his wife, the former Miss Mary Elizabeth Gully of Kemper, and his seven children.

Samuel Warren was killed in March of 1864. Hack was again called upon to be an administrator. Sam, unmarried, had left a small estate so only \$5000 bond was required. This time George Chandler and Charles E. Rushing were Hack's securities. Sam's three slaves, Mariah, Milly and Sandy, who he had just inherited from his father, were sold and the money was distributed between Sam's brothers and sisters.

Young Martin V. Warren was killed in October, and Mrs. Martha Rodgers Warren had Hack handle the estate for her. Near the beginning on the war Martin had bought 40 acres near Martin for his bride, but they never had a chance to use it. Hack petitioned the court to sell Martin's land, two slaves, and a mare with a colt, which he did, and turned the money over to Martin's young widow.

It is not known what became of the Warren's carpenter son, Emanuel. He enlisted in 1862 and may have died before his father, as he was not listed with Mr. Warren's other heirs when the estate was divided.

Their son Charles R. Warren returned from the war. He and his wife, "Judy", lived in Kemper but lost their farm during the war and came to Lauderdale County for a while. They had seven children. Sometime after 1870 they migrated to Cleburne in Johnson Co., Texas where Charles died in 1921. (Their oldest son, T. F. Warren, married Lucy Collins, daughter of John B. Collins, and went to Texas with the family.)

Another of the Warrens' soldier-sons was William C. Warren of Kemper Co. William and his wife, Sulina, moved to Marshall Co., Miss. following the war. (In 1882, William's son, Joseph Britton Warren, married Miss Louella Melissa Stennis of Pine Springs.)

Other than Moses and Miss Sidney's nine children already mentioned, they had Lucretia, who married Mr. Saddler and lived in Lauderdale County, and Harrietta, who married Henry White of Neshoba Co.

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Alsa Pace had kept after since Miss Rhoda's death, becoming even more involved with political life. Keeping abreast of local as well as state and national politics, he was elected in 1860 to Justice of the Peace in Beat 3, winning over the incumbent, John B. Collins. Although Alsa did not own slaves, he rejoiced when Mississippi seceded from the Union. He felt that southern Legislators had too long been overshadowed by northern Congressmen and their only recourse was to withdraw from the Union. If this led to war, then so be it!

The Pace sons began to volunteer when war came. Burrel and Bennet Pace were in their 40's and stayed home with their families, but their brothers, Abner (32), Joseph (26), Resiah (24) and Carrol (19), enlisted.

Abner W. and Elizabeth (Clay) Pace had several children and were living in Schamberville when he enlisted. It is not known which Regiment he was in, but he returned home safely. His brother, Jasper (Joseph), was not so fortunate; Pvt. Joseph Napoleon Pace was killed near the courthouse steps in Atlanta, Georgia on August 4, 1864. He was unmarried.

Carrol and Reziah Pace both joined Co. I of the 8th Miss. Volunteers in 1861 and fought under Capt. Knox. They made good soldiers; Carrol was a Lieutenant when he came home, and "Ziah" was made Captain. Alsa Carrol and Miss Pinkie (Deason) Pace did not make their home in Pine Springs, but they remained

in the area near Carrol's father for several years. They had 10 children and Carrol and his brother, Bennet, worked to get a public school established in Pine Springs in the late 1870's. After Miss Pinkie's death in 1888, Carrol married Mrs. Martha Frances Richie and moved to near Schamberville.

Capt. Cornelius Reziah Pace had bought land near his father before he left for service. While he was away at war he was unable to keep his taxes paid and some businessman took it over. He tried to reclaim it when he returned, but he was unsuccessful. (Reziah, called Ziah, signed his name "Zi". Using old script, he made a slash over the "Z" making it resemble an "X". Many thought he was writing his name as "Xi", which caused some confusion.)

Mr. Alsa Pace's son-in-law, Featherston J. Cross, "Pendy", also served in the Confederate Army, enlisting in Kemper County in July, 1861. He returned home to live with Rhoda Enraline at Kellis Store in Kemper County.

Haley B. Gwinn, Minerva's husband, was killed in the early spring of 1862. Minerva was appointed administratrix of his small estate that April, her father acting as security on her \$1500 bond. She finished the crop she had in that year and the sold the farm in November. We do not know where she raised her children.

Alsa Pace continued as clerk at Fellowship Baptist through the war years, although attendance fell so much that he became quiet discouraged. In the war's early days, times were booming and as amusements took on a new life, morals deteriorated. The defeats suffered by the Rebels in Tennessee at Ft. Henry and Ft. Donalson in February of 1862 had a sobering effect upon the South. The tightening Union blockade brought increasing depression and in the last two years of the war, people turned to their religion for solace and began coming back to church. The religious revival reached the men in the army, and soldiers wrote to their wives, urging them to have faith.

In August 1865, Alsa's church held a protracted meeting that lasted nine days. Several people came forward to be baptized.

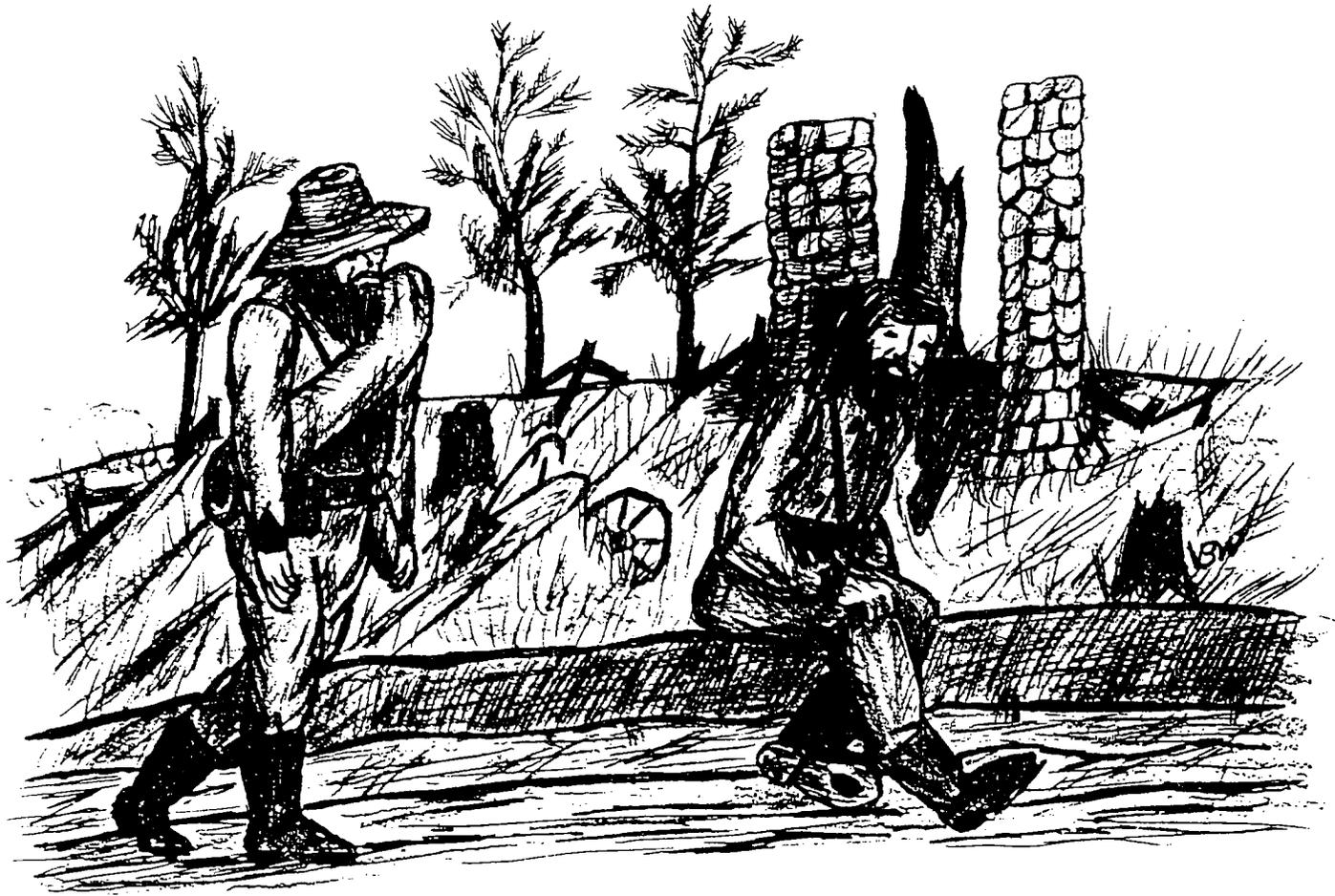
In December of 1864, Lt. Greenberry White had an early discharge from the army. He was in Vicksburg when it fell and had nearly starved to death during the siege. Midst all the hunger and misery of living in caves while the town was bombarded by Union gunboats, Greenberry caught Measles. He was critically ill. When Vicksburg

fell, the Yankees sent him home in a wagon of wounded soldiers. Miss Mary Anne said when he arrived in the bed of a wagon, he was so thin that she picked him up and carried him into the house by herself. It took him months to regain his strength and he never got back into the fray. After the South's surrender, Greenberry managed to get a cart and peddled housewares to the country housewives. Nobody had money, but the families needed everything and Greenberry did a brisk trade. He took chickens and eggs in lieu of money, which he then sold in Meridian. In a few years, he opened a store northeast of Shucktown near the Kemper line which made them a good living. His store carried general merchandise and farm supplies, and his worn ledger shows that he also sold lumber. Entries show that he sometimes sold caskets.

The war had deepened Greenberry's religious convictions and on August 3, 1873, he and Mary Anne were in a group that "borrowed" Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church building (across the road west of Mary Anne's father in Obadiah), who met to form a new Baptist church. Rev. Joel Wedgeworth, the Methodist minister who had, over 20 years before, assisted in the organization of Poplar Springs Methodist in Pine Springs, met with them to offer advise. Bro. L. L. Blanks was elected pastor, and Greenberry was elected church clerk. They named the new church Arkadelphia, and a new church building was dedicated in 1875 (on the same site as today's church). Greenberry served as Arkadelphia's clerk until 1889.

Greenberry died in 1894 and was buried at Mt. Carmel Church in Obadiah near his White relatives. Mary Anne became a sweet little white-haired lady and lived to be 95, but her spirit was always young. She remained interested in people and life, and her eyes never lost their sparkle.

Greenberry and Mary Anne had ten children, but six died young and unmarried. All their sons died, but their daughters who married were: Beulah A. E., 1866, married Wm. F. Davis, Mattie N., 1869, wife of John O. Lovett who came to Pine Springs; Minnie L., 1871, married Benjamin Short, Meridian. D. Edna, 1885, married Joseph A. Wilson and became a lifetime resident of Pine Springs.



8/ GRITS AND GUTS
1865 - 1870

When Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Couthouse in Virginia of April 9, 1865 and virtually brought the Civil War to a close, the ragged battle-weary Southern troops that were left of the Confederate Army were free to go home from wherever they happened to be. After taking the oath of allegiance to the United States, they were paroled to began their long trek homeward.

The railroad lines had been destroyed and what little rolling stock the railways had left was worn out and unusable. Telegraph lines were mostly down and mail service had been suspended for some time. The only way to get home was by "shank's mare", and many soldiers, the ill and wounded, had to wait until they improved before they could go home at all. Slowly, those who had made it through the war straggled home, singly or in groups, to begin their lives anew.

The countryside they passed showed the ravages of the recent struggle, and the men passed deserted fields and the ghostly chimneys that showed locations of former prosperous farms. They pressed onward with worry and fear gnawing at their vitals, eager to see their own homes and loved ones.

And so it was, that one by one, the men from Pine Springs came back.

When they arrived, desolation greeted them everywhere. Idle fields, full of broomsage and cockleburs, had not been planted in over two or three years. Rail fences had been dismantled and used for firewood. There were a few raw-boned horses and mules left, but few were fortunate enough to find one. Tools were worn out, and there was no money for seed.

Overjoyed mothers, wearing faded dresses and cardboard shoes, greeted their sons as they returned. Wives cried with happiness to see their husbands, and tried to hide their callused hands. The worst thing of all was the empty places at table as the family gathered to share a homecoming feast of turnip greens, corn pone, and maybe a tough old hen that had been saved to cook when Pa came home.

Everywhere there was work to be done. The community rolled up its sleeves to try to recapture the way of life they had lost. It would't be easy.

Blacks heard that the Yankees were going to set them free, so when the Union Army came through, many slipped away from their masters to follow the US soldiers. Many fled, half expecting to be caught and punished at any minute. The Yankees did not want them. Some, thinking that since they were free it would be unnecessary to work, gravitated to towns and Union Army camps. With nobody to tell them what do next, they traveled about like roving Gypsies, not knowing where they were going or how they would live when they got there. Without shelter, food, or medical attention, many died. Some ex-slave refugees camped together, where hunger was rampant. Sherman's raid left hardly any food in Lauderdale County and whites as well as blacks were starving.

A few Negroes stayed on the farms with their former masters. The black families of Warwick Warren, Hugh Prince, Rufus and Albert Bailey, Tom Stennis, among others, lived at Pine Springs.

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Hays Rodgers, Jr., his wounded arm recovering, was the only son of Hays and Mary Rodgers who returned home. Miss Lucinda and their youngsters, Mollie, Ruphus, and four-year-old Jeffie, were waiting on their farm when Hays got home from Atlanta. Lucinda had managed to hang on through the war years, although there had been times of stark hunger. Now that Hays was home, things had to get better!

The former slaves who had followed the Yankees were coming back, so Hays had little trouble finding plow hands to raise enough corn and peas to get something to eat. It was all but impossible for Hays to plow with one arm hanging dead at his side, but out of sheer desperation he did what he could. Hays and Lucinda lived hand to mouth and had little or no money to pay wages, but poor as they were, the blacks were even poorer. Hays had his house and land, but the Negroes had nothing at all and would work, almost, for their keep. In 1865 Hays and Lucinda had another baby, and they named her Fannie Eliska, and in 1867 little Mattie Katura was born.

Although old Hays and Mary had died during the war, there was no sale of their land during the war years; their estate had never been divided. Land taxes rose 1400% during Reconstruction days, and the old place became a liability. None of the remaining children could use the big farm so it was agreed that the best thing to do would be to sell. Hays, Jr. and his sister, Mary Ann (then Mrs. Jolly), petitioned the court for permission to dispose of the plantation, and it was placed on the market.

Lucinda's brother, G. M. Graham, married to Hays' sister Elizabeth, kept writing to Hays and Lucinda to move to Alabama to live near them. Hays had lived in Pine Springs all his life and had misgivings about leaving, but Lucinda was all for going to Pickens Co. to start over. She wanted to go home. As they were scarcely making a living where they were, Hays agreed to sell his farm along with his late father's.

Hay's smaller farm sold first. In December 1868, they sold to a black man, former slave Thomas Stennis. Tom Stennis, before emancipation, had belonged to Adam T. Stennis of Kemper County. Less than a year later, Tom's former master, Maj. Stennis, collected the necessary signatures and recorded his purchase of the big Rodgers plantation.

With all the Rodgers' business in Pine Springs completed, in the winter of 1869, Hays and Lucinda collected their five children and household goods onto a covered wagon and made the long trip to Pickens County, Alabama, to the little community called Gordo, about 25 miles from Tuscaloosa. Fannie Eliska Rodgers, who grew up in Pickens Co. and married David F. Harper, remembered the long trek, which was an exciting camping trip to a five year old. She lived to tell her grandchildren about their big move to Alabama.

Hays and Lucinda bought another farm in Gordo as the Reconstruction period passed and times became better. They had five more children born in Alabama, George Hays, 1870; Allen Smith, 1872; Dicie Louella, 1875; Jimmie Hill, 1877; and Thomas Wilson, 1880. Lucinda died in 1899 and was buried in Gordo at Hargrove Methodist Church, but Hays lived until 1913. The old veteran died at the age of 81.

With the departure of Hays, Jr., for the first time in over 35 years there were none of the old settler's family left in Pine Springs. The two of their 13 children left in the county were Mrs. Mary Ann Jolly and the young widow, Mrs. Martha (Warren) Meeks.

Martha lived with Mary Ann and William Jolly and their large family until she married her third

husband, Adam James Edgar, in 1870. The Edgars moved to the Texarkana area in Franklin County, Texas. Martha had three children born there (May, Evy, and a son) before she died, a young woman in her thirties.

Mary Ann (Rodgers) and William Eades Jolly sold the farm that had belonged to her brother James, and bought another place in Suqualena, where they lived the rest of their lives. Many of Mary Ann's Carpenter and Jolly descendants can be found in Lauderdale County.

The end of the war found Thomas Hackley Warren, 30 years old, still living with his mother, Mrs. Sidney Warren, in the Warren home. With the death of his old father during the war, and with his brothers, Samuel and Martin, killed in battle, and with Emanuel being gone (killed?), there was no other Pine Springs family left. The Warren daughters and the sons that survived the battle were scattered about in the neighboring counties.

The Warren slaves had been divided among Moses heirs before emancipation. The slaves, Warwick and Sylvia Warren, a married couple with children, were Mrs. Warren's and as freedmen after the war, they adopted the Warren name and remained with her on the farm. Old Massa had been kind to them and they felt they were part of the family.

Warwick, born in 1822 and Sylvia born three years later, were both from Georgia and had belonged to old Massa most of their lives. They had a big family but only five remained with them in their shack on the Warren plantation following the war. With them in 1870 were Hannah, 14; Mathias, 13; Crissy, 11; Polly, 10; and Leah, 6. Under Hack's supervision, Warwick and Mathias worked the Warren fields as tenants. The young girls made good hoe hands.

Warwick Warren was arrested for incest after one Wash Smith filed an affidavit against him. A warrant for his arrest was served by special deputy, J. A. Lackey, on June 17, 1868. One wonders if this were not a case of white harrassment against the blacks, as Warwick was soon released. It is true, however, that Warwick's daughter Crissey (or Crissie) went to work for Col. Sam Bailey and lived at Bailey Store.

Mrs. Warren, in her mid-sixties, was accustomed to slaves but adjusted her style of living and did most of her own housework. Her early married life on the frontier had taught her to cope with changes and to take life as it came; she remained a lady in whatever circumstance life placed her. Hack had Warwick's young Polly help his mother with the

cooking and cleaning, and Polly did the weekly washing.

In June 1866, Hack petitioned the Probate Court for permission to sell the plantation so it could be divided. Miss Sidney petitioned for her dower, which gave her one third of the Warren land in Pine Springs. (In addition to the land in Pine Springs, Moses Warren had also left land in Neshoba and Newton Counties.) Citations were sent to the remaining Warren heirs, and since none objected, Hack placed an ad in The Meridian Messenger. Elridge Gibbens bought most of the Pine Springs estate, but Miss Sidney, whose dower land included the part where the Warren home was located, elected to live on in her house with her son and did not sell. Not ready yet to give up housekeeping, she lived there for several more years until Hack married, with Warwick Warren as her sharecropper. Land taxes were high and she didn't clear much, but she had her home and her needs were few.

Cotton was in demand after the Yankee blockade was lifted; the northern cotton-mills went back into operation. The problem was that the occupying US Army, calling it contraband, confiscated the southerners' cotton. Hack had to go back into court to gain permission to sell 35 bales of the Warren estate cotton, which he did, and divided the profit among his brothers and sisters.

After his father's estate was squared away and his share was in his pocket, Hack Warren thought it high time to take himself a wife. He married a young lady from the neighborhood, Miss Nanny (Nancy) Chandler.

George and Mrs. Chandler were fond of Hack Warren, seeing him as an industrious person and one who shouldered responsibility. After his own father became ill, Hack had often turned to Mr. Chandler for advise. When Hack became interested in their Nannie, they were proud to give the couple their blessings. After their marriage, Hack and Nannie lived with the Chandlers while their own house was being built.

Mr. George and Miss Nancy built Hack and Nannie a house for a wedding present. Their new home was west of Meridian in Nellieburg, next door to an indetical house George had built for another of his daughters. The new Warren couple left Pine Springs soon after 1870 to live in their new home, and there they raised their eight children. Their children were: William, 1868; Jim, 1870; May (Mary I.), 1874, who married Cobe Walston and moved to Texas; Nanny, 1876, who first married Ben C. Walston and then John Tartt; Sidney (son), 1878, who moved to Natchez and married there; Thomas, 1880, called the "red-headed bachelor"; Mattie (Martha), 1884, who married Edward Timbrell

of Meridian; and Clara, married (1) John Hodges and (2) Harvey Raley and lived in Mobile.

[The above Ben and Nanny Walston had a farm on King Road, now inside Meridian. Their daughter, Adele Walston, grew up to marry Charley Vincent of Pine Springs.]

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The Thomas M. Duke family had become more involved with the Gumlog Fellowship Church during the war and, in 1865, he was appointed delegate to the annual Baptist Association meeting. That September, his wife, Sarah Salinah, joined the church and was baptized. In August 1866, Tom was voted church clerk and, in November, he was ordained a minister.

Sarah Salinah died in 1867. Whether it was because of his wife's death or by reason of the hard times, Rev. Thomas Duke sold his Pine Springs farm and moved from the community, requesting a letter of dismissal from the Gumlog church. After he was gone he was licensed by Lauderdale County to perform weddings. Evidently, he was still preaching somewhere about the area.

C. Wiggins bought Thomas Duke's 240-acre Section 10 farm on the first of January in 1868. It is not known if Wiggins lived on the farm, or if he had bought it because land was so cheap at that time; he may have bought it for an investment. Wiggins kept it three years before he sold it to Judge E. G. Gibbens, who had bought the old Stokes log house next door from the Warrens.

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Both of Rev. Aaron Jones' sons returned from the war. The village of Meridian had bounced back after being burned by the Yankees and was now a fast-growing little town. With all the building going on, Danny Jones was able to find a job there. Carpenters, painters, brickmasons, were all in demand.

Wash Jones brought his wife, Lucritia, home from Alabama. Wash had become a capable carpenter, if he could be left alone to do his job. After the war he could not tolerate being around groups, but if given a job where he could work alone, he was able to do well. Just don't try to mess with him, they said.

Wash and Lucritia had two children, Albert and Milly, born soon after the war. The young family lived in the house with Aaron and Hattie at first, and Wash helped his father in the fields.

Aaron and Miss Hattie had a hard time keeping their farm together. Land taxes rose so high

that it was difficult for landholders. Many lost their land - or sold out at a low price to keep from losing it. The Jones' had little money and no slave help with which to plant large crops.

At first there were blacks who roamed the countryside, destitute, ignorant, not knowing where to turn. Racial tensions sprang up and during Reconstruction, Yankee soldiers were stationed in the county to see that order was maintained. Freedman's Bureaus were set up to help the former slaves, but carpetbaggers from the North and scalawags from the South took much of what had been intended for the blacks' relief.

There were black families who lived in Pine Springs and, as everywhere, there were local racial disturbances. There were probably white members of the neighborhood who belonged to "The Knights of the Klu Klux Klan". The Klan, being a secret society, was not openly discussed, and no information on its local activity has filtered through the years to us.

Immediately following the war, white landowners were able to hire black laborers at a cheap rate. The black families were glad to have a place to stay and would work for almost nothing. It did not take but few years for those who were better farmers to find that their labor was worth more. The more industrious were in high demand and began to place a premium on their efforts. They became sharecroppers, reaping some benefits of what they produced. Even with this, few ever made enough to get ahead, although some were able to buy small farms. There was little way out for them and they remained poor.

Rev. Jones had black sharecroppers on his farm. His tenants changed from year to year, but looking at the 1870 census, his laborers that year were Henry Bingham (34) from Alabama and his young wife, Bettie, with a 6-month-old son, Henry F. Living in the same shack was 12-year-old Cherry Warren. She may have been a daughter of Warwick Warren, or perhaps just another of the former Warren slaves.

Rev. and Mrs. Jones had five of their children still at home in 1870. They were Miss Amanda, then 17; Laura, 14; and Stephen, who at 13 was big enough to be a real help on the farm. Mary Florence was 11, and the youngest, Ida, was 5.

With old friends moving away or dying out, and new families coming to take their place, the community was changing. But Aaron, at 54, remained pastor of the Poplar Springs Methodist Church up the hill, and Miss Hattie, still at his side, was 52.

Bennet Rose Pace was a quiet man, a family man who stayed at home. Not a 'joiner' like his father, he worked his farm and steadfastly made a living for Martha Jane and their children. The surrender found him with the same problems as other landholders in the war's aftermath, but he "kept on keeping on". Through careful management he clung to his homestead, although not without a struggle.

Bennet and Martha Jane had two more sons born during the war; Andrew Pickens in 1862 and Bennet Deason in 1864. In 1866, Bennet's eleventh and last child, Albert Rose, made his appearance.

The Pace twins, Calvin and Medora, were 15 in 1868 when young Calvin died. The circumstances of his death are not now known, but he passed away shortly before his 16th birthday.

Bennet's oldest daughter, Melissa, was married November 23, 1869, to Randall Mott. Randall was the son of Absalom and Amanda Mott, who owned a farm not far from the Paces', in the hills southeast of the old Rodgers plantation. Randall was the grandson of the late Capt. Lovelace Mott, who had made a name for himself in the Indian war in Alabama in 1812.

In 1870, the Pace children still at home were Medora and Ann Marie, (17 and 14); and four little boys, Adrian, 11; Andrew, 8; Bennet Deason, 7 (who was called Dee); and Albert, 3. Those four boys made the Paces a lively family. They were good little fellows, but their quick minds often led them into trouble.

On the farm next to Bennet's, old Alsa Pace, in his 70's, remained active in Pace's church. He served as clerk until he finally resigned in 1869, and was replaced by William B. Snowden of Shucktown. Alsa's two unmarried daughters, Irene and Jestina, took care of him and Jabez, keeping up the cooking and housework. Around 1868, Irene, in her forties, married Salathial Kynerd. Kynerd, a widower with five children, had a farm near Marion Station. Irene never had children of her own, but it was said that she "mothered" her step-children and they all loved her. After she had been married several years, she died with a heart attack one morning at the breakfast table. She was buried at the Kynerd family cemetery near Marion Station.

With no one to help with the washing and cooking after Irene married, Jestina almost had more than she could handle. Alsa began looking for somebody to help Jestina with her chores.

Alsa found a black couple, Joseph and Harriet Harry, to come live in his tenant house. In their fifties, the couple had at least six children. An older son, Alfred Harry, worked as a laborer for someone else, but their other children remained at home.

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Those at home were Lewis, 20; Amanda, 17; Reard, 11; Leah, 9; and John, 7. They moved into Alsa's tenant house that heretofore had been occupied by whites. Joseph 'cropped for Mr. Pace, but Lewis and Leah lived at the Paces' house to help Jestina with the housekeeping.

The Harry family were members of Pace's church. In 1870, Mrs. Harriet Harry and 17-year-old Amanda were both baptized following a nine-day protracted meeting that August. Lewis Harry also joined the church, but the date is not known.

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When the Confederate soldiers straggled home to hungry families on their dilapidated farms, they sorely needed capital for seed and equipment to get their idle fields back into cultivation. They turned to those few planters who had somehow managed to get through the war with a little cash. Using their farms as collateral, they borrowed against their next year's crop, promising to repay the lien when their crops were harvested. After they repaid the lien, they often did not have anything left, and thus were forced to borrow the following year in order to remain in operation. The crop lien system began to flourish.

The landowners who were efficient managers and worked hard and who were lucky enough to have the rains hit just right, were able to get on their feet in a year or so. The borrowers who had a few bad crop years or who could not manage their money (or were, perhaps, a trifle lazy), not only lost their crops but went on to lose their farms.

While George and Nancy Chandler were not rich, they had some extra capital when the war ended. The Chandlers (and others who had money) made loans to farmers to buy seed, or a mule or whatever, to make a crop. It was risky business to give crop liens on unplanted crops because crop failures were not unheard of. There was a chance that they would lose their investment so they charged a high rate of interest. There are many records in the county deed books which show where George W. Chandler gave a lien upon some less fortunate farmer's crop. By loaning their capital, George and Nancy Chandler became quite wealthy.

The Chandlers also invested in real estate. George bought the 40 acres from the estate of his oldest son, the late Thomas Chandler, which was in Sec. 4, and the adjoining unimproved 80 acres in the east half of Sec. 5 from the M&O Railroad. (C. E. Rushing bought the rest of Sec. 5.) When Mrs. Eliza Prince was finally able to sell her late husband's estate land in 1866, George Chandler bought the entire top half of Sec. 8. Records

show that he also bought, or foreclosed, several parcels of land located in areas outside the community. By shrewd investments, George was making a fortune while other farmers in Pine Springs were barely hanging on or even losing their homes.

The last four of the Chandler children were married soon after the war ended. Tempa Chandler married A. H. Regan, a relative of her older sister's husband, Iredel Regan. After the war, they moved to Auchita Parish, Louisiana. Latitia Chandler married James A. McKay in the war's last days, and they lived west of Meridian near Nellieburg. As already mentioned, Nannie Chandler married Hack Warren of Pine Springs and after 1875, lived in their new home next to the McKays.

Jim Chandler was paroled from Rock Island prison and returned home. He became a bookkeeper in Meridian and, in 1869, he married Nancy Lacey Sanders. He bought a farm just north of today's Highland Park, located in the area between today's Jones Mem. Presbyterian Church and 20th Street.

To the Chandlers' daughter, Mrs. Amanda Lockard, the war brought a time of hunger and despair she never forgot, although most of the war years she had spent on the gracious Lockard plantation west of Livingston, Alabama.

Edward Halsell Lockard (b.1820,SC) had lived with his widowed father, Thomas Lockard (b.1774,SC) on the Lockard plantation near Livingston, and inherited the old home upon his father's death. Well educated, Edward took an interest in civic affairs and although his name appears on early voting list of Livingston, he was not active in politics. He led a busy planter's life, managing the 3000-acre plantation and overseeing the Lockard slaves. A bachelor, he was considered a "good catch", but he did not take time to get married until he was nearly 40 years old.

About 1859, he married Miss Amanda Chandler, a perky young lady eighteen years his junior, and brought her home to his plantation. Their first son, George Lockard, was born in 1861, and James Lockard was born in 1863. Mr. Lockard was in his early 40's and did not enlist in the army until the war had been in progress for some time. The third Lockard child, Mary, was born in 1864 at about the time Edward was sent to Virginia with the Confederate Army.

Amanda did not have it easy on the home front after Edward left. One day the slaves all left, taking every scrap of food on the place with them. Amanda used to tell that they even cleaned out her flour barrels. Only one faithful slave, Edward's body-servant, stayed behind to help Amanda, her baby and the two little boys, to get

to her brother-in-law's home on the Tombigbee River. They survived on wild varmints and whatever else they could find to eat, but somehow Edward's brother provided to keep them going.

Following Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Edward Lockard was released in Virginia, 1300 miles from home. The railroads had been destroyed and, lacking transportation, he had to walk most of the way to Alabama. He developed Bright's disease while in prison and was running a fever, making it necessary to avoid the hot sun and do his walking at night. The long trek took nearly a year and there was nothing left at home when he got there.

Amanda had been praying for Edward to come home so they could go to Mississippi. Everything would be all right, if they could just get to her Pa. Edward was ill, but they and Edward's old servant made it to Pine Springs by wagon and moved in with the Chandlers. They stayed there a year until Edward's health improved. He tried to do a little farming, but he could not hold out to accomplish much.

Edward, approaching 50 and not in robust health, felt that he should find an occupation other than farming. He was educated, but had not been trained in any particular profession. Some of his gentlemen friends lived in the growing town of Meridian. Perhaps if he opened a store he could make a living for his family away from a farm. Ed borrowed from George and Nancy Chandler to open a men's clothing store in town, under the name of "Chandler & Lockard".

Ed and Amanda sold a lot of goods in their store, but unfortunately, Ed was a "soft touch" and sold too much on credit. He made a living but was unable to meet his loan when it came due. He asked George to give him an extension - he knew his customers would pay their bills soon. Chandler said that was all right, son, he wouldn't have to pay back the loan. George said that he would just take over Ed's interest in the store, instead.

Ed and Amanda Lockard, with their store gone, returned to Livingston, where they somehow managed to open another haberdashery. It was tough going at first but, as times improved, they got on their feet and made a comfortable living.

* * * * *

John B. and Caroline Collins were waiting at their Pine Springs home when their sons, Dink and Albert, returned from the war. Dink was in Tennessee when the war ended and was faced with the long walk home to Lauderdale County.

One story, which cannot be proven, has it that he and Solomon Ethridge's only surviving son were in the same regiment and were walking home together. Somewhere in the northern part of the state they came upon a Negro man riding in a wagon with a bale of cotton. Dink, either by force or persuasion (he was always a convincing talker), took the black man, his wagon and mules, and his cotton bale, and they all rode back to Pine Springs together. The story goes that Dink sold the cotton, kept the mules and wagon, and thus had a start when he began to tackle the Reconstruction days that lay ahead.

Soon after he returned home in 1865, Dink Collins married Rebecca Jane Ethridge, Solomon Ethridge's daughter, on the 17th of December. Mr. Ethridge was a member of the Board of Police in Lauderdale County for several years, but he later moved to the Rio community in Kemper County, just over the county line. Dink brought his new wife to live in Pine Springs but did not stay long. He bought a farm a few miles west of Okatibbee Creek and opened a store. The community that built up around Dink Collin's store was named Collinsville.

Albert G. Collins also returned from the war. He did not get married right away but stayed at home to help his parents and the younger children on the farm. He was 21 when the war ended.

It is not known what became of John B. Collins, Jr. He may have lost his life in the war, or he may have met some other untimely death. None of today's Collins descendants remember having heard of him, other than his birth being recorded in the family Bible. There is a row of nine Collins graves in the Pine Springs cemetery; perhaps one of those is the grave of this lost son.

It is believed that John (Sr.) Collins taught at the wee community schoolhouse and kept it open during the war years. He died in the year following the war. It is not known if his health failed, or if a sudden illness took him away. He was buried in the community graveyard next to the school on March 29, 1866.

Mrs. Caroline Collins, with the help of her sons, Albert (22), James (18), Franklin (15), and Walter (11), kept the home and fields in operation. At the time of their father's death, the Collins daughters at home were Lucy (13), and Fanny (6), the youngest of the family.

James Madison Collins married in 1869 and brought his wife home to live on the Collins farm. He married Amanda Elizabeth Ethridge, the 15-year-old sister of Dink's wife, Rebecca Jane. The couple's first baby, Susan, was born in Pine Springs in 1870.

The Collins family had never accumulated wealth and during the days following the war, they hardly got by. They accepted their poverty in good humor,

however, and felt they were in good company; at least they were able to keep their farm intact. There were many who were not as lucky.

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The final accounting of the late Albartus M. Prince estate was at last given in Probate Court the day after Christmas in 1865. Mr. Tolson, the administrator, gave Mrs. Eliza Prince the balance due her and her girls - the sum of \$1292.25, before he moved down to Clark County.

Two months later, Mrs. Prince was back in court. She had never received title for her dower land, and she had to have title so she could sell, as she wanted to leave Pine Springs. The judge issued a citation for Mr. Tolson of Clarke Co. to return at the next term (March, 1866) to get this straightened out. In March, Mr. Tolson did not show up. More delays.

It was in December before Mrs. Prince at last received a clear title. She gained possession of her dower of 250 acres and she began at once to look for a buyer. The rest of the estate had already been sold. John H. and Martha Vaughn had earlier bought most of the Sec. 8 land along Okatibbee Creek, which they sold to George W. Chandler in 1868. C. E. Rushing bought the 80 acres where the cemetery and little schoolhouse were located.

On November 22, 1869, Mrs. Prince signed the papers to sell the last 150 acres of the plantation, her dower. Thomas J. Stafford bought her out, and she was free to leave Pine Springs. Stafford bought the southeast quarter of Sec. 8, and the southwest quarter of Sec. 9 where the Prince home was located.

The oldest Prince daughter, Maggie (Margaret Rebecca), at 20, was by then married to Thomas J. Renfro, so Eliza was no longer her guardian. She was still guardian of her three younger daughters, Saphronia (15), Penelope (13), and Claudia (10). She left with the three girls in 1869, taking her church letter from Pace's church with her. No further records on her have been found in Lauderdale County. She was not listed in the local 1870 census, so it appears that she left the county for good.

Some of the blacks who had been Prince slaves remained in the neighborhood for some years. On March, 1869, a black member of Pace's church, Charlotte Prince, was accused by the church of adultery. Alsa Pace and the neighbor across the road from the plantation, Thomas Wells, were appointed to visit to cite Charlotte to the next church meeting to answer these charges. (There was, as always, no mention of a male offender.)

Charlotte acknowledge that she had done wrong, but it was hard times, and the girl had to live somehow. She expressed that she had no desire to continue her church membership, and she was excluded.

Another family of freed Prince slaves was the family of Hugh (called Huey) Prince, who was born in Kentucky in 1812. Huey had been married to Dinah, another slave, who was several years older than he. They had children and, after freedom came, they had remained together. Dinah joined Pace's church in 1864, and though Huey's name was on the membership roll, we do not know when he joined.

After the Prince plantation sold, Huey and some of his family moved to public land in the northern Pine Springs. Several black families had more or less congregated to live in the encampment, perhaps they didn't have anywhere else to go. In the shack next to Huey and Dinah lived a younger man, Turner Prince, his wife Bessie, and four little boys. Freeman and Betsy Prince lived in the area with a young woman named Fannie Prince, who may have been Huey's daughter. There was a Catherine Prince who joined the church following a nine day protracted meeting in 1870, but it is not known where she lived. Catherine asked for her church letter when she moved in 1888. It is impossible now to sort the family relationships, if there was any.

* * * * *

Thomas Wells was one of the farmers who had difficulty trying to hold onto his land. Starting again from scratch, he and his three sons all worked their farm as best as they could but they seemed to be getting more in debt each year. Rushing Store was gone - Gen. Sherman's boys had seen to that - But Col. Bailey was good about carrying them on his store credit book. Course, everything always cost more when it was bought on credit. Seemed like it took all they could scrape to together each fall to pay for the year's expenses.

The soil, after producing cotton all those years, was beginning to need fertilizer. There was no money for that, though, and they threw what dried manure they had on their fields and hoped for the best.

The 1869 crop was poor. Thomas' harvest was not good, and he didn't know how he was going to pay both his taxes and Bailey's Store. Tom and Sarah talked it over and prayed about it and came to the conclusion that they should just sell out. If they lived on someone else's farm their

landlord would have to worry about advancing money on next year's crops. And, at least they wouldn't have taxes to pay.

In September 1869, Tom, Sarah, and Miss Susan asked for letters of dismissal from Pace's church and moved from Pine Springs. It is not known where they went. The older Wells girls, Mary and Martha, had married, but still with them were William H., 19; Susan, 17; John C., 15, Thomas J., 14, and Catherine, 11. They were good people and good Pine Springs neighbors for nine years.

When Tom Wells collected for his cotton, he went to Col. Bailey to settle up his account. The Wells' debt had grown so that Bailey took over their homestead. Bailey gave Tom \$800 credit for the 160-acre farm, which paid their debt in full with some left over.

Widow Susan Harwell moved after Tom and Sarah Wells sold their farm. The two Harwell boys, Brother (William) and Holly were around 20, and they each bought adjoining acres across Okatibbee Creek near their older sister, Mrs. John Hamrick, in 1877. The brothers farmed their small farms jointly, one breaking the land and the other following behind with a second plow, making up rows. Brother had married 'Tilda (Matilda) Barnes and, in 1878, Holly married Julia A. Pike.

The Harwell daughters had all married young, and Mrs. Harwell visited about with her children. (Sophia had married Frank Deason after the war and lived near Dink Collins in Collinsville; Dink opened a grist mill at his store and hired Frank as his miller. Emma Harwell married a Mr. Corn around 1865 and went to Newton County.)

The brothers gave up their farms in the 1880's, and Holly moved to Collinsville. Brother migrated down to Perry County below Hattiesburg. Afraid of trains, Brother hitched up a team of oxen to a cart and walked all the way.

* * * * *

John Bailey, son of Samuel Bailey, Sr. (1789-1856), was born North Carolina. He grew up in Cleveland Co. and married Ruth Linton at her home in Rutherford Co. on Mar. 13, 1827.

John and Ruth had eight children born in North Carolina before they migrated to Georgia (Forsyth Co.) in 1853, where their ninth and last child was born. Samuel Monroe Bailey, the second child, born Dec. 8, 1829, left home in North Carolina at age 19 to begin life for himself. The year was 1848, Cotton was King, and Sam wanted to be a Rich Southern Planter.

Sam had been in Georgia two years when he met Miss Theresa J. Anglin, a Georgia girl from

Gwinette County. They were married in 1850.

It was slower getting a plantation started than Sam Bailey had thought. Others had come to Georgia with the same idea as his, placing the better land in high demand. Sam felt that what he needed was capital to buy good land and slaves to work it. He was doing fairly well, but progress was slow and he was impatient. He was an energetic man, full of the enthusiasms of youth, eager to reach his self-imposed goals.

News came back from the gold fields in California; the '49ers there were striking it rich! Sam had already tried the mines at nearby Dahlonega in Cherokee County. The Georgia gold rush was wearing down and he had not found much color, but he did learn the principles of placer mining. Not being one to sit back and wait, he began to talk of going to California. He talked himself into the trip and even got one of his brothers interested enough to go along. (It is not known which brother made the trip.) Theresa must have thought he had lost his mind.

In 1852, the two Bailey brothers set out for California. Rather than crossing by land at Panama, they chose to go all the way by ship and sailed around the Horn. They ran into rough seas which buffeted their ship and, in a mighty storm, Sam's brother was washed overboard and perished. There was no turning back and Sam continued on alone.

Sam Bailey stayed in California until he had saved \$5000. He wanted to try for more, but he had enough to buy a fine plantation and was eager to get back to Theresa. He returned by horseback, arriving in Georgia in 1856.

Sam bought slaves in 1857 and put in another crop. He kept his eye open for a good place to buy his plantation, but nothing he found was what he wanted. Eager for new adventures, he talked Theresa into moving westward to begin anew.

In 1858 the Baileys, now with six-month-old John Alison Bailey, packed up, and taking the slaves, made the long trip to Mississippi. Arriving in Lauderdale County, Samuel M. Bailey bought a plantation about 7 miles northwest of the county seat. He built a store on the bank of a small branch, which would make a good place for wagoneers to water their animals. The freighters found it a good camp to spend a night on their way from the new railroads at Marion Station and Meridian as they passed through to Kemper, Neshoba and Newton Counties. Bailey put in a grist mill on the little creek, and a gin to bale the local cotton.

Interrupting this flow of good times and progress came the awful specter of the Civil War. The year 1860 was an exciting time for the men, with all the talk of war and secession; even the ladies were

caught up in the patriotic excitement. Sam contributed money and goods to the Southern cause, but after the first big battle at Manassas, Sam could no longer remain at home. He was still young, 33, when he joined the Confederate Army, enlisting in Co. C, 41st Miss. Regiment, and went off to battle.

Sam became Col. Samuel M. Bailey and fought in several of the major conflicts. At Chickamauga (Sept. 19-20, 1863) he was struck in the left hip by a shell and was placed in an Atlanta hospital for two months. At the siege of Atlanta (July, 1864) he was stopped by a Minie ball in the foot, and was given a ninety-day furlough. Then it was back to the war where he remained until the surrender in April, 1865. He was paroled at Montgomery, Alabama.

Back home in Lauderdale County, Sam had the grim task of rebuilding; his store, gin, everything had been burned. He was better off than most; he had his wife and his children, he had his land, and he still had a little money. He built back his store, grist mill, and gin, and was soon back in business. Later he added a sawmill as the timber business got started.

Bailey gave store credit to his neighbor farmers to help them get back on their feet. One of those to whom Sam extended credit was Thomas Wells of Pine Springs. After 1869, when Sam took over the Wells' farm, he held the quarter section (160 acres) for several years before the sold it again. He rented this land, the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 9, to sharecroppers.

It is notable that there was a sweeping religious revival among the Confederate troops during the war. Samuel Bailey apparently embraced religion with the same eagerness that he reached for everything in life. One of the first things he did upon returning from the war was to join Pace's Fellowship Church. In 1870, Sam confessed to the church that he had been drinking to excess. The church accepted his confession and forgave him.

Sam and Theresa had four children. John A. was born in Georgia, but after they moved to Mississippi, they had another son, James Preston, born in 1860, followed by two girls, Anna L. and Ruth E. Bailey. The two sons grew up and lived in Lauderdale County, but the two daughters both died as young adults.

Col. Bailey continued with his first love, farming, although his slave help was gone forever. During Reconstruction there were many black orphans with nobody to care for them. For a period at that time it became possible for white men to give these black children a home until they became of age. The white benefactors had to be bonded, but

were allowed to work the youngsters, who were called "apprentices". The following appears in the Lauderdale County records:

In the matter of the petition of S. M. Bailey to apprentice freed minors, Margaret, 15 years old, and Allen, 7 years old, on hearing of said petition and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that said minors are under the age of 18 & 21 years, and no father or mother & that said petitioner was the former owner of said minors, It is ordered by the court that said minors be apprenticed to said petitioner until they arrive at the age of 18 & 21 years, the clerk taking Bond in the sum of \$500 with good and sufficient security.

The 1870 local census shows the blacks, Rufus Bailey (18), Allen Bailey (11), and Creecy (Crissey) Warren living at the home of Col. Sam Bailey. Crissey was daughter of Warwick Warren, former slave of Moses Warren, who had been living on Mrs. Warren's land in Pine Springs. Apparently, Crissey worked as a housemaid for the Baileys'.

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There were three new families who came to Pine Springs immediately following the close of the war. The new neighbors were the Smiths, the Stennis', and the Gibbens.

John Stenhouse, Sr. of Scotland had two sons, Alexander and John, who emigrated to America shortly before the Revolution and settled in Greenville District, South Carolina. Alexander settled at Fairview, S.C., and lived there the rest of his life; Stenhouse descendants may still be found in the Fairview area.

The other brother, John Stenhouse, Jr., also settled at Fairview. He became a farmer, although he was a teacher by education. His neighbors and friends pronounced the name "Stennis", and for several years John had difficulty receiving his mail. In desperation, he at last went before the court in Greenville and had his name legally changed to Stennis.

John Stenhouse - or Stennis - married Rebecca Peden and had 7 children. Two of his children were sons, Alexander Peden Stennis (b. 1817) and Adam Turner Stennis (b. 1819).

Adam Turner Stennis grew up in Fairview and, when he was a young man of 20, he set out on an incredible new venture. In the early 1840's, a group of family members, friends, neighbors, in need of more and better farmlands, banded together to migrate westward. With big plans



Second home of Hays Rodgers. Sr., which was built in the 1850's. It was purchased by Maj. Adam T. Stennis in 1868. This 1990 picture was taken after the old house was restored by one of the Major's descendants.

and dreams of new homes, they made up a wagon train and started out. Adams's older brother, Alex and wife, Virginia, and their sister, Jane, married to James Harrison, had wagons in that train. Adam, determined not to be left behind, made up a wagon for himself and went along.

After weeks of grueling travel along the rough wagon trail, they came to Mississippi. When they arrived in Kemper County, the Stennis and Harrison families stopped. They started a community called Peden, near Scooba, in Kemper County.

[A note here about Adam's brother, Alex Stennis. Alexander P. Stennis' youngest son, Hampton Howell Stennis, was born in 1857 in Kemper County. Hampton married Margaret C. Adams in 1878 and their son, John C. Stennis became a U. S. Senator who served Mississippi in Congress faithfully and well for 42 years, having been elected for seven consecutive terms.]

Adam Stennis established a home in Peden and began to look around for a wife, whom he found in Greene Co., Alabama. She was Miss Julia Edwards, whose parents had moved to Alabama from Georgia where Julia had been born in 1835. Her parents were Isaac and Lydia Edwards.

Adam and Julia were married in 1851 and their first child, Martha, was born the following year. On Jan. 16, 1858 Peden, Mississippi was first established as a post office, with Adam T. Stennis as its first postmaster.

After Martha came in 1852, Adam and Julia Stennis had Lydia Augusta, 1856; Louella Melissa, 1860; Joseph Dudley, 1863; and Isaac Edward, 1866.

Adam T. Stennis enlisted in the Civil War. Serving in the Infantry in the Army of Mississippi, he was not required to travel far from home. He attained a military rank of Major.

When the war ended, Maj. Stennis apparently had business in Lauderdale County on October 25, 1869; he was present that day on the Lauderdale County Courthouse steps at a land sale that disposed of the plantation of Hays Rodgers, deceased. Adam T. Stennis was the best and last bidder on the property and bought the Rodgers' 380-acre plantation in Pine Springs. [Deed Bk. 47, pg. 104]

The Rodgers home, located farther east than their original log house, was in the southwest quarter of Sec. 2. Built around 1850, it was made of sawn lumber, the first home in the community that was not made of logs. All on one floor, it was put together with square nails and wooden pegs, and had glass windows, with shutters and doors all made by slave labor, as were the hand-fired brick of the two chimneys. One of the Hays' children had scratched the date and Rodgers' name on one of the bricks. There were the usual assortment of farm buildings - barns, smokehouse, carriage house, stable - that were found on any large working farm.

Willie (William Eugene) was born in 1868, and Robert Lee was born in Pine Springs in 1870, where Adam's wife Julia's seventh and last child, Lillie Eugenia, was born in 1871. Also living in their new house was Mrs. Lydia Edwards, 78, who came to live with her daughter after Mr. Edwards died.

Thomas Stennis, a black, had been a slave of Maj. Stennis. Born in South Carolina in 1826 when Maj. Stennis was seven years old, Thomas became the personal slave and friend of the Major's, remaining near him all his life.

The former slave came to Pine Springs with Maj. Stennis and bought 80 acres in Sections 3 and 10, that was Hays Rodgers, Jr.'s. Thomas, 42, brought his wife, Rosa, and their two children, Calvin, 9, and Willie, their 3-year-old girl.

Thomas was not a field hand, having grown up in the home of his white master. It is unlikely that he was educated himself, but he appreciated the advantages education could bring. The war had set them free; Tom would do his best to see they were educated.

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Walter B. and Elizabeth Pines Mann of Edgefield District, South Carolina, migrated to the Mississippi Territory about 1813 and settled in the southern part of present Alabama. They survived the Creek Indian uprising and, in 1818, Walter was listed on the Conecuh Co. tax list.

The Mann family moved about over southern Alabama over the next 20-odd years, stopping for a while in Conecuh, Pike, and Barbour Counties. After 1840 they migrated to Chicot Co., Arkansas, where Mr. Mann died in 1844. Mrs. Mann followed him in death eleven months later in 1845.

Miss Pernelia Mann married while the family lived in Pike County. Pernelia, born in South Carolina in 1799, married Robert Gibbens (b.1795) of Mecklenburg, North Carolina. Robert and Pernelia Gibbens moved to Barbour Co. with the Manns, being listed there in the 1840 census. In 1850 they were in Kemper County, Mississippi with four of their twelve children. The Gibbens children were: Jim Mann Gibbens, a '49er, went to California gold rush and made his third fortune - he had already lost two; Caroline married Meady Bozeman, (brother to Samuel J. Bozeman who later came to Pine Springs) and moved to Louisiana; Aroline(?) married Trave Windham; Amelia, 23 in 1850, lived with her parents; Nettie died young; W. McDuff, a Capt. in CSA, was killed near Atlanta; Elridge G. moved to Pine Springs in 1868. Nothing is known about Washington, Holland, and Augusta, but Laura came to Pine Springs with Elridge where she married Ziah Pace. Columbia Luella, born 1840, married William Fountain Emmons (of Neshoba Co.) in Lauderdale Co. in 1860. [In 1862, W. F. Emmons enlisted in Co. F. 40th Miss. Volunteers under Capt. W. McDuff Gibbens. William F. Emmons returned from the war, and his descendants started the Emmons

Bros. Mattress Co. in Meridian, which is still in operation.]

Robert and Pernelia Gibbens, in their 60's, gave up farming in Kemper and came to Lauderdale County to live with their unmarried son, Elridge. It is not known where Elridge was working at the time but, in 1862, he was elected to the office of JP in Beat 1. He was 30 years old when he took the oath of office, and this may have given him an occupational deferment when the South passed its first conscription act three months later. He did not serve in the Confederate Army, but held his political office throughout the war.

On April 30, 1867, Elridge Gibbens bought 240 acres of the late Moses Warren's estate in Pine Springs. [$W\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$, S-10; $E\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$, S-9; $S\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$, S-3] This did not include Mrs. Sidney Warren's house and dower land, but it did include the original house Will Stokes had built back in 1835. The log house was around 30 years old, but it was sturdily built and was holding up well. Judge Gibbens moved in and brought his aging parents and his younger sister, Laura, with him. The older couple were Baptist, and Miss Pernelia moved her church letter to Pace's Fellowship Church.

In the months immediately following the fall of the South, the county's elected officials continued their duties in much the same way as they had under the Confederacy. The business of government had to go on. This changed in September, 1867, when Federal troops - the "Army of Occupation" - arrived to govern the troubled land. Pres. Andrew Johnson, quickly sworn into office two weeks after the war when Pres. Lincoln was shot, said:

"...[the war] must be punished as a crime...It must not be excused as an unsuccessful rebellion... to be forgiven."

So much for Lincoln's plan to bind up the wounds of the divided nation!

Judge W. H. Whitaker, a local lawyer who had worked for C. E. Rushing for years, was the elected Probate Judge of the county in 1867 and was presiding in court when Elridge G. Gibbens of Pine Springs was appointed to replace him. An official notice, written in Vicksburg on Sept. 16, was sent from the Headquarters of the 4th Military District of Mississippi and Arkansas, pronouncing E. G. Gibbens the new Probate Judge. Other elected officials, sheriff, clerks, etc, were replaced by military appointees, as well. (Sheriff W. F. Alford, son of the late Julius Alford, was replaced by Joseph Eakens at the same time.)

From reading the records of the Probate Court over which Judge E. G. Gibbens presided, it appears

that he was an impartial judge; he seems to have been an honorable man. But the fact that he had been appointed by the hated Yankees did nothing to endear him to his neighbors in Pine Springs. Feelings were running high in that unsettled time as new adjustments were being made. The Gibbens family stayed pretty much to themselves and were never fully adopted by the community.

Capt. Reziah Pace returned from the war and moved back home with his old father, Alsa Pace. He met Miss Laura as she came to church with old Mrs. Gibbens. Ziah and Laura were married in 1867 (1868?) and in December, 1869, the new Mrs. Pace changed her church membership to Fellowship. It is believed that they first lived near Ziah's brother at Schamberville where their first child, Ella, was born in 1870.

In 1869 the term of the Probate Court ended on March 22, with Judge Gibbens presiding. Court was not held again until the end of May, at which time Gibbens was replaced by Judge E. L. Bramlett.

Instead of letting the former masters and ex-slaves work out their salvation together in the aftermath of war, carpetbaggers and do-gooders from the North - and scoundrels looking for a way to cash in on the strife - came before anything concrete could be accomplished. The Republicans took over when the military rule was relaxed, and instigated the election of illiterate blacks, fresh from the cotton fields, to be placed in responsible offices. Meridian, a rail center, was over-run as rabble, both white and black, gravitated there looking for trouble. Three-fourths of Meridian was burned in 1871 following a black rally which precipitated a bloody local war. Three of the ringleaders who had inflamed the blacks were arrested and brought before Judge Bramlett's court.

A shootout in the courtroom occurred as someone attempted to shoot a witness who was on the stand. Judge Bramlett, caught in the crossfire, was killed as he sat upon his bench. In the ensuing riot, between 25 and 30 people were killed. Washington held a full congressional investigation and called over a hundred witnesses to testify. The hearing marked the beginning of the end of the South's reconstruction, but it was far from over. Racial hatred, on both sides, was fanned into flames which has taken over a hundred years to die down.

After he was replaced by Judge Bramlett, Elridge Gibbens devoted his time to building up his Pine Springs farm. His political career was over. On March 19, 1870, Elridge Gibbens enlarged his farm by buying the land in the south half of Sec. 10 from E. Wiggins, the 200-acre farm that had belonged to Thomas Duke. He had his fields planted

mostly in cotton and hired plow hands and day laborers to work his crops. He bought a one-horse gin and had it installed in the edge of his field to the south of the house. The gin was operated by hitching a horse upon a belt which rotated the machinery when the horse was made to walk. Many gins had been destroyed by Union troops when they came through the county and, since few planters had money to replace them, Elridge made a profit by ginning and baling for his neighbors.

Both Mr. Robert and Miss Permelia Gibbens became gravely ill in the fall of 1869. Mr. Gibbens died on October 27, and Mrs. Gibbens passed away six days later on November 2nd. They were buried at Pace's church, and Elridge placed stone markers at their graves. He had even less contact with the neighborhood after his parents were gone. He lived alone except for his black servants.

Elridge hired various blacks to cook, clean, and keep his clothes washed. In 1870 a black couple, Calvin and Susan Roberts, lived with him as his servants. Calvin, 25 years old, worked on the farm while Susan was his housekeeper. A young black, Joseph Gibbens, 12-14 years old and apparently an orphan, came to live with the judge for a while. Nobody seemed to stay very long.

Wash Jones, from a neighboring farm, did some carpenter work for the judge at one time. Wash later said that "old man Gibbens" (Gibbens was then in his 30's) was a quiet man, hot having much to say. Wash said that the talk in Pine Springs then was that the lone bachelor had "a heap" of money hidden under one of the wide floor boards in the old house, but this was idle gossip. Mr. Gibbens remained a mystery to the neighbors, which led to wild tales. He must have been a lonely man.

There have been so many Smiths living in Lauderdale Co. since its early days that it would take an inordinate amount of time and dedication to sort them all out. The Smith family that appears in this story begins with one John Portwood Smith, who was born in Georgia in 1811.

John P. Smith married Seletha W. Turner on March 17, 1836 in Greene County, Alabama. He was living in Lauderdale Co. in 1848, as his name appears on the poll tax roll for that year. The first time his name appeared on a deed in the county was on March 21, 1857, when he bought 160 acres of land from Samuel P. and Sarah Goodwin for \$500. It was 16th Section land less than two miles from the Alabama state line, southwest of Whynot. [S-16,T-5,R-18E]

John and Seletha were listed in the 1850 county

census with two sons, Seaborn (13) and John, Jr. (7). If they had other children, they evidently did not survive childhood. It could be that young John did not live, for no further records on him have been found. There is a possibility that this younger son lost his life in the Civil War.

Mr. Smith, came from a family of some means; he was educated. He was an astute businessman as well as a successful planter. Their firstborn, Seaborn, must have been a grave disappointment to his parents. It seems likely that, as the scion of a comfortably well-off planter, Seaborn was indulged more than was good for him as a child. He grew up with slaves to take the brunt of hard labor on the farm, leaving him with too much time to fritter away and follow his own pursuits. He was given to hard drinking, hard swearing, and to oft time fighting with his companions at the cockfights or horse races. He slipped away from the routine of farm work to seek amusements, showing no interest in helping his father.

An enthusiastic champion of slavery, Seaborn attended the political rallies where all the young hot-bloods of the South gathered to drink and talk about State's Rights and War. When war came, Seaborn was ready, being one of the first to volunteer for the Confederate Army. He enlisted on April 21, 1861.

At about the time he marched away, Seaborn married Miss Margaret Adalina Baucum, the fifteen-year-old daughter of Jim Baucum, who lived over the line in Alabama. Seaborn, in the 8th Mississippi Regiment under Col. Flynt, and with W. C. Day his Captain, went off to war leaving his young wife with her parents. Before the year was out, their son, whom Margaret named Seaborn Milton Smith, Jr., was born in Alabama. After the baby came, Margaret lived with Seaborn's parents, John and Seletha Smith.

Seaborn Smith, the soldier, was captured in November of 1864 and, until the end of the war, he was held in Camp Douglas. The Yankee prison was a hell-hole and he was nearly starved to death before he was set free at the end of the war. Many prisoners died, but Seaborn doggedly held onto life. The time he spent in grim combat and the cruel treatment he received in prison seemed to mark to him, mentally, beyond all hope of recovery. Before the war he had been arrogant and wild; afterward he was arrogant and mean. He drank more than ever and mistreated those around him. He picked up the nickname, "Jack", in the army, and most folks called him Jack, or Jackie, after the war.

It was after the war that John P. Smith moved to Pine Springs. On November 27, 1868, Smith bought

the farm that had been the home of the late James and Martha (Sanderford) Rodgers in Section 35, and moved into the log house Rodgers had built back in the 1840's. Mr. Smith paid \$1050 for the house and 400 acres. In May 1870, John and Miss Seletha moved their church letters to Pace's Baptist church.

After the Civil War when so many planters, if they were able to hold onto their farms, became 'landed paupers' and were hardly able to make a living, John P. Smith was able to live with a small degree of comfort and ease. He was a hard worker and a careful manager.

In 1870, John Smith had blacks living on his farm to help in his fields. He had two men, Cush Allen (61) and Emanuel Street (45), living in the small cabin where former slaves had been housed. Cush was not married, but Emanuel had a wife, Mary, and four children (Laura, 7; Lucas, 6; Isabella, 2; and Eliza, a baby).

Jackie (Seaborn) moved to Pine Springs with his father, living in a small house that was on his father's place. Jackie had more children born later and, while John and Seletha loved all their grandchildren, little Sebe (Seaborn, Jr.) remained their favorite. Sebe had lived with them all the time Jack had been away at war and they had grown attached to him. Sebe grew into a serious, good little boy, and he followed John everywhere and tried hard to please his grandfather. As Jackie drank more, life at home wasn't pleasant for young Sebe. More and more he stayed with Grandpa Smith and came to consider Grandpa's house as his own.

* * * * *

With strife and actual hunger in Lauderdale County following the war, Will and Marthy Stokes moved with most of the remaining members of their family (they had lost three sons in the war) to Navarro County, Texas in 1870. John W. Stokes bought his father's land in 1869 and remained behind. The following is an excerpt from Wyvonne Putman's Navarro County History:

...by the act of the Legislature, the Governor was authorized to appoint John M. Crockett, a kinsman of Davy Crockett, as Land Commissioner in 1850. Crockett made his office in the Hampton McKinney Tavern in Corsicana for two years or more. He was authorized to make...land grants to immigrants moving into Texas...and for locating the land, he was to charge a fee of 30 dollars.

The record of the Mississippi Colony

was found in a treasure chest that was the property of G.W. Brown. This copy was written by E. A. E. Stokes Fullwood. [This would be Emily Brown who married Samuel Stokes of Pine Springs in 1858. Sam Stokes had died in Texas in 1875.]

"Following the close of the Civil War the South was in ruins, suffering on all sides, broken homes all over the lands, many were talking of going to Texas to get a new start in a land of opportunities. Preparations were made in the summer of 1869 to organize a group to join the wagon train and leave Meridian, Mississippi some time that fall., heading for Dresden, Texas, by Christmas. To each wagon was hitched four oxen, some of the others were pulled by eight mules, also two hacks were pulled by horses.

"Traveling was very slow especially through the river bottoms. Much of the traveling was through sleet, snow, rain, mud, and over narrow roads. You could hardly see to travel/ It took six weeks to reach Corsicana.

"After we crossed the Trinity River, David Maggard, Thomas and Dick Stokes were sent on ahead to make plans for us to find lodging in Corsicana.

"On December 22, we drove into this town of Corsicana without stopping for breakfast, only to find there was no place to stay. There was no room at the tavern, no hotels, not even a vacant house. The merchants looked sympathetic but told us that could do nothing for us. They did tell us we could find a tank of water some three miles west of town on the road to Dresden.

"We drove to the tank, placed our wagons in a circle, gathered wood and made a fire, cooked and ate, then laid down to rest and sleep. After all had thawed out, we felt better, but our stock was tired and the wagons needed repairing. After a few days stop, we continued on our journey to Dresden, where he had friends and kinfolks. They were Dick [Stokes] and Mr. Thomas [Stokes].

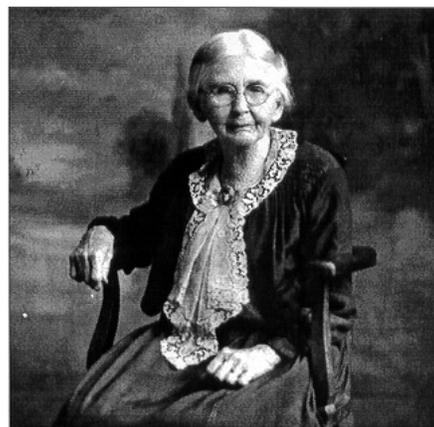
"We remained in Dresden until the winter blizzard had spent its force. The men in our party, W. W. Stokes [Will], S. W. Stokes [Samuel], G. W. Brown [son of Rev. Robert Brown and brother of Robert Ridney Brown, who

later lived in Pine Springs], R. T. Brown [husband of Amanda Stokes and brother of the author], Hiram Brown [brother of Robert and Emily, who "got into trouble" with the Yankees during the Reconstruction back home], Charles Ransom [Rawson?], Henry Edwards and others, went over to a community called Melton Town, near Cryer Creek, Texas. The Melton Community was bought and with Dave Maggard and Dave Williams the group formed the Mississippi Colony, with father Stokes' home as headquarters.

". . .In the spring of 1870, the Mississippi Colony met on Sunday at the home of father Stokes. The day was spent in telling of events of the past and making plans for the future. As the day closed, all returned to their homes. The nearest living to the home of father Stokes was Mr. And Mrs. Brazelle, a family who made the journey with us from Mississippi.

"Shortly after nine o'clock, we heard two shotgun blasts. Then we heard a woman calling for help in the distance and screams the most pitiful I ever heard. The men folks rushed over to the Brazelle home and found him dead - shot twice through the chest. . . It was learned later that some white man living across Chambers Creek did the killing. No reason was given and nothing was ever done about it."

William W. Stokes died in Navarro County, Texas on July 4, 1880, and Martha McMullen Stokes died July 14, 1881, and was buried beside her husband.



Mary Ann White, 1841-1936

9/ THE SOUTH RISES AGAIN
1870 - 1890

John Ball built the East Mississippi Cotton Mill in Meridian soon after the war and he built the first cotton compress in the early 1870's. Ball's compress compacted the bales so they could be handled and shipped easier. His cotton mill did not flourish until after 1875, when John Gary and L. P. Brown took it over. The new owners negotiated better freight rates for shipping cotton to eastern markets, and cotton began to move.

Cotton brokers flocked to the rail center of Meridian to compete for cotton from Lauderdale and the surrounding 13 counties. The cotton boom had begun, and farmers could at last sell all they produced.

By 1880, Lewis Ragsdale had put in another compress, The Planters Press and Warehouse, to compress and store the vast amounts of cotton the farmers sold to be shipped to the eastern textile mills. There were local manufacturers of cotton goods, also, as factories were built in the town.

Times were easier for farmers as the market improved and good times slowly returned. Everybody seemed to have money. By 1888, there were 50 cotton factors in Meridian, each eager to handle the farmers' cotton.

There were black families, former slaves, who bought farms in Pine Springs in the 1870's. After Thomas Stennis had come other blacks, Harry, Prince, two Bailey brothers (Albert and Rufus), and a man named Johnson. All bought land in Pine Springs.

Other blacks sharecropped for white landowners, but there is no record of them owning farms. They were poor at first - whites and blacks both had problems in the Reconstruction days in the beginning of the '70s. However, in the prosperous days of the 1880's, the races got along well enough, provided the "niggers stayed in their place". With the scarcity of good help, blacks were welcomed for the work they were willing to do in the fields; a good field hand brought top wages and the blacks could choose for whom they would work. Some of the poorer whites showed jealous resentment when blacks were offered the 'better' jobs.

A new Mississippi constitution was written in 1869 (to replace the one written under the

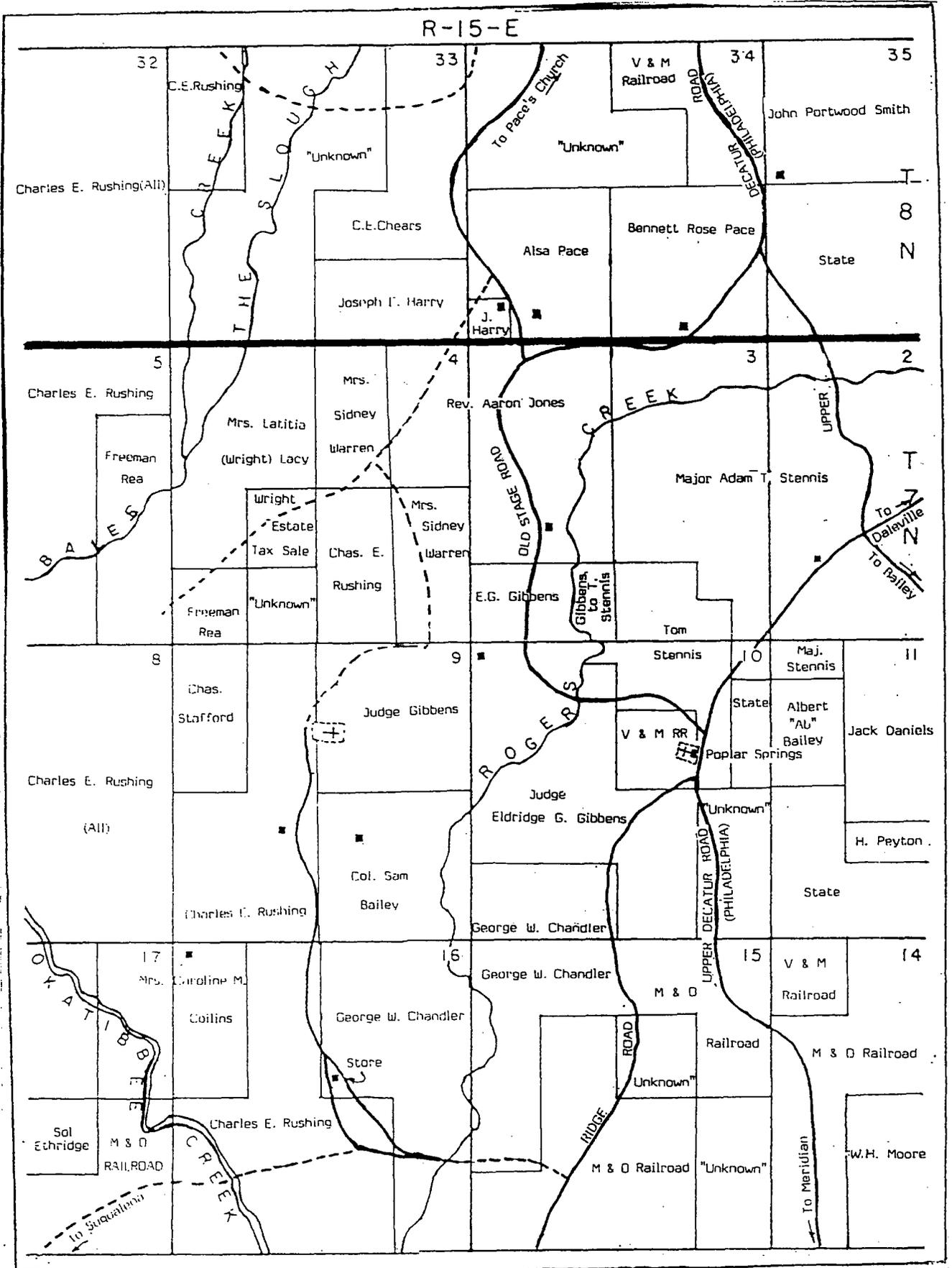
Confederacy) which, for the first time, provided for free public schools in the state. Private pay schools faded into history as the new system expanded and improved. The January 1871 School Board minutes show that a tax of 5 mills for a teacher fund and 2½ mills for a schoolhouse fund was levied by the County Supervisors. The School Board ordered the establishment of four new schools in each beat. Dr. J. N. Rhodes was appointed director of schools in Beat 3, which included Pine Springs.

In the early years of public schools, the schools established by the board changed from year to year. It was up to the community that wanted a school to furnish a schoolhouse and to apply to the board for a paid teacher. Each year the schools were selected by the board upon application of interested parents. In 1877, the board minutes show a listing of the county schools. There were 4 white and 2 black schools for Beat 3, none of which were in Pine Springs. In 1878, one of the four Beat 3 schools was Oak Grove, the first public school in our community. (Remember, the community was as yet unnamed; it was still not called Pine Springs.)

The original Oak Grove School was held in a cabin, which had been built by Hack Warren on the Warren plantation during the recent war. Many of the private schools had been closed during wartime, so Hack had taught the local children for a time, but even his frail attempt had been curtailed in the days of privation following Gen. Sherman's raid. Warren's schoolhouse was located on a road, now extinct, that left the upper Pine Springs Road at the midpoint of Section 4, to turn northeastward across the Warren Plantation to intersect with the Upper Decatur Road (the stagecoach road) that came through the eastern side of the community. This former road cut diagonally across the front yard of today's resident, Mrs. Jake Smith (Miss Ebbie). Of course, Miss Ebbie's house had not been built then. The former schoolhouse site is immediately behind the Smith's barn. [SW¼NE¼, S-4]

The Warren school had been vacant for several years when two sons of Alsa Pace, both of whom

LANDOWNERS - 1872



had children to educate, conceived of the idea of opening a public school in the empty schoolhouse cabin on Warren's land. A. Carrol Pace and Bennet R. Pace applied to the School Board for a teacher, and in 1878 Oak Grove Public School was opened. They named the school after the grove of surrounding trees.

In 1879 Oak Grove was not selected as one of the four schools in Beat 3, but the Gumlog School, held in the Baptist Church was opened, and Pine Springs students attended there. The trustees at Gumlog were Rev. (Capt.) John Brown, Charles W. Shepherd and Seaborn "Jackie" Smith. Jack Smith served only one term as trustee.

In 1880, Beat 3's five schools included Oak Grove, and R. L. Robinson was its teacher. The trustees were A. C. Pace and Bennet R. Pace. Albert Pace, Bennet's youngest child, was 14 that year; the following year Albert entered high school near Daleville. As it was just as easy for Carrol Pace's children to attend at Gumlog, both the Pace brothers stopped working to keep Oak Grove open. It closed in 1881.

Then other Pine Springs parents became concerned because their children had no local school. Following a meeting, they worked together to build a schoolhouse, and elected local fathers W. G. (Dock) Weatherford, Felix Vincent, and Robert Phillips to be its three trustees. They named the new school 'Collins' after the late John B. Collins who had worked to keep a private school in the community before the war. Collins School, built next to the community cemetery in Sec. 9, was more centrally located for most of the local children. It was opened in the fall of 1882, with the teacher being the same Mr. Robinson. His salary that year for the three month term was \$87.95.

For reasons now unknown, Collins School was not opened after that one year. In 1883 the local children apparently attended Gumlog School. When the Collins School remained closed for the second year in 1884, Samuel J. Bozenan, who had recently moved to the southern end of the community, got together with Zachary Williams and S. Rivers to open a small school named Bozenan in nearby Beat 1. The exact location of the Bozenan School is unknown, but it appears to have been in the neighborhood of today's Barnhill Road, just outside Beat 3. Other than Sam Bozenan, the trustees were non-residents of Pine Springs. Miss A. C. Kilpatrick was the teacher.

In 1885, Collins School was re-opened after two years under the the old name of Oak Grove. (A new school called Collinsville had opened at Dink Collins' store.) Oak Grove's trustees were Felix Vincent, Robert Phillips, and John Love.

In pursuance of a state act passed in March 1886, the School Board set up School Districts for each school, and thereafter choosing school sites became less haphazard. One of the districts set up in 1887 in Beat 3 was for Oak Grove School. Felix Vincent worked so faithfully to keep Oak Grove open that some called it "Vincent School".

By 1887 there were 15 white and 6 black schools in Beat 3. In 1888, the School Board visited each school to see what conditions the schools were in. On February 22, 1888, the Board visited Oak Grove and wrote this report:

OAK GROVE. White school, in Beat 3. Visited Feb. 22, 1888. Teacher, W. W. McDonald. Largest enrollment, 25, only 17 present, caused by bad weather and work. Frame upright plank building, 22 X 18 ft., unsealed. Four windows with wooden shutters. Building too small. Has one door, floor and sides open, has stick and dirt chimney. House not comfortable in winter. Has a large blackboard, but inferior writing facilities. Plenty water.

In an effort to upgrade the quality of teachers, the county began giving examinations in 1889. If a teacher failed, she or he would have to wait two years before the examination would be repeated. In another effort to improve education, the scholastic year was lengthened from three to six months.

In the 1889-1899 term, Vincent School, formerly Oak Grove, had Miss Mamie Wellborn of Suqualena for a teacher. (Miss Wellborn later became the first wife of Joel New, a later resident of Pine Springs.) There were 24 students enrolled. That same term, Dr. Dee Pace, son of Bennet R. Pace, returned to the county from medical school, and taught at Hooks School, east of Bailey Store. Dr. Pace taught for several years to pay debts he had accumulated while attending the Memphis Medical School.

* * * * *

Arthur Brown was a son of John H. Brown who had fought in the Alabama Indian Wars of 1813 before he came to settle in Lauderdale County. Arthur was the older brother of Capt. John Brown (pastor of Gumlog Baptist Church). Other brothers were Randolph "Randall" Brown (who lived near Gumlog before he moved to Newton Co.), William Brown (who married Capt. Hamrick's daughter and died on his plantation at Chunkyville), and Sinai Brown (first wife of Thomas J. Hamrick). There were others in the family, but these were the

ones who played a prominent role in the Pine Springs area, or who had descendants, at one time or another, who lived in the community.

Arthur, born in 1804 in Georgia, was brought by his parents to the Mississippi Territory and was a lad when his father fought the Indians. He grew up in the Mobile area (West Florida) and, in 1822, he married Miss Mariah Welch of Clarke Co., Alabama. Mariah was a cousin of Dr. J. P. Welch, who was a prosperous planter-physician in eastern Lauderdale Co. before the Civil War.

Born in humble surroundings, Arthur was able to better himself financially and he was an established and successful planter by the 1850's. He and Mariah had ten children, with six of them being born before they came to Mississippi in 1842. As the older children married, Arthur sold, or gave, them land from his rather large plantation. They mostly lived near him, except one son, William James Brown, who became a doctor and practiced near Whynot. All the sons were educated and accustomed to living the good life. [The Brown plantation was located in the area of today's Briarwood Country Club.]

Arthur's son, John M. Brown, was born in West Florida in 1832, and married Laura Alabama Avarilla McShan in 1852 at about the time her father, Ferdinand McShan, died. John became the legal guardian of Laura's younger brother.

In 1855, Arthur sold his son, John, 80 acres of rich farmland where John and Laura made their home. Arthur later gave John a 25-year-old male slave named Ben. John was listed in the 1860 census with land worth \$2000 and slaves worth \$5000.

Arthur Brown had five sons who fought in the Confederate Army, with two of them losing their lives for the Cause. John was one of the boys who returned unharmed only to find his plantation in ruins. All was gone but his wife, children, and his land, but he was still alive, and with grit and fortitude he started over.

The going was tough. Laura cheerfully took to the kitchen and John took to the fields., but they kept getting deeper into debt. They borrowed to have money to operate but in the end they lost their farm.

Col. Sam Bailey still owned the 160 acres in Pine Springs he had acquired from Thomas Wells in 1869. Although Bailey kept it rented out he wanted to sell if he could. John and Laura were looking for a place to live and, on August 14, 1875, John gave Bailey a Deed of Trust and bought the Pine Springs farm. [SE¹/₄, S-9] The Browns became a part of the community.

When John and Laura moved to the community

they had seven children. Their oldest child was Fanny Mary, who married and moved with her husband, Francis Asbury Lane, to Lake, Mississippi, to "raise more cotton". Still with the parents were Hassie (Mariah J.), 12; Sally (Sarah Virginia), 10; Arthur Randolph (the only son), 7; and Johnnie, 6. Their two baby girls were Susie and Lula.

John M. Brown was thick-set, not tall, with brown hair and blue eyes. An avid fisherman, he must have enjoyed living so close to Okatibbee Creek. He enjoyed reading, and he liked pretty things, often bringing Laura a bright feather he had picked up or perhaps a flower he found growing along a fence row. (Young Arthur inherited his father's artistic nature and made wood-carvings and paintings, although he grew up to become a carpenter.)

The Browns were Methodist and attended nearby Poplar Springs Methodist Church. John, being educated, became a schoolteacher. [Descendants say he taught "at Rushing Store", although they do not know the name of the school where he taught.]

Whatever else he was - dreamer, poet, romantic - John was not a good farmer. He made a living but again he lost his farm. It must be said in his defense, however, that many farmers were losing their land at that time. John could not pay the mortgage to Col. Bailey, and in January 1878, Bailey repossessed.

The Browns stayed on in Pine Springs and sharecropped for Sam Bailey. That same year the second Brown daughter got married. Miss Hassie was a pretty girl, only 15 years old, when she married Stanley Vastine Bird (Byrd). A few months later she died of complications from her first pregnancy. Miss Hassie and her premature infant were buried next to the Brown's farm in the local Pine Springs graveyard. Mother and infant shared a common grave. There was no money for a stone marker.

John and Laura Brown bought a smaller farm (40 acres) and moved to Suqualena. It took several years, borrowing from David Rosenbaum & Sons of Meridian each spring, but at last the farm was theirs. John taught in Suqualena School while Miss Laura managed the farm. Young Arthur was big enough to plow by that time and he helped his mother.

One of the mortgage contracts signed by Mrs. Laura Brown listed her collateral - "One black horse mule, medium sized, about 9 years old, named Bill. One red brindle cow, not

named, marked under bit in left ear and split in right ear, about 7 years old. One wooden axle wagon....." In time the farm was paid for.

Laura McShan Brown died in 1891 and was buried at Suqualena Methodist Church. John lived until 1908 when he died at a daughter's home at age 76. Their son, Arthur, inherited the Suqualena farm, part of which is still owned by John's great grandson, John W. Brown.

* * * * *

In 1838, a well-to-do Ratcliff family from South Carolina came to Mississippi and bought a tract of land in the area of Drip Off Spring. After a closer inspection of available land, James Shelton Ratcliff, the father, bought other parcels of land, east of old Daleville, to establish a large plantation. [Today's Meridian Naval Air Station occupies part of the former Ratcliff land.]

A genealogy of the family, compiled by Clarence Earl Ratcliff in his book, "Richard Ratcliff", traces the family back to Normandy, with its migration to England taking place in 1066. Skipping over centuries of Ratcliff noblemen, we come to one Richard Ratcliff, born 1614 at "Chapel Hill", a family estate in Lancashire, England.

Richard married Alice Rawsthorne, whose mother was Mary, wife of Nicholas Rawsthorne and one of the early converts to the Society of Friends, then mockingly called "Quakers". Richard and Alice Ratcliff joined the Protestant movement, whereupon he and his sons were repeatedly fined, sometimes jailed, for refusing to swear oaths of allegiance to the king, not paying tithes to the Anglican Church, and for holding Quaker meetings.

Richard's oldest son, James (b. 1645), in and out of prison, finally departed England with his wife and family, sailing on the "Rebecca of Liverpool" to settle in Pennsylvania, William Penn's colony. Twenty-one year old Richard, Jr., lawyer, planter, and weaver, boarded the ship "Submission" at Liverpool in 1682, outward bound to join his brother. For some reason the Captain delivered his passengers to Choptank, Maryland, where young Richard joined the Third Haven Meeting of Friends in Talbot County. He married a Quaker lass, Mary Cauterne, in 1691.

In 1719, Richard, Jr.'s son, John (b.1694), married Sarah Fellows, a fellow Quaker. John and Sarah removed to Dobbs County, North Carolina around 1734 where they joined the Lower Falling Creek Meeting of the Society of Friends. A planter, John built up a 900-acre plantation called "Ratcliff's Choice" before he died in 1771.

John's son, Joseph Ratcliff (b.1720), had come

to North Carolina as an adolescent. A shoemaker, in 1754 he bought land 5 miles east of Kinston (now in Lenoir Co.). Joseph performed military service during the Revolution and the Quakers ousted him for his "warlike tendencies".

Joseph's son, William Ratcliff (b.1720), a planter, migrated to Orangeburg District, South Carolina where he and his wife, Agga (Agnes), with four sons and four slaves, show up in the 1790 census. (A fifth son had died an infant.)

William's 6th son, James Shelton Ratcliff (who came to Mississippi), was born on his father's plantation in 1793, two years before his father's death. He spent his early years on the Orangeburg plantation with his mother and 2 older brothers. (Two more of 6 Ratcliff boys had not survived childhood.) In 1820, the older brothers, Joseph G. and William Ratcliff, Jr., moved to Copiah Co., Mississippi, leaving James with their mother.

In 1817, James married Elizabeth, the daughter of a German family, Jacob and Mary Ott. His and "Eliza's" first 9 children were born in Orangeburg, their names being Shadrack, 1818, who died a young unmarried man; Marach, 1821, who died an infant; Gabriel A., 1822; Lemuel W., 1824; Meldrick James, 1826; Obadiah Abraham, 1828; Mary L., 1830; James Hamilton, 1832; and Angelina Catherine, 1834. James moved his family to Charleston, probably at the death of his mother, and their next two children, Virgil Burdette (1836) and Elizabeth Marzy (1837), were born in that city.

It was in 1838 that James and Eliza Ratcliff, with their nine (living) children and five slaves, migrated to Lauderdale County. Their last child, Julia Keziah, was born in the county in October, 1839.

Mr. Ratcliff, a religious man, was one of the charter members of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, which was built near his plantation. He was 55 in November 1848 when he wrote his will; he was two days past his 57th birthday a year later when he died on November 18, 1849. When his will was probated that December it revealed the James C. Bird had been a witness to James Ratcliff's signature.

His name was Hosea Hograth Bird, but everyone called him Hosie. He was born in South Carolina in 1827, and it is possible that he was a grandson of William and Elizabeth Bird who migrated to Alabama (Sumter Co.) in the 1830's. We do not know the name of Hosie's parents. [Could it be that the James C. Bird that signed James Ratcliff's will was Hosie's father?]

In 1850, Hosie Bird, then 23, was living in Lauderdale County with an older widow, Mrs. Mary Bird, and five Bird children. The farm where

the Birds lived was listed in Hosie's name, as he was the oldest son. The other children were James S., 19, who was born in Georgia; Zeptha J., 16; Martha R., 13; Henry, 7; and Catherine, 5. The last four children were born in Alabama.

The Birds' farm was in Walnut Grove community near the Ratcliff plantation. Miss Angelina Ratcliff, fifteen when her father died, married Hosie Bird when she was nineteen. After they married, the Birds moved to Kemper County where they became loggers. In 1860, James S. Bird was appointed postmaster of a new post office at Rio.

Hosie Bird, a young father, died at age 33 on July 14, 1860. The circumstances of his death are not known; one wonders if he had some kind of terrible accident while working with the timber. His five children, all under ten years old, were Vas (Stanley Vastine), 1852; Mildred, 1854; Young W., 1856; Zeptha, 1858; and Campbell, 1859.

Angelina Bird, a young widow, returned to the Ratcliff plantation where she and her children weathered the Civil War years. In 1872 she married John V. Ingram in Lauderdale County. Angelina had two children from this second marriage; a daughter, Jackey, and a son, Lee. Angelina died on July 2, 1887. It is not known what became of her second family.

Angelina's two older sons, Vas and Young, became loggers like their late father. Young married Lucinda Jennie Hendon in 1873 and lived for a time near Gumlog Church before returning to Rio in Kemper County. Vas was about 25 when he became acquainted with Miss Hassie Brown, daughter of John M. and Laura Brown of Pine Springs. Vas and Hassie were married in 1878.

The Birds, happy and in love, rented a rude shack alongside the stagecoach road on Eldrige Gibbens' Pine Springs farm. Vas gave up his log-cutting and settled down to put in a crop. Their honeymoon days had not ended when Hassie had a miscarriage and died. Vas buried Hassie and their baby in the community cemetery, and placed a simple board at their grave. He was alone.

Vas took in two buddies, J. F. Harmon (19) and R. Walter Bailey (21), to keep him company. Harmon's identity is unknown, but Bailey was a nephew of Col. Sam M. Bailey of Bailey Store. The three bachelors put in a crop and raised pigs to sell and, in the winter months, they worked for wages in the woods or hauled logs with the timbermen. They managed to find time to squire the local young ladies around. Walter Bailey soon married Agnes, daughter of William and Aggie Love, who had moved down to Sec. 16 in Pine Springs. Walter and Agnes bought land in Sec. 16 near her parents.

In the 1880's, the Philadelphia Road was heavily traveled by freight wagons as they plied their way from Meridian northward to Kemper, Neshoba, and Newton Counties. Going down they were loaded with cotton, pelts, corn and whatever, and, coming back, they had barrels of flour, furniture, dry goods - anything that one wanted moved from one place to another. Riding along, hour after hour behind the plodding mules, could get to be a tedious job.

One day a wagon came along the road from up country and the mule-skinner, to pass the time, was playing with his bullwhip. He had become quite proficient at making the long whip crack. As he rode along he flicked his whip to cut off the top of a weed here, a honey-bee from a flower there. As he neared Vas Bird's hog pen beside the road, he cracked his whip and hit a pig's ear, and the pig let out a piercing squeal. The excited pig ran around the pen protesting loudly, and the whip cracked again. The mule-skinner made the pig's bloody second ear match his first.

Vas, working nearby, saw what happened and about had a stroke. He was not a tall man, nor a big man, but he was feisty. He ran to the road shouting obscenities. He accused the freighter of an incestuous choice of sexual partners, mentioned the deplorable morals of his mother, proclaimed his ignoble ancestors and the lack of a wedding being performed between his parents. Then Vas ordered him to do things upon himself that were highly unlikely, if not impossible, and invited the freighter to step down to receive a well-deserved punch on the nose.

"Come on down and fight," he finished up, "or 'y God, I'll climb up there and PULL you down!"

But the driver just laughed.

"Come on up and git me, little man," he taunted.

Vas just sort of leapt to the wagon to pull himself to the high seat. The driver turned the handle of his snake whip around and clubbed Vas on the arm. Vas, his arm broken, fell from the wagon. The skinner spoke to his mules and went on his way, still laughing. Vas stood in the road, shaking his good fist at the departing van, yelling what he was going to do if that scalawag came that way again.

* * * * *

Ab (Albert) and Rufe (Rufus) Bailey were brothers, born to slave parents near Atlanta. The exact dates of their births are not known, their ages only estimated. They were mere boys when Samuel M. Bailey bought the pair and Rufe, the youngest, even as an old man, used to cry when

he described waving to his mother as he was hauled away in the back of a wagon. His last memory of her was seeing her in the door of their cabin, wiping her eyes on her white apron. The boys' father was somehow able to visit his sons in Mississippi on one occasion, but they never saw their mother again.

The Bailey family came to Mississippi in 1858, and Ab and Rufe were among the slaves brought along to help establish the new plantation. Massa Bailey became Col. Bailey three years later in the war that gave the slaves their freedom.

Rufe, not much over 10, was turned loose in the Reconstruction world of chaos and hunger. When the Col. returned from the battlefields he gave Rufe a home and became his protector. Rufe worked for Col. Bailey around the gin and on the farm for his room and board, and the Col. sent him to the black public school that had opened not far from Bailey Store. The 1870 census listed 18-year-old Rufus Bailey living at Col. Bailey's home.

Ab Bailey, 12-15 years older than Rufe, married Willie Stennis, daughter of Thomas Stennis of Pine Springs. Ab was trained to be a blacksmith and opened a shop near Bailey Store. All seemed well until Willie died with the birthing of their first child.

Ab was able to buy land in the 1870's, in the west half of Sec. 11 on the southeastern edge of Pine Springs, next the farm of Thomas Stennis. He was married for a second time to Antoinette "Mollie" Gallespy, who, it is thought, was a former slave of A. W. Gallispie, whose plantation was in the neighborhood. By 1880, Ab, 45 years old, was living with Mollie and their five children.

Ab Bailey increased his farm and the 1892 land tax roll shows him owning 360 acres with a value of \$700. Albert lived on his farm the rest of his life. He died in a house fire and was buried in the old Poplar Springs Methodist Church Cemetery.

Ab Bailey's children grew up, married, and built houses near Ab's home. Farmers, they worked their own places and hired out as laborers to Col. Bailey and farmers who lived in Pine Springs. Their wives did domestic work to supplement their incomes. Ab's children were Harriet, who married George Williams; John, 1867, who married and his son, little Emery, was born before he died; Alvin, 1870-1946, married Mattie Bailey, possibly the daughter of Allen Bailey, another of the Col.'s former slaves; Emery, 1872, married Magaline Blanks of Daleville; and William (Willie), 1873, married Eliza Bailey, sister of Mattie. Some of Ab's descendants still live on Ab's old farm.

Rufus Bailey married about the mid-1870's. His

wife was Miss Phillis Gallespy, born, according to census records, in 1849. Rufe's farm was on the west side of his brother's, and being closer to Pine Springs, their children were more known in the community. Rufe owned only 80 acres, all in Sec. 10, located on today's Barnhill Road near the old Poplar Springs Church. [E₂SE₄¹, S-10]

Phillis told her children the old church had burned in the late 1880's, but the black community continued to hold services at the old site. They made a brush arbor where they worshiped until they began attending the Oak Grove Baptist Church on Pine Springs Road south of Bozeman's Hill.

Rufe and Phillis had four daughters and one son, although their son, Robert, died a child. Their girls all married and remained on the farm, raising their own families nearby.

Tennessee Bailey, b. 1879, married Richard Pruitt of Kemper. When he was killed by a horse, Tennessee raised their children in Pine Springs by doing domestic work. She lived at the top of the hill next to the old cemetery.

Nancy Jane Bailey married Roger "Rog" Darden, a farmer/well-digger. They lived on King Road and had five children, with two who died infancy.

Mary Eliza Bailey married William "Willie" Thomas of Kemper, and owned a farm where King Road crosses today's Hwy. 495. They had five children.

Anzie Brunetta Bailey first married Willie Stancil. Their five children were nearly grown when Mr. Stancil died. Anzie then married Lee Hannible, a widower with seven children. There were no children from her second marriage. Lee Hannible was a trustee of the black Pine Grove School in 1816-1919, with W. C. Bailey and M. Lyons.

* * * * *

During the time of high land taxes and other difficulties that occurred under the radical rule of the early post-war years, Maj. Adam Stennis suffered lean years as did the other farmers. Adam was better off than many in that he appeared to have some capital reserve to see him through this trying period, as well as other business ventures in Meridian. His was one of the larger Pine Springs farms, and when the cotton market improved, he was able to recover more quickly.

Maj. Stennis sold bits of land close to his home to blacks. Perhaps he recognized that by having dependable help close by, he would be assured of a source of field hands. He did not sell his best cotton land along Rogers Creek, but from the red clay hills above.

Maj. Stennis died at age 57 in 1878, leaving Julia with their seven children. A tall, impressive

stone marker for Adam and Mrs. Stennis can be seen in the cemetery at Fellowship Baptist Church. It is doubtful that Mrs. Julia Stennis is buried there. Both Adam and Julia had been members of the Baptist Church, but at his death, Julia stopped her attendance. After she married Mr. Lambert May in 1882, rumors abounded that Miss Julia had joined the Catholics. A church delegation went to visit to find out if this were true. It was true, and her name was removed from the Pace's Fellowship Church rolls.

Maj. Adam T. Stennis had been a strong advocate of education - his own father had been a schoolteacher. The Stennis children attended the Obadiah public school when they were young, but were sent away to finish their educations. They found friends and interests outside the community and only rarely involved themselves with local happenings.

The Stennis children married as follows:

Lydia A., 1856, married Dr. Martin J. Thompson in 1875 before her father died. Had seven children.

Louella Melissa, 1860, married Joseph B. Warren in 1882. Joseph was the son of William C. and Sulina Warren who lived in Marshall Co. following the war. Joseph was grandson of Moses and Sidney Warren, formerly of Pine Springs.

Joseph Dudley, 1863, married Pearl Mahan in 1879. Joe was the only child that remained in Pine Springs. More on him later.

Issac Edward, 1886, married Sally Evans, died in McComb, Ms. No issue.

William Eugene "Willie", 1868, married Lizzie Pearl Evans in 1896. No issue.

Robert Lee, 1870, married Lu Raney in 1900. Lived in Dallas and had two children.

Lillie Eugenia, 1871, married J. Robert Evans, lived in Macon, Ms. Had four children.

Mrs. Julia Stennis May died in 1894. Joe (Joseph Dudley) Stennis, the oldest son, bought out the interest of the other heirs and continued to live in Pine Springs after his mother's death. He was married on June 10, 1896 to Miss Pearl Mahan, daughter of a prominent Meridian family. Joe ran for state senator in the early 1900's and was elected. In 1910 he worked with Representatives J. A. Bailey and A. M. Denton to provide better roads. People were demanding better roads at that time so they could use their new automobiles.

Sen. Joe Stennis had financial worries in 1916 and 1919. He borrowed from his wife's sister, Mrs. Nina Mahan Bailey. (Mrs. Nina Bailey had money from her late husband, a wealthy Mississippi delta planter, and had returned to Lauderdale County

when he died.) When Joe could not repay the loan, Mrs. Bailey foreclosed on a part of the Stennis farm. Joe kept the part where the Stennis home was, but Mrs. Bailey sold the part she owned.

Joe and Pearl Stennis had three children, but they did not go to the local school. They were from the community but not a part of it, turning their attention more toward Meridian.

Mrs. Pearl Stennis died in 1924, followed in 1934 by her husband, the senator. Their only son was Joseph D. Stennis, Jr., (b.1900), who was a physician. At the death of his father, Dr. Stennis gave his life interest in the Stennis home to his two unmarried sisters. Dr. Stennis had married Miss Marion Mangel and was living in Biloxi when he died in 1958. He left no children.

Sue (Suzanne), born 1899, was the oldest daughter of Sen. Joe Stennis. It is said that she did not marry, but in 1819 there was a marriage license issued from Lauderdale County to Stennis and Antonio de la Mora. If this was our Sue, the marriage must have been brief.

Sue lived in Pine Springs all her life, where she took care of her younger sister, Jayme (b.1904). Jayme's health was not good and she never married. Sue put up a sign over to their gateposts, written in Spanish, that said "Las Dos Hermanas", The Two Sisters. Trees and shrubs were allowed to grow to the door of the once well-kept yard while the girls lived there alone.

With the exception of the black Stennis family, great-grandchildren of the former slave, few of the local people ever saw the Stennis sisters as they became older. The old house looked foreboding to passers-by as one caught quick glimpses of the old white house showing through the thicket. The Spanish sign at the gate, which few could read, served to add to the air of mystery.

Their aunt, Nina Bailey, with money being no problem, took "Le' Grande Tour" of Europe a time or two, and the two sisters were taken along. They returned to their overgrown home where they lived out their secluded lives.

* * * * *

Judge Elridge Gibbens continued to operate his farm in the 1870's with the help of hired hands and sharecroppers. Not taking part in the church or school activities, he remained a bachelor and had friends in Meridian. After the March 1869 Probate Court term, his name no longer appeared on court records. He had as hard a row to hoe as the other farmers after the Yankees returned north and left the Southerners alone.

In 1872, Gibbens lost part of his land when

David Rosenbaum bought a portion in Sec. 3 for unpaid taxes. He was able to redeem this land, but when he had to borrow again in 1874, he went to an old friend, William Wallace Chisolm. (Chisolm was the infamous Republican who was later killed by irate Democrats in the "Chisolm massacre" in Kemper.)

In February 1873, Gibbens sold $28\frac{1}{2}$ acres of his land to Tom Stennis - 24 acres from Sec. 10 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ adjoining acres from Sec. 3. Due to the wording on the deed, it is hard to say exactly where this land was. Elridge met with Tom's friend, Maj. Stennis, to measure off the portion of land, which seems to have been on the east bank of Rogers Creek. They used such phrases as "running N. 19 chains to a post in the branch", and "thence E. 18 chains to a Red Oak 6 in. in diameter that stands in a high bluff east of the creek", etc. Tom paid Mr. Gibbens \$185 cash for the $28\frac{1}{2}$ acres, the Major signing as witness. [D. Bk. R, Pg. 467]

Elridge began making more profit from his farm and gin by the late 1870's, which was well, because his house burned to the ground. The old log house had seen better days and he didn't lose much when it burned; the cost was in having it replaced.

But he did replace it, with a handsome new home. (Wash Jones was one of his carpenters.) The new house he had built was a long and narrow, four rooms long, of sawn lumber. He painted it white, but the shutters and trim he painted green. The rooms each opened onto the full-length front porch. Occupying the same spot where his old (Stokes) house had been, the new house faced east toward the road and Rogers Creek.

Around 1880, Elias and Columbus Brown, in their early twenty's, worked for Mr. Gibbens. It is thought that they were brothers. For some time his black housekeeper-cook was 60-year-old Edith Moore. Vas Bird lived in his tenant house for several years.

In April of 1882, 50-year-old Elridge G. Gibbens sold his entire farm and moved on. Nobody recalls being told where he went; one person thought he went to live with a niece somewhere in the county.

* * * * *

Benjamin Johnson, a black man, was from South Carolina, and it seems he had money when he came to Meridian. He was a barber (according to the 1882 City Directory) whose tonsorial parlor was on Commerce Street (now 4th) in downtown Meridian.

Johnson bought the 480-acre Gibbens farm in Secs. 3, 9, and 10 of Pine Springs, paying Judge Gibbens \$1550. Johnson made sure that the deed included the gin head and the two large rubber

bands (belts) that turned the machinery. It is believed that Johnson remained in town and rented his farm to tenants, or perhaps to some of his family.

In November of that same year (1882), Ben Johnson bought a 26 ft. by 80 ft. lot on Sidney Street (today's 5th St.) in Meridian, and there he opened a store. In the 1888 City Directory he is listed with his store on the corner of 5th St. and 23rd Ave. where he sold general merchandise. His relative (son? brother?), T. W. Johnson, was in charge of the barber shop while Ben managed the store. The barber shop's address was 2119 4th Street.

In 1886, Ben Johnson enlarged his farm by another 40 acres when he bought adjoining land from the V&M Railroad. This land, mostly hillside, was at the near-abandoned Methodist Church. [$SW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$, S-10]

Two years later, Johnson sold 80 acres on the western side of his farm to Mrs. Lavisa A. (Love) Pace, the wife of Andrew Pickens Pace. This sale, made on December 17, 1890, was of a wooded lot that had never been cleared. [$W\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] The Paces may have wanted it for its virgin timber, as Andy was into saw-milling.

Benjamin Johnson owned his Pine Springs farm nearly a decade, but to date nobody has been found, black or white, that knows anything about him or his family. The information given here has been gleaned from public records.

* * * * *

The 1870's saw a return of life and gaiety to the home of Bennet R. and Martha Jane Pace. After long years of the hardship and tribulations of war and its aftermath, the family welcomed the easing of restrictions brought about by wartime shortages and lack of money. As times became better, the Pace young people began with youthful exuberance to enjoy parties once more. After the crops were laid by in the summertime, they went to water-melon cuttings and church picnics, and in the winter months, corn-shuckings and molasses-taffy candy pulls were held. A new game called Baseball was catching on and neighboring communities formed teams to compete. Christmas was celebrated as a week-long holiday, but as Vicksburg had fallen on Independence Day, the 4th of July was largely ignored. (The blacks still celebrated the 4th, thinking of it as a second Emancipation Day, their time of Jubilee.)

The Pace teen-agers arrived at the "sparking" age and needed transportation to attend the many functions. In the 1880's, Bennet bought a surrey

and thereafter his family rode in style.

Madora Pace was 19 on November 27, 1871 when she married R. J. Whitaker. Anne Marie Pace was married, at 20, to James H. Alford. Adrian A. Pace had not long been out of school when he married Miss M. A. Rhodes on January 16, 1879. All left Pine Springs to make their homes.

Of the three youngest of Bennet Pace's sons left at home, Andrew was less interested in books. In the 1880's, as more forest began to be harvested, he became involved in the timber business. He married Miss Lavisa Anne Love, youngest daughter of William and "Miss Aggy" Love of Sec. 16. Andy bought land in Sec. 5 from Mrs. Bridget Rushing, widow of C. E. Rushing, and built a small house there in the timbered hills overlooking Okatibbee Creek. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-5] Two years later (Oct. 1888), Andy sold the land to Sebe (Seaborn) Smith, Jr.

In February, 1890, Mrs. Lavisa Pace was deeded 40 acres (her share of her father's estate) along Okatibbee Creek in Sec. 17. She sold it to her brothers and, using this money, Miss Lavisa bought land in Sec. 9 from Benjamin Johnson. Soon after, Andy and Miss Lavisa followed the big saw-mills south to the Laurel area, taking their small son, Ben (William Bennet), and their baby, Carl.

Bennet's and Martha Jane's youngest sons, Dee and Albert, both had ambitions of becoming physicians. Dee, the older of the two, finished at Cook's Academy and left for Memphis to become a doctor. When Albert was ready to go to the University, Mr. Pace told him that he couldn't afford to send them both. When Dee graduates, he said, then he would send Albert.

Dr. Dee Pace graduated from the University of Memphis about 1889. He owed for his education and, as a new doctor, he found it slow to build up a practice. There was a shortage of teachers as more county schools opened. To pay off his debts, Dee secured a job teaching east of Bailey Store at the Hooks School. He taught there in the winter terms of 1889-90 and 1890-91. Young Albert, busily saving money while Dee was away, was ready, at last, to leave for the University. He left for Memphis about 1890.

Grandpa Alsa Pace had grown old and was getting feeble. Miss Jestina, still left on the vine, was nearing 50 and finding it more difficult to care for her father and her brother, Jabez. The "special" child, Jabez, had grown into a 36-year-old man.

As Alsa required more attention, Mrs. Enraline Cross came down to the old Pace home to help her sister with their father's care. They hired Hester Smith, an unmarried black woman with a baby, to help with the housework. Alsa Pace died in the

summer of 1883 at the age of 87. He had lived a long full life and had touched many people through his church work. A large crowd gathered to pay their last respects when he was buried at Fellowship Baptist Church where had devoted so many years.

* * * * *

Shortly before he died, Alsa Pace sold Joseph Harry eleven acres of his farm. This small plot was in the extreme southwestern corner of Sec. 34, the site of the tenant house that Alsa had rented to Joe when he first came to Pine Springs. Perhaps old Alsa was rewarding his faithful black friend for years of stewardship of Alsa's farm.

At about the time Alsa sold Joe the home, Joe also bought the 80 adjoining acres of farmland from C. W. Cheers. [S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-34, T-8, R-15E] After sharecropping for years, 69-year-old Joe Harry's dream came true - he owned his own house and farm. And to make it even better, Joe's and Harriet's son, Jerry, bought the north half of the same quarter section in 1881. The father and son together farmed the 171 combined acres.

Joe Harry was an honest man. He had spent his life in the fields, first as a slave and later as a free man. Humbly religious, he had led a simple life, teaching his children to "do right". He died in 1883 when he was 73 years old, and was buried in the black section of the cemetery at Pace's Church. His son, Jerry, worked the farms after Joe was gone, and looked after the family.

Except for Amanda, it is not known who Joe's children married. Fellowship Church records show that Amanda married a Mr. Gay and asked for her membership letter when she moved away.

* * * * *

Hugh Prince was trying hard to make a living. He stayed here and there, working as a field hand for wages, and he wanted to somehow make enough so he could buy himself a little old place of his own.

In the early spring of 1875, Huey went to see Mr. George Chandler. Mr. Chandler was willing to loan him seed and fertilizer money, but Huey would have to put his "X" on a piece of paper to give his word that he would pay it back. The agreement was that if Huey didn't pay Mr. George back in November, then Mr. George could take Huey's yoke of red oxen, his wagon, his mouse-colored mare mule and the entire crop of corn and cotton raised that year. Huey touched the pen as someone wrote his name.

The rains hit "jes' right" that year and Huey paid off the crop lien. He put aside all he could spare and made the same arrangement with Mr. George for next season. He somehow managed to put aside a few dollars each year. He was used to living on little, "makin' do" and "gittin' by".

In 1878, Huey Prince went to see Mrs. Sidney Warren. By that time he had aged some, but was still strong enough. He could put in a good day's work. Huey "axed" Miss Sidney if she would please ma'am sell him that little ole 40 acres up there on the north end of her place? He wanted mighty bad to have a place, and if she jes' took the what he had, he believed he could pay her the rest pretty soon. (Hugh Prince had been around white folks, man and boy, all his life; he knew how to act to get most whatever he wanted. Underneath that hat-in-hand attitude beat the heart of a wily businessman.)

Mrs. Warren, living then with her son Charles, had been ready to sell her land, anyway, and she thought, "Well, why not?". She explained that if he didn't pay her what was owed she would have to take it all back.

In December 1878, Sidney Warren sold the upper 40 acres of her land to Hugh Prince for \$120. [NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-4] At the same time, she sold her home and the rest of her Pine Springs land to Mr. and Mrs. Felix Vincent.

Huey raised a little shack on his "forty", just north of the white folks' Oak Grove schoolhouse and breathed a sigh of relief. Freeman and Bessie Ray with a young boy, Harry (4), moved in with Huey.

Other blacks moved in and out with Huey Prince through the years. He gave them a home in exchange for working his land. They never had much money, but they had somethin' or other to eat and a roof over their heads. They shared what they had.

The 1880 census shows a group of blacks named Trussell living with him that year: Mary, 40; Isam, 21; Wiley, 20; Nealy, 18; and Nelly, 16. Turner Prince, possibly Huey's son, had bought a few acres near Drip Off, but he lost it through a crop lien. He showed up to live with Huey.

In 1886, Huey's old wife, Dinah, died. But Huey kept living on his farm with his hodge-podge family.

In the early 1870's, Daniel Jones, the oldest son of Rev. Aaron Jones, found work on the railway as a mail clerk with his run being the one from Meridian to Brandon. Danny had reached his 40th birthday in 1875 when he married Miss Nora E. Brice,

whom he had met in Brandon.

At their home in Brandon, Danny and Miss Nora raised chickens and sold eggs to supplement their income. They did right well with this enterprise, and Danny had regular customers along his mail route to Meridian and delivered fresh eggs at stations along the way.

Sometimes Miss Nora rode the train to Meridian with Danny to eat at Rev. Jones' home at family gatherings. On one visit Danny was grumbling about what had happened to him one day at work

Danny told that one day he had a coffin that was being shipped to Brandon. As the train neared home at the end of his run, he spread out his egg money on the end of the coffin so he could count it. He got so carried away with what he was doing that when he looked up, he and the coffin were leaving Brandon and on their way to Jackson. Danny was obliged to pay extra freight to have the coffin shipped back to Brandon. Took nearly all his egg money, he said.

If he was expecting sympathy he was disappointed. His brothers about died laughing. Danny's experience became a family joke.

Danny was only 42 and had been married two years when he became ill and died. He left no children.

Washington Jones and his wartime bride lived near his parents. He did carpenter work when he was able. Wash and Lucretia had three children before Lucretia had died. One of their children, Emma A. E. Jones, died an infant in 1871 and was buried at Poplar Springs Methodist Church.

After he lost Lucretia, Wash married a Miss Nellie Smith. His nieces and nephews called her "Aunt Puss", and found her funny to be around.

In time, Wash's nerves got so bad Miss Nellie had to put him in the Confederate Veterans Hospital at Vicksburg. He died and was buried there in the Soldier's Cemetery. His children, Albert and Minnie, married and lived in Meridian.

Milton Jones, working in Meridian, married Sarah Whittington in 1877. He bought a home there in South Side, which was demolished in the 1906 tornado, although his family was unharmed. His two sons and daughter grew up in town.

Miss Amanda was the first of Rev. Jones' daughters to be married. Her engagement came soon after the war and times were still pretty bad. But Miss Hattie said that they had been pinching and doing without long enough. It was high time that they did something really nice, she said, and planned Miss Amanda a big send-off wedding.

What a beehive of activity that caused! Aaron was startled when he passed by the door to the girls' room and saw Amanda sitting in the middle of the bed, sewing away. He asked her why in the

world she was working in bed and Amanda informed him that she was sewing on her wedding dress. It had yards and yards of white cloth in the skirt, and she couldn't take a chance on getting it soiled. She sat in the middle of her bed and hand-stitched the whole thing! It was a beautiful dress, putting Miss Hattie in mind of when she was a girl back in Atlanta. The front room of the Jones' home was cleared out and decorated for the occasion when Amanda Jones and Felix G. Vincent were married on January 23, 1873.

Felix Vincent was a house painter and worked with his father, Francis M. Vincent. The elder Mr. Vincent, a native of South Carolina, married Felix's mother, Sarah, in Jacksonville, in Calhoun County, Alabama. All the Vincents came to Meridian following the war where, with new construction taking place everywhere, they found painting jobs.

Two years after Amanda's wedding, Miss Laura Jones was married, in February of 1875, to Delamos Lafayette Thompson, a local man who was born near Meridian in 1845. The Thompsons moved to Jonesboro, Arkansas, where Delamos became involved in the manufacture of farm machinery. He did very well. They raised 7 children. Mrs. Laura Jones Thompson died in 1915 in Arkansas.

Stephen Jones was about 25 when he married Miss Minnie Little. He got into the saw-milling business and eventually bought a farm in the county near Lockhart. Stephen and Minnie had five children, but their two oldest sons were killed when they were young men in separate accidents while working with timber. (Oscar Jones died in a mill accident, and Mabra Jones was killed when a stack of logs rolled on him.) Stephen's other three children, Terry, Cliff, and Edna, grew up, married, and had children.

The youngest of the Jones family, Ida, was young, about 16, when she married John Oliver Houston of Collinsville. John was a son of the Joe Houston who had come riding in from Texas and swept Elmira Hamrick off her feet back in the 1840's. John Houston, born 1854, was the 3rd in line of the Houston's 19 children.

John and Ida Houston moved into the house with Aaron and Harriet Jones, and that must have taken some getting used to by the Jones family! The families were so different.

Miss Florence was the only unmarried child left when 74-year-old Rev. Jones died on February 4, 1886. He was buried at the Poplar Springs Methodist Church that he had helped to build.

The Jones farm was heavily mortgaged when Aaron died. After his sons left he tried to run his farm with sharecroppers but he was not as mentally alert then as he had been. He was an easy prey

for a charlatan who came along and sold him on the idea of investing in a company that was being formed to manufacture those new machines that washed clothes. Aaron borrowed money to invest, and when the new company went broke, so did Aaron. He had most of his debt paid off before he died, but he had not completely recovered.

After Rev. Jones died, John and Ida Houston stayed on in the home with Mrs. Jones and her daughter, Miss Florence. Ida Jones Houston had three children, Willie (William), Sidney, and Gracie (Ida Grace), when she died around 1888.

In 1878, the Jones' old time friend and neighbor, Mrs. Sidney Warren, nearing 80, had gone to live with her son. Finding her Pine Springs property too troublesome, she was ready to sell. Mrs. Warren sold her farm, which included the 80-acre tract where her house stood as well as the uncleared "40" where the Oak Grove schoolhouse was located, to the young Mr. and Mrs. Felix Vincent. [E¹/₂SE¹/₄ & SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, S-4] (She had already sold Huey Prince his "lil' ole 40" above the schoolhouse.) Felix did not have enough money, but Miss Sidney gave him four years to pay for the house and its 120 acres.

When the Vincents moved into the Warren house they already had three children. (Lelia Elizabeth, 4; Thomas Preston, 2; and Ida Pearl, an infant.) Cotton was bringing a good price and everyone who had land seemed to be getting back on their feet and Felix found plenty of painting jobs. He could also raise a cotton crop of his own on the side, now that they had their farm.

Felix and Amanda began to improve the old house. Felix installed weather-boarding over the old squared logs and put glass panes in the open windows. He added a handrail around the porch, with fancy new roof supports. He and Amanda were talking of taking out the old kitchen and adding a kitchen-dining room wing on the west end. They wanted a big family and would need plenty of room.

In 1880 another Vincent son was born; Francis Aaron, who they called Frank. In 1883, Nannie Viola put in her small appearance; in 1885 came Minnie Amanda. In 1889, James Oliver (Ollie) was born. With his family fast outgrowing his old buggy, Felix ordered a surrey so they could all ride together.

The Oak Grove school had opened in 1878, but it was a crudely made log building, and it was most uncomfortable for the children. Located on Vincent's land, it was just a short trail through the woods for Lelia and young Tom to walk. However, as other Vincent children became ready to start their schooling, Mr. Vincent became interested in seeing that the schoolhouse become a place that

was more conducive to learning. After Felix, Robert Phillips and Dock Weatherford worked together as school trustees in 1885, the local school situation improved. They moved Oak Grove down the road next to the cemetery, as it would be more centrally located.

Vincent served as trustee again in 1886, with John Love replacing Dock Weatherford. About 1887, the community fathers got together to build a new one-room schoolhouse there at the cemetery. It wasn't much of a building; the 1888 School Board reported it unsealed, with no glass at the windows, heated by one open fireplace. But it was an improvement over the old log cabin up in Sec. 4. Some called the new Oak Grove school the "Vincent School", either because Oak Grove had been on Vincent's land or because Felix had worked so hard to keep it going.

* * * * *

Charles E. Rushing, wealthy and well-known in the county, had owned the west half of the southeast quarter of Sec. 4 in Pine Springs since he first bought it from Walter and Rowena Alford Welch back in 1854. The place just sat there all those years, just another piece of property that Rushing had acquired among his other land holdings. It had never been cleared and was still virgin.

Rushing had a trusted employee, James M. Pigott, who lived in Marion and worked for Rushing through the years. In 1860, Mr. Pigott died, leaving behind a wife, Catherine, and three children, Alphonso, Richard, and a daughter, Katie. Mr. Rushing was fond of little Katie and watched her as she grew to be a young woman.

In 1874, Miss Katie Pigott made plans to get married. On March 23, C. E. Rushing gave the 80-acre tract in Pine Spring's Sec. 4 to his late friend's daughter for a wedding present. In the deed Mr. Rushing wrote, "...for and in consideration of the regard he has for the party of the 2nd part [Katie] whose father was for several years in his employment & possessed his confidence, & for the sum of \$1, has granted and sold and does hereby convey to said Kate Pigott..."

Katie and her husband, R. J. Vance, never made use of this land and in 1880 they were approached by Francis M. and John F. Vincent with an offer to buy the property. (Francis was Felix Vincent's father and John F. Vincent was his younger brother.) Mr. and Mrs. Vance sold the Vincents the 80 acres for \$200, taking a note for final payment, which was due in two years.

It is not known if the older Vincent built a house on the land to live there or not. The land,

which adjoined Felix and Amanda's farm, was never cleared nor farmed. In November 1883, Mrs. Katie Vance reclaimed the land, as Francis Vincent was unable to pay off his note. It is not known where Mr. Vincent lived during or after this time.

Mrs. Kate Vance held the land in question for several more years until she sold it again in 1891, with Robert Phillips being the new buyer.

* * * * *

William Thomas Phillips was born in Dondee, Scotland, shortly before the American Revolution. He was married in Scotland in 1782, but he and his wife (whose name has been lost) emigrated to America with their firstborn children.

James Fair Phillips, the 10th of William's 13 children, was born in North Carolina around 1800-1804. He traveled to Georgia as young man, where he found a wife, Betsy Deering (b.1804), and took her to Alabama. After the Mississippi Indian land opened for settlement in the early 1830's, James Fair and Betsy migrated to Neshoba County, bought land, and started a plantation. They raised 7 children in Neshoba, who grew up and married, and remained in Neshoba or Kemper Counties.

James Fair Phillips' son, Robert, was born April 8, 1836 in Alabama and came to Mississippi as a child. He married Mary Elizabeth Lewis (b.1828) in Neshoba Co. in the late 1840's. He left his wife with four children while he fought in the Civil War. After the war, he and Mary moved to Meridian, where Robert was able to find work as a carpenter. Robert and Mary had two more children.

The Phillips were living in Meridian in 1873 when James had a chance to buy some country land at a very low price. On July 23, he bought the 80-acre homestead of J. O. Lowry for \$30. [$S\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$, S-33,T8, R-15E] This land, in the northern end of Pine Springs, had been public land until it was granted to Lowry by the Federal Government under the Homestead Act of 1862. [Was Lowry a black man? We do not know. Pres. Lincoln got this act passed to help Freedmen find homes after they were Emancipated.] Robert and Mary continued to live in Meridian so Robert could be near his work.

In earlier days, Yellow Fever was a scourge to be dreaded. In 1878, an epidemic of the fever struck Meridian. As friends and neighbors began dying right and left, the people of the town became terrified. They began an exodus as citizens rushed pell mell to the country to escape the frightening - and often fatal - disease. E. H. Dial, who lived in Meridian at that time, later wrote:

...the getting away of people without regard-

to order or style of their going...All moving in disheveled haste to parts unknown...looking behind and driving before...with carts, wagons, all conveyances of every style piled high with their belongings...

Robert and Mary Phillips hastily left Meridian with their children. Unlike some of the other refugees, they had a place to go; the land in Pine Springs that Robert had bought from Lowry six years earlier. They moved into Lowry's log cabin until Robert could build a better home.

At the time they moved, the Phillips' had six children, Drucilla, 27; James P. "Jim", 22, (who was already married); Thurza Rosalyn "Rossie", 20; Mary J., 18; Miranda Demone, 10; and Mattie Josephine, 7. [Some of today's older residents have some vague memory of hearing their parents talk of some "contagious disease" that struck two of the Phillips' children about the time they came. Their deaths were not talked of much for fear of starting a panic. This may, of course, have been idle gossip.]

Robert and Mary did not entertain any thoughts of returning to the "city"; they came to Pine Springs to stay. The eastern part of their land was hilly, but the back (western) part was rich bottom land along the old Slough and Bales Creeks. They were disappointed that the local school was no better than it was; their older children had been educated and they wanted to do the same for their two younger girls.

Their first years in Pine Springs, the little girls went to the make-shift Oak Grove school, which was only three quarters of a mile down the wagon trail. Robert worked to get the school improved, and served as a trustee on several occasions. By the time the local school was firmly established, both Miranda and Mattie were ready go away to high school.

The year before his parents moved to Pine Springs, James P. Phillips, Robert's only son, had married Miss Martha E. Stephenson and lived at the Stephenson's homeplace near Shucktown.

Martha's father, Charles Wesley Stephenson (b.1804), had migrated from South Carolina. He married Artemesia (maiden name unknown) in Alabama in the early 1830's, and they had three small children when they came to Mississippi in 1839. Before the Civil War, Charley, a mechanic, sold and installed cotton gins; he had sold a gin in Pine Springs to Samuel C. Hatcher back in 1849. He bought land on Tompeat Creek southwest of today's Shucktown. He took his turn overseeing the maintenance of the old Jackson Road from Daleville (now Lizelia) to the Kemper Co. line

back in 1848. Charley owned no slaves when he came to the county; in 1860 he had seven. Charley, 64, and Artemesia, 45, were still living in 1870 and were listed in the Federal Census.

Martha, born in 1853, was Charley and Artemesia Stephenson's eighth child. She and Jim Phillips had five children she died around 1890. Jim Phillips married again and had six more children by his second wife, Mollie Scarborough.

Robert Phillips' oldest child, Drucilla, was 27 when the family came to Pine Springs. She and Lish (J. Elisha) Stephenson, Jim's brother-in-law, were married the following year. Lish, born 1858, was the 10th child of Charley Stephenson. Shortly before Lish and Drucilla married, Lish's relative, W. H. Stephenson, bought 80 acres in Sec. 5 near Okatibbee Creek from C. E. Rushing. It is not clear which Stephenson this was, but Lish and Drucilla farmed his Pine Springs land. [W¹/₂SE¹/₄, S-5] Lish was only a part-time farmer; he also made his living working with timber.

Miss Thurza Rosalyn Phillips was a saucy young lady of 20 when she came to Pine Springs. Called Rosie (which somehow came to sound like Rossie), she was pert, educated, with a tendency to be sharp-tongued if an occasion arose. She was intelligent and wasn't afraid to speak up, which she often did.

The widower, Vas Bird, had about given up on farming, finding it more profitable to work in the timber business. He met Rossie at one of the local functions and was fascinated by this unusual woman. Vas had a tendency to tease timid souls; he enjoyed goading the unsuspecting to the point of frustration just to see their reaction. He tried teasing Miss Rossie, but to his surprise, she gave back worse than she got! No, sir, he just couldn't make anything off Miss Rossie! He began to squire the young lady about in his new black buggy drawn by his handsome spirited horse.

Vas Bird was 29 and Miss Rossie was 23 when they were married in 1881. Miss Rossie thought that 'Byrd' looked prettier than 'Bird', and changed the spelling of their name.

The Byrds moved onto the Phillips farm, setting up their domicile in the old settler's cabin the Phillips had vacated when they moved into their new house. In 1882, their first child, Preston M. Byrd, was born, followed by Gracie V. in 1885. In 1888, Miss Rossie brought forth twins, Stanley Abraham (whom was called Bud) and Mary A.

Michael Shea (sometimes spelled Shay) is a puzzlement. He first showed up in Pine Springs when he married Mollie (Mary J.) Phillips, Robert's 24-year-old daughter, in 1884. There was no other family by that name in the county when he came.

He evidently traveled alone, and could have been one of the Irishmen who came to build railroads, a timberman, or perhaps a businessman from town.

A 40-acre piece of good virgin land in Pine Springs was somehow overlooked when the first settlers came to buy farms, possibly because it had no convenient water supply. [SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-4] This land, on the northwest corner of The Forks, had never been patented and was turned over to the state in 1850 with the other public lands. Mike Shea, taking advantage of the Homestead Act, staked a claim to this small portion of public land in the late 1880's. On a land tax record written in 1892, this 40-acre tract was written up as "claimed by Mike Shea". (To make the claim valid, the claimant had to establish a home on his claim and make improvements over a certain number of years.)

Mike Shea built a small board house at the top of the hill on the north end of his claim, married Miss Mollie Phillips, and moved in to settle down. Down the hill in back of their small house there was a spring, just over their north property line, where the Shea's "borrowed" water from the neighboring property.

Mrs. Letitia Wright Lacy, either by design or oversight, lost 40 acres of her farm for non-payment of taxes. [NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-4] Mike Shea purchased this land, which adjoined the north side of his claim, by paying the back taxes. This new land included the spring which was their water supply, and it also doubled the size of their small farm.

Mike and Mollie Shea had at least three children; John, Leon, and Bobby (Robert).

Charles E. Rushing died in December 1881, and Mrs. Bridget Rushing, with their 3rd son, Horace, managed the vast Rushing estate. [Their two oldest sons had been killed in the war.] In 1884, Mrs. Rushing was selling off part of the Rushing land, and Robert and Mary Phillips bought 40 acres in Sec. 5. [NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-5] This land was at the southeast corner of the Phillips' Sec. 33 farm, and was made up of rich bottomland along the Slough and Bales Creeks.

By 1890 the only children in the Phillips' home were the two young ladies, Miranda and Mattie, although Drucilla, Rossie and Mollie lived close by with their families. Robert and Miss Mary were Primitive Baptist and attended Gumlog Church. They enjoyed reasonably good health and Robert, at 50, still accepted carpenter jobs. They were a respected part of the community.

* * * * *

In 1870, the widow and children of John B.

Collins were having a rough time trying to keep their farm out of the hands of creditors. The two older sons had married and moved out and had families of their own, but Albert had put off marriage to remain with their mother to help her on the farm and to be "big brother" to the younger children.

Mrs. Collins and Albert were forced to borrow for several years to keep the roof over their heads. In 1872 they had to borrow again to get them through another crop year. That Spring, Albert went to Jim Chandler to arrange a crop lien. Mrs. Collins signed a mortgage on the family home and its 80 acres of land in Sec. 16, plus their livestock and entire corn and cotton harvest. Her collateral included 1 mouse-colored mare mule, 1 black horse, 25 head of cattle, 2 yoke oxen, and 1 wagon. With hope of a favorable year coming up, Albert, Frank, and Walt broke their fields and got started.

Things seemed to be going well until June. On June 6, Mrs. Mary Caroline Kerley Collins, at 54, after surviving the war, losing her husband, and working and worrying to keep their home, just wore herself out and died. Her children buried her in the Pine Springs Cemetery beside her husband, Judge Collins.

Lucy Collins had married the year before, but Albert (27), Frank (20), Walt (16), and Fanny (12) remained in the Collins home after their Ma died to finish their crop. They paid the note to Jim Chandler that fall.

That winter, Dink Collins went to court to get permission to sell the farm so it could be divided among the nine children. The court decreed that the Collins farm be sold, and appointed W. W. Henry as a special commissioner to auction it off.

In February 1873, the 160-acre farm was sold to the highest and last bidder at the courthouse door, which was Mr. William Love, who had bid \$1000 cash. (W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-16; E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-17] Following this sale, the Collins family left Pine Springs.

The ten Collins children, with their birth dates as recorded in the family Bible, were:

Susan B., Jan. 2, 1839 - married Van Buron Phares, 1856, moved to Jackson Parish, La.

Nathaniel M. "Dink", Jan. 10, 1840 - married Rebecca Jane Ethridge, 1865. Established a store, grist mill, saw-mill, and gin. The Collinsville Post Office was estab. 1884 in Dink's store. Gave 11 acres for Collinsville School, and also land for a black school.

Dink and Rebecca Collins had three children who reached adulthood, one of whom was Ross A. Collins (b. 1880), who became Attorney General of Miss., 1911-1919. In 1919 Ross Collins was elected a Representative to the National Congress

and several there through seven terms. While in Washington, Congressman Collins was able to get money for a vocational school in Meridian, which was given his name. This school was one of the two schools in the U. S. funded with NYA money (one of Pres. Franklin Roosevelt's programs to help our youth). Collins was credited with America's mechanized warfare development before World War II, playing a key role in providing funds for the B-17 Flying Fortress, America's number one military aircraft at the outbreak of the war. Wanting to do something for Meridian Collins presented the city with an expensive two-volume copy of the Gutenberg Bible on Easter Sunday April 5, 1931. It is currently displayed in a glass case at the Meridian Public Library.

Mary E., May 17, 1841, was not listed with the family in 1860. We assume she had married.

Albert Goodwin, Nov. 2, 1844, married (1) S. A. Stephens, 1882; (2) Mary M. _____, 1886; (3) Emma J. Stephens, 1891 (?); (4) Ida Gordon, ca 1901. Bought land near Collinsville. First three wives buried at Pleasant Ridge Meth. Church. About 19000 Albert moved to Battlefield in Newton Co. to open a store and grist mill.

John B. Collins, Jr., April 10, 1846. Died in war??

John Madison Collins, Jan. 8, 1848, married Amanda Ethridge, 1869. Moved to Collinsville where he bought a farm. Lived there until 1880 when he became a Meridian Policeman.

The police were tipped that there was gambling taking place at Bishop's Gin Mill on 6th Street. On Saturday evening Oct. 17, 1888, the officers made a raid upon the establishment. When the officers arrived, one of the hoods drew a pistol while attempting to escape. James drew his gun, but the suspect shot him in the upper abdomen. Although shot, James deliberately took aim and fired twice at the fleeing man. The second shot appeared to hit the man for he fell, but quickly got up to make his escape.

Dr. J. M. Thompson probed for the bullet without success, and James died at 6PM. He was buried in Pine Springs Cem. Next to his parents.

Franklin J., Sept. 28, 1851, went to Texas with his sister, Mrs. Lucy Collins Warren.

Lucy P., Sept. 22, 1851, married T. F. Warren 1871. This Warren was son of Charles Warren, and grandson of Moses Warren, late of Pine Springs. Lucy and her husband migrated to Cleburne Co., Texas, with her father-in-law.

Walter, Nov. 17, 1855, migrated to Texas with Lucy.

Frances M. "Fanny", Sept. 11, 1860. Married a Mr. Ramsey?



James M. Collins of Pine Springs, first known Meridian Policeman to fall in the line of duty. Died Oct. 17, 1888

[In the Community graveyard next to the school, now called Pine Springs Cemetery, there is a neat row of nine Collins graves. They were marked with home-made cement headstones which have since been crumbled by the ravages of time. Today's older citizen say the stones were intact when they were youngsters, but they do not recall the individual Collins names. It is known that John and Caroline Collins, and their son James M. Collins, and the two infant sons of Dink Collins, were buried at Pine Springs. It is not known who is buried in the other four graves. Perhaps Caroline's mother, and her father (Arthur Kerley?) Were the two oldest graves. They both died before 1850.

The Love family originated in South Carolina. Family tradition say that three Love brothers came to Lauderdale County about the mid- 1840's, but one went on west, possibly to Arkansas. The two who remained in the county were William M (b. 1824) and his younger brother, James.

William married Agnes F. Brown about 1846. She is said to have been the daughter of David Brown, who also came from South Carolina. (This was not the David M. Brown who lived at drop Off Spring). Young James Love lived with William and Agnes Love

until he married Caroline Hendricks in 1851.

The land tax roll in 1858 shows that William Love owned an 80-acre farm about a mile east of today's Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church in Obadiah. This, evidently, was the farm where William's and Aggie's nine children were born. (William called her Aggie.)

In 1873, when the Circuit Court decreed that the estate land of John B. Collins in Pine Springs be sold at public auction, William M. Love was the highest bidder (\$1000) and bought the 160-acre farm in Sections 16 and 17. The Love family moved to Pine Springs in 1874.

No longer a young man, Mr. Love was about 50 when he and Aggie came. Two of their older children, Margaret and John, were already married, but the seven younger Love children came to the community with the parents. With them came Joseph M., 23; A. (Andrew) Frank, 22; David, 17, Bettie (Elizabeth), 15; W. (William) Thomas, 11; Agnes Suflona, 9; and Lavisia Anne, 7. [No further records of David and Bettie Love have come to light after the family moved to the community; perhaps they grew up and married.]

The Loves moved into the log (Collins) house where they lived out their lives. They didn't have much; they had everything they needed. The farm couple spent their quiet steadfast days in honest toil, taking their living from the good earth. The seasons came and went, and Will and Aggie lived to see many of their grandchildren.

Frank Love married in 1875, his wife being Miss Alice Wilson, the daughter of James Wilson and his late wife, Nancy Hays Wilson. Mrs. Nancy Wilson had died when Alice was born, and the only mother little Alice had ever known was her old grandma, Lucy (Lucinda) Wilson, who came to live with her father.

The James Wilson farm was between Pine Springs and Gumlog Church, and Frank and Alice Love lived with them when they first married. It was several years before they bought a place of their own. In January 1885, Frank bought 80 acres near his father in Sec. 16 from the Rushing estate, and settled there to farm. [$N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$, S-16]

Frank Love was not much of a hand for farming. He had a vegetable garden and corn patch and livestock so they did not go hungry, but they never accumulated much. In 1886, Frank gave up on farming and sold their land to Aaron Rodgers, married to one of the Bozenan girls in the community. Frank went to work with timber and saw-mills.

In 1888, Alice Wilson Love died in childbirth when her 6th baby, Cora, was born. That year the Love's older children were William Preston, 12; Minnie Belle, 10; Jodie (Joseph), 8; Ada, 5; and

Jeraldon, 3. Young Minnie took over the housekeeping chores for the family, but she was too young to handle her tiny sister. Old Mrs. Lucy Wilson, their sprightly great-grandma, took baby Cora to keep until she had grown large enough for her "big" sister Minnie to manage.

William and Aggie Loves' son, Joseph, stayed with his folks to help on the farm until he was nearly 30. He had been "squiring" Miss Ella Bailey around, and one day they thought they would surprise everybody and elope. Miss Ella was the oldest daughter of Robert S. Bailey, the late brother of Col. Sam Bailey of Bailey Store. Col. Bailey acted as guardian of his nieces and nephews after Robert died.

Robert Shacklin Bailey, born in Cleveland County, N.C., had moved to Georgia with his parents. He married Eliza Ann Thompson and made their home in Gainsville, Hall Co., Georgia. They had one son, James Malcolm Bailey (b.1857), when they migrated to Arkansas. It would seem that Robert and Eliza both died in the 1870's, for five of their children came to Lauderdale County to live with Col. Sam Bailey. Their son, James M. Bailey, remained behind, married, and lived "over the river" in Memphis.

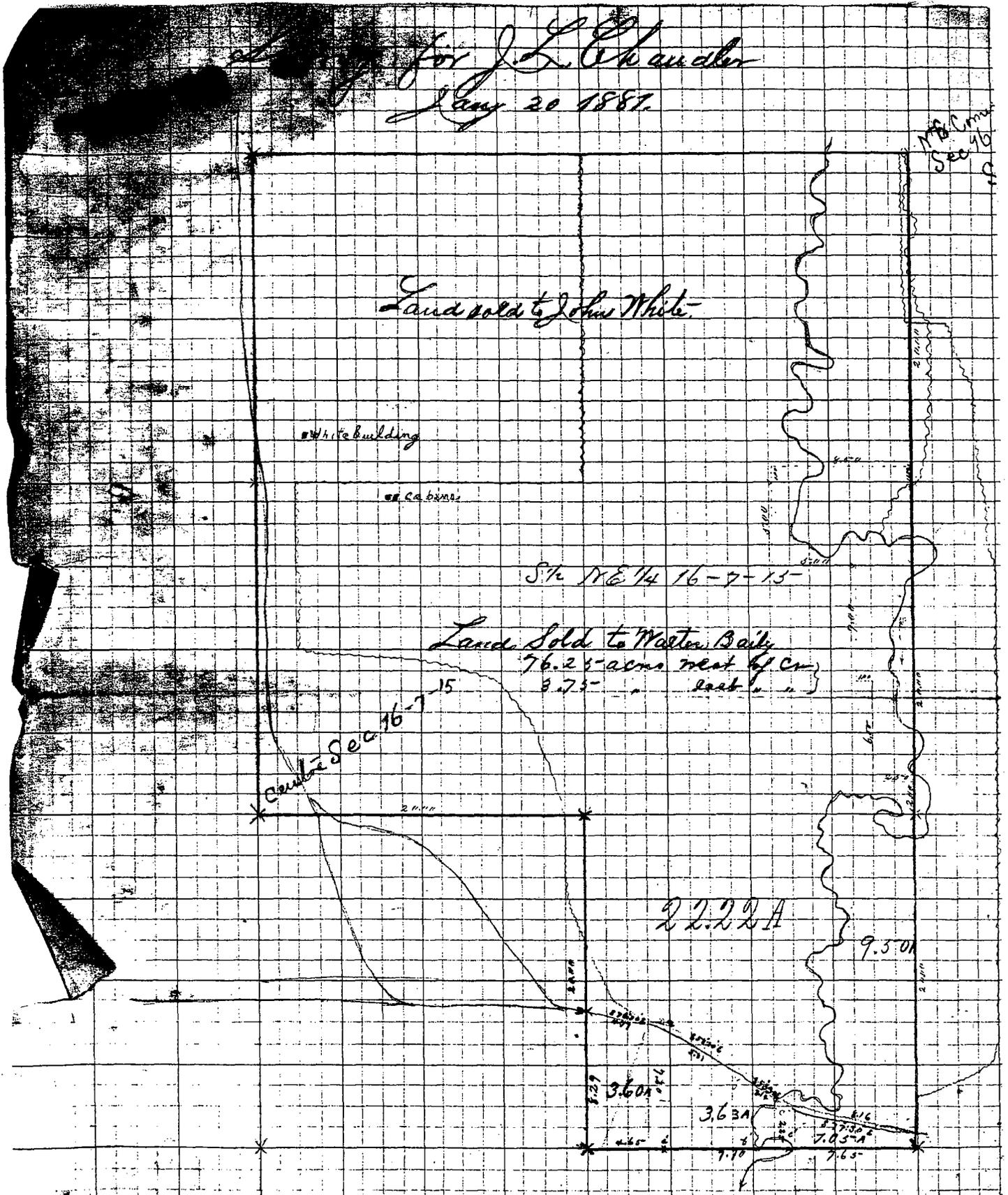
Walter Bailey, born 1859 in Arkansas, was the oldest of Robert's orphans who came to the county. Walter, around 21, lived on his own, but the four minor children, Ella, 1862; Samuel Claiborne, 1865; Jereldon, 1867, and Willie, all lived with their Uncle Sam. They stayed with Col. Bailey until they married and he saw that they were educated.

It caused quite a stir when Ella Bailey eloped with Joseph Love. They "snuck off" to marry, and then returned to Mrs. Susie's Gumm's house (near Bailey Store), ate dinner, and spent the day. They didn't say anything about their wedding until the day was almost gone, which brought about a ruckus. It seemed that the Baileys didn't object to Joseph Love so much as being deprived of giving Miss Ella a "proper" send-off.

Joe and Ella first tried farming. Joseph bought 80 acres of Pine Springs 16th Sec. Rushing land [$S\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$, S-16] in 1885, and Ella's Uncle Sam Bailey helped her buy adjoining land in Sec. 17 four years later. After the death of Mr. William and Aggie Love, Joseph and Ella sold their farm and relocated in Memphis near James Bailey, Ella's oldest brother. Joe became a printer for a Memphis newspaper and did not return to Pine Springs.

Walter Bailey lived with Vas Bird on Gibben's farm until he married Miss Agnes Suflona Love. He bought 80 acres in Sec. 16, a part of Chandler's Pine Springs plantation. [Plat on following page.]

CHANDLER SURVEY, 1881



Plat of Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16 done in 1881 for Jim Chandler. This plat was found in a hodge-podge of maps at Meridian Public Library.

Walt and Agnes remained in Pine Springs for a few years but then they, too, sold out and left. They moved over to Smith County.

Thomas Love married Miss Mollie Thompson in 1885. Her name was Mary F. J. Thompson, and according to older Love descendants, her family lived in the hills near Okatibbee Creek in the western part of Sec. 4 or the eastern part of Sec. 5. Mr. Thompson did not own land in Pine Springs. It is told that he was a one-legged man (a Civil War Vet?) with an abrupt manner and a short temper. He must have been a JP, for it was said the he was sometimes called upon to act in some sort of official capacity to witness deeds being signed. [There was a J. S. Thompson in Beat 3 from 1874 through 1877, but it is not known if this individual was Mollie's father.] On one occasion Mrs. Thompson was along when he came to witness a signature, and she was remembered as a quiet little person who didn't have much to say. Mr. Thompson did not allow her to talk much.

In April 1885, Tom Love bought 80 acres of land in Sec. 17 from Agnes Love, which was probably where Tom and Mollie lived when they first married. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-17] Four years later they sold, or lost, this land and Tom began working for saw-mills. Tom and Mollie followed the mills around over the next few years, moving from place to place to cut timber. Eventually, Tom bought his own saw-mill. They had three children born before 1890; Lucretia, 1886; John J., 1888; and Lucy, 1890. Lucretia died, in 1888, at age 2.

The youngest child of William and Aggie Love, Lavisa Anne married Andy (Andrew Pickens) Pace in 1886. Andy and Annie Pace have been mentioned earlier in this chapter.

The oldest child of William and Aggie Love, John, at 20, had married Miss Molly (Mary) Denton in 1870, before the Loves came to Pine Springs. Miss Molly was a daughter of Harvey Wesley Denton and Willie Mae Carpenter, and a grand-daughter of the settler, Benjamin Carpenter. John and Molly Love settled in the Ponta Hills, which the older residents still call the "Love Hills" (toward today's Meridian Naval Air Station,.) They did not move to Pine Springs for nearly ten years after Mr. Will and Miss Aggie came. By that time they had five children, Wes (William Wesley), 1871; Beulah Hastings, 1877; David Crockett (called Crockett), 1880; Ida Lavada, 1882; and Lizzie (Frances Elizabeth), 1884. After they moved to Pine Springs, they had Rueben Lee, 1886; and Babe (John Molly), 1890. Babe did not marry, but died as young woman.

In 1887, John Love bought 80 acres of the same quarter section where his parents had their home.

[E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-16] This was more "Rushing Land" that the late Charles Rushing had collected. Three years later, John bought 40 adjoining acres from his father, old William Love. [SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-16]

It is not known if the house on John and Molly Love's land was already there or if they built it when they came. It was in the south half of the 80-acre track they bought from Rushing, and it could have built by former tenants. It was a simple one-room log house, about 18X18 ft., with a mud and straw chimney. Another small cabin had been built alongside the house for cooking and dining. [The house has had many additions through the 100 years since John Love lived there. With each new resident, improvements were added. The mud chimney was replaced with bricks; the logs were covered with 1x12 sawed boards. Shed rooms were added, also of sawn lumber, and a masonry porch was built across the front. The old house, still standing but in poor repair, is used as storage by Walker White, today's owner. "The logs," Walker says, "are still under there somewhere!"]

John and Molly Loves' children attended whichever of the two local schools happened to be open. John took his turn at serving as one of the three trustees of the Oak Grove (or Vincent) School, two miles up the road from his farm. He acquired 80 more acres to add to his farm, which, by 1890, totaled 200 acres. He not only grew cotton, which was bringing a good price in the 1880's, but he also raised a herd of cattle. With the open Okatibbee swamp behind of his place, he had ample room to increase his cattle and hog production. John, inheriting his father's love of the land, nurtured his soil and made it produce a good living.

Not all of the Loves' land transactions are given here. John's brothers bought, sold, borrowed against, and lost land in the 16th and 17th Sections of Pine Springs; it would take a Philadelphia lawyer to keep up with all their swappings. None of them seemed to take a great interest in farming, working instead with timber production. John, the oldest, was the exception.

* * * * *

The early 1870's found George and Nancy Chandler still living in their log house on the (Barnhill) road above Rogers Creek. The Chandlers performed a necessary service by loaning money to the poverty-stricken farmers who returned from the war and, by helping the less fortunate get their farms back into production, the Chandlers became wealthy.

In the early 1870's, Chandler opened a store on his plantation. Placed in the bend of the main

Pine Springs road near the center of Sec. 16, he offered folks who were short on cash a place to buy supplies on credit. After a time the local farmers owed Chandler such a big tab that they were ashamed to buy more, and began trading at other stores. As customers dwindled, Mr. Chandler became desperate. To save his store, he went around offering to wipe the book clean. Anyone who owed him could start again with a clean slate.

George had forgotten about Southern Pride. His neighbors might not be able to pay for what they bought, but their pride would not let them accept charity. Chandler's store at Pine Springs was one of the few failed business ventures that he and Nancy made.

[The Chandler store building was vacant in 1878 when refugees from the Yellow Fever epidemic fled Meridian. Wes Love, Mr. John Love's son, told his children that at that time available country houses were at a premium; people from Meridian set up housekeeping in the empty store until they found more permanent accommodations.]

The Chandlers not only made loans to farmers. They also had business in Meridian. At one time the Chandlers owned a whole city block in the area of today's Riley Hospital on 21st Avenue. Through it all, Mrs. Chandler did not let prosperity change her way of life. She still sat around the fireplace and enjoyed her old clay pipe. When she went into town, she did not ride in a smart carriage, as she could easily have afforded to do. Upon these occasions she would get Dick, a farmer slave, to drive her yoke of ungainly oxen. Nancy would place a homemade cane-bottom chair in the cart to sit on as she traveled. A lady of plain taste, she usually "dressed up" in a clean calico dress and one of her newer hand-stitched sun-bonnets.

On one of her trips, Nancy, seated upon her chair while old Dick, with his guide pole, walked at the oxens' heads, slowly made her way to Meridian. As they passed a stately home on 31st Avenue, the lady of the house was sitting in a lawn swing, enjoying the breeze in the shade of the Oak trees. She saw Nancy going by. Feeling sorry for the poor old farmwife, the woman felt moved to do something nice for the poor soul.

The lady said that she could see that Nancy was from the country, and she wondered if Nancy would like to sell her a chicken. Miss Nancy said she didn't have any chickens to sell, so the lady asked if she had any milk or eggs. Miss Nancy shook her head, no.

Obviously, the lady felt sorry for the poor old woman and wanted to help her in some way. "Don't you have produce, or anything to sell?"

"Well, Ma'am," said Miss Nancy, becoming indignant, "I ain't got nuthin' to sell, but I do have something. I hold the mortgage on that there grand house of your'n!"

The house has changed hands since that time. Today, it is known as Merrehope, Meridian's only ante-bellum home, one of the few left standing when Gen. Sherman burned the town. It was given its name by a group of women's clubs who renovated and opened it to the public in the 1970's.

Around 1874-1875 Hack and Nannie Chandler Warren left Pine Springs to move to their new home. It was not long before Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, feeling their age, closed their home to live with them in Nellieburg.

The Chandler's daughter, Amanda (Mrs. Edward Lockard) returned from Livingston nine years after they left Lauderdale County. The Lockards had opened a men's haberdashery in Livingston, which became quite successful. Leaving their store in the hands of one of Edward's nephews, they came back to open a second men's store in Meridian. It, too, was successful.

The Lockards had ten children when they returned, who were George T., 15; James E., 12; Mary E., 11; Nancy, 9; William L., 7; Ann Letetia 6; Edna E., 5; Thaddeus, 3; Walter, 2; and Albert A., 1. Three more Lockard children, born in Lauderdale County after 1875, were Amanda "Teenie", 1876; Infant, 1878-1878; and Marcus Milton (Sr.), 1887.

Edward and Amanda first bought land northwest of Meridian where today's East Miss. State Hospital is located. Edward paid the man before he found out that he could not get a clear title to the property and the fellow left town and Ed could not get his money back. Edward, always the gentleman, still had trouble remembering that all men did not live by his strict code of honor.

"The gentleman was a preacher, too!" he used to say in wonderment.

The Lockards bought several acres on the north side of town. The land was rural then, but now is within the city limits, a part of north Meridian that lies west of Poplar Springs Drive. They owned two "town houses", side by side, near the old Central High School ("Big C") in Meridian. They lived in one of the town houses during the winter months so their children could go to the Meridian school, but they lived each summer in their country home near Pine Springs (at the top of today's Bozeman Hill) where they were well-known in the community's activities. Edward Lockard was a successful merchant, but at heart he was still a planter.

When George and Nancy Chandler's son, Jim, first married Miss Lacey Sanders in 1869, they, too, lived for a time with Jim's parents. Soon after 1870,

Jim and Lacey Chandler bought their farm (near today's Highland Park) north of Meridian. All their children were acquainted in Pine Springs, but only occasionally took part in community life. One of their nine children, Nan (Nancy Susan, b. 1876), later married a Pine Springs boy, Meade James Bozeman.

Another of George and Nancy Chandler's children, Letitia, married James A. McKay and lived in Nellieburg. James McKay, a veteran of the Civil War, had poor health and suffered recurrent fevers. As far as is known, the McKays had two children, George (1866) and James A., Jr. (1868).

In the late 1870's, Letitia's aunt, Mrs. Letitia Chandler Lacy, was again widowed when her second husband, W. H. Lacy, died at their home near Meehan. Mrs. Lacy, with no children of her own, (although she had step-children), came to live in the McKay household. She still owned her Pine Springs farm she had inherited from her first husband, H. H. Wright, at the beginning of the war. Through the years, Letitia Lacy had kept this house and land rented out, when she could, or left it standing idle when she did not have a renter.

Aunt Letitia paid James and Letitia McKay a token amount for her room and board, and she helped Mrs. McKay take care of her two boys and invalid husband. In 1880, Mrs. Letitia Lacy was 57 years old.

George W. Chandler found that he was getting too old to keep up with all his property and when he became 75 he turned everything over to two of his older children. On January 20, 1877, George and Nancy gave "in consideration of the natural love and affection they have to their son and daughter, James L. Chandler and Amanda Lockard" over 1000 acres of land, all in Township 7, Range 15E (in Pine Springs).

(It was after the above deed that Jim Chandler sold Walter Bailey the 80 acres in the northeast quarter of Sec. 16. The north half in the same quarter section he sold to John C. White. It is believed that this John White was a grandson of Josiah White of Alabama, who had owned a large plantation near Coffeenville. John Carroll White did not remain in Pine Springs very long, but removed to Kemper County after 1881.)

The part of Chandler land in Sections 10, 15, 16 and 21 made up the main Chandler farm and included the sites of their log home, store, gin and two or three tenant houses. Other portions in Pine Springs were located in Sections 8, 9, and 17, which Mr. George had purchased from the Prince estate. The portion in Section 5, in the western hills of Pine Springs and bottomlands along Bales Creek, was that which he had acquired from

C. E. Rushing. In addition to the land named in the deed to Jim and Amanda, George still owned land, likely from foreclosures or tax sales, in Newton, Neshoba, and Kemper Counties, not to mention the land he had in the city of Meridian.

Upon closing their home, George and Nancy visited in the homes of their children. They stayed one month at a time with each and George, afraid they would be a burden, gave each household a check for \$1000. They were welcomed at each place they stayed and their parting gift insured their welcome upon their next visit, as well.

Old George Chandler was 82 when he died on September 13, 1884. He was buried in the Chandler lot in Rose Hill Cemetery in Meridian. Nancy Chandler was 79 when she died September 13, 1892.

On September 9, 1885, a deed was recorded that was signed by Jim Chandler and his brother-in-law, Iredel Regan, which stated:

"...whereas the undersigned J. L. Chandler and I. W. Regan were chosen by the heirs of George W. Chandler, deceased, to make partition of the lands of said decedent between the heirs..." It was signed in the presence of Amanda Lockard and Letitia McKay on February 9, 1885.

It seems that the Chandlers' eight children, by agreement, had Jim and Regan equally divide all of George's land into eight equal parcels, numbering the parcels #1 through #8. They put numbered slips into a hat and each child drew to see what land lot was his.

Jim Chandler drew the lot that included the Pine Springs farm, part of which he sold to Samuel J. Bozeman. Some of Amanda's lot was in Sec. 21 at the top of the (Bozeman) hill, just south of Pine Springs, and there the Lockards built their summer home. Tempy Chandler (Mrs. A. H. Regan) drew a lot which included a quarter of Sec. 8 along Okatibbee Creek. The Regans moved to Auchita Parish, Louisiana, but Tempy kept the Pine Springs land for several years before she sold it.

Nannie Chandler Warren's lot was mostly in Sec. 5 in Pine Springs. She sold part of this to Andrew Pickens Pace in 1887, who sold it to Sebe Smith, Jr., a year later.

The others drew lots for lands not in Pine Springs, which will not be given here.

The Bozeman family has been traced to the immigrant Nathan Bozeman of Holland, who came to the American Colonies in the mid-1600's. Nathan first settled in the Dutch settlement of New York, but later moved to the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Years before the Revolution,

Joseph E. Bozeman, Nathan's son, migrated southward to settle in Bladen County, North Carolina where, three generations later, Meady Bozeman III, The father of the Bozeman who came to Pine Springs, was born in 1774.

Meady Bozeman, a carpenter, was apparently working in Twiggs county, Georgia when he met and married Miss Lucy Carroll. Miss Lucy was described by Rev. Joseph W. bozeman (Meady's cousin who later came to pastor the First Baptist Church in Meridian) as ". . .A woman of active, vigorous mind, great strength of character and as fearless as a heroine." He described Meady as "... a large, fine-looking man, a Dutchman with blue eyes and ruddy face, full of life and jest, the delight of young people even in his advanced years."

Meady and Lucy Bozeman moved to Kemper County, Mississippi where Meady died in 1857 at the age of 53. All their children were married except 19-year-old Sam. (One son, Meady III, had married Caroline Gibbens who moved to Pine Springs following the Civil War). In working with his father, a master carpenter, Sam also became a builder, and kept working to support his mother.

Sam's formal education had been rather sketchy, but somewhere he had picked up the rudiments of how to read and write. His spelling was atrocious. He had a quick mind, however, and a natural mechanical bent that served him well.

The civil War came and of course Sam had to help in the fighting. It is not known who stayed with his mother, other than their few slaves, while Sam was gone. But Lucy Bozeman was a plucky lady and she more than likely urged Sam to go "whup-up" on those Damn Yankees.

Pvt. Samuel J. Bozeman joined the 40th Mississippi Infantry, CSA. Already a carpenter, it is thought that he may have been placed in a bridge-building detail where he learned the principles of building bridges. During the war, Sam married a war widow, Mrs. Jenny Robinson.

Born Virginia Shine in North Carolina in the 1840's, Jenny first married Mr. Robinson, a widower with a young son (named Jackson) , before the war, probably in Alabama, They had two little girls, Jessie and Aida Robinson, when Robinson left with the



Samuel J. Bozeman and wife, Mrs. Jenny (Virginia Shine) Bozeman.

Confederate Army. He was killed near the beginning of the war and Jenny married Sam Bozeman (in 1863?)

Sam and Jenny had three children, Sammy (Samuel Harrison), 1865; Eliza, 1868; and Dora (Dorothy Virginia), 1869, born in Kemper County. In January 1871, Sam Bozeman, still in Kemper, paid Wiley Taylor of Lauderdale Co. \$450 for two 40-acre tracts of land both located not far south of Meridian. It is not known if Sam and Jenny lived on this land when they moved to Lauderdale County, or if they lived in Meridian. It is known that they were in Meridian in the early 1870's when their next three sons, John, 187_?; Meade James, 1875; and Thomas Lee, 1877, were born, and when Jenny's daughter's were married. (Miss Jessie Robinson married a Taylor, and Miss Aida Robinson married a Culpepper.)

Meridian was fast being rebuilt in the days following the war; the rasp of saws and the ring of hammers were heard everywhere and there was ample work for a qualified carpenter such as Sam Bozeman. Sam began to get contracts from the county supervisors to build destroyed across local creeks. He started out with wooden bridges, but later switched to cement. He embedded bronze plaques which gave the date and the names of the current supervisors and naming Samuel J. Bozeman as the builder, in his cement superstructures. [Sam's bridges are gone now, replaced as roads got wider and culverts got bigger. The last of Bozeman's remaining bridges spanned the creek that flows from

Meridian's Highland Park to cross near today's Jimmie Rodgers Memorial Drive, a street re-named in honor of "America's Blue Yodler", Sam's grandson.

In 1878, Johnny Bozeman, Sam's and Jenny's six-year-old son, died, as did, near that time, Miss Jenny's step-son, Jackson Robinson. Jackson had been a young unmarried man. It is not known if Meridian's Yellow Fever epidemic had anything to do with their deaths, but it was about then that Sam and Jenny moved out to Pine Springs. The Bozeman's rented George Chandler's old log home where they were counted in the 1880 census.

Bozeman brought along his 100-year-old Mammy, Dinah Summerest, when they moved to the country. Dinah's parents came from Africa by slave ship, but Dinah was born in America in 1778. Mammy had taken care of Sam all his life, and when she became old, he took care of her. She was 102 when the 1880 census was taken. It is not known if she lived until 1883 to see Sam's seventh and last child born. Rawl (Walter Raleigh) was the only one of the Bozeman children born in Pine Springs.

The Bozemans liked living in Pine Springs, and in 1884, Sam began buying land. By borrowing heavily, Sam, in 1886, laid claim to 280 acres. [In Sec. 15, Sam bought 80 acres from the M&O Railroad and 120 acres from Jim Chandler; in the southeastern quarter section of Sec. 16, he bought 80 acres from Chandler and another 80 acres from Mrs. Bridget Rushing.]

After Sam bought his first Pine Springs land [40 acres, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-15] from Jim Chandler in 1884, he built his family a new log home. He built it in the heights overlooking Rogers Creek in the southeastern corner of the community.

Partly due to Bozeman's urging, a public road was opened across Sam's 40 acres that led down the hill beside his new home. This road connected the Pine Springs Road with the Barnhill Road on top of the hill. The long, steep, straight grade became known as Bozeman Hill. This new route into Pine Springs made a much quicker way to get to and from Meridian.

The bank on Rogers Creek had long been sloped to make a ford near the bottom of Bozeman Hill. Later, as automobiles came, a timber bridge was put in at almost this same point, although this was after Sam Bozeman's time.

The population of Pine Springs was growing as smaller farms replaced ante-bellum plantations. Teamsters began to change their route through the community. As traffic became heavier, the Okatibbee Bridge, destroyed during the war, was replaced farther downstream from its original crossing. Irish laborers, hired by the county, used shovels and wheelbarrows to build up a road-bed across

Okatibbee swamp on the west side of the creek. Travel to Suqualena and the new little village of Collinsville became possible, although often wheel-hub deep in mud, over the raised road.

Sam Bozeman was very much interested in having a local school. Public schools were new in the early 1880's and operated on a "catch as catch can" basis, due to a shortage of teachers. The local Oak Grove School was not opened in 1883, so in 1884, Sam, along with Zachary Williams, became trustee of the Bozeman School which they formed near their home. (Williams was Bozeman's neighbor who lived on Barnhill Road. He had loaned Sam money when Sam bought his first land.) School records do not show which years the Bozeman School was in operation, but it was in session in 1888 when the county School Board visited and gave its report:

BOZEMAN SCHOOL: Visited Feb. 22, 1888. Mrs. L. V. Griffin, teacher. In thinly populated neighborhood, has 9 pupils, due to bad weather and roads. Is a frame building intended for church and schoolhouse. Has 4 glass windows, is unsealed, floor open. Has a good stove and large blackboard, but totally uncomfortable. Plenty of water.

In 1889, the Oak Grove and Bozeman Schools consolidated to meet in the old Collins schoolhouse next to the community graveyard. This may have been the time when some folks began calling Oak Grove School the Vincent School.

On October 18, 1885, the oldest Bozeman daughter, Eliza, married at age 16. Eliza became the wife of Aaron Woodbury Rodgers, a 15-year-old railroad worker, son of Zachary Rogers of Alabama. [No relation to the Hays Rodgers family who had formerly lived in Pine Springs.]

Zachary Rogers was born into a pioneer family in east-central Mississippi in 1841. For some reason, before the Civil War, the family moved over the state line into Sumter Co., Alabama. Zack was about 23 in 1864, when he was conscripted into the Confederate Army and placed in Capt. B. S. Rive's supporting force of the 9th Alabama District. He was stationed at the port of Selma on the Alabama River when, according to national records, he deserted a short time later.

After the war, Zachary Rogers married Martha Woodbury and settled on a farm in Sumter County. Zack, a mediocre farmer, was a fun-loving person and played the fiddle for the reels at the local dances.

Aaron W. Rogers, third of Zack's numerous children, was born in Sumter in 1870. Aaron saw enough of a mule to know that the life of a farmer

was not for him. Scarcely into his teens, he left Alabama to see the world. Aaron added a "D" to his Rogers names and became Aaron W. Rodgers.

Aaron arrived in Meridian and was hired by the Mobile & Ohio Railroad Co. He worked as a laborer on a section crew that built and repaired tracks. A pleasant young man, he liked to be around people, and when he was off work he hung out around town. He enjoyed an active social life, especially if it involved young ladies.

Somehow Aaron met schoolgirl Eliza Bozeman of Pine Springs - probably when she visited one of her older half-sisters in Meridian. He carried out his courtship via mail, but occasionally he came out to escort her to church. In October 1885, they married. Aaron was a "man of the world" at fifteen, and Eliza, an "older woman", had just celebrated her 17th birthday.

Aaron had just been promoted to foreman of an extra crew that often worked away from Meridian, filling in where an more hands were needed. He traveled a lot, staying in a tent or boxcar, working up and down the railroad line. Eliza began going along to "keep house" at the rail camps for her husband. Keeping house was difficult under camp conditions but they were young and in love, which made a lot of difference.

When Mr. Bozeman had asked Eliza what she wanted for a wedding present she said she wanted him to build her

a house. At Christmas in 1886, young Aaron bought 80 acres of land in Pine Springs' Sec. 16 [N1/2 SW1/4] from Frank Love where Mr. Bozeman built his daughter's house she requested. When the house was completed, the Rodgers moved in with their first child little Walter.

Eliza had to leave Aaron twice to come home to have a baby. Their second son, Tal (Talmadge) Rodgers, was born in January of 1890. Eliza was never a robust person and her health began to deteriorate with this second pregnancy. Life was harsh in the rail camp and Tuberculosis became a common illness and Eliza caught the disease. AS she became frail, it was necessary for her to spend more time at home.

Aaron came home all he could and even took time from his job to put in a crop or two. He never accomplished much as a farmer and necessity forced him back to the railroad.

Sammy (Samuel Harrison) Bozeman, oldest of the Bozeman children, had developed into an affable young man who lived in the shadow of his ebullient father. As his father's apprentice, he went quietly about the family trade of carpentry and bridge-building. With bright blue eyes from his father's Dutch ancestors, he grew tall like his mother's people. More given to introspection than his father, he was content to let 'big Sam' secure contracts while he went about seeing the jobs accomplished.

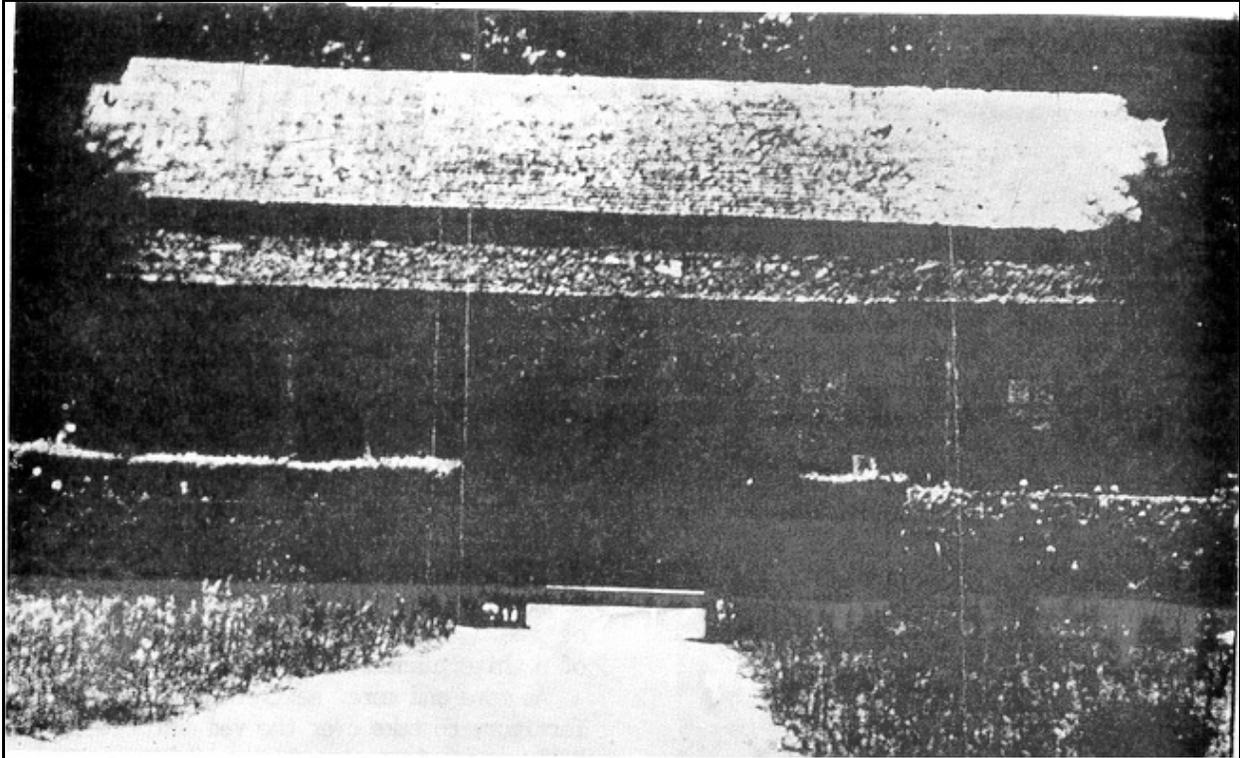
A religious young man, Sammy felt the call t o preach. In 1885, Barbara Boyles wrote an article for The Meridian Star in which she reported:

The Church of God Reformation Movement began in the Spring Hill Community [in Lauderdale County] in 1888 after W.W. Bradley and Sammy Bozeman began preaching in the area. [The Church of God] was a part of a "holiness" movement that was sweeping the nation at that time.

After early believers were cast from their own churches, they build [sic] a small frame church of their own. According to church history, local residents threw rocks into the wagons of the members as they left the church and cut down trees across the road so they couldn't make their way to worship. Once a mob of 75 to 100 men came to the home of J.M. Smith, who was acting as host to



Miss Eliza Bozeman, 1885



Home of Aaron W. and Eliza Bozeman Rodgers, built by Samuel J. Bozeman around 1887 as a wedding gift for his daughter. Located in North $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Southwest quarter of Sec. 16, Township 7, Range 15E.

his pastors. The preachers hid in the woods until tempers cooled.

Later, when this church was forced to leave, they built a new church, today's Jones Chapel Church of God, eight miles south of Meridian.

"We are not a Pentecostal church, even though we are a 'holiness' church," Rev. James K. Williams of Meridain's First Church of God was quoted by Boyles as saying. "In our church the 'holiness' means living a holy life."

"The Pentecostals believe that speaking in tongues is evidence of the baptism of the holy spirit or evidence that you are a 'spirit-filled' Christian. . . We believe, like most traditional Protestants, that. . . Paul spoke in a language that everyone heard as his own language. We do not believe in joining the church as evidence that you are a Christian. We have an open fellowship. We give an invitation, not to join the church, but to believe, at the end of our service."

It is not known to which church the other Bozemans adhered; they were

not members of either of the two local Baptist churches. It is thought they may have joined the church which was located south of Pie Springs along the old road to Suqualena. It was to this old church, now extinct but with its site marked by the old Beason Cemetery on today's Highway 19N, to which Aaron Rodgers squired Eliza Bozeman in their courting says.

Rev. Sammy Bozeman had no congregation of his own at first, but he preached around at any church where he was invited. He attended the annual summer camp meetings at the Church of God meeting grounds in Cuba, Alabama, and it was there that he met the future Mrs. Sammy Bozeman.

Miss Sophrinia Elizabeth Beavers was a local Alabama girl who came each summer to the camp meeting. Miss "Phronie", three years younger than Sammy was a devoutly religious young lady, and Sammy marked that she was as comely as she was devout. Although the Beavers family attended the nearby Siloam Baptist Church, "Sister" Phronie

joined the Church of God fellowship and in 1889, Rev. Samuel H. Bozeman, 25 years old, made her his wife. Rev. Sammy and Sister Phronie made Pine Springs their home.



Miss Dora Bozeman

Dora Bozeman, younger sister of Sammy and Eliza, graduated from Cooper Normal College and became a teacher and boarded away from home. Mr. Sam and his Miss Jenny had just their young boys at home around 1890 when their house on Bozeman Hill caught fire and burned to the ground. We do not know where the family lived until a new home could be built - perhaps with Eliza and Aaron Rodgers.

Some time earlier, Mr. Sam had bought 160 acres in Sec. 16, part from the Rushings and part from Jim Chandler. [SW 1/4, S-16]. He proposed to replace his burned-out home with a fine new house built on this land. The level site he chose was south of today's Allen Swamp road as it branches off the main Pine Springs Road, as Miss Jenny wanted to live within calling distance of her consumptive daughter. Eliza tired easily from the demands of her two little boys and whole family often pitched in when she needed help.

For his new house, Sam and Sammy took wagons on a long trip south of Laurel to the Leaf River in Jones County to bring back fancy beaded ceiling lumber. It took time. Two years after he began, Mr. Sam borrowed from Meridian Sash and Blind Co. to finish up his big white house.

The new Bozeman home boasted a parlor, three bedrooms with closets, a rather large dining room with a big country kitchen and pantry that opened onto a back porch. Heated by four fireplaces, the spacious rooms had high, cool ceilings, as was the custom of the day. And of course, all the rooms had beaded wood

wainscoting. [This well-preserved home is owned and occupied by Dick and Dot McWilliams (E. R. McWilliams, Jr., son of the late song-writer, Mrs. Elsie McWilliams).]

William Weatherford, the Indian Chief Red Eagle, was only one-eighth Indian. Son of Scottish Charles Weatherford and the Creek princess, Sehoy (III) of the Wind Family, Billy (William) lived with his mother's Indian family when he was growing up. Later he owned a plantation on the Alabama River in Monroe Co., Alabama.

Billy Weatherford's brother, John wanted nothing to do with the Indians. John followed the footsteps of their Scottish-English father and lived the life of a white planter.

As more and more settlers came to the Mississippi Territory to take over the red man's hunting grounds, Billy recognized the plight of his mother's people. An educated man, he tried to help.

Before the Alabama Indian War began in 1813, Bill, as Red Eagle, attempted to discourage the Creeks from going to war against the Americans. It was a war they could not win, he said. But the Creeks, incensed by Chief Tecumseh's urging and encouraged by the British, who were at war with the United States, were beyond listening to reason. They planned to attack Ft. Mims near Mobile. As Red Eagle could not make them listen, he determined to go along to try to hold down the bloodshed to a minimum; the Creeks were his people and he could not desert them. It was a savage massacre and hundreds of Americans were killed. Billy heartsick, left before they were done.

The massacre at Ft. Mims touched off the long and bloody Indian War. In the end, of course, the Creeks were beaten, paretically annihilated. Near the end, the Indians took refuge in their Holy Ground on the banks of the Alabama, thinking that there they would be safe. But even there the white soldiers attacked and thus, with most of their braves killed, the war ended.

Red Eagle was present at the battle of the Holy Ground. The whites, at last, had him cornered. Billy, riding a coal black horse as befitted a Chief, was surrounded with his back against the bluff of the river. Backing his horse for a running start, he gave a wild yell and plunged over the forty-foot

bank into the Alabama. Man and horse both went under, but Billy held his rifle above water. Quickly getting out of musket range, he swam the wide river with his horse. As the soldiers watched, Billy removed his saddle to see if his horse had been injured. All seemed well and Billy replaced the saddle, gave a salute to the disgruntled men watching from the other side, and cantered off into the forest. [This story was told to Capt. John Brown of Gumlog Baptist Church, by his father, John H. Brown. The older John Brown had been among the soldiers at the Holy Ground battle and saw it happen.]

After the Indians defeat, Billy Weatherford returned to his plantation in Monroe County where he died in 1826. He was loved by some, hated by many, but was respected, sometimes grudgingly, by all.

Richard Weatherford of Monroe County, Alabama, came to Mississippi in 1838. Researchers have not yet proved whether he was a son of Red Eagle, or the son of Billy's brother, John Weatherford. Whichever Weatherford was his father, it is a certainty that he was a member of this Weatherford family and had Indian blood in his background. Richard's son believed that Red Eagle was his grandfather.

Richard bought land and began a plantation in Lauderdale Co. near Coosa, the Choctaw Indian town on Lost Horse Creek. [Sec. 16, T-8, R-16E] He had married Lucinda Furlow in Alabama on March 3, 1831, and they brought with them two children, Richard Henry, who was then 3, and a daughter, Frances, who was one year old. Their third child, Martha Ann, was born in November, just after they arrived in the county.

Richard was an educated man, religious, a student of the Bible. He and Lucinda were charter members of Hickory Grove Baptist Church. Richard became an ordained minister of the church and, in 1858, he was legally authorized by Lauderdale Co. to perform the rites of matrimony as a minister of God.

The other two Weatherford children, both born in the county, were Bets (Elizabeth Pamela), born in 1841, and Dock (William Gustavus), born in 1846. Dock was the fifth and last child.

Dock Weatherford was born near old Daleville at a time when the frontier was still new. He was educated in local private schools of the times, and his early years were spent in happy surroundings. In 1860 his father had land worth \$5400 and owned four slaves. Dock was just young enough to miss fighting in the Civil War - an injustice, he thought, at the time.

When he was 22, Dock married Miss Rose Ann

Kittrell, the "girl next door". She was a daughter of his father's friend, Nathaniel Kittrell, who owned the adjoining farm. Following the Sabbath service at Hickory Grove on May 28, 1868, Rev. L. L. Robbins performed a double wedding ceremony for two of Kittrell's daughters. The brides were Miss Callie Donna, who married Hugh C. Sharp, and Miss Rose Ann, who married William G. "Dock" Weatherford.

Dock and Rose Ann lived with his parents, Richard and Lucinda, after they married. The youngest of the family, Dock felt he was needed to help his father on the family farm. Richard was nearing 70, and in the turmoil of the post-war years, his health began to fail. The old gentleman had a stroke and became bedridden in his last years.

Dock and Rose Ann had four sons born in the ten years they were married. On December 6, 1878, Rose Ann died the week following the birth of their fifth son. She was probably buried at Hickory Grove, although the site of her grave is unknown.

Dock and his mother had a time of it after Rose Ann died. Dock had to work, and Lucinda, then in her 60's, had her hands full. In addition to caring for her partially paralyzed husband, she took care of her household duties and "rode herd" over her five lively grandsons. John W. Kittrell, Rose Ann's brother who lived down the road from the Weatherfords, found the home in a constant state of activity, and said the "rowdy little boys were forever getting into something." (John Kittrell was married to Dock's older sister, Martha Ann.)

In the winter of 1880-1881 Richard Weatherford died and the old plantation was sold. Dock collected his share of the estate and, on November 1, 1881, he bought a 160-acre farm and moved to Pine Springs.

Dock Weatherford's farm, located in Sec. 9, was the place Col. Sam Bailey had rented to sharecroppers after he foreclosed on John M. Brown. [SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] The log house, built by William Fort in the 1840's, was old but sturdy and - with a little repair, some lye and a good scrubbing - would be a comfortable home. The farm was on almost level land and stretched across Rogers Creek. Times had improved for farmers by the 1880's; cotton was bringing a good price, and Dock went to work getting his fields into shape.

Grandma Weatherford had come along to take care of Dock and her grandsons. The boys, when they came, were George Washington, 12; John Madison, 10; Charley (Charles M.), 7; Columbus Gustavus, 6; and Elbert Richard, 2. As four were school age, Dock was vitally interested in the local school. In 1882, he, along with Felix Vincent and

Robert Phillips, was one of the trustees of the Collins school. The school, moved to Sec. 9 from Sec. 4, was just up the road next to Weatherford's farm. Then Dock got too busy to think of schools for a while, although he did serve as trustee again from 1888 through 1890.

Grandma Weatherford was ailing and needed more help to take care of Dock's boys. Near the end, it was that she who needed care. Grandma Lucinda Weatherford died in the mid-1880's.

With his mother gone, Dock began to look for a wife. He did not have to look far. His family found one for him.

Dock's late wife's sister, Margaret Kittrell, had married Joe (Joseph) Hines. As an aunt of Rose Ann's boys, Margaret was concerned about and kept up with the Weatherford family. Joe Hines had an unmarried sister, Mary Jane Hines, and Margaret made it her business to see that she and Dock were thrown together at family gatherings. After all, it had been eight years since Rose Ann had died, and her boys needed a mother. The match-making brought results. On Sept. 12, 1888, Dock and Mary Jane Hines were married.

Mary Jane - Molly - was a likeable, easy-going person who quickly adapted. She got along well with her step-sons and fit right in with the Weatherford household and into the community. It has been said that she was an excellent cook. Her niece remembers her as being "...like a little bird, always flitting around. She would always say, 'If I had known you were coming I would have fixed something special!', and then would sit us down to a table that was already covered with delicious food."

After Molly and Dock married, Dock's name began showing up on Pace's Fellowship Church records. He was called on from time to time to be a delegate to the Baptist Association Convention.

In June, 1889, Dock's and Molly's first son was born. They named him Sidney Edward.

* * * * *

Up in the northeast corner of the community, John and Seletha Smith had to be careful with their money in the hard post-war years. However, times got better and, with good management, they went back to making a good living from cotton. John, in his 60's, leased his fields to Josiah Gardner in 1872 so he no longer had to work in the hot sun. It was difficult to find farmers to rent his land, so he began having sharecroppers work his fields. He usually had a young black or two living near to help Seletha with her work.

Jackie and Margaret Smith did not have a place of their own, but usually found a farm in the neighborhood where they could live as sharecroppers. John and Seletha enjoyed having their grandsons near. Jackie sometimes lived on his father's farm, but that did not seem to work out well. Jack seemed content to live a house-to-mouth existence and made little effort to better his lot. Perhaps Jackie was in no hurry to buy a place as he would someday inherit the farm from his dad.

Jackie and Margaret Smiths' oldest boy stayed much of the time with his grandparents. Young Sebe was Mr. John's second chance at raising a son and the boy was fast becoming everything that John had wanted Jackie to be. John included young Sebe in all his plans and business discussions. Mr. John made sure that this oldest grandchild was educated.

The younger Smith family had nine children; eight sons and a daughter. Their firstborn was named after himself, but Jackie named the other boys after Confederate Army officers. The children were Sebe (Seaborn Milton, Jr.), 1861; Pat (Patrick Claiborne), 1872; Bob (Robert E. Lee), 1874; Seletha (her grandmother's namesake), 1875; Jake (Jacob Biffle), 1877; Kirb (Edmund Kirby-Smith), 1879; Hard (William J. Hardee), 1880; Sid (Albert Sidney Johnston), 188; and Joe (Joseph Eggleton), 1887. Little Seletha strangled on a grain of corn and they lost her when she was two years old.

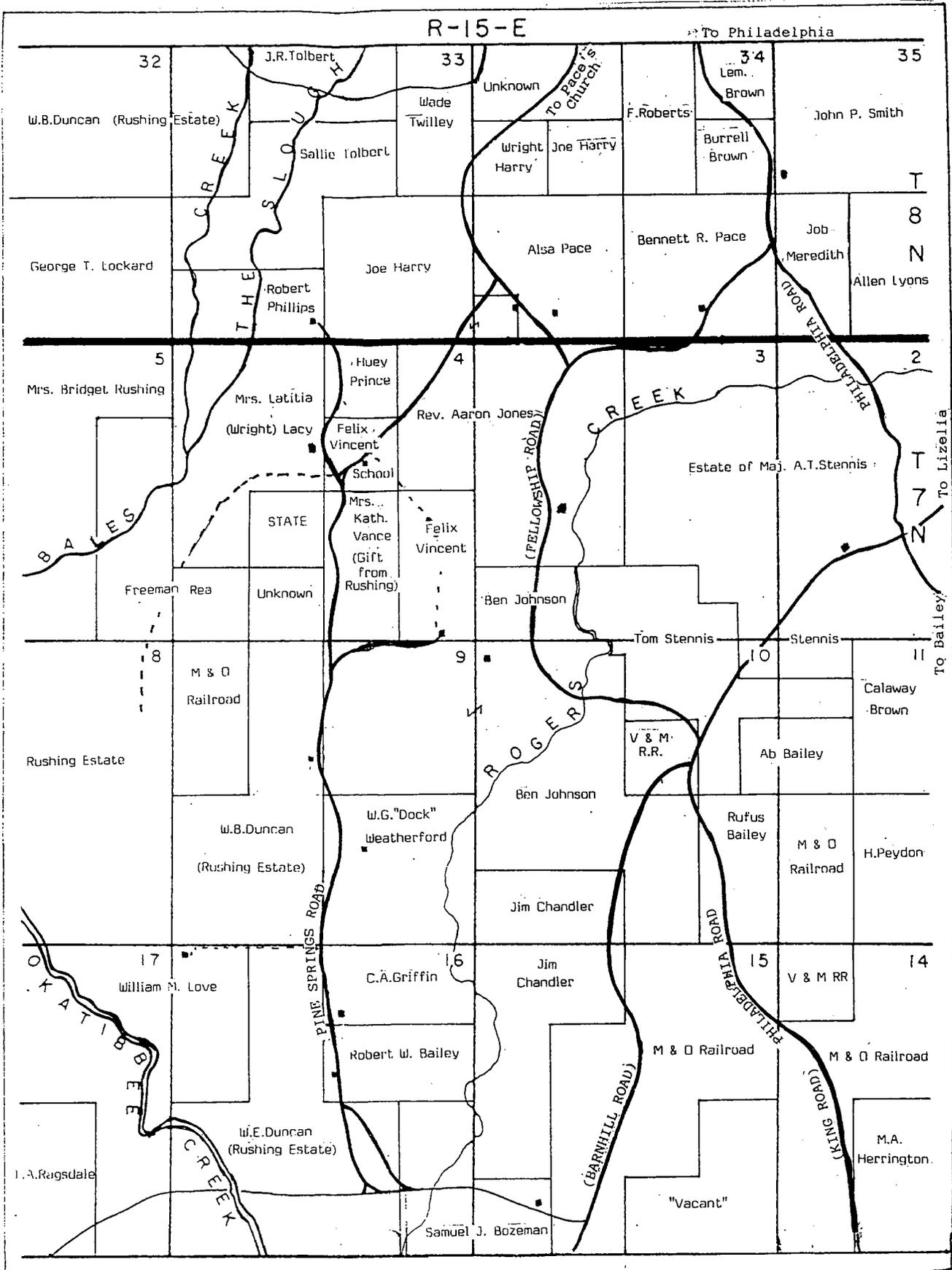
The recent war remained very much with Jackie. He re-lived his war experiences with other veterans whenever they got together. Fate Wilson, neighbor James Wilson's son who had fought, came to live with Jackie and Margaret the year before he married. Fate worked for wages as a laborer, but at night the two vets would pass the jug and swap war tales late into the night.

Mr. and Mrs. John Smith had moved their letters to Pace's Church soon after they came to the community in 1870, but their son and his wife were not ones to go church much. Margaret took the little boys, at times, but Jack never did. It was a surprise when Jack became a trustee of the school that opened in Gumlog Church in 1879. As far as is known, he did not serve again.

John P. Smith, at 75, wasn't as as pert as he had been, and his eyes were growing dim. He began to think about what would happen after he was gone. Jackie had not shown himself to be a good manager and he also had a problem with alcohol. John didn't quite trust his son to take over and he worried about what would happen to his grandsons. Sebe would be to all right, but his younger grandsons would need help. It was time he wrote a will.

One April morning in 1886, John P. Smith hitched up his buggy to drive to Bailey Store to pick up his

1883 TAX ROLL



old friend, col. Bailey, to accompany him to town. They went to the office of another friend, J. P. Walker. Capt. Walker had his law office in Meridian.

John's eyes had failed and he couldn't see to write, but he told his friend what he wanted in his will. While Capt. Walker's new associate, G. J. Hall, wrote up the will, the three old friends had a nice visit. After Mr. Hall read what he had written, John signed the document. Col. Bailey and Capt. Walker both signed as witnesses. The deed was done. Seletha and their grandsons would be taken care of when the time came for him to go.

Sebe Smith lived with his grandpa until he was grown. He paid his own way by buying and selling timber, but he also made money raising cattle. In 1888, Andy Pace, living in Sec. 5, had an offer to work for a lumber company in the southern part of the state, and Sebe bought him out. [E ½ SE1/4, S-5] Grandpa Smith gave Sebe a little cash to help with the purchase so would not have to go into debt.

Sebe moved to his new 80 acre farm. Since it was mostly hills that were too steep for farming, he stocked his land with cattle. The following year, he bought the adjoining 80 acres from Mrs. Nancy Chandler Warren. [SE1/4 NE1/4, S-4]

The land Mrs. Warren sold to Sebe was part of her Chandler inheritance. She still owned 320 acres in the Sec. 8 that she wanted to convert to cash. Thinking of his young grandsons coming along, John Smith took it off her hands. [N1/2, S8] Nearing 80 years old and going blind, John didn't need the land - he had no use for it. He bought it strictly for his grandsons.

After Sebe moved out Jackie and Margaret moved in with John and Seletha to "take care of the old folks." Old John could hardly see to get around and Miss Seletha, in poor health, could no longer care for herself.

The sight of Indians was not uncommon in the 1880's and persisted on into the 1890's. There were none who lived in Pine Springs, but they straggled through on their way to various camps in the area.

One traditional camp was in the southwest corner of Sec.3, on a branch which emptied into Rogers Creek, in a grove of large trees on the stagecoach Road. [Mr. Ed Hooks built his home on the site in 1912.] Mrs. Ida Vincent Hooks recalled that as a child she went with one of her aunts (a daughter of Rev. Aaron Jones) to gather turnips from a patch witch her Grandpa had planted near the Indian camp. When Ida and her aunt walked up they found some squaws were there ahead of them, cutting themselves a mess of turnips.

Feeling brave because her aunt was there, Ida said, "You better leave our turnips alone!"

The Indian turned to Ida and raised her knife, "You better hush up and leave me alone, or I'll have to eat YOU!"

If her intention was to scare the little girl, she certainly succeeded. Ida and her aunt went on to cut their turnips, but Ida did not allow much daylight to get between her and her aunt!

Another known Indian camp near that time was on the west side of Okatibbee Creek in the edge of the swamp in Sec. 17, a good place to collect reeds and grasses for baskets. Mrs. Mollie Love, who lived nearby, had several small baskets around her house for sundry purposes. She had bought them from the Choctaws. Indians often came to the Okatibbee to fish and hunt and collect herbs and basket materials. They were poor as they didn't have much way to make a living. In 1918 a Choctaw Reservation was started in Neshoba County near Philadelphia. After that time the Indians were seen in Pine Springs no more.



10/ WHEN GRAND-DAD WAS A KID
1890-1900

In the years following the Civil War, Lauderdale County, starting with less than nothing, had, by sheer determination and a willingness to exert effort, developed a comfortable way of life by 1890. The railroads had never been as prosperous; Meridian banks were doing a booming business; and mills of different kinds in town were flourishing. But, the surrounding farms, although profitable, lagged behind in financial growth. Throughout the previous decade there had been a demand for cotton, and farmers responded by planting more. The more industrious did well. In the 1890's, however, the cotton market became saturated and the price of cotton went down. Farmers began to suffer.

In trying to compensate for the lower margin of profit, farmers put more acres into cotton cultivation. The more they raised, the less they could expect from their crop. They borrowed to keep going and got deeper into debt. Many lost their farms to foreclosure and became tenants on the land of the more fortunate.

Many tenant farmers, tired of scratching out a living, moved to Meridian to become store clerks, or to find work in Meridian's railroad shops. Some improved their standard of living by becoming laborers in the city's mills. This helped some of the farmers, but others tried to hang onto their farms. Some, with land being available at low cost, bought even more land to enlarge their number of cultivated acres.

By the end of the 1890's neither tenant nor landowner could afford extra comforts. The tenants wore patched overalls and their kids hardly knew what shoes were until they were nearly grown. But, most were able to grow peas and corn, and raise turnip greens and a few hogs. They had food to eat.

The country's population was growing. Towns and buildings increased, creating a greater demand for lumber. Starting in the 1880's and increasing in the 1890's, making lumber was big business. As trees were harvested, many who stayed on the farm went to work for saw mills that sprang up in the community. Farmers turned to working with timber in the winter months but returned to their

crops in the spring. Some laid aside their plows altogether to work full-time for the lumber mills.

Dr. Reuben Johnson, who grew up in Pine Springs in the era when the lumber business flourished, wrote:

The big lumber businesses bought from the individual who had good virgin timber...they picked the best timber. There would be logs probably 2½-3 ft. in diameter. Those virgin Pines were great big old huge logs. They'd have about 8 or 10 yokes of oxen pulling a great big load...[The wagon wheels] were little squatty things, not very big around, but they had wide steel tires on them so they wouldn't sink into the mud so bad. They [the wagons] were near the earth so they could load them easier. They had to load them onto the log wagon, or they would have a chain they'd use to pull them up onto the wagon with a team of oxen.

The Long-Bell Lumber Company had a great mill in Purdue, Mississippi. They had little old trains - little dummies - and these would go down into the swamps to carry the big logs out where they couldn't get them with the wagons. That's the way they would get those big logs to the mills. They had one [dummy line] from up there at Little Rock that used to carry them.

There would be from 150 to 200 men that would cut those virgin timbers and all these were hauled by log wagons - ox drawn. There wasn't any trucks and mules weren't strong enough...

The big lumber companies got most of the virgin timber and then a lot of of little saw mills came to log the smaller stuff. Then there were little saw mills everywhere. They came in to cut the logs where the timber was to be cut. It was easier to move the mills than to haul the timber.

It took a long time and it took a lot of wagons to move logs. Those old struggling beasts - you'd see them weaving and wobbling and it would take forever and a day, but they got on down the road. They had a point

centrally located down there on the Lowe place. [Formerly the Prince plantation, today's C&R Farm.] They cut timber all over Suqualena and this [Pine Springs] area. After the big companies quit, that's when the little mills came and picked up the smaller timber, trees probably a foot and a half in diameter. The big companies wouldn't fool with these small trees, they were nothing to timbermen.

The old roads would be so hashed up with the log wagons that they stayed deep-rutted all the time. These old roads out here would be - well, a branch through there. The only way those log wagons could get in there would be to corrugate the road with lumber, old sorry lumber from the saw mill. I saw that in several areas between here and the Bozeman Hill.

The distant hum and buzz of the saw wheel, and the noise of a falling tree or a thrown plank, the pounding of the old steam engine, and the whistling of a whistle that heralded the beginning and the close of work, could be heard in the distance [and] were as musical instruments to those old sawmillers. Those long chains of struggling, weaving oxen as they pulled at their heavily loaded, wide-rimmed wagons that fairly creaked under the heavy loads, that crawled so slowly down the dusty roads...those creatures of burden, yoked with heavy wooden yokes which wore large calluses and bleeding blisters on their poor necks, a sickening view to the on-looker. The yelling drivers cracking their long rawhide whips to stimulate their animals to a greater united pull. All this, to the roadside watcher, was a thrill, as well as heart-rending. But this, in that day, was called progress.

It was well into the 1890's that public sentiment began leaning toward better schools. More farmers began to awaken to the need of better educations for their children if they were to compete for better jobs. They would prefer them to remain on the farm. But, they saw mill workers making \$20 to \$25 per week in town. This seemed like a fortune to the fellow who had a large family in the country and lived on \$200 per year. As enthusiasm built for education, the neighborhood built its first permanent school in 1893. It was a sturdy, well-constructed, one-room schoolhouse to replace the dirt-floored shack which had been built earlier. Also, in 1893, the community got its first post office.

The two Baptist churches near Pine Springs were still attended, but with other forms of entertainment more readily available, they did not exert the influence upon community life as they once had. The Poplar Springs Methodist Church was no more, although Methodist ministers preached at the local schoolhouse, when invited, from other churches. There was no regularly organized church in Pine Springs, but individual families invited ministers of their faith, and the community would listen to whomever happened along.

It has been said that people of the South were harder drinkers than in other parts of America, but were better at keeping it hidden. The drinking of corn whiskey, a legacy from the frontier days, somewhat subdued as the settlers got religion, became more prevalent during the 1890's. Alcoholism increased as many sought escape from their misfortunes. Paychecks coming weekly from regular jobs produced more ready cash to spend at the area taverns, although none of these were established in Pine Springs. With the lumber companies came rowdiness and temptations. Churches, who continued to preach a rigid code of puritanism, lost many of its members. Outwardly the community practiced morality and sobriety, but the Southerners expressed their love of fun and play by sneaking off to their jugs hidden out behind the barn.

The community developed a new sense of place. It ceased to be people who happened to live in proximity but became a group who belonged together. The school and store, and the religious services held by the various preachers in the schoolhouse, intertwined their lives.

* * * * *

Dock Weatherford and his second wife, Molly, had three boys, all born in the community. After Edward was born in 1889, Oliver Gladstone was born in 1891 and Richard Jones was born in 1893. Dock's five older sons from his first marriage were all of school age when he and Sebe Smith bought land as partners in the next quarter section north of Dock.

In 1890, Dock and Sebe went 50/50 to buy the 80 acres that contained the cemetery and the little Vincent school. [E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,S-9] The Rushing family had sold it to Aaron Rodgers a year before, who had an idea that he would put up some kind of a store across the road from the schoolhouse. Rodgers ran short of money before this could be accomplished, so he was more than willing to unload the land onto Dock and Sebe.

The new partners bought a saw mill and went into the lumber business. Already there were saw mills

about the county that were making a profit from the trees, and it seemed like the thing to do instead of fooling around with cotton. Dock Weatherford had worked around saw mills and knew timber, and Sebe knew bookkeeping and accounting.

To insure a ready supply of water for the mill's steam engine, the sawmillers used a slip-scraper and mules to make a dam across the branch that crossed the road at the foot of the cemetery hill. This created a reservoir of water on the west side of the main road. They set up their mill on a rise on the southern edge of the millpond.

About half way up the cemetery hill, still on the west side of the road, they cleared the brush from an area around an all-year spring to provide space for the ox-drawn wagons that lined up to wait their turn at having their logs unloaded. The trees were cleared except for a few huge Pines that provided shade. This spring came to be called Pine Springs.

After the new road opened up Bozeman Hill in the south of the community, through traffic became more common. The Pine Springs was a convenient place for wagoners to camp on their way northward from Meridian.

Across the road from the Vincent schoolhouse on the crest of the hill, Dock and Sebe used boards they cut at their mill to put up a frame building for a trading post. There they sold chewing tobacco, tins of beans, sardines, and sausages and crackers to teamsters who stopped at the mill and needed dinner. They added to their stock and before long the 'canteen' grew into a store that offered a line of general merchandise. They called it Pine Springs Store.

In January 1892, Dock's oldest son, George W. Weatherford, married Miss Nettie Hamrick from the other side of the Okatibbee. Miss Nettie was the fourth daughter of John B. and Mary Elizabeth (Harwell) Hamrick, former residents of Pine Springs. (The Hamricks had married in the community in 1858.) In the month following his marriage, George Weatherford bought Sebe Smith's half interest in the store and sawmill and became his father's new partner.

Dock, Molly, and the boys continued to live in their log house next to the school, but George built a new house for himself and his bride behind the store. It was a well-finished frame house, painted white.

Miss Mamie Wellborn of Suqualena was the teacher at Vincent School for the 1889-1890 and 1890-1891 school terms, and she 'talked up' the cause for an adequate school building. Miss Mamie was a determined young lady, but she had no success in getting a new schoolhouse built. There were 24

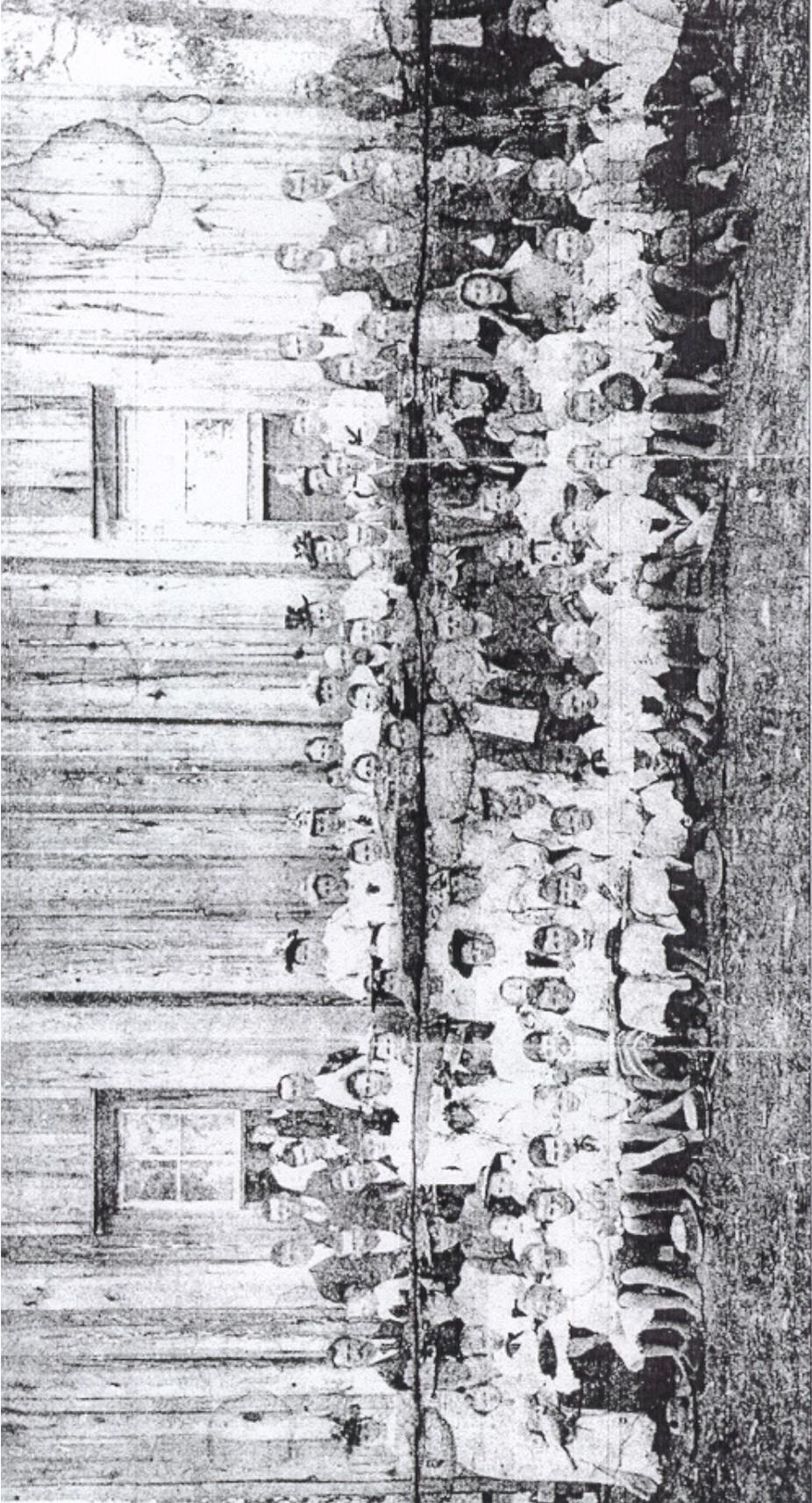
students at the Vincent School (even less when the boys stayed out to help on the farm) and everyone did admit that the children were a "mite crowded". On "preaching" days, if a bigger crowd showed up to hear a popular speaker, the small building overflowed and part of the congregation were left to sit out under the trees. The seed had been planted, however, and as the need became more acute, the school term of 1891-92 (taught by Miss Allie Wellborn, Miss Mamie's sister), was the last held in the Vincent School.

The Weatherfords gave the land for a new school/church building. On the same day that George Weatherford bought Smith's interest in the partnership, Dock and George Weatherford deeded one acre to Pine Springs Church, the acre where the Vincent School and the community cemetery were sited. [This recorded deed is the first time on a county record that the name, Pine Springs, appears. Nobody knows who picked out the name. A post-office by the name of Bozeman opened in the community at about the same time, and for a while the community, officially, was Bozeman, Mississippi. This name did not stick, however, and by popular usage, the name Pine Springs was given to the community as well as to the school.]

With the land for the Pine Springs church came a flurry of interest in getting a new building. The Weatherfords offered to saw the logs if the neighbors would cut and deliver them to the sawmill. The landowners brought logs and soon there was lumber stacked and waiting in the Vincent schoolyard. The neighborhood was fortunate in having Sam Bozeman and his son, Sammy, and Robert Phillips, all master carpenters, to take the lead, and with the willing help of the other men of the community, the well-built (but unpainted) one-room Pine Springs church and school was built in the winter of 1893. The school trustees that year were John R. Tolbert (from the north end of the community in Sec. 33), Joseph M. Love, and the elder Sam Bozeman. The Weatherfords were Baptist, but the church was non-denominational and belonged to everybody.

For the 1892-93 school term the Lauderdale County School Board listed C. M. Galloway as the teacher assigned to "...the Vincent, or Pine Springs, School." At the end of the term in March of 1893, the formal dedication of the school took place. The County Superintendent of Education, W. G. Stephenson, along with the entire school board, was invited. The children put on a program of recitations, and Mr. Stephenson gave a talk. The ladies brought dinner for the festive occasion.

[Mrs. Myrtie White Love is the only person living today who was present at this dedication. Mrs.



1893- **Dedication of Pine Springs School.** (Note the fresh lumber.) Bearded gentleman seated in center, Samuel J. Bozeman next to Felix Vincent. Lady and gentleman, far left, Rev. Sammy and Mrs. Phronie Bozeman. Shorter gentleman, standing in front of left window, 3rd row from left, Albert Pace. Gentleman directly in front of R. Window (with arrow), John W. White. Others not identified.

Love, then an infant, was later told by her parents, John W. and Lidia White, about the function, which they attended with her Uncle Ben and Aunt Mattie Harrington.]

The school kept the same trustees for the next year. The young doctor, Bennet Deason "Dee" Pace, taught the 50 students enrolled. Dr. Pace taught again at Pine Springs in the 1894-95 and the 1895-96 school terms when the number of students increased to 65. Trustees for these two years were Frank Love, J. R. Tolbert and Benjamin N. Harrington.

Around 1895, George and Nettie Weatherford moved to Schamberville and Dock, with the help of his other sons, managed the saw mill and store. Dock and Molly moved into George's house behind the store and put their 160-acre farm [SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] up for sale. James Thead bought the northern 80 acres of the farm on Nov. 1, 1895, but the southern half of the place did not sell until later.

Nettie Weatherford had one child when she died in 1903. She was buried in the Hamrick family cemetery in Collinsville, and George took Maggie Hamrick, Nettie's younger sister, as his second wife. George, Maggie, and their children were living in Schamberville in 1916-18 when George was listed as a trustee of the local school. After World War I they moved to Illinois, where they left several descendants.

In 1898, the county school board began helping build better schoolhouses for the rural areas. When the Weatherfords gave the land for the church and school, they had written the deed in favor of Pine Springs Church. To give clear title to the school board, the church deeded the acre back to W. G. and G. W. Weatherford, who re-wrote the deed in favor of Pine Springs School. The new deed was only for only half an acre and did not include Pine Springs cemetery.

Dock's second son wanted to be a cowboy and went to Texas. John was married to (first) Elena Reese of Lampasas, Texas, and they had one son. John was married two more times and had other other descendants. He later returned to Mississippi where he died in 1939. He was buried in New Palestine Cem. at Picayune.

In 1898, Charley Weatherford married Miss Effie Estelle Richardson, a daughter of William T. and Sallie E. Richardson and grand-daughter of settler Ransom Richardson. Charley learned saw-milling from his father, and stayed in the area.

Columbus Weatherford married Molly Ramsey and moved away; Elbert Weatherford got a job in the post office in Miami, Florida. By 1900, only three of Dock's eight sons lived at home.

* * * * *

The Alawine family originated in Germany, although William R. Alawine, the father of Andrew Jackson Alawine who came to Pine Springs, was born in Georgia. Andrew's mother, named Esther but called Hettie, was born in Florida. We do not know where the couple met, but William and Hettie were married and settled in Leake Co., Mississippi, probably in the early 1840's.

Andrew J. Alawine was born in Leake Co. on March 17, 1845, and was young when the family moved to Yazoo Co. in 1861 when the Civil War came. That November he enlisted in Co. A, Capt. Burnett's Regiment of the Confederate Army.

Near the beginning of the war, Andrew married Polly. They were married such a short time, but had two small children when Polly died. She and both babies were taken ill with Swamp Fever and all three passed away.

Still young, Andrew married again. His second wife was Lucretia J. Wells, called Creecie, born 1838, a daughter of Issac Wells of Leake Co. Andrew and Creecie were in Attala Co. in 1870 when their first child, named William Issac after his two grandfathers, was born. Shortly after their daughter, Rena, came in 1872, they moved to Alabama to live in the area of Livingston. Their next two children were Samuel Thomas (1874) and James Tilden (1877), both born in Alabama.

While they lived in Alabama, Rena, age five, was killed. The Alawines' hired hand was taking a gun from his trunk, and Rena was standing close by. The little girl, curious, would not keep out of his way, so he pointed the gun at the girl and said that he was going to have to shoot her if she did not move. The gun went off and killed the child. The man was acquitted as the only witness was Rena's three-year-old brother, Samuel, and they could not prove it was not an accident.

After Rena's death, the Alawines returned to Mississippi to settle near Lauderdale Springs in 1882. Their last child, Katie, their 5th, was born on their farm at Lauderdale Springs.

Andrew Alawine traded farms a time or two while living near Lauderdale Springs; at one time he owned part of the late Richard Weatherford's old plantation near Hickory Grove Church. He operated a grist mill at one time, and his sons became involved with saw mills and the timber industry. We cannot be sure of the date, but it appears that it was in the mid-1890's when he came to Pine Springs.

Andrew was around fifty when they came. He had to give up hard labor so he became a merchant, a job that was easier on his tired old joints. He outfitted a wagon with goods and traveled about with a yoke of oxen, selling wares to housewives.

All four Alawine children came to Pine Springs with Andrew and Creecie. They were all young adults, but only William was married. Will had married Miss Mattie E. Taggard around 1891 and they had two small children, Thomas L. and Palma. The Alawines lived together in a house they rented near Jarred Snowden's in the north end of the community. Will and Mattie had three more children, Andrew M., John, and Sallie, born in Pine Springs in the late 1890's.

Dock Weatherford had known the Alawines when they lived at Hickory Grove and it is thought that Will worked at Weatherford's Pine Springs saw mill. All three brothers worked with timber. Kindly Mr. Andrew became a well-known figure as he drove his ox-cart up and down the roads, plying his new trade as a trader.

* * * * *

Sebe Smith was 26 when he married in 1887, the year before he bought his first land in Sec. 5. Raised by an older couple, Sebe was a serious-minded young man who was not given to fun and frolic as were his younger brothers; it was no surprise when he chose a wife older than himself. Sebe married Mrs. Lydia A. Stephens, 33, a woman with two children. Lydia, widow of C. E. Stephens, was a daughter of Charley and Artemesia Stephenson of near Shucktown, and the older sister of Lish Stephenson, who lived at Pine Springs.

Sebe considered his two step-children, John and Sally Stephens, as his own. Interested in their training, he took his turn at being trustee of the local school. Sebe and Lydia had a daughter, Lottie, born in 1894, but she died as a child. Sebe's only other child was Henry, born in 1889. Sebe had always liked cattle and he built up quite a herd on his hillside farm. He was not a veterinarian but he did know what to do for sick animals. He often picked up a extra dollars from grateful neighbors when he helped them with their livestock problems.

In 1899, Mr. Charley Rubush offered Sebe a job managing his racing horses. Sebe sold his cattle farm to Casswell Wolfe and went to live at Foxworth, the name Rubush gave his Pine Springs farm. It was a job that Sebe Smith loved.

Grandma Seletha Smith was bedridden, and old John Smith's mind was as a child's before he died. Miss Seletha died first, but 84-year-old John Smith died soon after on the first day of the year in 1895. They were both buried at Pace's Church. Jackie and Margaret had lived in the Smith home to tend the old couple, and remained in the house after the funerals.

Dr. James P. Bailey, Col. Sam's son, was the executor of John Smith's will. Having already helped his oldest grandson, John left Sebe, Jr. a token amount of \$25. His 640 acres of land and the balance of his estate was to be divided between his seven other grandsons. He left his son, Seaborn Smith, Sr. (Jackie) only \$100 cash.

Jackie could not believe that his father's entire estate had not come to him. Bitter and feeling betrayed by the whole family, he turned to whiskey more than ever. Often belligerent and looking for a fight, he made life at home miserable for Margaret and his six younger boys. (Pat Smith, the second oldest son after Sebe, married his wife, Cullie, and moved out.)

Children of an overbearing alcoholic father, the younger Smiths grew up undisciplined. They began work with the timbermen at an early age and made friends with the wilder element in the community. Miss Margaret and two of her sons, Pat and Jake, did join Pace's Church at one of the protracted meetings and were baptized, but within a year the church withdrew fellowship from Pat, cause unknown. With the church's strict rules, no doubt Pat had been reported for dancing or some other transgression. In 1897, Jake asked the church to forgive him for dancing and using profane language, which the church did at that time. Two months later they withdrew his membership.

In 1898, Jacob Smith married Miss Ida Love, daughter of John and Mollie (Denton) Love who lived down the road from Pine Springs School. Jake and Ida had known each other all their lives, and had gone to school together.

Jake settled down when he married. They lived with Jake's parents, and Jake, feeling a husband's responsibility, put in a crop on the Smith's family farm. (Old John's estate had not yet been divided.) They had been married some months and Ida was pregnant when, late one hot August afternoon, Jackie came riding home. Making no comment, he went into the crib and got corn for his horse. Instead of feeding his horse at the trough, he tossed the corn ears through the door of the cotton crib and the horse began eating.

"Hey, Paw!" Jake told him. "You ought not feed the horse in there! You're gonna git the cotton all full of trash!"

Jackie, drunk as usual, became furious. No boy of his was going to talk to him like that! He ran to his saddlebag and got his loaded pistol and began shooting. Jake, caught off guard, didn't have time to get away and was hit. Ida and Jake's brother, Bob, came running and Jackie shot at them, too, but his drunken condition spoiled his aim. They wrenched the gun away from Jackie, but poor Jacob

was already dead. Jacob's son, Jake Biffle Smith, was born four months later on November 2, 1899.

Seaborn "Jackie" Smith was arrested for murder and his trial was held in a special venue of the criminal court in Meridian on October 18, 1900, Judge G. J. Hall presiding. (Judge Hall was the young lawyer who had drafted John P. Smith's will back in 1886.) A crowd turned out to hear the much publicized trial so the press coverage was limited. One reporter from Meridian's Evening Star newspaper wrote:

COURT HABITUÉS ARE EXCLUDED. Judge Hall's ruling excluding everyone except court officers and lawyers from inside the railing was being vigorously enforced this morning. Many of the old chair warmers were driven back to the hard benches and the man who was admitted inside the limits considered himself lucky. Newspapermen are shown no favors. A Star representative who called for news was told to "git" almost before he could see whether or not his chair was a good fit.

Jackie Smith was convicted of manslaughter, and Judge Hall sentenced him to the state penitentiary at Parchman for life imprisonment. The month following the trial, Jackie, while serving his term at Parchman, went with his lawyer to the Lauderdale County Chancery Court in Meridian to have his father's will set aside. Although testimony showed that John P. Smith was "in his dotage" when he died, his mind had been clear and sharp when he wrote his will in 1886, and the will stood as written. The estate was divided, as John had wished, between his seven younger grandsons. Mrs. Ida Love Smith and her little son, Jake, inherited the part of the estate that was Jacob's share.

* * * * *

Of all of the children of old William and Aggie Love, only three sons, John, Frank, and Thomas, remained in the community after 1890. (Levisa Anne Love, wife on Andy Pace, had moved away but returned later.)

JOHN LOVE, the oldest, with his wife, Miss Mollie, farmed their 200 acres in the northwest quarter of Sec. 16 where their seven children grew up. John did not live to be old, but passed away from an illness in 1895 when he was in his mid-forties. Miss Mollie buried him near her Denton family at Suqualena. His two oldest children, Wes and Beulah, were already married when he died, and Ida married Jacob Smith soon after his death. John's

minor children were Crockett, who was in his teens, and Lizzie, Lee, and Babe, who were under 10 years old. Crockett and his married brother, Wes, farmed their father's land together after Mr. John died. Like his late father, Wes enjoyed raising cattle.

Wes (William Wesley) Love, had married Miss Mary Frances Shephard of Suqualena in 1892. He built their small frame house in Sec. 16 on the west side of Pine Springs Road, a stone's toss east of his father's front door. It wasn't much of a house at first but, in time, he enlarged it and made improvements. [The original house, now nearly 100 years old, has since been renovated and plumbing installed. It is now the comfortable farm home of Mattie Sue Snowden Brown.]

Wes' wife, Mary Frances, was called Molly, as was his mother, so there were two Molly Loves living side by side. The neighbor children began to call the younger woman "Aunt" Molly, and that helped some.

Wes and Aunt Molly had three children born by 1900. They were Lillie Belle, 1893; Ches (Chester Lee), 1894, and Charles, 1900.

John Love's oldest daughter, Beulah, a beautiful raven-haired child of thirteen, fell in love with Jim Thead. Thead, at 23, was 10 years her senior. They were married October 31, 1890.

James Denton Thead was from Silas, a community north of Bladon Springs, in Choctaw County, Alabama. Considering his middle name, it could be that he was a relative of Beulah's mother. Jim had come to Pine Springs, alone, where he hired out "for wages". Soon after he and Beulah married, Dock Weatherford sold Jim the north half (80 acres) of the 160-acre Weatherford farm. [N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9] Dock moved to his house behind the store and the Theads moved into Weatherford's log house.

The old house was in pretty bad shape but, in a few years, Jim built a sizeable, well-constructed home. He did most of the carpentering himself. Near the east side of Pine Springs Road and south of the schoolhouse, it was one of the better homes when it was built. Never painted, it was left to gray as it weathered.

Beulah was fourteen when her first child came. It was like playing with dolls when the young mother tended her baby. Beulah had three more babies born by 1900. Jim disciplined his young wife along with his children, treating her as another offspring. Miss Mollie had trained Beulah early in the housekeeping arts, and the child-wife kept her home and dooryard immaculate.

The first four Thead children were Johnny (John Wesley), 1891; Mattie, 1894; Clarence Edwin, 1896; and Belva, 1899.

FRANK LOVE, one of William's and Miss Aggie's



About 1900. Mr. Wes Love with some of his herd.

younger boys, did not re-marry but remained in Pine Springs after his wife died. Frank, working in the timber business, did not buy another farm but rented after he went to work with timber. He didn't have much money to spend, but he was interested in seeing his sons educated. He helped get Pine Springs school established and sent his boys, Pres and Jodie, to high school when the time came. From 1894 to 1896 he was one of the local school's trustees.

Frank's oldest girl, Minnie, married in the 1890's and moved away, but his three young daughters, Ada, Jeraldon, and little Cora, became quite good at keeping house. Frank did a good job of raising his motherless children.

THOMAS LOVE, William Love's "baby" son, followed the saw mills around for several years, but then bought a mill for himself. His mill was a small portable mill of the type commonly called a "little ole peckerwood saw mill." Instead of hauling logs to the mill, Tom set up his mill wherever he bought timber and sawed the logs on the site.

After young John was born, Tom and

Mary Love had three more children born while they moved about following their saw mill. They were Lucy E., 1890, Thomas Vester, (called Vester), 1891, and Mary Esther, 1894. As the children got older, Tom thought they should settle in one place so they could go to school.

In 1898, Tom and Mary bought an 80-acre farm just east of the school in Pine Springs. [w1/2 NE 1/4, S-9] Their land extended from behind the school northward to (today's) Ernest White Road. Using lumber he sawed at his mill, Tom built his house on this road. The house, not a shack but a permanent home, was never painted. It faced north, across from, and to the west of, the home of Felix Vincent.

Tom, busy with his mill, had little time for farming, but he ran cattle on his farm. His spring, along Pine Springs Road at the foot of the hill opposite Weatherford's saw mill, became a watering place for drovers herding cattle to market.

At about the time cotton production in the county

was at its zenith, there came along on Stephen Alonzo "Lon" Lowe of Marion Station. As all farmers in the area surrounding Meridian were planting more acres in cotton to make a living, Lon Lowe came up with the idea of developing a superior cotton seed to supply their needs. It must be a heavy producing, long-staple cotton seed adapted to the local soil and climate, and it must be good enough to make him the Cotton King of the South.

Lowe planned to develop and produce the best long staple cotton, which he would gin at his own mill, and after selling this fine cotton at a premium, he would then sell the improved seed to the more progressive agrarians who had been ordering from 'out of town' seed companies who advertised in the local paper. Lowe planned to take over the local seed market.

Alonzo Lowe's father, a North Carolinian, had married a girl from Alabama. Alonzo had been born in Mississippi in 1853, and grew up in Beat 1 in Lauderdale County. He had been educated in the patron schools before the war, and had developed an interest in cotton farming. He married a local girl, Miss Dora A. Walker in 1878. From October 1886 to November 1887, he was the postmaster of Marion Station.

Lon and Dora Lowe lived near Marion while he experimented with various cotton seed varieties. He carefully watched, nurtured, and recorded the results. After nine years, he was ready to begin selling his new seed. He needed a farm large enough to produce on a commercial basis.

On September 8, 1890, Mr. Lowe bought his first land in Pine Springs. He bought a half section of the land (320 acres) that had been a part of the Prince plantation and moved Dora and their children into the old plantation house. [SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9; SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-10] Then he was able to buy 320 more acres along Okatibbee Creek. [W $\frac{1}{2}$, S-8]

Around 1895, Lowe had a stylish Victorian house built for his family. The big house was painted white and sported a row of five-inch stained glass squares - amethyst, amber, cobalt blue - around the larger panes of clear glass in the front windows. It was an outstanding house in its time and place. On a rise, it sat a hundred yards back from the dusty public road, with big Oaks to shade the spacious lawn. [The Lowe house was razed in 1972 by the present owners of the farm, James and Iva Lee Crenshaw, when they built their brick home on the same site.]

The original Prince plantation house where the Lowe's first lived, vacated when they moved into their new quarters, was 300 yards north and west of the new Lowe home. [None of today's residents are old enough to remember the plantation house,

although some remember plowing around the site where it stood in the middle of Lowe's cotton fields. Some recall seeing the abandoned cantilevered well, but now it has long since been filled in.]

Lon and Dora Lowe became one of the leading families of Pine Springs. They had five children when they came and they had another daughter born on their farm in 1900. Sadness came in their second year in the community when a young daughter died. Minnie, 9 years old, was buried at Pace's church, so presumably the family were Baptist. Older residents remember when the Lowes worshiped at Pine Springs Church.

The children went on to school at one of the public high schools after they graduated from Pine Springs. Their names were Velma, 1879; Malcolm, 1880; Minnie E., 1882-1891; Horace Lee, 1885; Ethan, 1890; and Mazelle, 1900. Malcolm was not well known locally as he left home about the time they came. He went to Texas where he settled and raised a large family.

Alonzo Lowe had to borrow heavily to finance all this ambitious enterprise. Records show that each year he mortgaged his farm, but each year he was able to meet his payments on time. From 1890 to 1900 he borrowed from - and repaid - Thomas J. Renfro, T. C. Kennedy, J. Winner, and three times from Threefoot Brothers of Meridian. The farm took a lot of money but it took a lot to get the business established.

Small, unpainted, nondescript shacks had been built at intervals on the Lowe farm, along a road that led due west of the main road. This private road became known as The Lane, and if one said he lived on The Lane, everybody knew immediately where the person was talking about. The Lane extended all the way back for nearly two miles to the fields and pastures along Okatibbee Creek.

Lowe rented his shacks to 'croppers - poor white farmers who he recruited to raise his cotton. He furnished the mules, equipment, seed fertilizer, in exchange for their labor, and he would not allow them to plant any other crop. All their goods the 'croppers bought from Lowe's commissary near the head of The Lane, so at the end of the year the farmers, paying up their store bill, just about broke even. Some picked up extra wages after the Lowe's lay-by time by hiring out to neighboring farmers, or by hauling logs. Some hired out their children, as well, to bolster the family income.

In a constant turnover of tenants, countless families came to live on The Lane over the years. It is impossible to name them all. Some were good farmers, hard working men who had, through misfortune, lost their own land. Others, just

naturally shiftless, were careless and didn't try o do better. Few stayed for more than two or three season.

In the area near the big house there was a cluster of farm out-buildings, painted to match the house, commodious barns for mules, cows, and fodder, along with sheds for farm equipment. There were pigpens, chicken runs, dog yards, smokehouse - everything necessary for a large farm. The cattle and un-needed mules here headed down the lane each morning to the pastures along the creek, and would graze back up the fenced roadside in the evenings to be fed or milked. A few of the tenants had a cow that would join the others on their way to pasture and would stop off in the evenings at their house to be milked; Lowe let them keep a milk cow if they had one. Some tenants kept a few scraggly chickens, but they were not allowed to plant vegetables, as rows of cotton were planted right up to the back door of their shack.

Lowe set up his gin near the head

of The Lane to take care of the cotton the farm produced. Around 1896 when his son, Horace, was sixteen, the boy somehow managed to get his right hand caught in the feeder-spindles of the gin and lost four fingers. The wounds healed but marked an ugly wide scar all the way up the kid's arm.

Mr. Lowe placed large advertisements for his improved seed in The Evening Star in Meridian, and probably in newspapers in other towns, as well. After his own cotton was ginned and his precious seed saved, cotton from neighboring farms was ginned, with Lowe collecting a toll fee for this service.

Samuel J. Bozeman continued to build bridges and houses, but in the 1890's, his cash was in short supply as he owed debts he had incurred when building his new home. Mr. Sam rented his fields to sharecroppers, but the price of cotton was falling and he received a smaller return. With less ready cash he felt his expenses more than he had planned



130 Home of Alonzo and Dora Lowe. This picture was taken later ca 1913 when the house was owned by Horace Lowe, Mr. Lowe's son.



HOME OF SAMUEL J. & JENNY BOZEMAN: 1890'S. Dandies sprawled at front, Meady & Rawl, in front of Joe, Rev. Sammy's son. Rev. Sammy holds his daughter, Pearl, at steps next his father and mother and young Dora, near Uncle Tommy. Tal Rodgers on his knees down front. L to R on porch; Susan, dau. Of Sammy, Phronie holding baby Sam, Walter Rodgers on railing holding his grandfather's Civil War rifle, Eliza Rodgers holding baby Jimmie, then Aunt Dora. Lady and little girl, members of the clan, names unknown.

and he had to borrow to keep going. In 1898 he let 80 acres in the wooded portion of the steepest hills go for taxes. It had little value and was not worth the upkeep. He kept the level portion of his farm where his new home was situated.

Although Sam and Jenny tightened their belts, they still lived the good life. Sam, with his enthusiasm for living, worked with other local men to get the new schoolhouse built in 1893. (He still had two grammar-school boys left to educate, and had grandchildren coming along.) Enjoying young people as he did, it was a delight to have his children and their little ones about, and there were often happy family get-togethers at his home where the Bozeman clan collected.

The 1892 Tax Roll shows that at that time the only land owned by Rev. Sammy Bozeman was the northeaster 160 acres of Sec. 20, located on the

Suqualena Creek where it converges with the Okatibbee, just south of Pine Springs. It was rich bottom land for planting or pasture, but it was rather low for a house site. Sammy went in for raising cows than row-cropping. His main occupation was preaching, carpentry and laying brick, although he helped his father upon occasion when old Sam had a contract to build a bridge.

Rev. Sammy and Sister Phronie rented a small house on the Pine Springs Road within sight of his father's new home. Their five children, all born in Pine Springs before 1900, were Joe (Joseph Ulmer) 1891; Dora belle, 1893; Sudie (Susan Virginia), 1895; Alma Pearl, 1896; and "Young Sam" (Samuel Albert, 1899.

After her second son was born in 1890, Eliza Bozeman Rodgers' ill health forced her to give up going with Aaron to stay at the railroad camps.

She never recovered from her disease. Every time Aaron quit his job to stay with Eliza their money soon ran out and he would go back to the railroad.

On September 8, 1897, the Rodgers' third child, James Charles Rodgers, was born. Eliza was too weak to tend her baby so the Bozemans again stepped in to help. Called little Jimmie, the baby quickly became the favorite of the Bozeman family.

Miss Dora Bozeman passed the teacher examination and was certified to teach Grammar and Music. An intelligent young lady, she was an accomplished, if not inspired, pianist, and she gave private music lessons in the Bozeman home. She taught briefly, it is believed, at Pine Springs School.

After the Rushing Store Post Office above Pace's church closed in 1890, all from Pine Springs had to pick up their mail at Bailey's Store. Dora applied for a post office to be located in Pine Springs and when her application was accepted, she became the community's first post-mistress. On May 3, 1893, Bozeman Post Office went into operation with Miss Dora being in charge, and the official name of the community became Bozeman, Mississippi. For the next two years Miss Dora passed out the mail from the parlor of Sam Bozeman's home.

In 1889, Walter Bailey, two years after buying 80 acres in Sec. 16 from Jim Chandler, sold out to C. L. Avera and moved to Memphis to join his older brother. He went broke and in 1896, Haman Taylor, age 36, and his 35-year-old wife, Willie, gave F. W. McDonald a deed of trust and bought the land. [S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-16]

Haman Taylor, a family man with five children, was a carpenter and may have come to work with Sammy Bozeman. On Taylor's new farm was Chandler's old vacant store building and the Taylors put it back into operation. A corner of Taylor's store contained a mail desk for Miss Dora Bozeman, the post-mistress. Miss Dora, relieved to get the muddy boots out of her parlor, walked the short distance up the road to sort and pass out mail.

Around 1900, Mead and Tommy Bozeman left home. In 1901, Mead married Nancy Susan Chandler, Jim and Lacey Chandlers' daughter, and lived in Meridian. [Meady had three children, although one died as a child. Mead died in 1924 and was buried at Meridian's Rose Hill Cemetery.]

Tommy, also in Meridian, opened a "modern" barber shop which was a popular place for young men to gather to swap stories. The bachelor lived upstairs over his shop. [Nearing 40, Tommy married Rosa Lee Hasty of Thompsonville, Alabama. He died in 1929; he and his wife are buried in Pine Springs Cemetery. Their only child, Hortense (b.1914),

a talented musician, taught banjo and guitar. A well-known songwriter, her nom de plume was Virginia Shine, her grand-mother's maiden name. Her record, "Blue Flame Cafe" was quite successful. She married Jerome Harvey in 1933.]

By 1900, Rawl Bozeman, in his late teens, was the only son left at home with old Sam and Jenny and their un-married daughter, Miss Dora.

* * * * *

Samuel Claiborne Bailey, son of Robert Shacklin Bailey, was born "over the river" from Memphis in Arkansas on November 11, 1865. His father died when young Sam was barely into his teens and Sam, with his brothers and sisters, came to Lauderdale Co. to live with his uncle, Col. Sam Bailey. (The census gives young Sam's age as 19 in 1880, but he was nearer to age 15.) Col. Bailey, young Sam's guardian, made sure that Sam got an education.

After Sam finished school he married Miss Georgia Clyde Gunn. Georgia was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Gunn, and Sam's wedding took place at their home in Bailey on August 20, 1886.

In 1891, Sam and Georgia Bailey bought land in the southwest corner of Sec. 16 and built a home on the south side of (today's) Allen Swamp Road, on the east side of Okatibbee Creek. The creek ran through their 80 acres. By 1900 they also owned nearly 160 acres on the west side of the Okatibbee in Sec. 17.

Sam C. Bailey had a job with the postal servie with his duty being to deliver pouches of mail from Meridian to the rural stations at Bailey, Bozeman (Pine Springs), and perhaps others. His light mail wagon had a canvas cover to protect its contents, with "U.S. Mail" painted upon its sides. Rural house-to-house delivery had not yet been inaugurated.

The Bailey's three children, when they came to Pine Springs, were Robert Preston, 1887; Julian Cullie, 1889, and Earl Lafayette, 1890. By 1900, four more had been born at their home in Sec. 16; Luella, 1892; Clara Ophelia, 1894; Luther Norwood, 1896; and Samuel Fred, 1898.

The Bailey children went to school at Pine Springs. Mr. Sam became active in the Masonic Lodge, joining the lodge at Suqualena. It is not now known at which church they were members.

* * * * *

When Miss Hattie (Harriet) Jones, widow of the late Rev. Aaron Jones, died at the age of 82 on December 9, 1890, the only family members remaining in the Jones home were John and Florence Jones Houston, and John's three children. John and Florence

had not long been married when Miss Hattie died, and the Houstons continued to live in the old log house after she was gone. In 1892, the second Mrs. Houston had her first child, (John's fourth), a daughter they named Mable.

John hired a black woman to help Florence with the weekly wash. As small as the yearly income was for white farmers at that time, the blacks were even poorer. Most neighborhood wives had black washerwomen - give one a patched shirt or an old pair of shoes and she would scrub the house all day. There just was not much money in circulation for anybody.

One day the woman was doing the Houston's wash and Florence joined her at the well to help with the rinsing. Florence's wedding band was a loose fit so she slipped it off and laid it on the wash bench. When she went inside to cook dinner she forgot about her ring.

John noticed that she was not wearing it when they sat down to eat. Florence ran to the well but the bright gold band was gone. They looked and looked, but the ring had vanished.

Florence was proud of her wedding ring - she had not had it very long. The more they searched the more wrought up she became. In her excitement she accused the black woman of taking it, and said some pretty harsh things. The woman became upset and went home crying. They never did find that ring.

The Houstons slept in the front bedroom on the north side of the open hallway. They had two iron bedsteads set up in the room, one on each side of the doorway. Usually Florence slept alone in her bed with the baby so they would not disturb John's rest. On this particular night John had laid down with the baby while Florence finished up the supper dishes. Finding them asleep on her bed, Florence picked up the baby and got into John's bed instead of her own.

When the washerwoman went home in a tizzy at being accused of taking Miss Florence's ring, it did not take much to get her husband all fired up. He seethed when he was told to "keep in his place" or when called a "triflin' nigger", but he had learned to mask his feelings behind a stupid grin and say "Yas, suh" to keep from causing trouble. His wife's crying made him want to hurt somebody. The thought came to him to go kill that white bitch. That night he went to the Jones house and stopped at their woodpile long enough to pick up an ax.

The man slipped onto the porch and eased through the hallway. His wife had said that the white woman slept on the right side of the door. The door stood wide open on the hot night, and the

man slipped into the dark room. Hearing deep breathing, he raised the ax and struck.

John waked just as the ax fell, and he threw up his arm to cover his face. He was not quick enough and the ax struck his arm before it hit his head with a mortal blow. Florence waked and began screaming and the intruder threw down his weapon and ran.

The whole community and its surrounding area was riled up over the murder. Word spread fast and grim men gathered. They had a job to do and they mounted their horses and rode off with a coil of stout rope.

It is not known where they found the black, but they took him to a great Oak tree that stood on the edge of the Pine Springs Road. [This Oak was near today's entrance to the Pine Springs Water Park on Okatibbee Reservoir.] The tree had a large limb that reached nearly across the narrow dirt track and there swift "justice" was administered.

It is not known if these night riders (men of the community with help of friends from across the Okatibbee) wore the white robes of the Klan or not. John had been the son of Joseph Houston of Collinsville, who, in his early days, had been known to take a rather direct course of action when he was displeased. Joe was an older man by then, but he had several sons who were brothers of the murdered man. One wonders if the condemned man had any witnesses to speak in his behalf.

Older residents said that the black's body was cut down by his family and buried, oddly enough, in the black section of Pine Springs Cemetery. His family built a wooden 'dog-house' structure to protect his grave, and it was still standing in 1910 when teen-ager Myrtie White moved to the community. Myrtie, now Mrs. Love, recalls being told that this was the grave of the black man who had been hung. History, written or oral, has not recorded the condemned Negro's name. Due to subsequent events, his was the last Negro funeral held in that cemetery.

John Oliver Houston was buried near the members of his wife's Jones family at old Popular Springs Methodist Church. Although we do not have the exact date, it is believed that at about this time the old church building was burned. After the church was gone, whites, except for the descendants of the church's founder, stopped using the cemetery and it grew up in trees and bushes.

Mrs. Florence Jones Houston married Joseph Selby Wells (b.1844), a son of Thomas and Lydia Wells, a widower with eleven children. She took her daughter and three step-children to live on Well's farm in the western part of the county, near Duffee.

The oldest Houston children were two boys, Willie (William) and Sidney, followed by two girls, Ida Grace (1885) and Mable (1892). "Gracie" later married her step-father's son, Allen G. Wells, and Mable married Wellborn Ford and moved to Batesville, Mississippi.

After Florence's second marriage the heirs of Rev. Jones sold the Pine Springs farm to Spinks Jones (no relation) of Kemper County, the sale taking place in 1900.

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Though never openly discussed, after the lynching there was a tacit agreement among the whites that no blacks could live between the creeks (the Rogers and the Okatibbee) in Pine Springs. In 1892 there were three black men who owned land between the creeks as well as black tenant farmers. Shortly after the grisly ax murder and the swift retribution which followed, all Negroes quietly moved away. One can only speculate at what inducement impelled them to change their place of residence; those who knew what caused this strange exodus never disclosed their knowledge.

The first black who sold his land "between the creeks" was Ben Johnson, the Meridian barber and storekeeper. Ben sold his 491½ acres before the year was up to Charles M. Rubush, a successful white building contractor from Meridian who wanted a summer home for his family where he could raise horses. Rubush bought all of Johnson's land in Pine Springs in Sections 3, 9, and 10.

The Lauderdale Co. tax list for that year (1892) shows that, in addition to his Meridian home and businesses and his Pine Springs farm, Ben Johnson also owned 560 acres of farmland on the northeast edge of town in the vicinity of today's Meridian Little Theatre. In view of the 'unpleasantness' of the lynching, apparently Johnson thought it best that he liquidate the Pine Springs portion of his enterprises.

After Joe (Joseph) Harry, Alsa Pace's black friend, died in 1885, his oldest son farmed his place and kept the family together. [SE¼, S-33] The year following the hanging Jerry Harry sold the north half of the 160 acres to Timothy Jarred Snowden, a white man from Shucktown. To help his black friends, Dr. Dee Pace bought the south half of the Harrys' quarter section. The Harrys moved away from the community, but it is not now known which direction they took when they left.

It is believed that the family of Hugh Prince left their 40-acre farm (in the northeast quarter of Sec. 4) very soon after the lynching took place.

The Oak "hanging tree" was within shouting distance of Hughie's home, and the episode was bound to have its effect upon their actions. Not taking time to locate a buyer for the farm, Hughie's family and friends simply left. Three years later (Dec. 1895), Felix Vincent bought the Prince land to enlarge his farm.

Black landowners around the edges of the community did not leave. The Tom Stennis family, living east of Rogers Creek on the hill in Sec. 2, prospered on their farm during the 1890's. Tom acquired land as, bit by bit, he enlarged his farm. Taking advantage of low prices when owners lost their land due to over-abundance of cotton production, Stennis came to own over a whole section. Tom raised his children on his land. His descendants are still found living there to this day. [Ed Stennis, Tom's grandson, now owns the land upon which the old Poplar Springs Church was located, along with its overgrown cemetery.]

Thomas Stennis had faith in education and worked to get a local black school started. Tom's oldest son, Calvin, had been sent away to school, but in 1880, there was a black grammar school opened near Rushing Store in Beat 3. In 1886, the new Pine Grove school was started on the line between Beats 1 and 3 with Tom Stennis, Squire Grey, and Tom's son-in-law, Ab (Albert) Bailey, acting as trustees. After Maj. Adam Stennis died, two of his sons each gave an acre of land to the blacks for the Pine Grove school and church. [The black Pine Grove School, located on today's Hwy. 493 north of Bailey, was operational until schools were segregated in the 1970's. It is now the site of Pine Grove Church.]

The black Bailey brothers, Ab and Rufus, lived out their lives in the hills east of Rogers Creek. Their grandchildren and great-grandchildren still live on their land. These blacks and their white Pine Springs neighbors get along well, having, through the years, developed mutual respect.

* * * * *

Charles Maher Rubush was born March 11, 1844, in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was eighteen when the Civil War came, and he joined the Union Army and fought against the South. Sgt. Charles M. Rubush of Co. D, Indiana Mounted Infantry fought in the battles of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge in Tennessee, and was in the series of battles from Dalton to Atlanta in Georgia. During his four years in the US Army, he took part in minor skirmishes into Mississippi, where he liked the looks of the countryside. Seeing how the Union troops were destroying homes and towns, he formed a plan to return after the war to help build it back. After

the war he learned to be a brick mason.

Charley returned to Mississippi in 1868 to settle and began laying brick in Meridian. He began contracting to build residences and did quality work. As his reputation grew, he won contracts to build business and public establishments.

A young man, Charley attended social functions, not only to make contacts, but because he genuinely like people. A light-hearted man, Charley was able to see humor in every-day situations. In later years he used to tell about the time he went to a "social" at a home near Marion. The host had cleared the furniture from the main room to make room for dancing. There was a fireplace in the room, and the guests were baking yams in the hot ashes to eat for refreshment. As the fiddlers tuned up to start a lively tune, Charley turned to one of the young ladies and asked if she would care to dance.

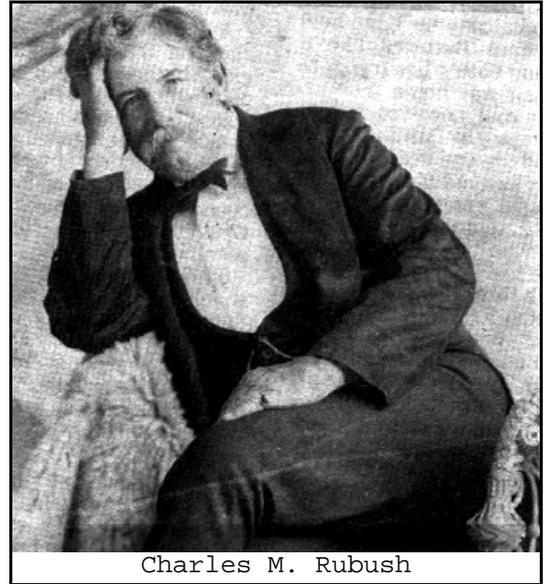
The girl looked at Charley for a long minute before she slowly turned to a friend and drawled, "Here, will you hold this hot 'tater fer me whilst I dance with this here man with the store-bought suit on?"

Imitating the girl's slow speech, Charley would tell his tale and laugh until he had to wipe his eyes. He said that by the time he got his partner onto the floor and ready, the tune had almost ended. He always found Southerner's drawl fascinating.

On October 18, 1871, 27-year-old Charley Rubush married Miss Martha Ann Wedgeworth, daughter of Rev. Joel and Margaret Smith Wedgeworth. [Rev. Wedgeworth, the circuit-riding Methodist preacher mentioned earlier]. Martha Ann, called Mattie, was the Wedgeworth's fourth child and second daughter.

Rubush built a two-story house on a 330-acre tract of land on the outskirts of Meridian. The house faced a narrow dirt road called Rubush Lane. [In later years, Rubush Lane became 45th Ave., with the Rubush home located between 12th St. and Highland park.]

Over the next forty years, Charley constructed numerous public and private structures in Meridian. He was the contractor for the Marks-Rothenberg Store and the Opera House (presently being restored), the Queen & Crescent Freight Depot, the Union Passenger Station, the M&O Freight Depot, the Old City Hall (now gone), Tom Lyle Grocery, Armour Packing Co., Meyer & Schamber Jewelry Co., and others, including the present Lauderdale



Charles M. Rubush

Court House (which was remodeled in 1931). He built most of the old churches in Meridian, and the first buildings of East Mississippi Insane Asylum (now East Miss. State Hospital; the original buildings became outmoded and were replaced).

Sometimes Charley took contracts out of town, although he did not leave home. He built the Wayne Co. court house, the first buildings of State Female College at Columbus, and Lee Hall at Miss. A&M College (MSU) at Starksville. He built part of State Insane Asylum at Whitfield.

Always looking for new interest, Rubush imported breeding stock for cattle from the Isle of Jersey off the coast of Britain. His prize bull, Mississippi, and some of his Jersey cows won Blue Ribbons at fairs and dairy shows.

In 1889, Meridian's first fairground was built on the site of today's Highland Park. Charley Rubush, who lived near by, was a member of its board of directors. He donated land west of the park (off 20th St.) for a racetrack. After horse racing was outlawed, he switched to harness racing.

Charley needed a place where he could raise horses, a summer place where his children could frolic and play. When Ben Johnson's Pine Springs farm came up for sale in 1892, Charley bought it.

Charley hired Ben and Mattie Harrington to operate his horse farm. Mattie Dooley Harrington, Mrs. Mattie Rubush's niece and namesake, was oldest daughter of Mary Jane Wedgeworth White, wife of John James White of Obadiah. The Harringtons moved into the farmhouse Eldridge Gibbens had built in the northwest half of Sec. 10 when he had owned the place. One of Rubush's daughters named the

Foxworth. Charley began raising horses.

Rubush was not interested in raising cotton at Foxworth, but had Ben plant the fields in corn, oats, and hay. Gibbens' old gin house was used for extra hay storage when the barns were full. After it was demolished by a tornado, Rubush built a large haymow on its former site.

Foxworth had a track to exercise and train the Rubush horses, but actual races were not held there. His horses raced at Highland park fairground and at the big Neshoba County Fair and other fairs about the state. He and other businessmen were partners in buying blooded horses and shared the purses they won. Star of the West was their best winning horse.

The Rubush children spent happy hours at Foxworth, spending hot summers riding, picnicking, swimming in Rogers Creek and entertaining young friends. They returned to town each fall when school started.

Mattie Harrington and Miranda Phillips, who lived up the Pine Springs Road, became close friends. In January, 1895, Ben and Mattie bought 80 acres of land on the northeast corner of The Forks (corner of Pine Springs and Ernest White Road) from Miranda's father, Robert Phillips. [W ½ SE ¼, S-4] Near that time, Cecil, the Harringtons' only child, was born. It is not known if the Harringtons moved to their land or continued to live at Foxworth, a quarter-mile away. Ben could easily

manage both places.

Ben served as trustee of Pine Springs School for two terms, 1895 and 1896. A problem came about when Ben began to lose his sight. The Harringtons thought it best that they sell their land and move to town. At the end of the year in 1899, they sold their 80 acres to Tom Wolfe and moved to a small frame house on 20th St., near the northern entrance of Highland Park. It is not known if their small house and lot was owned by them or if they bought it from Mattie's sister, Mrs. Charley Dabbs. Charley and Lee Dabbs lived across the street from the Harringtons in a much finer house, and owned land surrounding their home.

Ben was completely blind when he died in 1918. Mattie lived until 1935. Their son Cecil, worked at the nearby Insane Asylum where he was in charge of the hospital's cattle and dairy barn. He married Miss Robbie McArthur, but died childless at a fairly young age. Miss Robbie went to work for the Asylum and became groundskeeper when it became East Miss. State Hospital, a job she held until she retired in the 1970's. It was Miss Robbie who, with her group of working patients, was responsible for the spectacular park-like grounds at EMSH; in springtime people drove for miles to visit the gardens, which burst forth in bloom from Azaleas, Japanese magnolias, and host of other flowers. After Miss



A gathering of Country Gentleman

Robbie retired the grounds lost much of their former glory.

After Ben and Mattie moved to Meridian, Charley Rubush hired Sebe Smith, Jr. To operate Foxworth.

Robert and Mary Elizabeth Phillips and their family lived at home in Sec. 33, but after selling the timber acreage across Bales Creek in Sec. 5 in 1891, they sold it to a Negro gentleman, Thomas Donald. (Pt. NE1/4 , 120 acres, S-5. Donald, a school trustee and a dedicated family man, farmed near Pine Springs.) using money from this sale Phillips purchased the 80 acres on the northeast corner of The Forks from Mrs. Katy Pigott Vance. There was no house on the land but it was covered in timber.

In 1893, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Phillips, aged 65, died. Robert and the children, all grown by then buried her at Gumlog Baptist Church. That fall Robert, no longer able to work, sold his home in Sec. 33 to Mrs. C. A. Clark, and left Pine Springs to live with his children.

Mr. Phillips had already moved in 1895 when he sold the last of his Pine Springs land, the 80 acres in Sec. 4 at The Forks, to Ben and Mattie Harrington. The old gentleman didn't bother to sell the virgin timber.

Drucilla Phillips and her husband , Lish Stephenson, lived in a little house in the hills of Sec. 5 throughout the 1890's. They increased their five children to eight, adding three more daughters, Annie, 1891; Hattie, 1893; and Neva (Geneva), 1895. Lish continued to work in the woods with loggers.

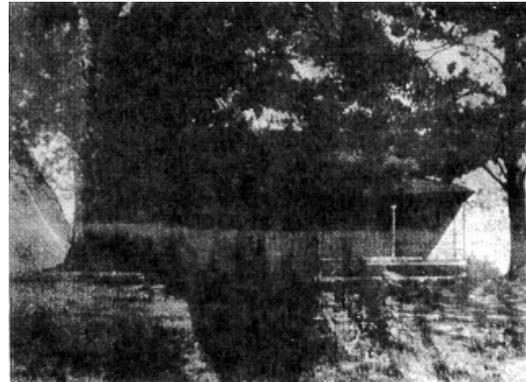
The Byrds, Vas and Miss Rossie, were living in the old log house next to the Phillips when Rossie's mother died. The year following her death, Vas bought 80-acres of the hARRY farm that adjoined the Phillips on the east. Dr. Dee Pace had bought Jerry Harry's farm during the 'race war' to help the black family flee the community. Pace was relieved to have Vas buy part of it [S ½ Sw 1/4, S-33]

This was the first land Vas owned, and he had in mind to built a suitable home for his family on the property. The Byrd family moved into a weathered three-room log cabin across the Pine Springs road from the Phillips farm. The ancient cabin, built by some former owner, was on Vas' land, and there he proceeded to build the first part of his new house.

Vas built two good-sized rooms with an open hallway between, and connected all this to the front of the original log house. This addition was of sawn lumber, painted white, with a spacious

veranda across the entire front. He installed glazed windows with green slatted shutters and made a roof of hand-drawn shingles. He put in a fireplace in the north bedroom - a second fireplace would be added later. He ran out of lumber when the first bedroom and hallway were finished, so the second room waited to be ceiled. The view of the front of the house was pretty good, until you walked around the side and saw the logs that made up the back end. But, all in all, Vas made a good start.

It was hard to say just what happened, but gradually Vas and Miss Rossie came to realize that they did not



Home of Vastine Byrd in the 1930's

get along very well. Rossie wanted Vas to build her a back porch, but he said 'twas no need; he would just have ti tear it down when he got around to finishing the house. She asked for a well near the house. Vas pointed out that they had a strong running spring down the hill just across the road. All she had to do was cross the road to get all the water she needed. There was a mite of a hill climb, but that shouldn't be to big of a problem. Somehow he never got around to digging a well, and the family continued to trudge up the sharp incline, lugging water buckets.

Mr. Byrd worked with the lumber companies, although it is not clear what part he played in the industry. He farmed a little, but tried not to overwork himself at it. He traveled up and down the road in his buggy a lot, but it is not now known what business kept him on the go. He still had a temper which was to be reckoned with whenever he became angry.

In addition to the first four of Vas and Rossie Byrds' children (Pres, Gracie, and twins Bud and Mary), three were added, the youngest being

Sollie, 1892, Nadie Simes, 1895, and Walterina C. 1898.

Mollie (Mary J. Phillips) and her husband, Mike Shea, sold their land in the southwestern quarter of Sec. 4 to old Uncle Jimmy Wright (James B. Wright) on November 16, 1897, and then left the neighborhood with their three sons. Nobody seems to know now where they went.

Miranda Phillips married Marion Walthall in 1897. Walthall, a "railroad man", was killed on the job in 1925. They had no children and Miranda collected his insurance. Five years later, Miranda married Morris Bills in Meridian, but they made their home in Jackson. When Miranda's second husband died, Miranda again inherited.

[In later years, Miranda returned upon occasion to visit her sister, Miss Rossie Byrd. To her wide-eyed nieces she seemed to be rich, driving out in her automobile. She brought Miss Rossie presents of things she thought Miss Rossie might need, but she never stayed the night. She stayed in a Meridian hotel on these trips, and she always visited her old friend, Mrs. Mattie Harrington.]

Mattie Phillips married Dr. William W. McDonald and moved away from Pine Springs. The McDonalds had four children, but their eldest died. The three surviving were Clarence Leroy, Annette, and William Abney.

* * * * *

RICHARD WRIGHT was born in England in 1633 but immigrated to the Virginia Colony to work for the Mottrom Company. In 1656 he married Ann Mottrom, his employer's daughter. Their son, FRANCIS WRIGHT, married Ann Washington in Westmoreland Co. (Va.), the grand-aunt of Pres. George Washington.

JOHN WRIGHT, Sr. (1682-1729) son of Francis, married Dorothy Aubrey and JOHN WRIGHT, Jr., their son, married Elizabeth Darnell. John Jr. was Chief Justice in Virginia.

WILLIAM WRIGHT, Judge Wright's son (b.1720?), married Judith Amos and moved to Anson (now Rowan) Co, N.C., where he fought in the American Revolution. William's son, CAPT. THOMAS WRIGHT, also fought in the Revolution under Nathaniel Green, becoming somewhat a hero. After the war, Capt. and Mrs. Martha Wright lived in Anson (Rowan) Co., where their son, JOEL WRIGHT, was born in 1794.

Joel Wright married Mary Ann Harrington around 1820, and they had eleven children, all born in North Carolina. In 1849, the family joined a train of wagons and migrated to settle near Cuba, Sumter Co., Alabama. Some of their older children returned to Carolina, but the younger children grew up in Cuba. At least two of the Wright

children had farms over the state line in Kewanee, Mississippi, and their descendants are still found in that area.

Jimmy (James Barrymore Wright), born in North Carolina in 1832, was the 6th child of Joel and Mary Ann Wright, and was 17 when he came to Cuba with his parents. He married Miss Manervia E. Phillips of Kemper Co. on November 10, 1858. They had a small son when the Civil War came.

Jimmy joined the Confederate Army in 1861, serving under Gen. Sears and Capt. Wiggins in Co. F, 46th Miss. Regiment. Before the war he was over, he was made a captain.

Capt. Wright was captured and spent long months in Camp Chase, Ohio, a Union military prison. He often said that the only thing that kept him alive was the thought of his wife and son waiting for him at home. When Jimmy was released in June 1865, he eagerly walked the long way home. It is hard to imagine the heartbreak he felt when he discovered that Manervia had died three years earlier. Mail service had been suspended for some time and he had not known that she was gone.

In late 1865, Jimmy Wright married Mrs. Mary Jane Ethridge, a war widow.

[Mrs. Ethridge, born in old Marion in 1843, was a daughter of William H. and Hildah Cochran White. Samuel Cochran, early sheriff of Lauderdale County, was Mary Jane's grandfather. Her father, William White, had succeeded Cochran as sheriff in 1841, two years before Mary Jane was born. The Whites later moved to Kemper Co. where Mary Jane married George W. Ethridge, one of the five soldier-sons of Solomon Ethridge, a member of the Lauderdale Co. Board of Police. Four of the five Ethridge sons, including George, did not return from the war. Two Ethridge girls, Mary Jane's sisters-in-law, had married the Collins brothers of Pine Springs.]

Jimmy and Mary Jane Wright lived in Kemper near Bethel Church and had eleven children. The Wrights, a church-going family, were loved by all. The tragic murder of their son, William, kindled a furor when it happened, and several descendants have passed the story down to us.

In 1891, William Wright and Teenie (Justina Annabelle) Phillips made plans to get married. A fellow named Johnson, Teenie's rejected suitor, bragged that Will might marry Teenie, but that he would never live with her. Their wedding took place as planned.

On their wedding night, Johnson came to their home and shot through an open window. The bullet killed William where he sat in his chair. (Another version says that William was a Christian man, and on his wedding night, he and his bride knelt in prayer. Johnson shot through the window and

killed William where they knelt.)

Outraged neighbors felt sympathy for Jimmy and Mary Jane, William's grief-stricken parents. Friends offered to find Johnson and bring him to "justice".

"No," said Jimmy. "Leave him alone. God will take care of him. He will be punished."

Two weeks later, Johnson was cleaning his horse's hoof when the horse kicked him in the head and he died.

[William's unkissed bride, a schoolteacher, was a daughter of James Phillips. James, the youngest brother of our Robert Phillips of Pine Springs, lived in Kemper. In 1894, Teenie married Walter Scott Brown, son of the settler David M. Brown (of Drip Off) and his second wife, Rebecca Richardson.]

The names of all of Jimmy Wright's children are have not been found. It may be that some of the eleven died young. It is thought that James B. Wright, Jr., the oldest, was the son of Jimmy's first wife. James, Jr. married Nealie Smith and lived at Damascus in Kemper Co. One of his girls, Annie Leona, married William Hughes and lived near the local Gumlog Church.

Another son was Joe (Joel T.) Wright, who married Clara A. McDonald and came to Pine Springs in 1903.

Some recall a son named Harve (Harvey?) who went, it is thought, to Texas.

Jimmy and Mary Jane had twin daughters, Lula and born in 1882. Lula (or was) became the second wife of John B. McDonald and moved to Texas. Lula Wright, 16, was listed at home with her parents in the 1900 census.

[Anybody with more information, "Call home!"]

On November 16, 1897, Jimmy and Mary Jane, at ages 65 and 54, bought the Pine Springs farm of Mike and Mollie Phillips Shea. [E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-4] They lived in a log cabin in the northern half of the 80-acre tract. It is not known if Mr. Wright built the house or if it was put up by some former owner. The cabin was small; both its two rooms opened onto a front porch. Its only heat was from a mud-and-straw fireplace in the larger room.

A wee barn, made of logs, poles, and saw mill slabs, was hardly more than a corncrib with a hayloft and a lean-to cowshed on one side. On the edge of the main road, the barn was 150 yards down the hill and in front of the cabin. [James and Mary Ellen White, present owners of this land, built their home on the exact site of the ancient log cabin. The very large, very old Sycamore tree on today's roadbank once shaded the rickety barn and cow-pen.]

The first thing that struck people about the Wrights was their complete happiness. Members

of the Church of God, they were pleasant to be around. They attended the Holiness campground at Cuba, Alabama, where they enjoyed the old hymns. Their voices blending in close harmony, the old couple often sang together, and those who remember them tell how much joy they brought. They endeared themselves to Pine Springs community and came to be called "Uncle Jimmy" and "Aunt Mary Jane".

* * * * *

In the Victorian times of the "Gay Nineties", proper ladies wore Leg O' Mutton sleeves, high buttoned shoes, and enormous hats covered with bird wings and bows. Folks had "limbs" instead of legs; horses sweated, men perspired, but ladies "glowed" when the weather was hot. It was a good time for Amanda and Edward Lockard, as they did not depend upon farming for their living. Their clothing stores continued to be successful, their children were either in local schools or in college, and all the family was happy and successful.

Amanda had money, thanks to her inheritance from George Chandler and, being her father's daughter, she made wise investments. In addition to their Meridian home where they spent the 'social season' in the winter, they maintained a second home near Pine Springs where they relaxed during the hot days of summer.

The Lockard house had a wide, shaded porch across the front and down one side, a favorite gathering place for young ladies to keep company with their beaux while their brothers sparked the girls.

One Sunday the youths were on the Lockard porch sipping lemonade with their friends when the youngest Lockard, a toddler, awaked from his afternoon nap. He entertained himself for a while, then came to the porch to find his mother, bringing a new toy he had found. He came onto the porch holding the long laces of an old corset, dragging the garment behind him.

For a shocked moment nobody moved. Then one of his big sisters scooped up little Marcus and the undergarment and swept into the house. Other pink young ladies followed as their beaux stifled their laughter.

Mr. Lockard had a quarter section of land on the east side of the old Pine Springs Road at the top of Bozeman Hill, but it was on the west side of the old road on Amanda's land where the Lockards had their summer home. Amanda's land, in Sec. 21 just south of the community, was part of the property she inherited from her father. [The present road has been moved east of its original location, but traces of it can be seen at the top of the hill opposite today's Windsor Drive

intersection. The original road ran southwest from their home and came out at the Okatibbee bridge on today's State Blvd. Extension.]

The Lockard's comfortable summer home was not a rough camphouse. In summers their children played with local kids and the family socialized at Pine Springs gatherings and picnics. They sometimes worshiped at the local church, although Mrs. Lockard became a member of Gumlog Baptist.

The Lockards were, in a way, strict with their children, Amanda more so than Edward. The youngsters were taught to be independent and the importance of education was stressed. They grew up in a family with money but were expected to earn what they received.

Edward Lockard died in 1905 and Amanda died in 1908; both lie buried in Meridian's Magnolia Cemetery. Their thirteen children were George Thomas, 1861; James E., 1863; Mary E., 1864; Nancy, 1886; William L., 1868; Letitia Anna, 1869; Edna, 1870; Thaddeus C., 1872; Walter, 1873; Albert A., 1874; Teenie (Amanda), 1876; Infant daughter, 1878-1878; and Marcus Milton, 1887. Most of them graduated from college. Several became educators. As adults, George and Albert kept closer ties to the community than the others, although Marcus returned for a while during the 1930 depression.

The oldest, George, chose not to go to college, preferring to be a farmer. A story he told, which may have been a yarn to teach his youngsters, was that he left home at sixteen to make his own way. To start him off, he said, his parents gave him a gun and a hunting dog, a bag of cornmeal, a bucket of molasses, and the clothes he had on his back. He came along when lumber companies bought land for timber and sold it cheap (or let it go for taxes) after they harvested the trees. George bought several land parcels for the timber and sold them to farmers after waiting for a favorable offer.

In 1890, Mrs. Letitia Lacy, his mother's aunt, died. When her estate was settled, George came into possession of her Sec. 4 Pine Springs farm. (This was the farm that old Mrs. Lacy had kept from her first husband, Mr. Wright.) George kept the land a number of years before selling it to Joel New and the Whitaker Bros. Spokemill Company.

At age 30, George married Miss Bettie (Margaret Elizabeth) Halsell, daughter of M.V.B. and Sallie Head Halsell of Sumter Co., Alabama. He built their home south of Pine Springs on today's State Blvd. Extension. It was a square-built house with a hip roof and porches, of good size and quality construction. George and Bettie owned, and farmed, the square mile where their home was located. When the old Pine Springs Road was moved eastward,

George built a long, wood-framed country store on the northeast corner of the new intersection [today's Pine Springs Road at State Boulevard Extension]. He also operated his gin nearby.

After the turn of the century, before heavy earth moving equipment was developed, George did something uncommon. He hired laborers to use dirt slips and mules to build a 20-acre fishing lake. He stocked the lake with game fish and there his family and friends enjoyed hours of fishing and swimming. [The lake is near today's Woodland Hills subdivision off State Blvd. Ext.]

George Lockard never lived in Pine Springs but owned land there. In the early 1920's, he owned the land on Bozeman hill east of Miss Dora Bozeman's. He was instrumental in having the long straight road up the hill moved over to follow the contours of the hills in an easier to climb, more gradual grade. The new road's crooked path up the hill is still in use today.

George and Bettie Lockard had ten children; Nellie, Lucile, Elizabeth, George H. (Little George), Richard, Vernon, Walter, Frances, Leah, and Ned. In an apparent attempt to encourage his children to settle close to home, George made a rule that, to gain his permission for them to marry, each had to buy 80 acres of his farm. They could keep it or sell it as they chose, but each son or future son-in-law had to begin marriage with a homesite. He didn't insist that they live on the land; he would buy it back if they wished to leave. But buying his land was a condition of his blessing on their marriage. Gilbert Pyle, who married Frances Lockard, was the only one that kept the land he bought from Lockard. The Pyle's daughter, Patricia Pyle Shannon, now lives near Lockard's lake on land that had been her grandfather's.

George T. Lockard was well-known and respected in the Pine Springs. Mrs. Bettie Lockard, a Baptist, attended the local Union Church upon occasion. In his later years, Mr. George was often seen at the court house in Meridian, passing time with friends and talking with farmers when they ventured into town. He died in his nineties in 1958. He and Miss Bettie are buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Meridian.

* * * * *

One of the first settlers in Lauderdale County was James Snowden, native of South Carolina. Born in 1791, James married Miss Mary Margaret Thames in Carolina on May 13, 1818. Following their marriage, the Snowdens left for West Florida and remained a year in the Mobile area before traveling

up-river to homestead in Wilcox Co., Alabama.

The Snowdens had nine children when they up-rooted to move to Mississippi in 1833. There were few roads when they came; in places they hacked a path through the wilderness to get their wagons through. James bought land in Sections 4 and 8, Township 8, Range 15E, in today's Shucktown. In 1838, he bought the first of his nine slaves. In 1839, the Snowdens transferred their church letters to the new Fellowship Baptist Church.

James and Mary Margaret built up their plantation, continued to have children, and prospered. When James died at age 50 in March 1852, thirteen of his fourteen children (one had died an infant) were named in the county Probate Records. James Snowden's was the first stone grave marker placed in Fellowship Church Cemetery.

In November 1856, a committee (Will Stokes, E.R. Smith, David M. Brown, and Eb and Joshua Miles) measured off one-third of the Snowden land for Mary M. Snowden's dower. Her land, which included their home, was located on both sides of the road in the northern portion of Shucktown. She out-lived James forty years, died at age 90 in January 1892, and was buried beside him at Fellowship.

The Snowden children were as follows:

(1) HARVEY E. SNOWDEN (b.1821,A1), the oldest, administered his father's estate. He was appointed postmaster of the Ft. Stephens settlement (N. of Shucktown) when the office was established in 1857. Eb Miles, of Pine Springs, took it over a year later. Harvey died during the Civil War; Mrs. Amanda Snowden and Abner M. Hudson, bonded for \$3000, became his estate administrators in January 1863. He left at least three children.

(2) JAMES W. SNOWDEN (b.1824,A1) bought Reany, the tiny slave girl, at Hatcher's estate sale in Pine Springs in 1850. He, his wife Martha, and four children lived near his widowed mother in 1860. Descendants lived in Collinsville.

(3) THOMAS V. SNOWDEN (b.1825,A1) was married before his father died. His 160-acre farm was two and a half miles north of Pine Springs. He added 80 acres to his farm after the Civil War.

Thomas was on the Pace's Fellowship Baptist Church building committee in 1884 when a church was built to replace the log house then in use. He married twice; his first wife was Mary M. and his second wife was Nancy Jane. He had at least five children. Two sons, Jim (James T.) (1852) and Timothy Jarred "Jarrit" (1866), bought farms in Pine Springs near the time of his death on Sept. 6, 1895.

(4) JARRED SNOWDEN (b.ca1826) was living at

Hickory in Newton Co. when his father died. A named heir, he appeared in Probate Ct. when the Snowden estate land was divided. He was married twice, his second wife being Mrs. Charity Ann Trussell Daniel, widow of T. M. Daniel. Jarred left descendants in Newton Co. when he died in 1896. He was buried at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery.

(5) WILLIAM B. SNOWDEN (1828,A1) married Mary Ann Rebecca Wells in 1841 with John B. Collins, JP, officiating. Their two children were raised by an uncle, Jacob Wells, after she died. On Dec. 23, 1851, William married Bethana Jane "Thanie" Sanderford and she gave him two sons. Thanie was daughter of Gray and Elizabeth Carpenter Sanderford of nearby Drip Off community. William, a successful businessman whose 240-acre plantation was in Sec. 20, T8, R15E, was a member of the state legislature. He and Miss Thanie were members of Pace's Fellowship Church where she was buried in 1859. William's third wife was Phebe "Febi" Ann Perkins, who brought him five more children.

In 1870, William became the church clerk at Fellowship. On Nov. 1, 1886, William, then 58, was killed by kicks from a mule team.

William and Miss Thanie Snowden's oldest son, James Gray Snowden (1854-1926), made his home about a mile off today's Center Hill-Martin Road causeway on Okatibbee Lake at Center Hill. With two wives, Sarah M. "Sally" Pool (1856-1881) and S. Pinkney May (1865-1961), whom he married in 1882, James Gray Snowden fathered seventeen children.

Buddy (John William) Snowden (1879) was a son of James Gray's second marriage. Buddy married Emily Elizabeth Moore in 1900. Among his eleven children were Odie Lee Snowden (1901) (q.v.), and Mazelle Snowden (1904) (q.v.), both of whom moved to Pine Springs after their marriages.

A half-brother of Buddy Snowden, Curtis Gray Snowden (1888) was a son of James Gray and Pinkney May Snowden. Curtis (q.v.) married Minnie New in 1913 and moved to Pine Springs.

The second son of William B. and Thanie Snowden was Enoch Ransom (II) (1856), a namesake of William B.'s brother. Enoch Ransom lost his first wife and child in childbirth, he married Sidney T. "Pinky" Warren, daughter of Charles Warren, and grandchild of the late Moses Warren Pine Springs. Enoch Ransom's son Jim Snowden (b.1896), married to Agnes Pope, operated a store in Shucktown. Jim's oldest daughter, Mary Manez Snowden, became the bride of George J. Kinard (q.v.) of Pine Springs in the mid 1930's.

(6) SARAH E. SNOWDEN (1829,A1) married John T. Ethridge, son of Solomon Ethridge. They had an infant son, John, Jr., when John was killed in the Civil War. Sarah did not re-marry.

(7) LUCRITIA SNOWDEN (1831, Al) married Thomas Thompson July 7, 1853. She lived until 1897.

(8) MARGARET ANN SNOWDEN (1833?) Was also married before her father died. Her husband, William E. Wooten, once owned Sec. 16 land in Pine Springs but sold it to Lawson Gunn and John Perry in the 1840's.

(9) JOSEPH J., 1834; (10) ENOCH RANSOM, 1836; and (11) LEVI, 1838, James Snowden's bachelor sons all lived with their widowed mother, Miss Mary, until the Civil War. Family tradition says that two of James Snowden's sons perished as soldiers, although which two is unknown. One died in the Camp Douglas Yankee prison.

(12) Information on DAVID MARION SNOWDEN (b. 1840, Ms) is given in a later chapter.

(13) James's youngest child LUCY E. SNOWDEN (b. 1841), remaining single, remained with her mother and older sister, Mrs. Sarah Ethridge.

Now, back to settler James Snowden's grandsons, James Thomas and Timothy Jarred Snowden, oldest and the youngest sons of Thomas V. Snowden. Both of these grandsons, James T. (b. 1878) and Jarred (b. 1866), bought farms and settled in Pine Springs in the 1890's. Jarred was the first to arrive.

Timothy Jarrit Snowden was called Jarrit all his life. If you said Jarred, nobody would know whom you were talking about.

Jarrit married his bride, Miss Vennie Vilula Brown, in 1890. Miss Vennie, born in 1873, was granddaughter of settler David M. Brown, and daughter of Jeff (Jefferson Davis) Brown and his wife, Avie (Charlotte Aveline) Pruitt of Kemper. When their baby Earl came along in 1894, Jarrit and Vennie began to take

life more seriously; that year both joined the Baptist church at Fellowship.

Around this time, Jarrit, by borrowing from J. P. Bailey, son of the late Col. Sam Bailey, bought 80 acres directly north of Vas Byrd's Pine Springs farm. [N ½ SE 1/4, S-33, T-8, R-15E] The Pine Springs Road bisected Jarrit's property, with half being on each side of the road. [the Snowden and Byrd land in Sec. 33 was part of the Jerry Harry farm that the black man had been 'encouraged to sell after the recent lynching.]

Several of Jarrit's family were storekeepers and, apparently, this occupation seemed brighter to Jarrit than farming. He built a small store on the eastern bank of Pine Springs road and opened for business.

When Jarrit and Vennie's second child, little Avie (Avaline), was born in 1895, Jarrit built his family a permanent home. It was a fine house, for its day, and was sited just north of his store but on the opposite side of the road. (See below.)

Earlier, in 1875, Jarrit's older half-brother James Thomas "Jim" Snowden, then 23, had married Nancy Ann Hatcher, oldest daughter of Sam T. Hatcher (late of Pine Springs) and Sam's first wife, Emma Clay. Jim and Ann lived near his father for years until old Thomas Snowden died in Sept. 1895. Three years later in 1898, Jim bought 80 acres of the old Alsa Pace farm in Sec. 34 from Ziah Pace. (Ziah and Laura Pace had taken over the Pace farm after old Alsa's death.) Jim's new farm, where he planned to raise horses, adjoined the eastern border of Jarrit's farm.

Jim and Ann Snowden's log house was alongside the winding former stagecoach road that led through the eastern portion of Pine Springs toward Pace's



Recent photo of home built by Timothy Jarred "Jarrit" and Vennie Brown Snowden around 1900. Shows renovation done by Snowden's great granddaughter in 1989.

church. [The original road wound east of today's Fellowship road through Sec. 34. In later years, when today's road was cut, Jim Snowden's home was stranded on the west side of the new road. A portion of the stage coach road was kept to serve as private driveway to his home.]

All of Jim and Ann Snowden's four children were born before they moved to Pine Springs. They were Ed (James Edward), 1878; Ada, 1889; Bessie, 1891, and young Stacie, 1896, who was two years old.

In 1900 young Ed Snowden married Myrtie Phillips, daughter of James P. Phillips who had married Lish Stephenson's sister, Martha. Miss Myrtie's grandfather was the late Robert Phillips of Pine Springs.

John Wellborn, Sr., the first of the Wellborn family that came to America, was aboard the ill-fated ship, "Sea-Venture", in 1609. Along with more colonists, the ship was loaded with needed supplies for the new settlement of Jamestown, Virginia. Alas, the ship, lost in a storm was wrecked on Bermuda Island and did not reach Jamestown till May 24, 1610.

John Wellborn, Jr., one of John Wellborn's four sons, settled in Accomac Co., Virginia. The succeeding generations of his descendants moved southward to North Carolina and then into Georgia. Josiah Wellborn, the ninth generation of the family in America, was born in Newton Co., Georgia in 1790. He married Margaret Sanders Robertson in 1817 and became a successful planter. Their large family grew up on their plantation at Madison in Morgan Co.

David Madison Wellborn, born 1824, was one of Josiah's sons. David went to the University of Nashville to become a doctor and received his "sheepskin" in 1850. [It really was a sheepskin. His diploma beautifully scripted in Latin upon a sheep's skin, is now in possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. Esther Pace Raney of Columbus, Mississippi] The new doctor began his practice at Blakely in early Co., Georgia, where he also opened a pharmacy.

Following the Civil War, Dr. Wellborn married Esther Pamela Powell, daughter of the renowned Georgia Baptist minister, Rev. Hiram Powell. After giving sons and much of his wealth to his beloved Confederacy, Rev. Powell, an old man died during the Civil War. With land and slaves gone, there was little left to divide among his many heirs.

Miss Esther had been accustomed to servants and Dr. Wellborn, in the dreary aftermath of war, had little to provide for his pampered wife. Mrs. Wellborn used to tell how a Negro woman taught

her how to wash clothes, and how her soft hands were left bleeding from the unaccustomed use of a rub-board.

There was no money left in Early County. In 1871, the Wellborn placed their most cherished possessions onto wagons and made the long journey across Alabama to Lauderdale Co. Mississippi. Migrating with them was Adolphus A. Powell, Mrs. Wellborn's brother, a veteran of the recent war. ("Dolp" Powell seemed to have had an unorthodox religious beliefs; records of three Baptist churches in Lauderdale Co. show him in religious controversy with other



Brother and sister, A.A. Powell and Mrs. Esther P. Wellborn, in later years.

members.)

The county was showing signs of rebirth when the Wellborn arrived. Everywhere there was activity as cotton mills and businesses formed. The Wellborn stopped at Marion and bought a house. Encouraged, the doctor wrote Elijah Jones (pronounced Jo'nes) Wellborn, his Confederate veteran brother in Georgia, to come to Meridian; it was booming! (E. J. Wellborn came and bought a farm at Sageville.)

Davis, Esther and the four children were of the 'impoverished gentility'. Lacking business acumen and too often forgiving patient's fees, the doctor lost his home. He borrowed from Maj. Stennis of Pine Springs to buy another house in Suqualena and began to augment his paltry income by teaching in the new public schools. He was listed among the county teachers in 1874 and 1875, although records do not show the school he taught. He tutored his

own children and they, in turn, became teachers.

In 1888, Jesse Mercer Wellborn, the doctor's only son, went to Herbert Springs in Kemper where he married Miss Ida White and migrated to Arkansas. Mamie Wellborn (b. 1870), became a teacher. In 1889, Minnie Wellborn (b. 1873) married Joseph L. "Jodie" Houston, Jr., son of the colorful Joe Houston and Elmira Hamrick. (They were married by Rev. W. W. Bradley at Poplar Springs not long before the old Methodist church was destroyed. They lived in Collinsville.) Allie Henri Wellborn (B. 1875), also became a teacher.

Miss Mamie Wellborn, unlike her mother, was an independent young lady. Named Mary at birth, she was just a tyke when she changed her name. When called Mary, she stamped her tiny foot and said, "May name is not Mary! Call me Mamie!" And they did.

When twelve, Mamie wanted a sewing machine to save stitching time. She did not ask her Papa to buy one. She took a sickly calf someone gave her for a pet and raised it herself, giving it special attention. It grew into a healthy cow which Mamie sold to get her machine. Mrs. Wellborn marveled at her daughter's resourcefulness to get what she wanted accomplished.

A bright girl, she quickly learned her lessons at her father's knee. At fifteen she got her first teaching job.

After 1889, teachers were required to take an examination to become certified. If they failed, they could be re-tested in two years. Mamie and Dr. Wellborn both took their exams on the first day of May in 1889. They both passed. Later, they took part in seminars held in Meridian to prepare others to pass. Mamie's subjects were grammar and composition. Her father's was physiology.

In the winter school terms of 1889 and 1890, Miss Mamie became the schoolma'am at Vincent (formerly Oak Grove) School in Pine Springs. At that time, classes were held in the old school building with its dirt floor. There was talk among local parents that a new building was needed. The sees was planted but nothing was done. In 1890, the school had only 24 pupils.

For the 1891 term, young Allie took Mamie's place at Vincent as Mamie was assigned to Osborne school in Beat 4. Dr. Wellborn, at 68, taught at Good Hope, the last year he taught.

The Osborne schoolhouse had been built in Edward V. New's field near the rowdy saw mill boom-town, Meehan Junction. Boarding in the New household, Mamie met her future husband. Joel New was foreman of the A&V Railroad's No. 1 Bridge crew, the first section of line out of



Joel and Mamie Wellborn New, 1891

Meridian. They were married December 22, 1891. After the holidays, Mamie went back to teaching and finished the term.

Charlie New, Joel's nephew, recalled being a young student of "Aunt Mamie's". He didn't like her. She switched him when she caught him peeing in the school spring.

Joel and Mamie New rented a house on Chunky River in a village called point. The next school term, Mamie taught at nearby Chunky School until she became pregnant. Joel Henry New was born in 1894, followed by Edward Leon, 1895; Minnie Lee, 1896; and Marie, 1898.

Around 1888, Dr. Bennet Deason Pace graduated from Memphis University and returned home to begin his practice of medicine. Medical doctors were not assured of instant wealth when they graduated back then; it usually took several years for a young MD to gain a reputation for his healing abilities. Many new doctors worked with each other, more established physicians and, in following them around, served a sort of internship before patients had confidence enough to bring them their ailments. Dr. Pace worked with Dr. David Wellborn, becoming the older doctor's apprentice. In later years, Dr. Pace was to say he gained a lot of practical knowledge from the old gentleman.

In the school terms of 1889 and 1890, Dr. Dee Pace, fresh out of school and needing money, taught at the one-room county Hooks School near today's Briarwood Country Club. In 1892, he taught a four-month term at Collinsville.

It seems strange, now, to hear of doctors having

the time, or necessity, to teach school. A hundred years ago, however, people treated their own medical problems, as far as they were able. They sent for Doc when they were "sure enough" sick. A hospital, usually a couple beds in the doctor's office, was a place to go when it was time to die. Most times, neighbors "sat up" with the patient's family at his own bedside when death appeared imminent, and were on hand to bathe the corpse and stretch the remains on a board until rigor mortis set in. A home-made pine box served as a coffin.

Country doctors made rounds about once a month, stopping at each house to treat any members of the household that needed "doctoring". It was only in emergency that the doctor was sent for, and he would go take care of the problem at hand. Their knowledge was limited, but Doc could lance boils, set bones, and give doses of Calomel (they believed in keeping folks "cleaned out") and, taking his medicines along with him, he could mix up some of the most gosh-awful tasting tonics that can be imagined. No child ever mistook medicine for candy! The theory was that if it didn't taste terrible, it wouldn't cure.

Doctors were the last to be paid, after important things, such the store bill, the seed and fertilizer bill, and the mortgage on the farm, were settled. There was always a shortage of ready cash, and old Doc would take a chicken or a bushel of peas in lieu of money, if that was all you had. It was hard for a doctor to make a living without other income.

With new people - especially loggers - moving into Pine Springs, the number of students in the new Pine Springs school increased to 50 in 1893. Dr. Pace, then 29, taught in the new schoolhouse that year, with John Tolbert, John Love, and old Sam Bozeman the trustees. Dee Pace taught again the following year and the number of students increased to 65. (Students said he had eyes in the back of his head.) Tolbert was still a trustee, but Frank Love replaced his brother (John) who had died, and Benjamin Harrington replaced Mr. Bozeman, who was getting on in years.

In 1896, Dr. Pace and Miss Allie Wellborn decided to get married, which they did with the Wellborn's blessings. They made their home in Obadiah, not far north of Gumlog Church. Dr. David and Miss Esther Wellborn were getting feeble so Dee and Allie took them into their home to live their final years. The Wellborns and Paces were all members of Pace's church.

In the summer of 1900, Joel New sent for Dr.

Pace to come down to Chunky to see about Mamie. She had been feeling sickly all summer and wasn't getting any better. Dr. Dee and Mamie's sisters, Allie and Minnie, traveled down to see her and found her with sharp abdominal pains. Dr. Dee said Mamie had "cramp colic" and her condition was very grave. Minnie insisted that Mamie, Joel and the four children come home with her to Collinsville, as it would be closer for Dee to treat her properly. And so they did.

At the Houston home, Mamie's health did not improve, although her father and brother-in-law did all they knew to do. Mamie Wellborn New died at the home of Joey and Minnie Houston on 30 August, 1900.

Henry and Leon New, 5 and 4 years old, were "big boys" when their mother died. Minnie New, at age 3, was a chatterbox. Minnie came in, leading baby Marie by the hand, with flowers picked from Aunt Minnie's yard. Seeing their mother resting so quietly, Minnie placed the flowers on the bed.

Turning to her little sister, she explained, "Mama's asleep now. She'll get up 'terectly' and put them in some water." Joel New left the room.

Mamie New was buried in the Hamrick family cemetery at Collinsville. Within the next ten years the operation for appendicitis was developed. So many times Dr. Pace was to say, "Oh, had I only known! I could have operated and saved her!"

* * * * *

As he promised his youngest son, Mr. Bennet Pace sent Albert off to medical school when Dee finished at the University. Albert, after waiting so long, left on the train for Memphis. He was in Memphis a little better than a year when they sent for him to come home. Mr. Pace had taken ill and there was nobody left to run the family farm. In despair, Albert packed his books and returned to Pine Springs.

Bennet Pace was never really well again, but actually, his wife, Martha Jane, died before he did. Miss Martha Jane died on November 22, 1895, and Mr. Bennet died a month later on December 17. They were both buried at Pace's church.

Albert inherited the family farm. He never returned to school, but married two years later in 1897.

* * * * *

Natives of Georgia, William and Rosa Linda Everett Pratt were in Lauderdale County in 1853

but in 1860 they lived in Sumter County at Sydenham, Alabama, with their seven children. William was building houses. William (born 1813) was a master carpenter and his two oldest sons, Sherrod (1838) and John (1841), were his apprentices until war came and both joined the Confederate Army. John W. Pratt was killed in battle in front of the court house in Atlanta. Sherrod came back after the war and the Pratts moved to Mississippi where William died in 1872 and Rosa Linda died in 1887.

Sherrod G. Pratt, an engineer, lived near Bailey where, from 1883 through 1889, he was Bailey's first postmaster. He and his wife, Mary J., had several children.

Sherrod's two younger brothers, Joseph Aaron (1853) and Owen R. (1853), lived near him at Bailey. Owen's wife, Mary E., died in 1894 with the birth of their fifth child. This son, Ellis, grew up to marry a girl from Pine Springs.

Joseph A. Pratt was married to Mary Isabelle Thrash, daughter of Jackson and Elizabeth Thrash, late of Ireland. Joe, a machinist at Col. Bailey's gin and saw mill, was a trustee of the nearby Cook School. Ella, the oldest of Joe's three girls, was a teacher; his third girl, Rose Anne, was too young. It was Joe's middle daughter, Bettie (Elizabeth Harmon) Pratt (b.1877), that caught the eye of Albert Pace. They were married in 1897, and Albert brought Miss Bettie home to his Pine Springs farm.

* * * * *

The Chisolm family of Kemper and Lauderdale Counties were descendants of Alexander Chisolm (b.1702) and Janet Fraser, who sailed from Inverness, Scotland and arrived in Charleston, South Carolina in 1717. One of the Chisolm's six sons was Thomas (b.1731,SC), who became a Lt. Colonel in the Revolutionary War. Afterward, Thomas was a Georgia State Senator, and served on the Georgia Executive Council.

George Washington Chisolm, born 1775, son of Thomas and Mary Butlar Chisolm, married Penelope Fraser, and lived in Georgia in Walton County. Their son, William John Milton Chisolm, was born in Walton Co. in 1798.

In 1828, Wm.J.M. Chisolm married Dorothy Swanson and moved to Morgan County and had 10 children. In 1846, William and Dorothy migrated to Mississippi where Wm.J.M. died five years later. Dorothy, with the help of her older boys, raised the children in Kemper County.

Dorothy's fifth child was William Wallace Chisolm, who was born in Georgia in 1830. William

married Miss Emily Mann in 1856. Emily was a daughter of John W. Mann, but was living with her uncle in Louisville in Winston Co. when they married.

William W. Chisolm was the Chisolm who was killed at Kemper court house in DeKalb in the infamous days of "Bloody Kemper" following the Civil War. The Reconstruction period in Kemper Co. was a time of conflict, with freed blacks, the US Provisional Government, Carpetbaggers and Republicans on one side, and returned Confederate Soldiers, Democrats, disposed Southerners, and the Ku Klux Klan on the other.

W. W. Chisolm became involved in the Kemper political scene when he was elected Justice of the Peace in 1858, and then Probate Judge in 1860. Judge Chisolm was a Democrat, but near the end of the war he joined the Republicans, a party not then popular in the South. John W. Gully was Chisolm's friend, but the war turned them against each other, and after the war, their hatred developed into a violent feud.

Judge Chisolm was caught forging a dead man's signature to a fraudulent cotton claim and was forced to resign as Probate Judge. In 1869, the Provisional Governor appointed John McRae, Chisolm's close friend, as new Probate Judge, and Chisolm's brother, John E. Chisolm, as Sheriff. Although removed from office, William W. Chisolm retained strong Republican leadership, which controlled the county.

In 1871, William, testifying before a Joint Select Committee of Congressmen appointed to inquire into affairs in the rebellious states, swore that headquarters of the Kemper Co. Klan was at a DeKalb grocery store owned by his former friend, John W. Gully. In two years, he said, some 35 Negroes had been killed by the Ku Klux, and whippings took place almost nightly.

There were ambushes, murders, and street fights in DeKalb.. One white man who was murdered was Confederate veteran Capt. Robert "Bob" Dabbs, a bartender at John Gully's saloon. (Bob Dabbs was the father of Charley Dabbs, who later bought a farm in Pine Springs.)

On April 26, 1877, John Gully, William Chisolm's nemesis, was ambushed on his way home, shot with two loads of buckshot. There was a general belief among the citizens that his murder was planned by William W. Chisolm. Over 200 people attended Gully's funeral, and feelings were running high. That same day, a warrant was issued for the arrest of Chisolm and his friends, for conspiring the murder.

Wallace Chisolm, flanked by the sheriff and a deputy, walked up the street toward the jail. As men approached, a gun was fired from a mob gathered at the jail, and Gilmer, one of the accused, was hit. Gilmer ducked into a narrow alley; but was

shot twice through the head after he fell.

Angus McLellan, the "Old Scotsman", was killed by a shot from the crowd. Angus had been at home and, hearing the shooting, came toward the jail to see what was going on.

Chisolm's wife, daughter, and sons arrived at the jail and were taken to the second floor. The mob then made a rush for the jail. Dr. David Rosser of Gholson (in Noxubee Co.), led a squad of men in a charge up the stairs. As they reached the top, Rosser shot and instantly killed little Johnnie Chisolm, who was trying to defend his father. Johnnie was standing between his father and the door to the stairs. Chisolm shot from his cell and killed Rosser on the spot.

A cry went up that the jail was being set on fire. Chisolm and the other prisoners were turned out of the cells and told by the guards to go on down and get out. Chisolm grabbed a loaded gun and started down the steps, followed by his daughter and then his wife. Miss Cornelia, 19 years old, had her arms around her father's waist.

At the bottom of the steps, two shots were fired at Chisolm, but both went wild. A third shot hit him and shattered the bracelet on Cornelia's arm. Chisolm fell at the bottom of the stairs.

The mob had no disposition to see further violence and quickly dispersed. The wounded and the dead were carried home. William W. Chisolm died from his wound a few days later. His daughter had surgery on his arm to remove fragments of her bracelet, and her wound became infected. Her arm developed gangrene and had to be lanced, but she died before the second surgery was completed.

The Chisolm-Gully feud was carried on by the families for years. Some never believed that William Wallace Chisolm had been guilty. Several from both families moved from Kemper to get away from the bitterness.

Henry Clay Chisolm, William W. Chisolm's son, was 18 when his father was killed. He married Sarah Victoria Moore about three years later in Lauderdale County. Her parents were William and Sarah Vance Moore who lived at Rio in Kemper Co. Clay and Sarah lived in Kemper but had problems from the Chisolm-Gully feud. In November 1898, they bought land in Pine Springs and moved.

H. C. Chisolm bought 320 acres from Lewis A. Chandler (Jim Chandler's son) and made his home east of Rogers Creek up the hill on Barnhill Road. [S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-10; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ & W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$, S-15] Clay's children, when they moved, were Sara Ann Levert, 1881; Marvin Stanley, 1884; Roscoe Erwin, 1886; and Carrie, 1892. Grace Williard was born in Pine Springs in 1899, followed by Mary Eileen in 1900.

* * * * *

Charles Russell Wolfe was born in the Carolinas, but it was in Tennessee that he married Miss Sarah Berryman on the 8th day of January in 1835. After their wedding, the happy couple left on horseback and rode through the mountains of Tennessee, heading toward the southwest to look for a place to make their home.

The young groom was 23 and his bride was 20 when they came to Mississippi. They settled in the wilderness of Kemper County and began to clear a plantation. They raised 13 children on their plantation in Kemper, and lived there the rest of their lives. They had several sons, it is believed, that fought in the Civil War. Only one, Joseph Franklin Wolfe, lost his life. Joe fought in the Battle of the Wilderness where he was lost, presumed dead.

Not long before the war, Charles bought a slave boy to help him in his fields. He named the youth Henry. He apparently treated Henry well, as after the war Henry chose to stay with "Ole Massa", (Henry's name for Charles), even though he was free and could leave whenever he wanted. At one time Henry saved Ole Massa's life when he got in an altercation with a Yankee carpetbagger during Reconstruction.

Henry served Mr. Wolfe long and well. When Charles was on his deathbed in 1881, he stated that Henry had earned an equal share of his estate, along with the Wolfe children. Henry eventually owned most of the farm since most of the Wolfe heirs, except the two youngest, sold Henry their share of the farm and moved to various locations in Texas.

Charles Wolfe died in Kemper County at age 69. His wife, Sarah, died three years later in 1884. They were staunch Methodists, and religion had played an important part in their lives.

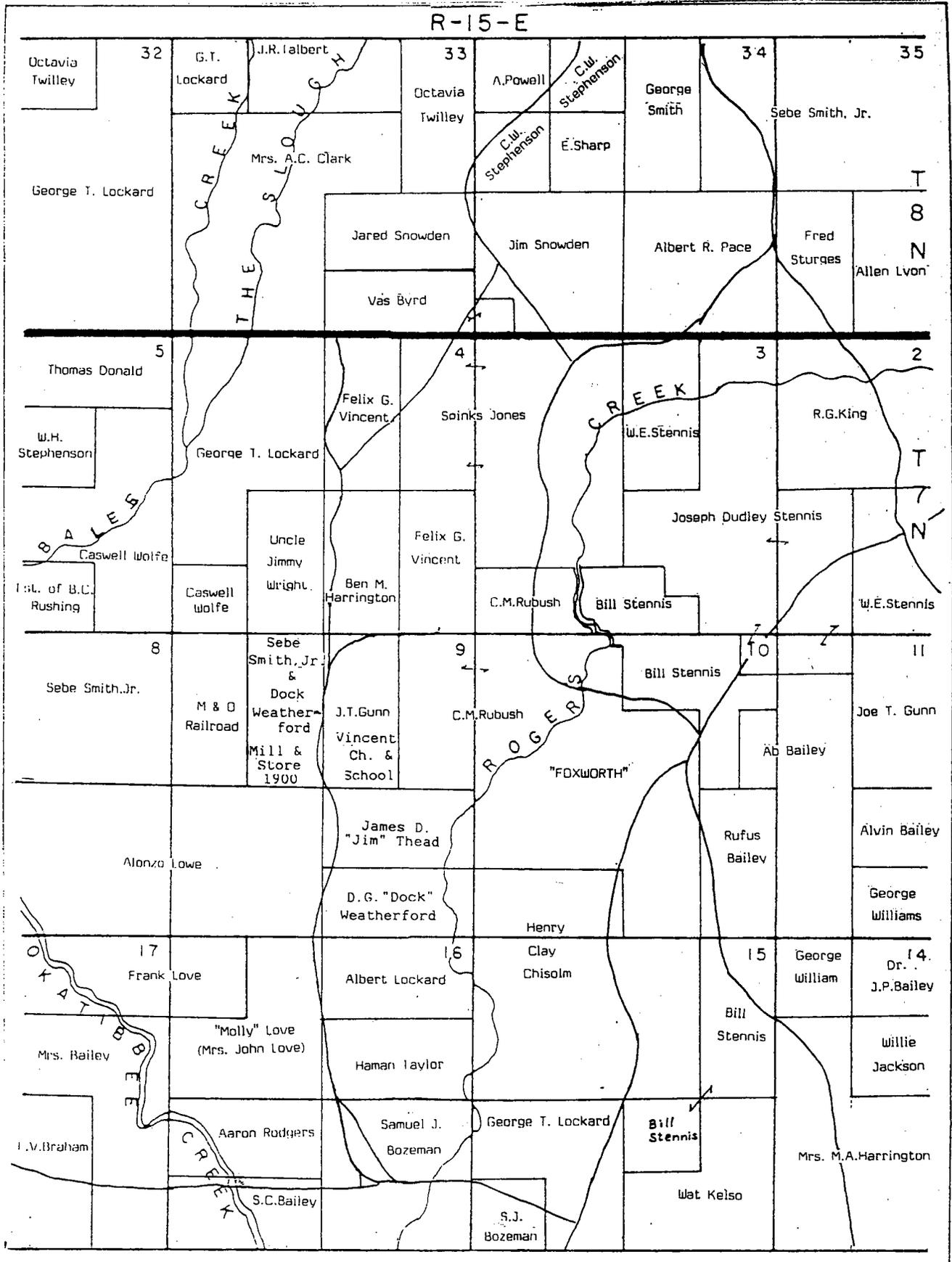
The two youngest Wolfe boys, Hill and Cas (Hillard Calvin, 1851 and Caswell Russell, 1854), also sold their share of their father's farm sometime later. But Hill and Cas didn't go to Texas, but moved only as far as Lauderdale County.

Not much is known of Cas Wolf until he came to Pine Springs in 1899. On December 11 that year, he bought the 120 acres in Sections 4 and 5 from Sebe and Lydia Smith, and moved his wife and three daughters to live in the double-cabin log house that was on the farm.

Cas had married his second wife, Sallie (Sarah Rufina Ethridge) on November 22, 1891. His youngest two girls, Lillie Mae and Mary Adalina, were Sallie's children. Florence, an older daughter, was the child of his first wife. Cas was 45 when he came to Pine Springs; he may have had older children whose names have been lost.

1900 LANDOWNERS

(From Tax Roll)



11/ TWO DAYS IN JUNE
1900

As the year one thousand and nine hundred approached to mark the birth of a new century, preachers proclaimed that God was angry at the decaying morals and riotous living of his children. They pleaded with their flock to turn away from the paths of sin, and announced that the end of time was at hand. Word got around that the "second coming" would happen on New Year's Eve when the 20th Century began. Awful watchers waited and prayed at church in an all night vigil, waiting to see Jesus.

As January 1, 1900 dawned, the faithful blew out their lamps and headed home to milk their cows. The century had turned and life went on.

The year 1900 marked another decade, and Uncle Sam girded up his loins to count the nation's population. The 1900 census enumerator that was sent to count the residents of Pine Springs was William C. Fleming. We do not know who Mr. Fleming was. He was just a gentleman hired by the government to work for the Census Bureau.

One fine day in late spring, Mr. Fleming, riding a horse to facilitate travel over rough roads in out-of-the-way places, began visiting the homes in Pine Springs. On the 6th of June, with a journal in his saddlebag to record his first rough draft of his findings and pencils to record information that would later be copied on the proper forms in ink, he entered Pine Springs from the northeastern corner of the community. After enumerating the families that lived near the Drip Off school, (Ransom Richardson, Christopher C. Kinard, etc.) he reached house # 71, Mrs. Margaret Smith in Sec. 35, Township 8, Range 15E.

71. MARGARET SMITH, 64, (1835, Ala), m. 40 yrs.

Robert Smith, 26, (1874, Mis), single.

Joe Smith, 13, (1887, Mis), single.

Mrs. Smith was listed as head of the house; her husband, Seaborn "Jackie" Smith, Sr., was then serving his sentence at Parchman and was not listed with his wife. Margaret was living in the log house that had been the home of Jackie's late parents, John P. and Seletha Smith. Only two of her eight sons remained at home.

Margaret died three years later in 1903 and

was buried at Pace's church. Bob (Robert) stayed with his mother until she died, but then got a job at the Insane Asylum and bought a house on 5th St. in Meridian. He married Florence Thorne of Decatur and they had one daughter.

Joe was 16 when his mother died and it is not known where the young man went to live.

Sebe Smith (Jr.) lived down the road at Foxworth in 1900 and was listed later.

Pat Smith, his wife, Cullie, and their four children lived outside Pine Springs. In 1906, Pat, ill and unable to farm, sold the land in Sec. 9 that he inherited from his grandfather to his younger brother, Kirb. Tuberculosis took its toll on Pat's family. After Pat died of the malady, the only one left of his family was his son, J. P. Smith.

Kirby Smith, married to Frances Elizabeth "Lizzie" Love (daughter of John and Molly Love), lived just north of the community. Their infant daughter died at birth, and their first son, Jesse, died a child with Diphtheria. But, Bennie Dee was born in 1905 and their 'last and youngest', William Aubrey, was born in 1909, and both were strong and healthy.

The winter after Kirb bought Pat's Sec. 9 land, he bought another 40 acres north of Pine Springs School but across the road, from George L. Harbour. [NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ S-9] Kirb and Miss Lizzie moved into the Harbour's house in Pine Springs and Harbour, who had come into possession of Weatherford's saw mill, took the mill and moved on to greener pastures. (Taller timbers?) Kirb needed fields more than a pond, so he took out the mill pond and reclaimed the land.

A foster child, Jake Smith, the orphaned son of Kirb's brother Jacob, and Miss Lizzie's sister Ida, came to live in Kirb's home about 1909-10. Kirb had been appointed Jake's guardian after the boy's father was murdered, and after Jake's mother died, the Smith's gladly took him in. Kirb became the father Jake had never known, and Jake's younger cousins, Bennie Dee and Aubrey, were like brothers.

One day Jake was playing in the Smiths' yard when Mr. Vas Byrd came riding up the road in his buggy. Vas took a perverse pleasure from teasing

youngsters, and was known for aggravating them until they produced tears. On this day, Vas stopped and called young Jake over to his buggy. When the boy approached, Vas grabbed Jake's cap and drove down the road. Jake, anxious to be accepted in his new home and afraid that Aunt Lizzie might give him a whipping if he lost his cap (she wouldn't have), trotted along beside the buggy, crying and pleading with Mr. Byrd to give his cap back. Finally, after traveling near a quarter-mile, Vas threw the cap and drove on off, chuckling to himself, pleased with the consternation he had caused.

Hard Smith worked with the loggers. He married Miss Carrie V. Pope, daughter of Johnny and Fannie Parker Pope, soon after 1900. In 1905, he bought 80 acres of land in Sec. 5 from Andy and Lavisa Love Pace. [W ½ SE 1/4, S-5] hard kept the land for only a year before he sold it to Joseph Clark.

Hard and Carrie lived on various farms in the Center Hill-Obadiah area until he died in 1926. He had been out picking cucumbers and got too hot and died of a heat stroke at age 46. He and Carrie had ten children.

Sid Smith drove an ox wagon and hauled logs. He married 13-year-old Bessie, Jim and Annie Snowden's daughter, in 1904, and they rented a house near the saw mill end of The Lane on Lowe's farm. Sometimes, when Sid had to stay at a camp near where they were cutting, his young nephew, Jake was brought to stay the night with Sid's wife because she was afraid to be alone.

#73. ALBERT R. PACE, 33 (1866, Mis) m. 3 years.

Elizabeth Pace, 22 (1878, Ala), m. 3yrs

Bessie Pace, 2 (1897, Mis), Single.

Cecil Pace, 1 (1899, Mis), Single.

The second house counted in Pine Springs was the home of Albert and Miss Bettie Pace. They lived in the house built over sixty years earlier by Albert's father, Bennet R. Pace. Albert was beginning to remodel the old log structure. He took down all the logs from the original roof and walls and, finding the floor and foundation were sound, rebuilt the walls of the great room, this time using sawn lumber. The floor of the big room of the cabin is estimated to have been 20' X 30' in size. [Albert's daughter, Miss Ebbie, made a startling statement when she stated truthfully that "I was born on my Grandpa's floor".] Over a period of several years, Albert slowly reconstructed the entire house.

The census listed the two older children, Bessie Lucile and Albert Cecil. By 1910, the family had grown to include J. B. (Joseph Bennet), 1901; a set of twins, Jack (Everett Leroy) and

Ebbie (Evelyn Rosalee) 1904. Another son was born who died, but was followed in 1909 by Barney Dell.



Bessie and young brother at Pace home. Bessie, with her red-head's tender skin, covered herself from the sun.

#73 JOSEPH A. PRATT, 50 (1850 Ga)m. 30yrs

Mollie Pratt, 49 (1850, Al) m. 30yrs.

Ella Pratt, 29 (1870, Al) Single.

Rosa Pratt, 21 (1879, Al) Single.

Hiram Powell, 16 (1833, Mi) Single.

(Servant)

Earlier in the year, Miss Bettie Pace's father, Joe Pratt, developed severe dysentery and was too ill to continue his machinist duties at Bailey's gin and saw mill. Albert moved Mr. Joe and Miss Mollie and their daughters to a tenant house on his farm. Joe was so ill that the only thin his stomach would tolerate were blackberries, which happened to be ripening that time of year.

The census listed young Hiram Powell living in the house with the Pratts. Hiram was a son of "Dolph" Powell, hired to help attend Mr. Pratt when his weakness required strong muscles to lift and care for the sick man. Dr. Pace had recommended Hiram, Mrs. Wellborn's nephew, who lived near Pace's church.

Joseph Pratt died on June 24, less than three weeks after the census. Miss Ellie Pratt taught school to support her mother and sister. In 1901, she became the second wife of Joel New. In 1905, Miss Rose Pratt married Andrew Wesley Brown, son of David E. and Eliza Davidson Brown. (Andrew's grandfather was the pioneer David M. Brown of Drip Off) After her girls married, Mrs. Mollie Pratt lived with her son-in-law, Albert Pace.

#74. JAMES T. SNOWDEN, 48 (1852, Mi), m. 25 yrs.

ANNIE SNOWDEN, 47 (1853, Mi)m. 25yrs.

EDWARD SNOWDEN, 21(1878, Mi) Single.

ADA SNOWDEN, 18 (1881, Mi)Single.

BESSIE SNOWDEN, 9 (1891, Mi)Single.

Stacy Snowden, 4, (1984, Mi), Single.

Mr. Jim and Miss Anne Snowden lived on their farm in Sec. 34 where they went into raising horses and mules. They were listed with their four surviving children in 1900. (They had lost two babies before moving to Pine Springs.) Edward soon left home to marry Myrtie Phillips, and Ada soon followed to marry Henry Davidson. Bessie was only 9 in 1900, but in 1904 she married Sid Smith and moved to The Lane.

Stacy, several years younger than the other children, was reared, almost, as an only child. He developed a passion for baseball and slipped off to play with his friends on Saturdays when his Papa didn't have him work the fields. During the winter, he walked the $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Pine Springs school with the Paces and other neighborhood children. The Snowdens, Baptists, were active in Pace's church, and Stacy had a good religious background.

- #75. SPINKS JONES, 51 (1849,Mi), m. 26 yrs.
Lucinda C. Jones, 41 (1859,Mi), m. 26 yrs.
Franklin D. Jones, 23 (1877,Mi), Single.
Laura C. Jones, 20 (1879,Mi), Single.
Thomas D. Jones, 16 (1883,Ms), Single.
John Wesley Jones, 15 (1885,Mi), Single.
Martin M. Jones, 10 (1889,Mi), Single.
Moses Jones, 9 (1891,Mi), Single.
George Jones, 2 (1898,Mi), Single.

Spinks M. Jones, who had just arrived in Pine Springs in January, was born in Mississippi, and was the second of three sons. His older brother was Martin and his little brother was Calvin, who was born in 1853. Spinks was 7 or 8 when his father died. Mrs. Jane C. Jones, his mother, married Green B. Mosely and had another child, Elva, born in 1860.

Raised in Kemper County by his mother and step-father, Spinks grew up to marry a Miss Gunn. Spinks' only child from this marriage was a daughter Carrie, as Mrs. Jones died following the stillborn birth of their second child.

[Carrie Jones, raised by a step-mother, married a Myers in the 1890's and lived below Meridian near Heidelberg. Oil was discovered on the Myers farm, so Carrie didn't do too badly.]

In 1874, Spinks, when he was 25, took another wife. He and Miss Lucinda E. Ballard were married in Kemper Co. on Christmas Eve. Everyone called Lucinda 'Miss Canny'. Their home was at a place called Liberty but, in December 1899, they bought nearly half of the eastern part of Sec. 3 in Pine Springs from the heirs of the late Rev. Aaron Jones. Spinks and Miss Canny "settled in" in the double-cabin log home that had been built by Aaron and Hattie back in the 1850's. [The two Jones families

were unrelated.]

The Jones, Baptist, moved their church letters to Pace's church. Miss Canny had a strong, clear voice, and it was said that she could make rafters of the old church ring. Another good singer was Miss Marcina, wife of Mart Pace. Those who are old enough to remember, say that hearing those two singing was an experience not soon forgotten.

Spinks and Miss Canny had 14 children, but several had died young. Only one daughter, Laura, lived to grow up. In addition to the six they brought with them, they had two more boys born in Pine Springs, J.D. (1900) and Felix (1902).

In November 1900, Laura Jones married Sam Kinard, whose folks lived above Pace's church near the old Rushing Store. Laura and Sam lived with Laura's parents while Sam farmed and saved up to buy a farm of their own. In 1903, Sam bought 40 acres from Mr. Jones, and built a house on the crossroad going toward the Albert Pace place. [NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,S-3]

Mr. Jones still had more good farmland than he could plow but, due to boll weevils and low cotton prices, he was about ready to try something new. Spinks studied on it and, by 1904, he was ready to make a change. He bought 80 acres more from Felix G. Vincent [N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,S-4] and, by borrowing from young Albert Lockard, he established a store on the west bank of the Pine Springs Road. Spinks and Miss Canny and their boys moved into a small house that Spinks built across the road from their new store. [This house, remodeled, presently belongs to Mrs. Eva Williams Snowden]

The younger Jones children went to Pine Springs School. They inherited their mother's love of music. Frank could make his banjo "talk", and Felix was good at the piano and played a harmonica, to the delight of young J.D. When J.D. started school, he would put his heart into his singing, and could be heard above all the rest. As the older boys become big enough, they began cutting and hauling logs.

Thomas Jones, died in 1906. Thomas, who was epileptic, was alone in the field picking off peanuts when he had a seizure and fell on his face. With nobody near to help him, he smothered in the sandy soil.

While Mr. Jones and his boys worked in the fields, Miss Canny kept the store. They profited from their store, but not enough to get excited about. Not many of their customers had money. Miss Ebbie Smith recalls walking to the Jones' store each week with her mother, Mrs. Bettie Pace, to sell their eggs to Miss Canny. Miss Canny sent her boys to town each week to sell the eggs and other farm produce she collected.

In 1909, Mr. Jones sold off 40 acres of his

farm to Ransom S. Richardson (a younger son of Ransom, the settler), who was Sam Kinard's uncle. Two months later, Spinks sold another 80 acres to Laura and Sam.

Spinks and Miss Canny bought another store in Sand Flat, near Long Creek, south of Meridian. Taking their younger sons, Martin, George, J.D., and Felix, they left Pine Springs. In December 1910, Mr. Jim Thead, from down the road, bought 40 acres (where the Jones' home and store were located) for his son, Johnnie Thead. Sam Kinard bought more of the Jones land to add to his small farm. This last sale left Mr. Jones with only 60 acres in Pine Springs. Frank Jones, recently married to Miss Callie Yeats, was living on this 60 acres in the old log house where Spinks had first lived when they came to the community.

When the older Jones boys first hauled logs, Mr. Jones had invented a new type of yoke that would not chafe the oxens' necks. D.D. Pace (son of Napoleon and grandson of Rev. Edwin Pace) told Spinks that he should have it patented, and offered to write up the necessary papers. This, of course, would take money, so Mr. Jones signed a mortgage on his 60 acres that included his old log house, in favor of Mr. Pace, to take care of expenses. Pace never got around to getting the yoke patented and, the following year when the mortgage was due, he foreclosed on Mr. Jones' land. Pace gained a house and farm, but the only thing Mr. Jones ever got from their deal was experience. Old-timers said one had to be careful when dealing with D.D. Pace.

Pace had a home above Pine Springs and did not move to the Jones land. He kept it a while before selling it to his cousin, Dr. Pace.

In April 1911, Spinks Jones was appointed postmaster of the new Lodge Post Office which opened in his store in Sand Flat, a job he kept for nearly two years. He died in 1922 and was buried at Long Creek Baptist church. [In 1918, the city of Meridian bought Spinks' land to build Long Creek Reservoir, presently a part of its municipal water system.]

After Pace got the last of Mr. Jones' Pine Springs land, Frank and Callie Jones moved down to The Lane near Lowe's sawmill. He and his brothers, John (who had married Susie Yeats, Callie's sister), and Moses Jones, stayed around Pine Springs for a few years and worked for saw mills. They followed the timber business to Louisiana where John disappeared (drowned?) during a Mississippi River flood. Moses, who had lost a leg in a logging accident, married in Louisiana, but moved on to Texas. Frank and Callie stayed in Louisiana where they settled in Monroe.

George Jones married Alma Rutledge, a girl from the county, and later returned to Pine Springs to live in a shack alongside the road on Sam and Laura Kinard's farm. He worked with timber until he and Alma moved to Clark County.

Martin married a Ward girl who died with T.B. His second wife was Mamie, a widow with two children, and they moved to Tampa, Florida.

Felix Jones married Flora Riche and moved to Colorado Springs, Texas.

J.D. Jones returned to Pine Springs to live with his sister, Laura Kinard, his deep bass voice adding to the singings at the local churches.

#76. SEBE SMITH, 38 (1861,Mi), m. 12 yrs.
Lydia Smith, 45 (1854,Mi), m. 12 yrs.
Sallie Stephens, 21 (1879,Mi), single.
Henry Smith, 10 (1889,Mi), single.
Lottie Smith, 5 (1894,Mi), single.
Jake Greenwood (Bl. Hirling) 20 (1880,Mi) Sing.
Levi Hopson (Bl. Servant) 18 (1882,Mi), Single.

In December 1899, Seaborn Smith, Jr. sold their farm in Sec. 5 to Cas Wolfe when Mr. Rubush hired him to manage "Foxworth" and to train the farm's racing horses. Sebe was to have a house furnished him and extra help to work about the farm, so it sounded like a good deal. He and Lydia were living at Foxworth when they were listed in the 1900 census that June. Their little daughter, Lottie, died a short time later, and Lydia's girl, Sallie, left to get married.

Listed with the Smiths were Jake and Levi, two young black men who helped Sebe about the place. We are unfamiliar with Levi, but Jake, it is thought, was the J. H. Greenwood who bought a portion of land in Sec. 15 along Barnhill Road from Mr. Clay Chisolm in 1905.

Sebe and Lydia lived at Foxworth until Mr. Rubush sold the place to Charley Dabbs in 1908. Sebe moved to a place near Drip Off, but in a couple years he bought a farm in Buttercup, a community east of Bailey Store near Prospect Church, where he and Lydia raised cows and chickens.

Sebe began to butcher and market the beef he raised and his son, Henry, delivered the fresh meat weekly on regular routes about the area. Henry sold roasts, steaks, fryers, hens, and fresh eggs from off the back end of his wagon, and housewives would wait for the 'meat wagon' to see what they would cook for Sunday dinner.

Henry had a habit of disappearing at times - he would get tired of it all and would just walk away. After a few days or weeks, he would return to pick up where he had left off. His cousin, Aubrey Smith, recalls one occasion when Henry was plowing when his urge to leave came. He tied his mule



Foxworth's Star of the West. Driver, unidentified, is possibly Sebe Smith, Jr.

to the fence at the end of a row, and leaving his mule and plow where they stood, he walked off. That was after Henry was already married to his wife Mandy (Amanda) Covington. On one of his trips, Henry went to Arkansas, liked it, and stayed.

After Lydia died, Sebe Smith moved to Arkansas to live with Henry and Mandy. When Sebe took ill in Arkansas, Henry called a doctor in to see him, Doctors gave Calomel for whatever ailed you then, and the strange doctor, not knowing that Sebe was allergic to the drug, gave him a dose. Sebe had a reaction to the drug and died.

#77. FELIX VINCENT, 50 (1850,AI),m. 27 yrs.

Amanda Vincent, 48 (1851,Mi), m. 27 yrs.

Lela Vincent, 26 (1874, Mi), single.

Thomas P. Vincent, 24 (1872,Mi),single.

Ida P.Vincent, 21 (1878,Mi),single

Francis Aaron Vincent, 19 (1880Mi), single.

Nannie Viola Vincent, 19(1833, Mi),single.

Minnie Amanda Vincent, 16 (1886,Mi)single.

James Oliver Vincent, 11 (1889,Mi)single

Louis F. Vincent, 7 (1892,Mi)single.

Charles Vester Vincent, 4(1895,Mi), single.

The farm of Felix Vincent, east of The Forks, was the next visited by the census enumerator. Their 9 children, from 26-year-old Lela down to 4-year-old

Charley, were still at home.

Mr. Vincent continued to paint houses to supplement his farm income and, having older boys to help with the crops, seemingly provided just a wee bit better for his family than the average farmer who depended just upon cotton. He depended upon Tom a lot, and Tom worked with him on his painting jobs.

He worked for years to get a good local school, and now it was established, he was willing to sit back and let others take over.

His daughter, Nannie, had been given music lessons and she often played the pump organ for local services. All their children were musical. On Sunday afternoons, they gathered in the parlor around Nannie at their organ to hold their own singing sessions. They harmonized when they dang the old church songs "in parts", and all seemed to enjoy each other's company.

The Vincents were a social family and, aside from worship services they often attended picnics, political barbecues, quilting bees, weddings and funerals, and the singing schools that were sometimes held at the schoolhouse by some traveling singing-master. The community could count on the Vincents to come driving up in their surrey to most anything except the local dances, or at any occasion where the drinking of "spirits" was likely to occur. Their religion did not allow for that.

- #78. WM. THOMAS LOVE, 39 (1861,Mi), m. 15 yrs.
 Mary E. J. Love, 45 (1855,Mi), m. 15 yrs.
 John J. Love, 11 (1888,Mi), single.
 Lucy E. Love, 10 (1890,Mi), single.
 Thomas Vester Love, 8 (1891,Mi), single.
 Mary Esther Love, 6 (1894,Mi), single.

Tom and Miss Molly lived in the house Tom had built between the Vincent's and The Forks. Tom still had his portable saw mill and set it up wherever he bought timber. The Love's children went to Pine Springs school, but around 1910, their two oldest got married.

John Love went south to the Hattiesburg area with the lumber industry, and married Miss Lena Heard of Smith County. He had a job with the Hurcules Company, though in later years he drove a taxi. He and Lena both died in Hattiesburg.

Miss Lucy Love married Arthur Beason and lived for a time with Tom and Molly, but moved out when Arthur became a mail carrier. They had several children. Their graves are in the Beason family cemetery on today's Hwy. 19N near Suqualena.

Leaving the Tom Loves, Mr. Flemming veered south at The Forks to travel down the main road the half-mile to Weatherford's store. He was counting the houses on the east side of the road, and planned to catch the houses on the west side on his way back. It being past dinner-time, Flemming stopped in at the store to eat himself some crackers and cheese. Jim Thead and Lon Lowe, from the next two houses down, happened to be hanging around the store, so, as he ate, Flemming counted them on the spot.

- #79. JAMES D. THEAD, 33 (1867,Mi), m. 10 years.
 Beulah Thead, 22 (1877,Mi), m. 10 yrs.
 Johnnie Thead, 7 (1892,Mi), single.
 Mattie Thead, 5 (1894,Mi), single.
 Clarence Thead, 4 (1896,Mi), single.
 Belva Thead, 6mo. (1899,Mi), single.

Jim and Miss Beulah lived in the new house Jim built, and Miss Beulah, at 22, already had four children. Jim farmed and worked part-time at carpentering. Their farm and home were free of debt, so they were doing pretty well. After 1900, the Theads had two more children, James Roy born in 1903, and their baby Georgie Lee, whom they called Sugah, or Sug, born in 1908.

One Christmas, Miss Beulah's brother, Lee Love, came by to take young Johnnie rabbit hunting. They had hunted the woods behind (west of) Pine Springs store, and were near Harbour's saw mill when they jumped a rabbit. They gave chase and the rabbit ran under the house (shack) near the mill where Will Skinner was living at the time.

Johnnie ran around the house to flush out the rabbit. The rabbit ran and Lee fired just as Johnnie stepped back around the corner of the house. Lee hit the rabbit, but he also hit Johnnie.

Johnnie was not seriously hurt. His wounds quickly healed, but the accident "messed up" that Christmas for the Thead family.

- #80. STEPHEN A. LOWE, 47 (1853,Mi), m. 22 yrs.
 Dora A. Lowe, 40 (1860,Mi), m. 22 years.
 Velma Lowe, 21 (1879,Mi), Single.
 Horace Lowe, 14 (1885,Mi), Single.
 Ethan Lowe, 9 (1890,Mi), Single.
 Mazelle Lowe, 3mo. (1900,Mi), Single.
 Ben Cole (Bl. servant), 30 (1870,Mi), widowed.

Across the road and within sight of the Thead house, was the Lowe farm. Flemming recorded that Stephen Lowe (Lon) owned the large cotton farm, but that it was mortgaged. Lon gave his occupation as milling and farming. The Lowes, living in their "big house" on the road at the beginning of The Lane, were, to outward appearances, prosperous. Only four of the Lowe's seven children were listed in 1900. Their seventh and last child, Alice, was born later in 1908.

Lon still strived to make it as a cotton-seed producer. His gin was in operation and his sawmill was busily cutting boards, and his "Company Store" (Lowe's commissary) was open for business. About the time he recruited ample help to raise enough seed cotton (around 1906), the cotton boll weevil arrived from Mexico.

At first the pesky insect caused no serious problems on Lowe's farm. Lon continued to borrow money each year to increase his acreage and, by 1910, he owned several more acres in the adjoining north half of Sec. 8 along Okatibbee Creek. The Lowe farm eventually covered over a square mile.

Miss Velma Lowe 'finished' at one of the local normal schools and became a schoolma'am in the county school system. One of the schools she taught was Cedar Grove, fore-runner of Obadiah School. In 1910, she married Robert "Bob" Stone and they built a house in Pine Springs on her father's land. It was a neat white framed house, located on the western edge of the main road, between her parents and Albert Lockard's home.

In the school term of 1910-11, Miss Velma was assigned to teach Pine Springs School. Mrs. Velma Stone and Miss Cecil Houston were both teaching there when a second schoolroom was built in 1910. (Miss Houston was a daughter of Joey and Minnie Houston of Collinsville.)

Horace Lowe married Edna, daughter of Robert C. and Mollie Covington Brown of Gumlog. Edna's grandfather was the late Capt. John Brown, Civil

War veteran and the long-time minister of Gumlog Primitive Baptist Church.

The following excerpt is from an advertisement Lon Lowe placed in a Meridian paper, The Weekly Star, on January 13, 1910:

IMPROVED BIG BOLL EARLY COTTON

Brought from Texas several years ago...best in Texas at that time...Lowe secured seed 14 years ago...improved on it, and it is now one of the best thick hull, big boll, early cotton with the largest pods, busiest stalks, with large limbs and short joints... does not fall out of the boll as bad as other cotton, though it is easier to pick. It should have plenty distance, planted in rows 4 to 6 feet wide and 1 to 4 feet in drill. Eight years ago two darkies picked 1400 lbs. in one day...Forty bolls weigh 1 pound... fiber is extra strong and measures 1-1/8 inches long...Makes from 1 to 2 bales per acre. It won 1st place in Jackson in 1909, being the best and purest Big Boll Early Cotton on exhibition; also 1st place on the seed for being the best and purest.

Send money orders to S.A.Lowe, RFD #1, Bailey, Miss., or to Threefoot Bros. & Co., Meridian.

\$1.50/bushel; \$1.25/5 bushels;
10 & over, \$1/bushel

- #81. WILLIAM G. WEATHERFORD 53 (1846,Mi) m.14 yrs.
Mary J. Weatherford, 42 (1856,Mi), m. 14 yrs.
Sidney E. Weatherford, 11 (1889,Mi), single.
Oliver G. Weatherford, 9 (1891,Mi), single.
Richard J. Weatherford, 7 (1893,Mi), single.

While he was there, Mr. Flemming listed the store-keepers, Doc and Miss Mollie Weatherford, and the three youngest of Doc's eight Weatherford boys. Their home was behind their store.

That fall, in September 1900, Doc sold his store and 80 acres (less the schoolhouse lot) to his old acquaintance, Andrew Alawine. Doc and Miss Mollie moved to a little place called Esterbutchie (near Hattiesburg) in Forest County, where Doc again went into the lumber business.

Jim Thead had the northern half of Doc's first farm, but when Doc left Pine Springs, he still owned the south half. He had already moved to Forest County when a buyer came forward. In 1903, his farm's remaining 80 acres [$S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4},S-9$] were sold to Joe (Joel) Wright, son the Jimmy and Mary Jane Wright who lived up the road in Sec. 4.

A few years later, Dr. John Robert Kittrell, Doc's nephew who had grown up in Daleville, moved to Laurel. Dr. Kittrell's daughter, Grace, drove him down to Esterbutchie to visit Uncle Doc and

Aunty Mollie. Back home, he reported that Aunt Mollie was "a fine, fine cook and set a mighty fine table".

Dr. Kittrell also reported that Aunt Mollie did all her Sabbath cooking on Saturday to be ready for the next day, but her boys would come in on Saturday night and eat all she had cooked.

"Aunt Mollie," Dr. Kittrell said, "would just laugh, and go to the kitchen and cook all over again!"

Doc Weatherford died in Forest County on February 9, 1926 at the age of 80. He was buried at Sunrise Baptist Church near Hattiesburg.

Charley Weatherford, Doc's only son who remained in Lauderdale County, was not listed in Pine Springs when the census was taken in 1900. Like his father, Charley worked around saw mills and rented a house on The Lane. Charley and wife, Effie, had two daughters, Julia and Betty, when they found she had a terminal illness.

Mrs. Leora Hudson, formerly of Pine Springs, remembers accompanying her mother, Mrs. Wes Love, to The Lane to visit Mrs. Weatherford. Leora, then about seven, remembers that her father had just cooked that year's molasses and her mother took along a bucket of new syrup for the sick lady. Leora thought Miss Effie was beautiful and recalls how her thick hair cascaded down her pillow.

After Mrs. Weatherford died, Charley married Mrs. Vona Hudson (nee Lavona C. Miles), widow of Daniel A. Hudson, and daughter of Wm. Jasper and Mary Ann McDonald Miles of Drip Off. Her Hudson children were Selby, Estelle, Ruby, and another daughter. [Leora Love later married Miss Vona's son, Selby Hudson.]

Charley and Vona had two children, Wm. Elbert and Thelma. They lived at Center Hill in the 1930's, in a small neat home across the road from Center Hill Consolidated School.

After his lunch, Mr. Flemming stopped by the Lockard home down the road in Sec. 16. He was not aware that Lowe had tenants living on the his lane on his farm, and they are not in the census.

- #81. ALBERT A. LOCKARD, 26 (1874,Mi), m. 1 yr.
Sara L. Lockard, 19 (1881,Mi), m. 1 yr.

One of Edward and Amanda Lockards younger sons, Albert did not go to college, but finished high school in Meridian and went work buying and selling land and timber. He had a little money of his own that he loaned out on interest, and at least two of the folks he loaned to lived in Pine Springs.

In 1898, Albert, 24, was living at the Lockard's country home on Bozeman Hill when Clay Chisolm bought his farm and moved down from Kemper. Albert

was quite smitten by Chisolm's oldest daughter; less than a year later, Albert and Sara Chisolm were married.

Albert and Sara Lockards' first home was an old house on Sec. 16 land Albert bought from his uncle, Jim Chandler, in 1899. [N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-16, 80 acres.] They were living in this old house when they were counted by Mr. Flemming for the census. However, they began a family and, in 1908, when their older children were ready for school, Miss Sara wanted to live closer to the schoolhouse.

To build his wife a new home, Albert bought 30 acres of the Pine Springs store property in Sec. 9, a strip of land that fronted on the western side of main road 171 yards and stretched westward 835 yards. The house that Albert built had four rooms separated by a front hall, with an added front porch. Made of sawn lumber, it was never painted. Sited on the western edge of the road just south of the store, its postage-stamp sized front yard had barely enough room for the two Magnolia trees Sara had Albert plant in front.

The Lockard's first six children, who were born in Pine Springs, were Leonard L., 1901; Alma K., 1902; Henry Clay, 1905; Sadie Mae, 1906; Frank Odell, 1909; and Albert E., 1911. Their child, Alma, died when she was four and was buried at Pace's church.

Mr. Clay Chisolm, Sara's father, was not listed with community residents by Mr. Flemming when he rode through counting Pine Springs. Living up the hill on Barnhill Road (in Beat 1), the Chisolms were counted on another trip.

Mr. Chisolm never seemed to get his Pine Springs farm going. He slowly went broke, reflecting the general hard times farmers were experiencing in the 1900's before World War I. Chisolm began to sell off small portions of his land along Barnhill road to black families for house sites. The indigent Negroes scratched out a meager existence on their pocket-sized farms, and hired themselves out as day laborers or washer-women in order to get by. George and Thad Lockard, Albert's brothers, bought larger portions of Chisolm's farm for timber. Were it not for the sale of his timber, Mr. Chisolm could not have held out as long as he did. Clay and Victoria Chisolm lost what remaining land they had in 1909.

Albert bought more land (in Sec. 8 west of his home) and built an inexpensive frame house there for Sara's parents. In 1910, the Chisolm's oldest son, Marvin, married Dora Belle Bozeman, one of Rev. Sammy Bozeman's daughters.

Albert Lockard was offered a job in south Mississippi and, in 1911, he sold out in Pine

Springs to move to Mount Olive in Covington County. He sold his house and lot in Sec. 9 to Mr. Lowe, and it was absorbed by Lowe's farm.

The Lockards lived in Mount Olive until after World War I, and had four more children, Jim, 1913; Rufus, 1916; Edna, 1918; and Marvin, 1920. Their last move was to Forest, Louisiana (West Carroll County) where they lived until Albert died in 1924. Mrs. Lockard lived with her children in Shreveport until she died in 1957.

After the Lockards left Pine Springs, the Chisolms moved to McComb, but their last years were spent with their daughter, Carrie, (Mrs. Thomas G. Benton), in Columbus, Mississippi.

[Leonard L. Lockard, Albert and Sara Lockards' son, furnished this information on the Lockard-Chisolm families. A remarkable man of ninety years, Mr. Lockard, an attorney, outlived his wife and three children and continues to work at his law office in Shreveport. His cousin, Cotton Lockard, said Leonard Lockard is not a lawyer, but a great lawyer.]

#83. WILLIAM WOODWARD, 50 (1850,Al), m. 18 yrs.

Annie Woodward, 34 (1866,Al), m. 18 yrs.

Amanda(?) Woodward, 16 (1884,Al), Single.

The Woodward's rented a house in Sec. 16 next to Albert Lockard. The census indicates that Amanda was their only child. Mr. Woodward was a laborer.

#84. RICHARD CARRIE, 56 (1844,Al), m. 34 yrs.

Martha Carrie, 55 (1845,Al), m. 34 years.

Ella Carrie, 22 (1877,Al), single.

Sam Carrie, 18 (1881,Al), single.

Fannie Carrie, 16 (1884,Al), single.

The Carries had seven children, but only four were still living. Their other son, boarding with Mr. Frank Love, was listed later.

Mr. Carrie, like Mr. Woodward, rented one of the scruffy little shacks owned by Haman Taylor. Both laborers, they likely worked with the local saw mills. Neither family was in the community long.

#85. AARON [Haman] TAYLOR, 40 (1856,Mi), m. 25 yrs.

Willie Taylor, 44, (1856,Al), m. 25 yrs.

Minnie Taylor, 18 (1881,Al), single.

Ester Taylor, 7 (1892,Mi), single.

Haman and Willie Taylor had five children, but only two were still at home. Mr. Flemming got Haman's name wrong. Haman usually signed his name "H. L. Taylor".

Haman operated the old "Chandler" store where Miss Dora Bozeman had the post office, although his store business wasn't doing very well. Miss Willie generally ran the store while Haman worked now and then on carpenter jobs with Sammy Bozeman.

The Taylor's log house, in the southern half of the north-eastern quarter of Sec. 16, was on the east side of the road opposite his store near the center of the section.

His store, on the western edge of the road, wasn't big, perhaps 30 by 40 feet, with a single window and double doors offering the only light for its dim interior. A tin sign advertising Eli Garret Snuff was the only evidence marking it as a business establishment. A watering trough in a parking lot for horses and mules teams and, nearby, was a dilapidated gin building, a left-over from the Chandler plantation. Board shanties, three or possibly four, were rented to first one and then another displaced family who needed a temporary place to stay. These, with their small outhouses, made up a group of buildings around Taylor's store and Bozeman Post Office in 1900.

Taylor had refinanced his land twice, and was in danger of defaulting on his mortgage again. To make matters worse, Miss Willie got sick and couldn't mind the store. (Mrs. Taylor died in 1901.)

Haman married again in 1903, at age 44. His new wife was Miss Lillie P. Stevens, a 17-year-old from Alabama. In 1904, the post office was moved up the road to the store across from the schoolhouse, and Taylor's store was closed.

The loss of Haman Taylor's land became final in 1909 when John A. Townsend, Sr. of Newton County, by a special decree of the Chancery Court, bought the 80 acres and its improvements for \$1500. Townsend's son, Harvey, moved onto the land, but it is not now known which house he occupied.

Haman and Lillie stayed on in the old log house for a time, but they and their three children left the community shortly after 1910. Haman and his second wife's children were Robert, 1905; Bernice, 1908; and Winnie, 1909.

#86 SAM H. BOZEMAN, 34 (1865, Va[?]), m. 10 yrs.

"Fronnie" Bozeman, 30 (1869, Al), m. 10 yrs.

Joseph Bozeman, 8 (1891, Mi) single.
Dora B. Bozeman, 7 (1895, Mi), single.

Sudie bozeman, 5 (1895, Mi), single.
Pearl Bozeman, 2 (1897, Mi), single.

Sam Bozeman [III], 1 (1899, Mi), single.

Mr. Fleming mistakenly wrote Sammy's birthplace as "Virginia." Perhaps he was thinking of Sammy's mother Virginia Shine Bozeman, when he filled in the census forms. Sammy gave his occupation as Bridgebuilder.

Rev. Sammy and Miss Phronie and their children lived in a little rented house near Taylor's Store and across Allen Swamp Rd. from his father. Sammy ran cattle on his land in Sec, 20 and, in the fall of 1900, he borrowed from Phronie's brother, Dr. J.A. Beavers, a

dentist, to buy 40 more cares cattle land in Sec. 8 rom one of the Smith heirs.

In June 1902, Rev. Bozeman bought yet another tract, 80 acres in Sec. 16 [N ½ NE 1/4] from Albert Lockhard, who had built up the road next to Pine Springs store. On this land Sammy planned to build his own house. With this in mind, he bought a saw mill and set it up at Taylor's store. The following year Sammy's father, old Sam Bozeman, died, and bequeathed Sammy his pile-driver and other bridge-building tools .

In the summer of 1904, Rev. Sammy Bozeman bought 39 acres where Weatherford's Pine Springs store had been located. [SW 1/4 NW 1/4 less the school lot, S-9] This parcel of land was the former site of the Pine Springs Store, but some say that the little store had burned down. Sammy began right away to build a new store on the same spot, using lumber sawn at his mill.

The new Pine Springs Store, substantial, well constructed, sizable.



1912(?). Ratcliff and with the mail buggy at Pine Springs Store.

Was painted white and on either side of its heavy double doors were windows, complete with iron burglar bars. It faced east, facing the school across the road. A small low porch was across the gabled front of the store where folks could sit and talk politics, play checkers, or just rest a bit and catch up on the latest gossip. It was an impressive building in its day. [this store, vacant for years, is still standing, presently owned by JoAnn Hodges Chancellor.]

The details are not known, but it is thought Rev. Bozeman contracted to build the new store for Joe (Joel) Wright, the son of Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Mary Jane Wright. In exchange, when the store was finished, Joe Wright traded Sammy Bozeman 80 acres, the land next to where Sammy had plans to build his future home.

After Sammy Bozeman constructed the new Pine Springs Store, he turned to building a home for Miss Phronie and the children. In 1905, the Bozeman's borrowed \$800 from Bostick Lumber & Mfg. Co. to buy materials for their house. They gave Bostick a Deed of Trust on "the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 16...to build a two story, eight room house situated on said land...[along with] 1 black mare 5 years old named Maude, 1 bay mare 5 yrs. old named Hattie, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ [ft.?] Studebaker wagon, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ Anchor buggy, 1 Anchor hack, 18 milk cows, 13 Jersey heifers." The document was notarized by Ross Collins (future Congressman), who had a law office in Meridian.

Rev. Bozeman built his house on top of a rise on the east side of the main road, and it was the nicest house that Pine Springs had. It was a two storied white house, with full porches across the front on both upstairs and downstairs floors. The materials and workmanship were of the best, with beaded wainscoting being used in each of the rooms, and the outside made of heart pine like it would last forever. The stairs were in a hallway, and each room, even on the upper floor, had its own fireplace. The pantry on the back porch was so large that, in later years, it was used as a bedroom.

Mr. Clayton Harwell of Meridian, was born in Collinsville in 1883 and is the son of the late Holly Harwell who lived in Pine Springs during the Civil War. Although he is now well over 100, he well remembers working at Rev. Bozeman's saw mill when he was young. His first job was hauling away slabs, but when Rev. Bozeman was building his house, Clayton hauled brick for its chimneys. Mr. Harwell says he was about 20 when he worked for Bozeman, and after Bozeman's house was completed, he boarded with the family, sleeping in one of the upstairs bedrooms.

"One of the Bozeman girls [Dora Belle] and I were sorta sweet on each other back then," he said. "We were what you call sweethearts."

It must have been a passing fancy, as they each married someone else.

"Mr. Sammy was a good preacher," Mr. Harwell says. "Yes, sir, he could preach real good."

When Sammy Bozeman had built Wright's new store, he held back one of the 39 acres when Wright took over the land. Bozeman kept the acre on the south side of the school playground, on the opposite side of the main road from the new store. Bozeman cut the lumber and, in the winter of 1906, with the help of Pine Springs neighbors, built a new church.

It was a big church, compared with other country churches of its day. The walls were high, must

have been at least 14 feet tall, all made from straight, knot-free heart pine of a quality that is now unavailable. The size of the one great room of the building has been estimated at 50 feet wide and 60 feet long. Two separate front doors opened onto aisles that led between three sections of home-made pine benches to a raised podium. There was a half-sized pump organ to accompany the hymns, and a wood stove for heat, although there was no way that the church could ever be warmed in the wintertime. There were cracks in the unsealed walls that the cold wind found inviting. One could look straight up into the open rafters and see the underside of the roof, way, way overhead. Any heat that came from the stove was quickly dissipated into the vast openness above. A roaring fire seemed to be a complete waste of firewood to those who were sitting more than two pews back from the heater. The church, with its slip-lapped siding, was never painted, never finished.

This church, a community church, served all religious denominations, and was called Union Church. At lay-by time in August, a protracted meeting was held in Union Church, and country folks from all around came to hear Rev. Sammy Bozeman preach that first revival. Some drove their buggies out from town to attend the services.

Mrs. Janie Glass, born in 1898, tells of coming by wagon from their home, which was at some distance, to the Pine Springs protracted meeting that was held in the Union Church in 1906. She was Janie Smith, then, the daughter of James R. Smith, and she had two older sisters, Blanche and Novell. The Smith family stayed with Bro. Joe Wright during the week-long meeting. The Wright house was behind the store across the way from the church. [Uncle Jimmy Wright's oldest son, James B. Wright, Jr., had married Miss Neelie Smith, so the Wrights and Smith's "claimed kin".]

Miss Janie remembers hearing Bro. Sammy Bozeman preach at that meeting. She describes him as being a good Christian man, and a man of great faith. At a later revival held that fall, the Smith family came to Pine Springs again. This time they stayed the week at Rev. Bozeman's home, just down the road from the church.

Janie Glass remembers Rev. Bozeman's herd of milk cows - he sold cream. Janie and her sisters went with Pearl Bozeman, the preacher's daughter, to help with the milking before the church services. Rev. Bozeman took time to let all the little girls milk and help with the cows. He enjoyed children.

On one evening, they finished milking and walked through the woods to the church services. When they were almost to the church, one of the girls noticed that Novell had forgotten to take off her

milking apron. The little girls found it enormously funny that Novell was wearing her apron to church and all four got the "silly-giggles".

They knew better than to titter in church, but that just made it funnier. Miss Janie said their folks "spoke" to them about giggling when they got home.

In 1907, Rev. Sammy Bozeman "took sick" while away preaching at another church. Staying with friends, he was too ill to come home. He died of Bright's disease on August 4, 1907, and his body was returned for burial in Pine Springs Cemetery beside the schoolhouse. He was 42 years old.

The next few months were dark times, indeed, for Mrs. Phronie Bozeman. She was faced with a slue of debts and five children to raise alone. It broke her heart when the piano Sammy had given her was repossessed. She took numerous trips to the courts to take care of his outstanding debts. Forelosures took much of the land, but Miss Phronie managed to save her new home and the 80 acres where it stood. In January 1909, an auction was held on the court house steps, and Will A. Griffin, the highest bidder, bought some 320 acres of Bozeman's land in Sections 17 and 20. His bid was for \$1520.

Because the Union Church was still in Rev. Bozeman's name, it was sold for taxes. To try to save the church, trustees were quickly chosen from the men of the community. The hurriedly elected trustees were Joel T. Wright; James B. Wright, Sr. (Uncle Jimmy); Thomas Wolfe; E. Kirby Smith; Felix G. Vincent; Seaborn M. Smith, Jr.; W. Thomas Love; James D. Thead (Jim); and Mrs. Sophronia E. Bozeman. With nobody to bid against them, the trustees bought the Union Church for \$3.50.

[The church deed read, "One acre in the SE quarter of the NW quarter in Sec. 9, bounded on the north by schoolhouse lot, on west by public road, on east by the east section line, and on the south by the land of J.T.Wright."]

It was good that Sis. Phronie was able to keep her home. She rented the upstairs of her big house and, with the help of the Lord, she got by.

The widow Bozeman was 39 years old and a handsome woman when she lost her husband. With her fine home and access to the big church that needed an aspiring preacher to take over, first one and then another Holiness minister came out to preach at the Union Church. They buzzed around Sis. Phronie like flies around a honey-pot, but she never felt inclined to pick a favorite. She never married again; there were none that could take Rev. Samuel H. Bozeman's place.

#87. SAMUEL J. BOZEMAN, 62 (1838,Al), m. 38 yrs.
Virginia H. Bozeman, 58 (1842,NC), m. 38 yrs.
Dora Bozeman, 20, (1879,Mi), single.
Raleigh Bozeman, 17 (1883,Mi), single.
Cleveland Brown, 14 (1886,Mi), black servant.
Wallace Brown, 14 (1886,Mi), black servant.

Old Sam Bozeman may not have been well that summer when the census was counted. One wonders if maybe the twin black boys were hired to help take care of Sam while he was ailing. He entertained thoughts of his approaching death that winter and wrote his will. Independent as always, he did not consult a lawyer but penciled the will himself. Recorded in Lauderdale Co. Will Book 2, Page 19, the will is as follows:

I, S. J. Bozeman, do this day give to Dora Bozeman follering described property to wit: The $W\frac{1}{2}$ of $SE\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec 16 T7 R15East being 80 acres less the patch from the fence back of S.H.Bozeman garden which he is to hav as long as he lives on same but he aint to put anyuone on place without consent of Dora.

All so Dora is to hav blackman [horse] and buggy and W.R.Bozeman [Raleigh] is to hav the $SE\frac{1}{4}$ if $SE\frac{1}{4}$ Se15 T7 R15 being 40 acres all so to hav the $E\frac{1}{2}$ of $SE\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 16 T7 R15East and W.R.Bozeman is to take cear of his mother and Dora with the help of place as long as his mother livs and Dora remains single.

Bud [Sammy] us to have my pile hamer and outfit. Tomey is to have \$24 the balance due him on his mair. Meady is to hav \$57.50 due him on his horse and Meady is to hav a cow and calf and Tom and Meady is to hav bed, not to hav eny thing till they marry.

Ral and Dora is to divide the balance of house hole goods as soots them. Elic [horse] is to bee sole to help pay Meady.

Eliza is to hav \$25 to bee pade after her ma deth all the above to bee pade when Dora and Rol can pay the same.

And as long as S.J.Bozeman livs he has the write to sell and convey eny of the within mention prepertry.

This December 15, 1900

S.J.Bozeman

Sam lived about two more years, dying on February 22, 1903. He was buried at the Beeson family cemetery, at the site of the former church he attended on the old road from Meridian to Suqualena. His grave is marked with a Confederate Veteran's headstone.

Miss Dora Bozeman continued as postmistress of the Bozeman post office until her father died. On May 6, 1903, Aunt Mary Jane Wright took over

as postmistress and moved the office up the road to the store across from the school.

W.R. "Rawl" Bozeman, about 20 when his father died, did not remain long at home thereafter, but sold the 120 acres he inherited and headed for New York City. He did not remain in close contact with his family except Dora.

Nolon Porterfield writes in his biography of Jimmie Rogers (The Life and Times of America's Blue Yodeler, Jimmie Rodgers) that while Jimmie was in New York in 1927, Jimmie visited his "...Uncle Rawl, a flamboyant black-sheep member of the Bozeman clan." Porterfield also writes that in 1929, Rodgers wrote from Vicksburg "to his rowdy uncle, Rawl Bozeman in New York". Porterfield again refers to Raleigh as "Jimmie's legendary uncle, Rawl Bozeman." Rawl married (Oh, My!) a Catholic girl, and had two adopted daughters.

#88.AARON RODGERS, 43[?](1857,Al)m.15yrs.
Eliza Rodgers, 33 (1866,La),m.15 yrs.
Walter Rodgers, 13 (1866,Mi),single.
Talmadge Rodgers, 10 (1890,Mi),single.
James Rodgers, 2 (1897,Mi), single.
Ler.[?] Rodgers 2 mo. (1900,Mi), single

According to some, Aaron was a year younger than Eliza, although the census recorded that Aaron was older. His occupation was listed as "railroad man".

After the birth of her last son (who did not live long), Eliza was bed-ridden until she succumbed to TB in 1903. She was buried next her father, Sam Bozeman, in Beeson Cemetery.

Rodgers was away on his job much of the time after Eliza died, shuffling his boys around to be cared for by Aunt Dora Bozeman an Aaron's Rodgers relatives in Scooba. (Miss.) and Geiger, Alabama. Among his Pine Springs neighbors, he gained a reputation of being a "ladies man."

In October, Aaron married Mrs. Ida Smith, widow of Jacob Smith. Ida and little



Aaron Rodgers

Jake had been living nearby with her mother, Mrs. Mollie Love, after Ida's first husband had been killed. Ida and her six-year-old son moved into the Rodgers' Pine Springs home, and Aaron laid off from his job to remain at home. He collected his three boys from their relatives and they attempted family life.

Miss Ida tried to discipline the Rodgers boys and insisted they go to school. Relatives

had catered to the "poor little Rodgers orphans" and they did not easily take to having their freedom curtailed. Ida also had problems with her new Rodgers children that were born. Baby Robert Rodgers came in 1906, but died when he was a year old. In 1907, her daughter, Lottie Mae Rodgers, was born.

Having quit his job with the railroad, Aaron took out a crop lien and again tried farming. This attempt, like his others, failed. He lost his Pine Springs farm. He found a job as manager of an Alfalfa farm in Lowndes County and the Rodgers moved to the black prairie belt in the northeastern region of the state. This job didn't work out well, either, and the Rodgers moved to West Point and Aaron went back to railroading. This time he was a section foreman on the New Orleans & Northeastern Railroad.

As Ida had trouble handling the Rodgers boys while Aaron was away at work, Aaron deposited the Rodgers boys with their Aunt Dora in Pine Springs, and his step-son, Jake Smith, with Jake's Uncle Kirb Smith in Pine Springs. He took Ida and their small daughter Lottie Mae, with him when he stayed at railroad camps. They had another child, which did not live, and Mrs. Rodgers became ill with pneumonia and died.,

When Mrs. Ida Rodgers died, she and young Jake still owned land in Pine Springs that they had inherited from the Smiths. Kirby Smith was Jake's legal guardian, but Aaron Rodgers had himself appointed guardian ad litem, and saw to it that Jake's half-share of the John P. Smith estate was divided between himself, Jake, and Lottie Mae along with his wife's. [Jake always felt that he had been short-changed by his step-father. But he was a kid, and what could he do?]

Porterfield wrote that Aaron Rodgers "always had an eye for the ladies", and Aaron soon married again. He used the money from Ida's inheritance and bought a small home near Meridian. He tried again to make a home for his children, but the two older Rodgers boys had begun to go their separate ways. (His step-son remained with Kirby Smith, who raised him until he was nearly grown.)

Walter Rodgers was hired by the railroad, and eventually became a conductor on the NO&NE Railway. He married Ruby Everett of Meridian.

Tal Rodgers married Pearl Pope, a teacher who boarded with Aunt Dora while teaching at Pine Springs. HE became a Meridian policeman and was promoted to detective.

Much has been written about Aaron's and Eliza's son Jimmie. Jimmie Rodgers became a country singer

and recording star, known worldwide as "The Blue Yodeler".

When Jimmie was a boy, nothing distinguished him from other farm boys that went to school at Pine Springs; his intermittent attendance did not mark him a dedicated scholar. At a young age he took railroad jobs, but never worked anywhere for long. HE suffered with TB, having contracted the disease from his mother as a child. His illness would flair up at times and cause trouble, and at other times he walked off the job to play his guitar with traveling musicians. He took his guitar wherever he went and, unable to read music, he developed his own style of singing.

Jimmie married Stella Kelly of Noxapater, Miss. in 1917, but she left him. His second wife was Carrie C. Williamson, young daughter of Methodist minister, Rev. Jesse T. Williamson of Meridian. Carrie's sister, Mrs. Elsie McWilliams wrote many of Jimmie's songs that made him famous.



Jimmie Rodgers

Jimmie and Carrie Rodgers' life was haphazard; Carrie was quoted as saying that they had "chicken one day, feathers the next". In time, Jimmie gained notice as a recording star and acquired fame. He made a movie (The Singing Brakeman) in Hollywood before he died of TB in 1933.

[Today, Jimmie Rodgers' birthday is celebrated in May with the annual Jimmie Rodgers Festival in Meridian. Long years after his death, singing stars and fans come from all over the world to enjoy country music.]

Aaron Rodgers' only daughter, Lottie Mae, grew up near Meridian with her

father and step-mother. She married a fellow from Alabama named Lawrence Mixon. By 1910, none of the Rodgers family were left in Pine Springs except Jake Smith - but he was not a Rodgers.

#89. SAM BAILEY, 34(1865,Ark),m.14yrs.
Georgia Bailey,30(1869,Ga)m.14yrs.
Robert B. Bailey, 13(1886,Mi)single
Cullie Bailey,11(1889,Mi)single
Earl Bailey, 9(1891,Mi)single
Louella Bailey,8(1894,Mi)single
Clara Bailey, 6(1894,Mi)single
Luther Bailey, 4(1896,Mi)single
Sam Bailey, 2 (1898,Mi)single

Samuel Claiborne and Georgia Gunn Bailey lived in the house they built on Allen Swamp Road near Okatibbee Creek. Their youngest children, born after this census was taken, were James Lamar, 1901; Margaret Ann, 1903; and Vivian Ruth, 1906.

Mr. Bailey was postman at Bailey Post Office, but later collected the bags of mail from the Complete Office outside Meridian to take to Pine Springs. [Complete, a village between Meridian and Pine Springs, was later annexed by the town.] Those old enough to remember do not recall Mr. Bailey doing much farming.

Mrs. Leora Love Hudson remembers one fall when she was small, her papa (Wes Love) took his cane to Mr. Bailey's syrup mill to be cooked into molasses. The operation took all day and her Mama (Miss Molly) 'fixed' dinner to take to the working men.

Mrs. Leora, a school chum of Margaret Bailey's, does not recall a lot of visiting between the Baileys and their Pine Springs neighbors. The Bailey family went to church at Suqualena; certainly Mr. Sam was well known there by his activity in the Suqualena Masonic Lodge. The children knew each other from school where they were schoolmates. Luther Bailey and Jake Smith were friends. Young Margaret often stopped by to wait at Love's driveway to walk to school with Leora, but they seldom played together after school.

All who went to Pine Springs school with young Sam Bailey recall how mischievous he was; as a beginning student he struck fear and dread into a teacher's heart. The two young Sams - Sam Bailey and Sam Bozeman - near the same age, seemed constantly in trouble. They say the widow Bozeman's Sam seemed to be the leader of the unholy pair, but in Sam Bailey, Sam Bozeman found a willing and dauntless accomplice.

Near Okatibbee Creek were two Hart families, (continued on next page)

father and son, whom, it is thought, were tenants on the Bailey farm. Nothing is known about this family, but they will be given here as listed.

#90. JOSEPH A. HART, 22 (1878,Mi), m. 3 yrs.

Allie[?] Hart, 17 (1882,Al), m.3 yrs.

#91. LEVI HART, 54 (1854,Al), m. 20 yrs.

Maggie Hart, 40 (1860,Mi), m. 20 yrs.

Leoice[?] Hart [son], 17 (1883,Mi), single.

Bennie Hart, 15 (1885,Mi), single.

Clara Hart, 13 (1887,Mi), single.

Herman Hart, 10 (1890,Mi), single.

Mittie Hart, 7 (1893,Mi), single.

Having come to the edge of Okatibbee Swamp, Mr. Flemming retraced his steps to return up Pine Springs Road. Instead of going back up the road, however, he cut across the old Rodgers place and came out at Wes Love's.

#92. WESLEY W. LOVE, 28 (1871,Mi), m. 8 yrs.

Mary Love, 30 (1870,Mi), m. 8 yrs.

Lillie Love, 7 (1893,Mi), single.

Chester Love, 5 (1897,Mi), single.

Wes and Molly later had three more children. Charley was born in the fall of 1900, Leora was born in 1902. Their baby, Nora Estelle, was born in 1907.

Wes Love owned his land of course, having inherited it from his father. He was a farmer and, like everyone else, he had good years and bad years. Miss Leora said her father was always interested in their school, and he looked after the welfare of his children. She says that if it started raining while they were at school they would just wait at the schoolhouse. They knew their Papa would be along soon to pick them up in his surrey.

#93. JOHN I. WILLIAMS, 39 (1861,Mi), m. 3 yrs.

Mollie Williams, 28 (1871,Mi), m. 3 yrs.

China Williams, 16 (1883,Mi), single.

George Williams, 2 (1898,Mi), single.

The Williams family lived in a rough shack on the Love farm. John worked for the railroad, and was just renting from the Loves until he could find a place in town.

John Ivy Williams, Jr. was a son of the late Rev. John I. Williams, Sr., who had owned a farm northwest of Suqualena and had once been pastor of Suqualena Methodist Church. Rev. Williams was born in England in 1818 and came to America when he was in his twentys. A circuit-riding Methodist preacher, he met and married Arminda Madison of Alabama, and they lived, for a time, near her folks in the area which was later to become Birmingham.

John, Jr., the youngest child of Rev. Williams

was born about the time the family migrated to Mississippi. Rev. Williams built a two-story log home which sat in a grove of magnificent old Oaks, back off the road in Sec. 12, T-7, R-14E, near Suqualena. He farmed his land, but continued to preach.

John, Jr. grew up near Suqualena. He married Miss Helen Knight and set up house-keeping on Rev. William's farm. China, their daughter, was born in 1883. She was four when her mother was killed.

While John was at work one day, two Negroes came by and murdered Helen, and threw her body into their well. The culprits were gone by the time John returned but, somehow, he knew who had done the terrible deed.

A search was started and the body of one of the men was found. Some believed that John Williams had located and shot the Negro, but this was pure speculation as the truth never came out. The second man was found a year later by the Ku Klux Klan, who hanged him on one of the large Oaks in front of old Rev. William's home. Rev. Williams died two years later in 1891.

John Williams left China with his older brother while he worked for the Southern Railroad. Around 1895, he married Molly (Mary Jane) Evans, daughter of Alfred Evans of Choctaw Co. (Alabama). Their son, George Dewey Williams, listed in the 1900 census, died when he was 3.

After China Williams, (we Southerners called her "Chinie"), married in the fall of 1900, her father and step-mother moved to Meridian where they bought a home and had five more children.

It was October 31, 1900, when Chinie Williams married David Crockett Love, (son of the late John Love) who was living with his widowed mother, the older Miss Mollie. After they married, Crockett and Chinie first lived in the old log cabin in the northwest corner of Sec. 16 that Crockett's late grandparents, old William and Agnes Love, had bought from the Collins back in 1873. Their three children, Mary, 1902; David Leo, 1903; and Lizzie, 1905, were born in the old house. Their firstborn, Mary, died at birth.

Crockett's part of his late father's land was in the northeast corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the section, and he built a house for Chinie and his babies there. Crockett was a farmer and did not have much to spend. The house he built was a box-like structure of wide boards, and was located on the western edge of the main Pine Springs Road, directly across from the fine home of the late Rev. Bozeman. But Chinie was thrilled to get her little new house.

Frank Love was listed next, but it not now known which house he lived in. He and his children lived

somewhere, apparently, on the William Love estate property in the north half of the northwestern quarter of Sec. 16.

#94. A. FRANK LOVE, 45 (1855,Mi), widowed.

Preston Love, 21 (1879,Mi), single.

Jodie Love, 19 (1881,Mi), single.

Ada Love, 18 (1882,Mi), single.

Geraldton [Jeraldton], 15, (1885,Mi),single.

Cora Love, 12 (1888,Mi), single.

David Carrie, 22 (1878,Mi), single (boarder).

Frank Love worked with timber. His boarder, it would seem, was related to the Carrie family that lived near Taylor's store, and may have worked with Frank and his sons.

The rest of Frank's children were soon to be married; Pres married Myrtie Temple, Jodie married Mary Sue Darden. Ada and Jeraldton married brothers, Charles and George Beddingfield. Frank's youngest daughter, Cora, married Bert Brown and moved north of Pine Springs.

Mr. Love spent his last years with Jodie and Mary Sue, who lived about Pine Springs.

#92. MARY LOVE, 47 (1853,Mi), widow.

Crockett Love, 17 (1883,Mi), single.

Ida Smith, 18 (1882,Mi), widow.

Lee Love, 12 (1888,Mi), single.

John Love, 10 (1890,Mi), single [daughter].

[Mr. Flemming omitted baby Jake Smith, who, born in 1899, was less than a year old.]

Crockett Love married China that fall and moved out. The youngest of John and Miss Mollie's children, Babe (John Mollie), died in her teens before 1910. Ida and little Jake moved out when Ida married Aaron Rodgers in 1905.

Miss Mollie died around 1909 and was buried beside John at Suqualena, although neither had headstones and their graves cannot be identified. Their log home became Lee's after Mollie's passing. Rueben Lee Love, at 22, lived there alone in 1910.

Still back-tracking on his earlier route, Mr. Flemming likely unrolled his saddle blanket that night at Pine Springs campground at Weatherford's store. The campground was in its heyday at the turn of the century, and doubtless Flemming found interesting wayfarers with whom to pass the time around the fire. Next morning, Flemming dated his notes "June 7, 1900", and mounted up to begin the day's journey, heading north up the main road to visit the house atop the next hill.

#93. GEORGE W. HARBOUR, 30 (1869,Mi), m. 9 yrs.

Mattie L. Harbour, 23 (1877,Mi), m. 9 yrs.

Thomas D. Harbour, 7 (1892,Mi), single.

Rufus A. Harbour, 5 (1894,Mi), single.

George Harbour lived in a log house on Weatherford's land at the southwest corner of The Forks while he was sawyer at Weatherford's saw mill. When Dock sold out in Sept. 1900, the new owner, Andrew Alewine, didn't need the saw mill, and sold it and the northern half of his new 80 acres to George Harbour. [NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,S-9]

After five years, Harbour was ready to move his mill, as much of the local timber had been cut. In Feb. 1906, Harbour sold his 40 acres to Kirby Smith "with all improvements thereon except the mill buildings". Taking his mill, George and Mattie Harbour moved away. [Aubrey Smith, son of Kirby Smith, was told by his father that Mr. Harbour had a "gentleman's agreement" with his neighbors that lived west of him (in Sec. 5). Harbour had promised them access from the Pine Springs Road across the north end of his land to enable them to reach their home. Harbour told Mr. Kirby he had always honored this pledge, and he hoped Mr. Smith would, as well. The Johnson boys, who came to Pine Springs in 1907, worked with shovels to get the steep hills lowered as it was almost impossible to cross them in a wagon. In time, the county made the private road a public road, and graded it with a road machine as long as people lived back there. This old road formed an extension of today's Ernest White Road, leading westward to today's Okatibbee Lake.]

Mr. Flemming must have asked Harbour who the next neighbor might be, else he might have overlooked the Cas Wolfe family. Caswell Wolfe's farm was in the steep hills above Bales Creek and the Ole Slough in Sec. 5 in the western part of the community. The rough trail Flemming followed to reach the Wolfe farmhouse led up and down over three sharp hills before he reached his designation.

#94. CAS WOLFE, 47 (1853,Mi), m. 9 years.

Sallie Wolfe, 32 (1868,Mi), m. 9 yrs.

Florence Wolfe, 16 (1884,Mi), single.

Lillie Wolfe, 8 (1892,Mi), single.

Mary A. [Adalina] Wolfe, 6 (1904,Mi), single.

Caswell Wolfe and Miss Sallie, (his second wife), had one last child, Ora Bertha, born the following year in 1901.

As far as is known, Cas had no occupation other than farming. He owned his farm, free and clear, but it didn't produce much. To begin with, his unlevel land didn't leave him much room for fields and the topsoil on his hillside fields was washing away.

In 1906, Cas sold his farm to J.W.Gaston, a Meridian "land agent", and moved to the neighboring farm that was owned by his brother. (Mr. Hill Wolfe, Cas' younger brother, had moved

to the community in 1901.)

But, Caswell Wolfe, at age 59, his face seamed by the sun and worn out from trying to eke out a living, died in 1912. He was buried in Pine Springs Cemetery. He had been a good man, a man who lived by his Bible.

Lillie Mae Wolfe had married Auguste H. Friburg in 1908 and Mrs. Wolfe joined the Friburgs in Meridian. Mr. Friburg, a Swede, was a mason who worked for the city. One can still find his name imprinted in the concrete of older sidewalks.

#95. JAMES B. WRIGHT, 67 (1832,NC), m. 41 yrs.

Mary J. Wright, 56 (1843,Mi), m. 41 yrs.

Lula M. Wright, 18 (1882,Mi), Single.

Jimmy and Mary Jane lived north of The Forks on their farm in Sec. 4 with one of their children. (Mary Jane had eleven children, she told Mr. Flemming, but only 7 were then surviving.) After Lula married and moved to Texas, the old couple lived alone. That Christmas, the Wrights sold their log house and 80-acre farm to Hillard and Julia Wolfe. Hill Wolfe was Cas Wolfe's brother.

Uncle Jimmy had bought another 80 acres from the M&O Railroad, located in Sec. 9, west of Pine Springs Store. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,S-9] Uncle Jimmie helped his son Joe build a wee two-room house that just fit the old couple. It was made of sawn lumber with its wide weather-boarding applied vertically, and its "fireplace room" was the only room with inside ceiling.

Miss Dora Bozeman, involved with family illnesses and faced with the closing of Taylor's store, gave up her job as postmistress. Aunt Mary Jane applied for Dora's job, and on May 6, 1903, was named the new postmistress of Bozeman, Miss. When Joe and Clara Wright opened their new Pine Springs Store, Aunt Mary Jane's desk and pigeon-holes were installed in one corner where she sorted mail. At age 60, Mary Jane Wright had become a "career girl".

Sam Bailey continued delivering mail bags from Complete in his mail buggy until Bozeman Post Office closed on November 6, 1906. After that date came the advent of Rural Free Delivery. Pine Springs became a part of RFD #1, Bailey, Miss. and everyone had only to put up a mail box on the road to have their mail delivered. Sam Bailey may have been the first mail carrier in the community, but the first postman on the route that most remember was Thames Gunn.

Thames, one of Joseph Gunn's sons that lived near Bailey, had a buggy specially made for mail delivery. Light-weight, it had a canvas cover to protect his cargo, and "US MAIL" painted on its canvas. Sometimes Thames was known to nip

from his jug as he rode along. The patrons near the end of his route sometimes got everybody's mail but their own. Young'uns scurried back and forth to get the letters to their rightful destination. Oddly enough, nobody complained to the postmaster but laughed at Gunn's mix-ups. Some local folks quipped "that 'Gunn' is sho'nuff a pistol!"

Joe and Clara Wright lived in the "Weatherford" house after they bought their store. When the Bozeman Post Office closed, Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Mary Jane sold their farm (west of the store) to Joe and Clara, and gave up house-keeping. Uncle Jimmy's heart was playing out on him and all felt it would be best if the Wrights moved in with their son.

Leaving the Wrights in Sec. 4, Flemming continued north on the narrow dirt road through a deserted stretch of wilderness that looked like the back side of Nowhere. He passed the late Letitia Lacy's tumble-down log house that had been vacant for years. Seeing it deserted, he moved on. There were no other houses until he came to old Phillips home up in Sec. 33 and found old Robert's daughter, Drucilla, at home and willing to answer questions.

#98. ELISHA STEPHENSON, 45 (1855,Mi), m. 21 yrs.

Drucilla Stephenson, 45 (1855,Mi), m. 21 yrs.

Frank Stephenson, 19 (1881,Mi), single.

Ada Stephenson, 17 (1883,Mi), single.

Sidney [W.S.] Stephenson, 15 (1885,Mi), single.

Minnie Stephenson, 13 (1887,Mi), single.

Albert [Ab] Stephenson, 11 (1889,Mi), single.

Annie Stephenson, 9 (1891,Mi), single.

Hattie Stephenson, 7, (1894,Mi), single.

Neva [Geneva] Stephenson, 5 (1895,Mi), single.

Lish Stephenson and his boys, Frank, Sidney, and Ab, worked together in timber. Lish died sometime around 1905 and was buried at Pine Springs, although the exact spot of his grave has been lost. Drucilla raised her children as well as she could, her older sons hauling logs to provide for the family.

Two daughters married as soon as they got to be sixteen; Minnie married William M. Skinner in 1904 and Annie married Robert Carlisle in 1907.

Nothing is remembered about the Carlisles, but Will Skinner, (a saw mill hand), lived in the community for some time, although he did not own land. He and Minnie first lived near Harbour's sawmill, but later moved up the road to below Spinks Jones' store in Sec. 4. Miss Ebbie Smith remembers him from her childhood. She said Mr. Skinner always wore a necktie. Whether dressed in his Sunday best, in his denim overalls, or if he was barefoot in summer, he never forgot his tie.

When they lived near Jones' store they gave a

square dance and invited the neighbors. The fiddlers were playing and dancers were swinging their partners when the draw-string in Minnie Skinner's drawers broke. With underpinnings around her feet, Minnie showed magnificent grace. With aplomb and poise and without missing a beat, she stepped from her encumbering garment and kicked it to a corner. On with the dance!

In early 1910, Sidney Stephenson married Mrs. Alma McGowen, a widow who had three children, Frances, 9; and 4-year-old twins, Macie and Joe. They lived on the Lowe farm several years, but eventually moved from Pine Springs.

#99. VASTINE BYRD, 50 (1850,Mi), m. 20 yrs.
Rossie Byrd, 42 (1858,Mi), m. 20 yrs.
Preston Byrd, 17 (1883,Mi), single.
Gracie Byrd, 15 (1885,Mi), single.
Abraham [Bud] Byrd, 11 (1889,Mi), single.
Mary Byrd, 11 (1889,Mi), single.
Sollie Byrd, 8 (1892,Mi), single.
Nadie [Nade] Byrd, 5 (1895,Mi), single.
Walterine Byrd, 2 (1898,Mi), single.

When Fleming left the Stephenson's to cross the road to count the family of Vas Byrd, little did they realize it would be the last year they would all be together. In less than a year, several of the Byrd children were ill; a doctor diagnosed Scarlet Fever. Nine-year-old Sollie died first, but his funeral was postponed while they waited for little Walterine's last breath. The children were buried at Gumlog Baptist Church on the same day in 1901. The other youngsters recovered.

Bud (Abraham) Byrd, with the younger Nade as a willing follower, was full of high spirits and daring. There seemed to be nothing the pair wouldn't do to cause a laugh and they became masters at playing pranks on each other as well as others. One shenanigan they pulled almost got them into real trouble.

The "hanging tree" was beside the narrow dirt track a half-mile south of their home. When those from up the road walked to church, the store, or school, they had to pass the overhanging limb from which at least one lynching had occurred. It was an overshadowed, foreboding stretch of road to have to walk at night.

A group from up the road planned to go to preachin' one night. Bud enlisted Nade's help in a little joke he planned. Bud was to go ahead and tie his white shirt on a rope to be thrown over the limb that overhung the road. He would hide in the bushes and as the group approached, he would moan and groan while slowly lowering the shirt. Nade's job was to holler that it was the dead Negro coming back for revenge.

That night Bud left as planned and waited in the dark. When he heard the group coming, he began his mournful sounds.

"Listen!", Nade whispered urgently. "Whut's that?"

The group stopped talking to listen and Bud heightened his groaning and slowly lowered the shirt.

"Looka yonder! It's the dead nigger comin' back!", Nade screamed.

The crowd scattered. Poor Frank Stephenson made out worst of all. He ran a mile at full speed, non-stop, to collapse at home. None too robust at best, he nearly had a heart attack.

There was talk of "taking it to the law" over the incident, but as tempers cooled, it was forgotten. Even Frank came to laugh about it in time. Some thought Frank was simple-minded, but in truth he was just a mild-mannered fellow, but a trifle gullible.

Vas Byrd often sat on his porch in a cane-bottomed chair to take advantage of any stray afternoon breeze. One day as he sat digesting his lunch and dozing, Bud came running from behind and, placing his hands on Vas' shoulders, vaulted over his father's head into the front yard. As Bud cleared Vas' head, he let go a loud fart that sounded not unlike a sonic boom. Vas, somewhat startled, shouted after the fast-departing offender.

A few days later, to the consternation of his father, Bud did a repeat performance. Vas, even more indignant, shouted harsher invectives.

"You do that agin, boy, I'm gonna shoot you!"

When Bud saw the old man nodding in his chair a few days later, temptation overcame him. He took a running start and vaulted over his pa's head a third time, cutting loose with a loud fart at the height of his jump. This time, Vas was ready.

As Bud sailed over, Vas picked up a hog-leg pistol which he had quietly laid on his lap and, pointing straight up, he fired. Vas hadn't counted on his reflexes being as swift as they were and fired a mili-second too soon. The bullet caught Bud on the seat of his pants and made a flesh wound on his back-side. That stopped Bud from playing leap-frog with the old man.

In 1906, Preston Byrd married Velma Gipson. (Her brother, Vannoy Gipson, may be remembered as a prominent Meridian attorney.) Pres and Velma lived on the "old Phillips place" when they married. Their first child died an infant, but their second child, a daughter they named Stella, was born in 1910.

[The "old Phillips place" was across the road from Vas Byrd's farm. Back in 1893, old Mr. Phillips sold part of his Pine Springs farm to M.E.Clark and went to live with his son James.

[S₂Sw₂,S-33] No records have been found that indicate that Clark lived in the community but, in 1909, Clark's wife (widow?), Mrs. A. C. Clark, sold the 80 acres to Vas Byrd. The Byrds referred to that part of their farm as "the old Phillips Place".]

Young W. Byrd, Mr. Vas' brother in Kemper, cut logs for saw mills. He bought a small place in Kemper near Rio and set out to farm. He wasn't doing very well there and Vas told him to come down and try farming on his place in Pine Springs.

Young's first wife (Lucinda Jennie Hendon) had died, and his two sons were married. The oldest, Alex, worked as a log cutter near Decatur in Newton County, but his youngest son, Joseph, had just married 16-year-old Miss Georgia Woodall and lived with Young. (Joseph married at age 17.) Young and Joe loaded their beds onto a wagon and they came down to live in a little shack alongside the road on Vas Byrd's farm. Georgia's first baby was born in Pine Springs in 1909.

Georgia's sister, Miss Annie Woodall, came from Kemper to visit her sister and see the new baby. Bud Byrd fell in love with her at once and put away his foolishness long enough to court and marry her. Bud and Annie put up another little shack along the road and moved in. [Georgia and Annie Woodall were nieces of George Ethridge, State Supreme Court judge from Newton County.]

Young and Joe put in a crop on Vas Byrd's farm in 1910, but when the crop was gathered and they paid Vas his share, they found they had made less in Pine Springs than they had at home. They returned home and Joe got a job hauling tombstones.

[As times improved, Young Byrd opened a store near Frasier Grove but, mostly, he still farmed. He married again twice, but both wives left him. His fourth wife was Nora Turville, by whom he had two daughters. He became a deacon in Damascus Free Will Baptist Church. He adopted an Indian boy and raised him. He adopted, also, a white boy from Meridian. His grandson, Billy Wayne Ethridge of Meridian, wrote of Young Byrd: "He was a practical joker - always telling funny things. He made medicines of roots and plants and was knowledgeable of how to treat sickness and diseases." Young died when he was 85 and was buried at Zion Cemetery at Rio.]

[After they left Pine Springs, Joe and Georgia Byrd bought a farm in Lauderdale County near the Kemper line. When Georgia died giving birth to their 5th child in 1918, Joe had a time trying to take care of his small children. Refusing to put them in the Masonic Home, he married Indola Saterfiel and had six more children. He was JP in Beat 3 for 24 years.]

100 JARETT [JARRED] SNOWDEN, 38 (1862,Mi), m.10yrs.
Vennie Snowden, 30 (1870,Mi), m. 10 yrs.
Earl Snowden, 6 (1894.Mi), single.
Ave Snowden, 5 (1895,Mi), single.

The next house up the road from the Byrds was the new home of the Snowdens. [Jarred's name was spelled wrong; Mrs. Lessie Downey, Mr. Snowden's daughter, confirmed this fact in the 1980's.] "Jarrit" and Miss Vennie had only two children at that time, but their children who came later were Lessie Estelle, 1901; Slim (Jerry Lavelle), 1903; and Jack (Everett J.),1906.

Jarrit had given up on his store and devoted all his time to farming. It was hard work, but not all was back-breaking drudgery. Jarrit played his violin and he bought a piano which Ave learned to play. She not a proficient player, she would pick out melodies with her right hand and though she could not read the bass notes, she "corded" with her left hand. Jack could pick most any stringed instrument that he took up - guitar, banjo, mandolin. Ave sometimes picked guitar.

Often the Snowdens and their neighbors got together at one or another house and spent an enjoyable evening making music. Older folks, young people, and children all enjoyed the music and game-playing, and they usually parched peanuts and home-raised popcorn was served. In the fall they would sit around a fireplace and chew sugar-cane. At some homes there was square-dancing, but there was no dancing allowed at the Snowdens! The Snowdens were members of Pace's Fellowship Church, and Mr. Jarrit and Miss Vennie took their church teachings seriously.

Miss Vennie died after an illness on the 7th of February in 1910 when Jack, her youngest child, was 4 years old. She was buried at Fellowship Church.

#101. ANDREW ALAWINE, 57 (1843,Mi), m. 38 yrs.
Crecia Alawine, 55 (1845,Mi), m. 38 yrs.
William Alawine, 30 (1870,Mi), m. 9 yrs.
James Alawine, 28 (1878.Mi), single.
Samuel Alawine, 25 (1875,Mi), single.
Katie Alawine, 17 (1885,Mi), single.
Mattie [Thaggard] Alawine, 15[?], [m. 9 yrs.]
Tommy Alawine, 8 (1892,Mi), single.
Palma Alawine, 7 (1893,Mi), single.
Andrew Alawine, 5 (1895,Mi), single.
John Alawine, 3 (1897,Mi), single.
Sallie Alawine, 3 mo. (1900,Mi), single.
William Burrell(?),50 (1850,Mi),Wid./ Wh.serv.
Delia[?] Murphy , 25 (1875,Mi), sing/Boarder.
Alice Murphy, 23 (1877,Mi), sing./ Boarder.

The entry Mr. Flemming made at the Alawines is quite confusing. No house now known next to Jarett Snowden's was big enough to hold all these people

unless, perhaps, the bachelors slept in the barn. Yet, they found enough room for two boarders, the Murphy sisters, who were nurses. (Delia's name as given here may be wrong as it is sometimes difficult to read Mr. Flemming's writing.) The occupations of the three Alawine brothers, William, James, and Sam, were listed as "mechanic", while young Katie Alawine's occupation was given as "teacher". The five younger members in the family were William's and Mattie's children. Mr. Alawine, though he still owned land near Lauderdale Springs, was renting the house in Pine Springs.

Old Mr. Alawine was weary of peddling from his ox cart and an idea of having a store had appeal. He and Dock Weatherford, long-time friends, discussed it and, in September 1900, Andrew bought the Weatherfords' 80 acres (less the schoolhouse lot) in Sec. 9, where the store and saw mill were situated, for \$300. To come up with enough cash, Alawine hocked his cart, his yoke of oxen, and his entire stock of merchandise to John Mott of Kemper County, with the note coming due in two years.

The Weatherfords sold George Harbour the saw mill, and Andrew Alawine sold Harbour the north half of the 80 acres where the mill was set up, but kept the south half with the house and store. William Alawine was able to keep his job with the sawmill after Mr. Harbour became the new owner.

The business taken care of, the Weatherfords left for south Mississippi, and old Andrew, Miss Creesie and their large family moved into the Weatherford house behind the store. Their single children began to marry and move out near that time, so they were not long crowded. Their son James Alawine married Elizabeth "Bessie" Skinner, and Samuel Alawine married Maggie Evalina Skinner, both wives being sisters of Will Skinner of Pine Springs. Both boys moved away after they married. (James and Bessie Alawines' marriage failed, but James married again, his second wife being Sarah Elizabeth O'Neill.)

William and Mattie Alawine and their five children, moved to the new place with old Andrew. William lived with his father all his life, and never owned a piece of land of his own.

The Vincents brought Methodist preachers to hold revivals in the schoolhouse and, of course, the Alawines from across the road always came to the meetings. The Alawines were Methodist, but they also came to the schoolhouse when Sammy Bozeman held Holiness services. William Alawine and Sammy Bozeman, near the same age, became steadfast friends. When William had another son born in 1903, he named him Samuel Bozeman Alawine in honor of his friend.

George W. Calvert, related to the Calvert who owned a busy store at Rio in Kemper Co., wanted to establish another store between Meridian and Rio. Pine Springs would make a convenient stopping place between the two points for Calvert's wagoners to stop. Calvert came to Andrew Alawine with an offer to buy him out.

Just before Christmas in 1901, Andrew Alawine and George Calvert "swapped stoppers"; they traded property. Apparently Calvert wanted mighty badly, as Andrew got the best of the deal. Calvert traded Alawine a 100-acre Kemper farm [In Sec. 30,T-9,R-14E] for his 40 acres (Less the schoolhouse lot) in Pine Springs. Andrew paid off his debts and retired to his farm in Kemper County where he and Miss Creesie lived the rest of their lives.

Alawine descendants say that Andrew was "kicked out" of the Rio Methodist Church because he attended one of Rev. Sammy Bozeman's Holiness meetings. Shocked and angered, old Andrew said he would never set foot in a Methodist church again, and he didn't. They buried him at Mt. Zion Methodist Church, but his funeral was held outside in the churchyard.

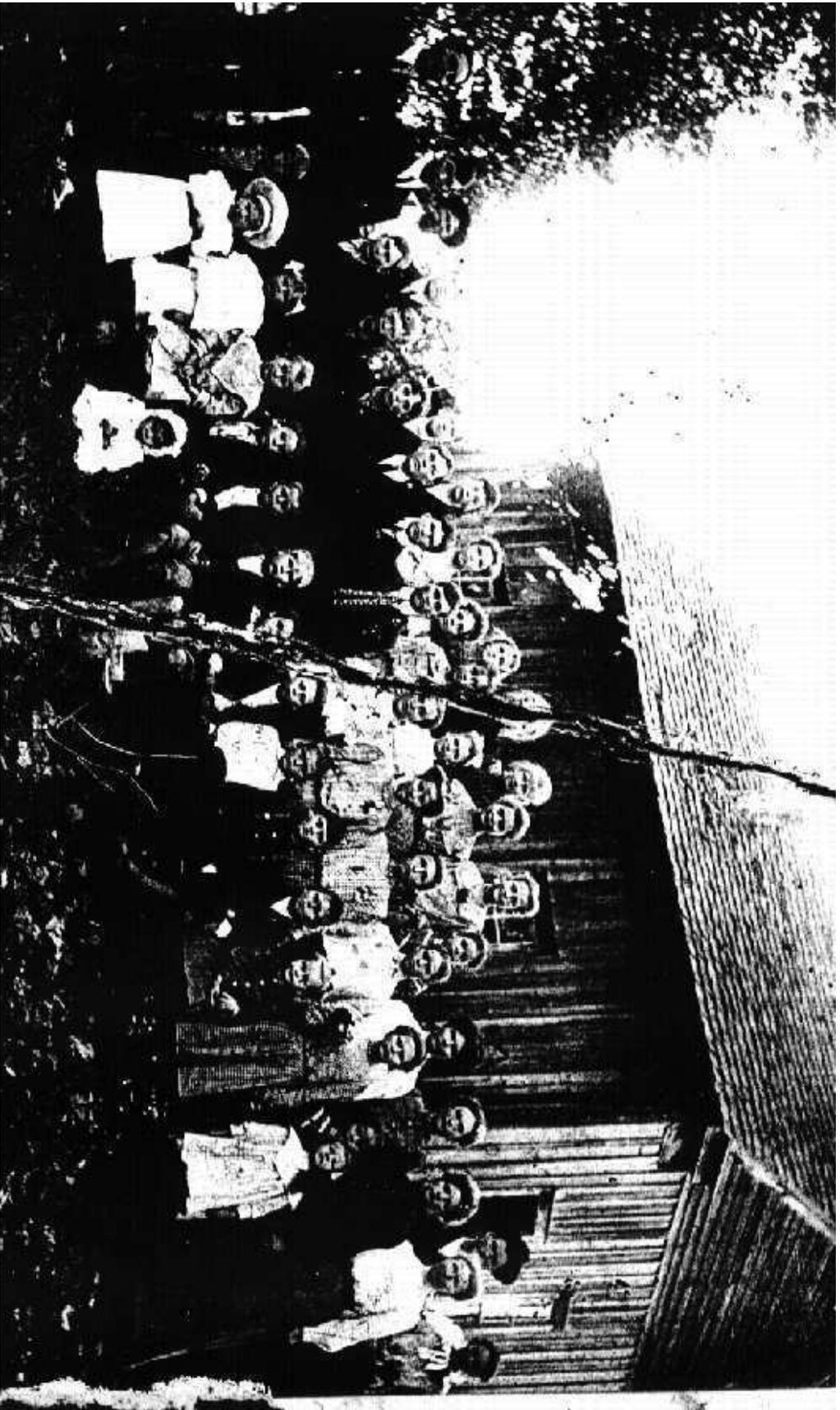
Andrew's and Creesie's daughter, Katie, married Will Taggard, the brother of William's wife Mattie, and went to live in Leake County. Her son, a doctor, founded Taggard Hospital in Madden.

William and Mattie took their family to live on the Kemper farm with William's parents, and had three more children born there; Willie Lee, 1906; Jim T., 1908; and Richard Charles, 1912.

Calvert kept the Pine Springs store nearly two years. When Aunt Mary Jane Wright was appointed postmistress, Calvert sold the store to Sammy Bozeman and returned to Kemper County. We don't know if his losing out on the postoffice had a part in this action. There is, of course, the unproved rumor that the original store burned about that time. In 1904, Rev. Bozeman rebuilt the store for Joe Wright.

And that's the way it was in Pine Springs on June 6 and 7, 1900. Completing his inventory of the 30 families who lived in the community, Fleming crossed over the swampy road around Bales Creek to enumerate those on the other side.

* * * * *



Church Group at Schoolhouse; baby Lizzie Love, front, was born 1905. Standing next to Rev, Bozeman (r; in hat) are Vincent Sisters, Ida, Minnie, and Nannie; three just to left of crack were their three brothers.. Kids in front are (L to R) Leora Lowe; Ruth Bailey; Jimmie and Tal Rodgers; Lovett?; C. Vincent; Henry New; (?); Byrd; Leon and Minnie New. Standing with Flowers, Allie Townsend; girl with ringlets, Pearl Bozeman. Others Unknown.

12/ NEW NEIGHBORS MOVING IN
1900 - 1910

The population from the 30 Pine Springs homes in the 1900 census nearly doubled between 1900 and 1910. Children of the established families married and raised children of their own near their parents. New families, most with children, moved in to buy land and build new homes. Adding to influx of people were the 'croppers that came to find a place to stay, a shifting population that moved about from season to season. Few tarried long enough to be remembered, but they added to the inhabitants in the community.

The new century brought no improvement in the life of the farmer. He doggedly continued to plant cotton, and lived in poverty. His land was worn out from planting the same crop year after year, but barnyard manure and cotton-seed hulls was about the only replenishment his fields ever saw.

Cotton was a good crop for land owners to have tenants raise. Corn might be picked and eaten while it was still green, and wheat, harder to harvest and sell, might be abandoned. But, the 'cropper would generally stay around until after the cotton was sold in order to collect his share of the profit.

Adding to the soil depletion was the problem of erosion. Over years of use and abuse the top soil had washed away. Land owners piled brush into washes to keep their fields from washing away, but few tenants who rented land cared enough to practice conservation. Why bother since the tenant would doubtless be living somewhere else by next season. Great gashes appeared in the hillside fields, deep wounds cut into the red clay, some wide enough to hide a wagon and a team of mules.

The "Gully Bug" game was invented by the dirty children that always seemed to be underfoot. One would be selected as the Gully Bug to lurk in the bottom of one of the deep gullies. The others would bravely dash down one side and up the other of the wash without being tagged by the Bug. The thrill would be to see how close one could get to taunt the Bug without getting tagged out of the game.

Admidst the trials of poor soil and erosion there arrived a new enemy to plague a fellow who was trying to take a living from the land. First

one field and then another would be infested by the Cotton Boll Weevil. There would be good years and bad years in the fight against this new pest from Mexico. Sometimes a whole crop would be ruined. Articles written by agriculture experts of Mississippi A&M College appeared in The Meridian Star which gave pointers on how to combat the insect. Farmers were encouraged to raise cattle or to plant other crops. But, they clung to cotton for their cash crop.

Legislation was passed that was favorable to business, and mills and factories in Meridian worked overtime, but little was done to help planters and farm economy lagged farther behind. Meridian railroad companies grew and prospered and those who worked for the railroads lived well, but in the country the farmer remained poor. In the 1890's, the farmers revolted and began "politicking" to get legislators elected that were sympathetic to their plight, but help was slow in coming.

The local logging industry increased when the South discovered it had overlooked a gold mine in its timber. Beginning the late 1880's and lasting through most of the early 1900's, Pine Springs, alone with the western part of the county, profited from its woodlands. For a while the farmers that worked with timber increased their income, but those that depended upon planting for their livelihood remained barefoot. A few Pine Springs landowners lost or abandoned their farms and turned to logging, find it more profitable to cut or haul timber.

After the big trees had been cut by the large lumber companies, small saw mills, most of which were portable, sprang up everywhere. The "peckerwood" saw mills reached their height of production in the first 10 years of the new century. Weatherford's was the first "permanent" saw mill in the neighborhood, but when he sold out around 1900 and left the community, others came to take its place. Lon Lowe operated a good-sized mill toward the back of his farm on the banks of the Okatibbee. Rev. Sammy Rosenan located a mill on the northwest corner of the forks of Allen Swamp and Pine Springs Roads. Tom Love, whose farm was on the southeast corner of Pine Springs and Ernest

White Road, owned and operated a peckerwood mill which he moved from place to place. By 1910, most every farm had a rotting sawdust pile where a mill had been set up to cut timber that had been sold "on the stump".

* * * * *

In November 1900, Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Mary Jane Wright sold their log house and 80 acres in Sec. 4 to Hill and Miss Luly Wolfe and moved to the land west of Pine Springs Gen. Store. Hillard C. Wolfe, age 49, had been influenced to move to Pine Springs by his younger brother, Cas Wolfe, who had come a year earlier.

Hill, who grew up in Kemper County, had married Miss Lucile L. Garret in the early 1870's. The Garrets were from Jasper County, Georgia, where Miss Luly had been born in 1852. Hill and Luly had been blessed with only one child, Thomas, who was born in 1874. Young Tommy was named for his uncle Thomas P. Garret, Miss Luly's brother.

Tom Garret, leaving Georgia before the rest of the Garret family, had married and settled in Arkansas before the Civil War. He fought with the Confederate Army, but while he was away he lost his wife and only child to Yellow Fever.

On December 1876, Tom Garret and his brother-in-law, Hill Wolfe, together bought a 130-acre farm north of Marion Station on the Daleville Road. [In S-10,T-7,R-16E] A widower, Tom shared a house with Luly and her husband and the two men farmed the place together.

Tom was in Marion Station on election day in 1878 when five determined black men rode in to vote. Shooting started and several white men were killed. Four of the Negroes got away, but the fifth was killed by a shot in the head. Examination revealed that the black had a plowshare (a sweep?) under shirt, suspended by a cord about his neck. Several men claimed to have been the one that killed the man, and Garret always wondered if he had been responsible. Garret said that he had aimed at the man's head with his Derringer, having noticed that the men seemed untouched by body shots. Four-year-old Tommy Wolfe, playing at home, recalled hearing the gunfire from the riot and told of the incident to his children.

Tommy grew up near Marion Station. After finishing school there, he went to Meridian to study bookkeeping. Upon graduation, he went to work for John W. Harrington at Harrington's store in Obadiah. Working there, he met Julia Harrington, his employer's cousin.

Miss Emma Julia Harrington was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Benjamin Harrington of

Obadiah. Her father, a Confederate soldier, had enlisted at Marion Station on Feb. 8, 1862. At the Battle of Jonesboro, the last gasp of Gen. Hood's forces before Sherman burned Atlanta, Harrington caught a minie ball in his right leg. John Benjamin was carried from the field by John W. Harrington, his cousin. The cousin returned to battle only to be seriously wounded himself.

John B. Harrington's leg was taken off and he stumped through the remaining 44½ years of his life on a peg leg. His cousin, John W. Harrington, recovered from his wounds and later opened the store in Obadiah where Tommy Wolfe worked.

John B. Harrington married Elizabeth Jones and had seven children. Their second child, Miss Julia, born in 1874, married Tommy Wolfe around 1900.

Thomas P. Garret died on July 15, 1899 and was buried at Barker Cemetery at Marion. After old Tom died, Hill Wolfe sold the Marion farm and moved to Pine Springs in November, 1900. That same month, Tommy Wolfe bought the 80 acres directly across the Pine Springs Road from Benjamin N. and Mattie Harrington. [W½SE¼,S-4] Ben Harrington, who had moved to Meridian, was a relative (a brother?) of Tommy's wife.

Tommy and Julia built a house on top of a hill on the east side of the road in Sec. 4. It was a well constructed 5 room house (three rooms on one side and two on the other of an enclosed hallway) with front and back porches. Finished with care inside and out, it was a nice house. Tommy, being a good bookkeeper, kept a neat journal of his expenditures on the house along with his farm accounts.

Mr. Tommy Wolfe was a Methodist lay-preacher and often preached at the Union Church in Pine Springs. Tommy's boys, (Hill Wolfe's grandchildren) who were born in Pine Springs before 1910, were Roy, 1904; Lester, 1905; and Chestine, 1908. The older Wolfe brothers, Hill and Cas and Hill's son, Tommy, were a close-knit family, all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. When Cas lost his farm in 1906, he moved into an old house on Hill's farm in Sec. 4.

* * * * *

Uncle Jimmy Wright's son, Joe, came to live in Pine Springs in 1901. Joe and Clara first lived on 40 acres they bought in Sec. 5 in "western" Pine Springs, on a bluff overlooking Bales Creek near the point where it emptied into the Okatibbee. On June 6, 1904, Joe and Clara bought the new Pine Springs General Store that Sammy Bozeman had just completed. They moved into the old Weatherford house behind the store and across from the school.

It was Joe that sold Albert and Sara Lockard the long narrow strip of land south of the store where they built their home in 1908.

Joe went to work as a railway mail clerk on the NO&NE Railroad on the Meridian to Shreveport run. He had to be gone from home for periods of time, but Clara and his parents, who moved in with Joe as they became older, kept the store.

Joe and Clara had three children, all thought to have been born in Pine Springs. Their birth dates are not known, but their names were Ralph, Grace, and Joe T., Jr.

* * * * *

When Samuel David Kinard married Laura Caroline Jones a month before Christmas in 1900, he became a resident of Pine Springs; descendants say that the young couple lived with Laura's parents when they first married. Mr. Spinks and Miss Canny Jones, themselves newcomers to the community, were then living in their log house in Sec. 3.

Sam Kinard, who altered the spelling of the family name, descended from a Kynerd family who came to the American colonies in the early 1700's with a group of other German immigrants. The group settled in an area known as Dutch Fork at the junction of the Broad and Saluda Rivers in South Carolina. Speaking only German, the group did not intermarry with English speaking people until around 1800. They had no love for the British and fought with the Americans in our War for Independence.

A son of one of the Germans who fought was Jacob Kynerd, born in 1796 in South Carolina. An only child, Jacob lost both parents when he was very young. He was taken in and raised by Aaron and Mary Taylor of the Lexington District. Jacob and his foster parents' daughter, Rosannah, came to love each other and were married in 1816.

Two years after their wedding, Jacob and Rosannah Kynerd traveled 500 miles by ox-wagon to settle in the wilderness near the Cahaba River in Alabama Territory. A wagon crossroad three miles from their home developed into a village which later became Marian, in Perry County, Alabama. The Kynerds had 14 children, all raised in Perry County.

Salathial Kynerd, born in 1821, was the third child of Jacob and Rosannah. His first wife was Martha Ann Wilkerson, whom he married in 1845. Salathial was one of three of Jacob's children who sold out in Alabama, gathered their 'bottles and gourds', spouses, children, and slaves, and migrated to Mississippi in 1851. He and Martha Ann were well established on their plantation in Lauderdale County and had five children at the

time of the South's secession.

When war came, Salathial and his oldest son, Matthias, both fought in Co. C of the 24th Calvary in the 2nd Miss. Reg't in the Confederate Army. Martha Ann died shortly after the war (1868) and a year later, Salathial married Miss Irene Pace, daughter of Alsa Pace of Pine Springs. Irene had no children of her own, but became a good wife and mother to Salathial's family.

Salathial's fourth child, commonly called "Jack", was named Christopher Columbus Kynerd, born 1855 on the family plantation near Marion Station. (Jack spelled the Kynerd name "Kinerd".) In 1873, Jack married Virginia J. Richardson (called Jenny), and they bought a farm near her father, Ransom C. Richardson. (Ransom and Lucy Richardson still lived at the place they settled at Drip Off in the 1830's. Miss Lucy had become a mainstay of the Primitive Baptist Church at Gumlog.)

The fourth child of Jack and Jenny Kinerds' eight children was our Sam, born 1880, who moved to Pine Springs when he married Miss Laura Jones.

Sam and Laura had no money when they started out. Miss Laura used to tell that they could not hire help to pick their cotton. She and Sam picked the entire crop themselves. They had been married three years before they bought a place of their own. In 1903, they bought 40 acres from Mr. Jones, and built their new house. [NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,S-3] They already had two sons and Sam planned for a large family; the house he built was made for expansion. On the east-west road (today's Brown-Hooke Rd.) south of Albert Pace's farm, the Kinard home was about half way between Pace's and Jim Snowden's.

Five years later, Sam bought the south half of the quarter section where their home was located, adding 80 acres to their farm. In 1910, he bought another portion of his father-in-law's farm when Spinks and Miss Canny Jones moved to Sand Flat. In time, Sam also bought the old Alsa Pace farm, which lay in Sec. 34, just across the road from his home.

Sam's parents belonged to Gumlog Baptist Church, but Sam and Laura brought up their children in Fellowship Baptist. They had a year-old son, Samuel Odell, who died in 1904, but in 1910 their remaining children numbered four; Willie (William Franklin, 1901; Luna Mae, 1905; Charles Burton, 1909; and Virginia Lavada, 1910.

The Kinard children began school at Pine Springs, walking the two-mile distance from their home as a group with other neighborhood children. Miss Luna recalled that when she began school, there were fording places to cross branches along the way. Cecil Pace, one of the 'big boys', carried the little fellows whose legs were too short to

jump, across the wet places. The low wood-timbered bridges were not built at the fords until after horseless carriages began to appear.

* * * * *

On December 9, 1903, 44-year-old Jefferson Davis Brown bought the east 40 of Jarrit Snowden's 80-acre farm in Sec. 33. [NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-33] Snowden was husband of Jeff Brown's oldest daughter, Vennie.

Jeff, born in 1859, was son of the early settler David M. Brown, the first child of Rebecca J. Richardson, David's second wife. On Dec. 23, 1871, Jeff married Charlotte Avaline Pruitt, (b. 1854 in Kemper Co.), daughter of Thomas M. and Naomi Windham Pruitt. He inherited land in Drip Off from his father, but lived in Kemper before coming to Pine Springs. Mrs. "Avie" Brown had died three years earlier (Dec. 19, 1900), so Jeff probably moved to be near his daughter, Mrs. Vennie Snowden.

Jeff put up a plain but serviceable wood-frame house east of the Pine Springs Road across from Jarrit and Vinnie Snowden's new home. His house, on the western edge of his 40 acres, set back from the road some 600 yards.

Brown's married children, not necessarily in order of birth, were Jesse B., 1872, who m. Irene Pace; Vennie Vilula, 1873; David, who m. Vada Stephens; William Luther "Buster", 1878, who m. Nellie Barnett (sister of Gov. Ross Barnett); B. Frank(lin), who m. (1) Fannie Curtis and, in 1907, (2) Pearl Powell, dau. of A.A. Powell.

Maggie; Myrtie Louvenia, 13; Jimmie, 10; and Osia, 8, were young and came with Mr. Brown when they moved. Miss Maggie, however, soon married Bud (Callie) Ratcliff, cousin of the L.L. Ratcliff who later came to Pine Springs.

Myrtie Brown married William Henry Vincent in Pine Springs on Dec. 23, 1909. She and Will lived in the house with her father after their marriage and she kept house for him and her two younger brothers. (Will was son of Issac H. and Cornelia A. Jolly Vincent from the western part of Beat 3, and was nephew of Felix Vincent of Pine Springs.)

Myrtie and Will lived with Mr. Jeff until 1912 when he sold his farm to Jesse Bounds and moved away. The two younger Brown boys, Jimmie and Osia, married after they left. (Jim married Blanch Pace and Osia married Myrtle George.)

It is not known where Jeff Brown lived after he left, but he died Dec. 18, 1929 and was buried at Pace's Fellowship Church.

* * * * *

Andy (Andrew Pickens) Pace, born and reared in the community, was no stranger to Pine Springs when he returned to buy back his old farm on the 21st of December, 1903. One of the younger sons of Bennet R. Pace, Andy had first bought land in Sec. 5 in 1887. A year later, he had taken a saw mill job in Laurel and he and Lavici Anne had moved to south Mississippi. At the time it seemed the thing to do was to sell their farm.

After a 15 year absence, Andy and Lavici Anne were both eager to get back among family and friends in Pine Springs. They must have had fond memories of the little house in the wooded hills where they lived when they first married, for as soon as they returned, Andy commenced trying to buy it back.

Joe Wright owned the Pace's former home on the bluff overlooking Bales Creek, and he was very willing to sell. Joe was involved in buying the store from Bozeman, and he gladly sold Andy the house and 40 acres. [SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-5] Cas Wolfe owned the adjoining 40 acres and was tickled pink when Andy offered to buy it. [NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-5] Cas was going broke trying to farm it and the cash looked mighty good. Joe Wright and Cas Wolfe each deeded Andrew Pace 40 acres on the same day, Nov. 21, 1903.

Alas, farming had changed while Andrew and Lavici Anne were gone. Lower cotton exports and over-planting by those trying to make a decent farming living continued to drive the price of cotton downward. It was harder to wrest a good crop on the depleted land. The Paces had a whole table of plates to set for their large family. Having become accustomed to a weekly salary, it was hard for Andy to get by on a curtailed income.

It took Andy three years and a month to give up on farm life. His two older boys, Ben and Carl, unaccustomed to endless labor in the field, made their father poor field-hands. On Dec. 20, 1905, Andy sold their 80 acres to Hard Smith. Andy went out and found himself a job.

Tommy Wolfe must have told Andy about the clerking/bookkeeping work he had held at Harrington's store in Obadiah. Andy went to work there and they rented a place to live.

After working a time for Harrington, Andy took jobs at other stores. They lived here and there about the area, but as far as is known, they were never able to buy another home.

Andrew died in March 1925; Lavici Anne died in April 1945. Both were buried at Pace's Fellowship Baptist Church. Their nine children were Ben (William Bennet), 1888, m. Marie New, dau. of Joel New of Pine Springs; Carl, m. Minnie Fullenwonder; Bernice, 1894, m. Truly Laster, lived in Meridian; Ruby, m. Stamford L. Avera, had farm above Pine Springs; Martha, m. Grady Irby; Beulah Mae, m. Andrew

Husbands, mechanic, garage in Meridian; Marvin m. Annie Mae Crenshaw, had farm N. of Pine Springs, was Constable, Beat 3, 1930's; Roscoe went "up North" (Detroit?); Donnie m. Earl Freeman.

* * * * *

Although the surname, New, is not often found in Lauderdale County, it is a name that has been in the American colonies since Richard "Newe" was imported from Bristol, England, to Jamestown, Virginia, in January 1637. Richard Newe (New) worked out his indenture and, in 1655, he patented 750 acres of land located north of the James River and east of the Chickahomany River in James City County, Virginia. New's land patent states that his land adjoined the land owned by Thomas Rolphe (Rolfe) (the son of John Rolfe and Pochontas, daughter of the Indian Chief, Powhatan).

Successive generations of the New family in Virginia leads to one Jacob New, a soldier of the American Revolution. Jacob married Edy (Edith) Swinney in Amherst County, Virginia in 1785, but migrated to Wilkes Co., Georgia around 1800. One of their ten children (nine sons, one daughter), Joel New, migrated with Jacob and Edy to Henry Co., Georgia in 1821 when Jacob won 202 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land in a land lottery. The part of Henry County where Jacob and Joel settled became DeKalb County when the large county was divided.

Joel New, born 1790 before the family left Virginia, was already married to his wife, Catherine, when he came to settle in Henry (DeKalb) County. Their son, Edward Vandergriff New, who later came to Mississippi, was born in 1825 near Stone Mountain near the village of Lithonia. On Sept. 3, 1848, E. V. New married Margaret Bishop, daughter of Reuben and Nancy Wooten Bishop of Lithonia.

Ed New, by education or training, or both, was a surveyor for the railroads and was away from home much of the time during the early years of his marriage. In the late 1850's, Ed was working for the Alabama & Vicksburg Railroad Company, building track for the new line that was to open in Mississippi between Meridian and Vicksburg. This time, Margaret and their two children, Susan and Luke, came to Meridian to live closer to Ed's job. Bright, scrupulous and not afraid of work, Ed helped site the route the track was to take. Mr. New was later to relate to his grandchildren how he "eye-balled" the route the track took through the Vicksburg hills and bluffs down to the boats along the Mississippi River.

On May 29, 1861, the first train arrived at Meridian from the east to open the new line from

Meridian to Brandon. Edward and Margaret New were on hand to see the dignitaries arrive on the new line. The Civil War had begun and the A&V Railroad was to play an important role in transporting troops and war supplies from Vicksburg to the Confederates on the battlefronts in the coming years.

E. V. New did not fight in the war. When the rail line was finished he asked for the job of road foreman on Section #1, the first segment of the line west of Meridian, and was too busy keeping the trains rolling to fight with the troops. With a shortage of manpower, Margaret New became one of the heroic ladies that worked for the South. She worked a group of slaves that cut wood to haul to the woodyard beside the tracks to fuel the steam engines.

In February 1864, when Gen. Sherman burned the crossties and made bow-ties from the rails, declaring that Meridian, as a rail center, not longer existed; it took the railroad men 28 working days to have the tracks open and ready for rolling stock. Ed New was one of the workers who rebuilt the miles of track the Yankees had destroyed.

After the war, Ed and Margaret New bought a farm and settled in the western part of the county near the town of Meehan. He had Margaret had three more children, Elijah, 1861; Joel, 1863; and Edward V., Jr., 1866. Ed and Margaret both died around 1900 and were buried at Goodwater Baptist Church, a mile from their home.

Named for his grandfather, Joel New (II) was the son that married the schoolma'am, Miss Mamie Wellborn, in 1891, and had four children (Joel Henry, Edward Leon, Minnie and Marie) when she died with appendicitis in 1900. After her death Joel, working as foreman on the A&V bridge gang, rented a house at Gumlog Church near Dr. Dee Pace. Mrs. Allie Pace, who had no children of her own at that time, kept her sister's children while Joel worked.

Dr. and Mrs. Wellborn, the childrens' maternal grandparents, were living with the Paces then, and helped entertain the young boys by telling about the romantic days of the old South. Dee and Allie Pace wanted to adopt the littlest girl, but Joel gruffly told them he had no children to give away.

While visiting at the Paces', Joel met Miss Ellie Pratt, Albert Pace's sister-in-law, a school teacher. Ellie was a fine woman and Joel thought she would make a good wife and would care for his young children. They were married on the 5th day of June in 1901. In 1902, Joel's and Ellie's first child, Lorena, was born, and in February, 1904, their second baby came prematurely.



Wedding Picture of Joel New and his second wife, Eillie Pratt. 1901

The tiny infant, named Mary Margaret for her two grandmothers, weighed 3 pounds at birth. Dr. Pace and Joel both remarked that there was no hope that she would live. Grandma Pratt took these pronouncements as a personal insult to her wee namesake, and took over the baby's care. She placed it in a shoebox near the fireplace, warming bricks to keep it cozy. Little Mary wore her mother's wedding band as a bracelet, and the only way she could be handled was on a pillow. With careful attention, Mrs. Pratt kept the infant alive for three months.

Working long hours on the railroad and feeling that he needed to be home more, Joel looked about for a farm to buy. It was a bad time to be going into farm. Even George Lockhard, who usually had extra capital with which to operate, came close to going broke and was forced to sell off part of his timber lands to keep from going under. In 1901, Lockhard sold the north half of the Pine Springs farm he had acquired from his late Aunt Latitia Lacy to Thomas Donald, a black from the other side of Bales Creek. [N ½ NW1/4, S-4] In 1904, Lockhard sold the south half of the farm (120 acres) to Joel New. [S ½ NW1/4 & NW 1/4 SW 1/4, S-4]

The only house on the place was the weather-beaten log house that had been built by Gus Clay back in 1855. It was hardly fit for habitation, but the News

cleaned and patched it up, and moved in. Joel would build another house on the place, but first he had to get the overgrown fields back into production. Their livelihood depended upon it.

It was incredible how much Joel, his two sons, and a black hired hand accomplished over the next year. It was important that Henry and Leon, 11 and 10 years old, work like grown men. And they did. They cleared the brush and Pine saplings from nearly 40 acres of overgrown fields on the back portion of the farm which was located behind Hill Wolfe's place, but Joel felt they still needed more fields.

The only other flat place on the hilly farm was a strip of "craw-fishy" bottomland along the Old Slough that flowed around the foot of the last hill of the chain of hills bordered the swamps. This sand hill jutted out from the others, with low ground lying around three side of its steep sides. Joel looked at this lone hill, felt the rich soil which had never been plowed, shook his head, and looked again. Terraces would not work; the hillside was too steep for that. It would take a sight of digging, but if he cut deep drainage ditches around the three sides, he believed he could plow with the contours of the hill and keep it from washing away. It would be a chore to keep the ditches open, but it would leave his lowlands, which were subject to flooding, free pasture cows.

Joel and his two boys, after clearing away from the trees, dug a series of drains, top to bottom, following the contours of the sandy hill. In the steepest places the cuts between the ditches would be no more than 8 feet wide, but near the bottom, where there was more slope to the land, they left 25 to 30 feet between the drains. To site where the ditches should be placed, Joel made a tall frame of 1x4 boards, shaped like a fat capital 'A', and placed his long carpenter's level across the center board. He used this contraption to determine where and how deep the ditches should be dug.

It became one of their regular jobs each winter to clean out the ditches and clear the banks of the year's accumulation of scrub vegetation. For as many years as Joel New farmed, he planted the "Sand Hill", and it produced well. [The Sand Hill, now owned by US Government, is high ground between Pine Springs Park's swimming area and the boat ramp on Okatibbee Lake. Traces of Joel New's ditches can still be seen there on the hillside.]

Mr. New felt it important that his children be

educated and no matter how much he needed them at home, he always sent his students when school was in session. They started school in Obadiah, but transferred to Pine Springs in 1904.

Henry and Leon were not just brothers, but best friends. They did everything together. They might grouse to each other about their work but they didn't let Papa hear; Joel couldn't abide laziness. They didn't complain too much for Joel worked harder than they did. They understood their help was necessary. Joel's word was law and he rarely had to speak more than once to be obeyed. Joel had a gruff, abrupt, way of speaking to his children, but he was a fair man and was lenient when it was possible. They knew he loved them and had the family's welfare in mind.

Henry and Leon did not try to shirk, but contrived ways to make work easier. Tired of carrying water from the well at the house to fill the horse trough at the barn, the boys started digging a well at the barn to water the mules. Joel knew what the boys were up to, but made no comment. When the hole was deep enough, he brought boards to build a well-shelter, and got rope and a pulley at the store so they could draw water. He didn't have to say how pleased he was with their efforts; they knew he was proud of what they had accomplished.

Joel could also let them know when he was displeased without having to go into a lot of discussion - like the time they rigged up their 'automatic' mule feeder.

Day began before dawn on the farm. When Henry and Leon were waked, they went to the barn and fed the mules before returning to breakfast with the family. They were harnessed up and in the field, ready to begin plowing by sun-up. Henry and Leon thought how wonderful it would be if they could lie a-bed 30 more minutes in the mornings and devised a plan so they could sleep later.

One evening, they put the mules' morning corn in a bucket and suspended it over the feed trough. Attaching plowlines to the bucket, they ran the lines to the house and through their bedroom window. They could hardly wait for morning so they could enjoy a late snooze.

Next morning when they were awakened, they pulled the plowlines to dump corn into the troughs and jumped back into bed to catch some more Z's. In a few minutes here came Papa, a trifle impatient, and again told them to roll out.

"But, Papa, we've already fed the mules," Henry said, and explained about their invention.

"You boys go down there and feed those mules right," Joel said, and walked out.

Somehow the boys got the feeling Papa didn't

think much of their invention and dismantled their mule-feeder.

By 1907, Joel felt they were ready to build a house. Miss Ellie wanted the new house to be underneath the old Liveoaks on the spot where the old double-cabin log house stood. As they were occupying the old house, Joel planned to build their new home half at a time.

The family moved, cramped, into half the old house while the vacated half was placed on logs and poled down the slope behind the house. Then Joel and his two boys built three big rooms, one behind the other, and they lived in these while the process of moving-rebuilding was repeated on the other half. When they finished, they had a five-room house with a wide enclosed hallway and the customary Southern porches. Joel had rived the wooden shingles and painted the siding white, as all painted houses were at that time.

Joel and Ellie New had two more children, both boys, by 1910. That year the New children were Henry, 16; Leon, 15; Minnie, 14; Marie, 12; Lorena, 8; Herman 4; and Jodie (Joe), 2.

The News were not rich in money, but they grew most everything they needed. They were all required to do their share of labor, but their barns bulged with corn, oats, peanuts, and Miss Ellie's fruit jars were full from her efforts of canning. Joel never believed in buying on credit, but their cotton money, if carefully husbanded, saw them through the coming year. Joel set out fruit trees - peach, apple, pears, figs - and he planted plenty corn and peanuts to feed his cows and hogs. He had a herd of Jerseys which not only pastured on his land, but went into the cane brakes in the swamps to feed themselves during the winter.

Joel usually kept 8 to 10 milk cows to have cream to sell, and to furnish all the milk the family could drink. What was left (clabbered milk) was fed to chickens, dogs, and their numerous cats. Joel built a rather large cow barn, but kept the ancient sagging log barn to stable the horses and mules.

In articles appearing in the Meridian newspaper, farmers were urged to plant crops other than cotton, along with tips and suggestions on how they could better their crop production. Agriculture was taught in the county schools and, in 1909, J. R. Ellis, County School Superintendent, announced a corn-growing contest for the boys of the county. To introduce a better strain of hybrid corn, the county was furnishing seed to the contestants. Each boy would get the same amount of free seed and, at the end of the year, the boy that had the biggest crop return would win. Prize to be announced later.

In The Sunday Morning Star, March 6, 1910, Supt. Ellis announced that 100 county boys had already entered the corn-growing contest and were getting their ground ready, and that he had passed out 12 to 15 bushels of seed corn. He listed the boys who had entered, and from RFD #1, Bailey, only two had entered: Henry and Leon New.

* * * * *

The Huffmaster family that came to Pine Springs about 1907 originated in Wurtemberg, Germany where their name was spelled Hofmeister. Charles Hofmeister, born in "the old country" in 1815, was trained to be a cobbler. He came to New York around 1835 with two of his brothers. One brother remained in New York and became rich; his second brother went to Texas, but later died in the Civil War.

Charles traveled for a while, but at age 27 he married Miss Vica "Vicie" McLendon of Centerville, Bibb Co., Alabama on November 7, 1842. Charles and Vicie Hofmeister moved to Mobile where he practiced his craft. Charles had his own shop and they had six children when the Civil War came. Charles left with the Confederates to make boots and harness for the army, leaving Vicie and their six children in Mobile.

Many residents fled Mobile when the Union gunboats came to Mobile Bay. Vicie and the children left to escape the bombardment of the city, and the first census after the war, taken in 1870, shows Charles and Vicie with four of their children living in Obadiah, Beat 3, in Lauderdale County. By then, the Hofmeister name had been Americanized to Hofmaster; in later years Charles' grandsons spelled it Huffmaster.

Lawlessness and rioting were rampant across much of the post-war South, but as soon as it was safe the Hofmasters wanted to return to Mobile. Soon after 1870, Charles went on a trip to Mobile to check on conditions there.

Vicie waited and watched, but Charles never came. About two months after he left, a stranger came saying he had heard her husband was overdue, and asked what he looked like. Vicie described Charles and the gentleman sadly shook his head.

"Yes," he said, "That was him that I saw."

He went on to say he had found Charles' body beside the railroad track near Enterprise down in Clarke County, and had buried him where he found him. Charles had been waylaid by some assassin, or thrown from a train. The family never found out what had happened.

Vicie and three of her four sons moved to Kemper County where they lived on a farm near Prismatic.

She and two of her sons, Thomas and Lewis who never married, lived out their years there and were buried at Bethel Church Cemetery in Kemper.

Floren Pickney Hofmaster, Sr., Vicie's oldest son, was born in Mobile in 1845. He married Miss Martha Jane "Pat" Stevens in the early 1870's and, after living near Prismatic, bought a homestead in Neshoba County where they raised seven children. Floren died in 1887, but Pat lived until 1937. They were buried in Golden Grove Cemetery.

Two sons of Floren Hofmaster, Sr., Lewis Jasper Huffmaster, born 1874, and Rev. Matthew Alexander Huffmaster, born 1878, came to live in Pine Springs.

Lewis Huffmaster made his living from tilling the soil, but he never seemed to care much for owning his own land. Perhaps he liked farm life but thought it too much bother to become a landowner. After he married Allie Rebecca Miller in 1896, he farmed for a time for a Mr. Pinkston(?). He was in his early 30's when he came to work for Rev. Sammy Bozeman in Pine Springs. The Huffmasters moved into a tenant house on the Bozeman farm (in SE quarter of Sec. 9).

Sammy Bozeman mortgaged the 80 acres where Lewis Huffmaster farmed to a G. B. Barr. That August, Rev. Bozeman died rather unexpectedly, and Sis. Phronie could not meet the payment on the note. Barr foreclosed on the 80 acres, which was located between the Bozeman home and the Jim Thead farm. The Huffmasters stayed with the place to work for Mr. Barr but, in 1910, Barr talked Lewis into buying the farm.

Lewis and Allie Huffmaster had six children, William James, 1898; Florence Viola, 1900; Bonnie Ree, 1902; Bessie Mae, 1905; Lewis Edward, 1907; and Iva Opal, 1911.

Lewis' brother, Rev. Matthew A. Huffmaster, married Miss Viva Eulala Lisenbee of Alabama and they had three little girls, Viva, 6; Havana, 4; and Mary Sue, 1, when they lived in Pine Springs in 1910. It is not known with which church Rev. Matt Huffmaster was affiliated, but he preached at the Union Church the year they lived in Pine Springs. While in Pine Springs, they rented the upstairs living quarters in the big Bozeman home from Sis. Phronie, and Matt sharecropped on her land.

* * * * *

In 1903, 65-year-old Civil War veteran, William Burton Whitaker, came to Meridian with his second wife, Mary Elizabeth Simpson, and their four unmarried children. (Nancy Jane, 1867, James Thomas, 1869, John Robert, 1874, and Emma Victoria, 1877.) Mr. Whitaker and his sons erected a spoke factory,

Whitaker Bros. & Co., in Meridian on 17th Ave. And K Street, on the bank of Sowsashee Creek at the M&B Railroad, next to the Eagle Oil Mill.

There was a demand for wagon and buggy spokes, and the Whitakers increased their employment. Among their employees were a foreman, J.V. Shepherd, a sawyer, Evans, Walter Platt who worked in the shop, and R.L. Torrance who still lives in town.

Old Mr. Whitaker, still active in the family business, was a son of William and Mary Lew Whitaker from near Raleigh, North Carolina. He was born near Dyersburg, Tennessee in 1838, but grew up east of Tupelo, Mississippi on his father's plantation. In 1858, he married Matilda Jane Roberts, and they had two young children, Hanner Elizabeth (1859) and William Mark (1861), when William enlisted in the Confederate Calvary under Gen. Jefferson Forrest in March 1862.

After this General's death, until the end of the war, William became a courier under General Nathan Bedford Forrest, being one of that noted Calvary leader's advance guard. As courier, Whitaker was in contact with Generals Hood, Claiborne, and others of the Confederate Army. Pres. Jefferson Davis offered to promote William to Lt. Colonel for his bravery, but William preferred to remain a private. He was discharged in 1865 and returned to Tupelo.

Matilda Jane Whitaker died during the war, and William married his second wife in 1865. He farmed, ran a mill and gin and, later manufactured spokes in Tupelo. His two older children grew up, married, and remained on the farm, which William gave them.

With his two younger sons, James and John, he opened a foundry and scale shop in Tupelo, but sold out to move to Grenada to run a spoke factory. They sold this factory when they came to Meridian.

The Whitakers lived in a home old William B. built at 1200 18th Ave. In Meridian. In September 1906, Whitaker Bros. Bought 240 acres of land in the country. Part of this land, the 160 acres purchased from Tom Donald, was in the northern half of Sections 4 and 5 of Pine Springs. Donald, who lived in a black community (Shiloh) on the west side of Bales creek, had bought the Sec. 5 land (the northern half of the Lacy farm) from George Lockhard five years earlier.

The Company cut timber for its factory from its Pine Springs land over

the next two years, with some of the local farmers adding to their farm incomes by "cuttin' spokes". After the wood was cut, the older Whitaker brother James, recently married to Anna Cora Moorhead of Alabama, bought 120 acres of the cut-over timberland from the company for an investment.

James and Cora Whitaker lived in Meridian but rented their country land to be farmed by tenants. They put up a house on the west side of Pine Springs Road [up the hill from Pine Springs swimming area on Okatibbee lake] and rented it to J.J. and Lillie Roberts. One of their later tenants was Will and Minnie Skinner.

On October 11, 1906, Joseph Albert Wilson, 26 years old, had a job in the Southern Railroad shops in Meridian when he bought a farm in Pine Springs. That was the year he married Dora Edna White. Miss Edna was a daughter of Greenberry and Mary Anne White, who lived on Prince plantation before the Civil War. Greenberry had passed away and Miss Edna was living in Meridian with her mother when she and Joe Wilson married.

The 80-acre farm Joe bought was across the road



1906. Joseph A. and Edna White Wilson

from Albert and Bettie Pace, and on the west side it adjoined the farm of Sam and Laura Kinard. [W^{1/2}NW^{1/4},S-3] Once a part of the late Maj. Adam T. Stennis plantation, Joe bought it from Willie (W.E.) Stennis and his wife, Pearl.

Joe and Edna Wilson lived in town on 39th Ave. when they first married while Joe continued with his railroad job. In 1907, their son was born. They named him Joseph Edward, but called him Little Joe Eddie. The boy began his schooling at Chalk School in Meridian.

Joe built a tenant house, not much more than a shack, and rented it to Frank Love, who's wife had been Joe's late aunt, Alice Wilson. Frank, after all his children married, lived with his son and daughter-in-law, Jodie and Mary Sue Love.

Joseph Wilson was a member of a rather large Wilson family who were scattered over Gumlog, Bailey, and Obadiah. Strong circumstantial evidence shows they were descendants of a James Wilson who had come to Lauderdale County in the late 1830's. James, born in Raford's Fort, South Carolina about 1761, had fought in the Revolution with the South Carolina Militia under Col. Elijah Clarke and then in the Georgia Militia under his brother, Capt. John Wilson. After independence had been won, James married and settled near Augusta, Georgia, in Richmond County, later, Warren County. [Warren Co. was formed from Richmond Co. in 1793.]

All of James Wilson's children are not known, but at least two sons, Samuel and Abner, migrated with James to Alabama before the Creek Indian Wars, settling in Clarke County. (Two of the Wilsons fought in the Militia with Hays Rodgers in 1813. Rodgers had saved Matthew Wilson's life.) In 1832, James obtained a patent on land in Sumter County, living there until about 1837-38 when his house burned and he moved to Mississippi.

The old veteran was 79 in Lauderdale County in May 1840, when he applied for a war pension. He stated that he had not applied earlier because he was able to make his own way until everything he had was burned. He was too old, he said, to try to start over. Col. Sam Dale witnessed Wilson's application, stating he had know James Wilson for over 20 years. James was granted a pension of \$100, but the old pioneer died and did not collect it.

Young James Wilson [Son or grandson of the Revolutionary Veteran?] was nearly 20, living with his widowed mother, Lucy (Lucinda) Wilson, and his three teen-aged sisters when he was listed in the 1840 Lauderdale County census. He married Nancy Hayes in Lauderdale County in the 1840's, living southwest of where Col. Sam Bailey came

to build his store. James traded land a time or two, but in December 1851, he and Nancy bought William Stringer's land between Pine Springs and Gumlog Church. This last move was permanent, and the Wilsons and their children were buried in Gumlog Cemetery when their time came.

Mrs. Nancy Wilson died in 1858 with the birth of their sixth child. After the loss of his wife, his mother, Lucy Wilson, and his two unmarried sisters, Jane and Lucinda, came to live with him.

[Older descendants of James Wilson remember James' sister, Jane, as an elderly spinster. Aunt Jane would fan herself with her turkey-wing fan and tell of the days when she was a girl in the ante-bellum south. Her sister, Lucinda, married a Yankee after the war. Her hope chest was filled with embroidered table linen and under-garments trimmed with handmade tatted and crocheted lace. Grandma Lucy Wilson's animosity toward the North was so great that, when Lucinda married, the old lady took Lucinda's trunk out to the yard and burned it. Grandma Wilson, keeping house for James, also lived to a ripe old age. Miss Lucy is remembered as a spry old lady in a home-spun dress and sun-bonnet, who regularly attended Gumlog Church by riding sidesaddle on her little mule.]

The eldest child of James and Nancy Wilson was a son, Ulysses Lafayette Wilson. "Fayett", or "Fate", was 18 when he enlisted in Co. C of the 41st Miss. Infantry, Confederate Army, under Capt. Hicks and Col. W. F. Tucker. He fought in Tennessee and north Mississippi and told many tales of derring-do after the war.

Near the end of the war, Fate was captured and was being taken to a Union prison camp from which he somehow managed to escape. He was behind the lines and had quite an exciting time trying to get back to his company. He dodged about the woods for a couple of days, keeping out of sight, but hunger drove him to a farmhouse for food. The older couple who lived there took him in, fed him, and told him he could stay the night.

Fate was at the table when three Yankees rode in and began to question him. Fate played dumb and the old man told them that his "son" was sort of simple minded. The farmer told Fate he would have to sleep in the barn, as the soldiers had taken their extra bed. Aside, he told Fate to scratch around in the hay to find some hidden apples and to fill his pockets. Fate peeped out at daybreak and saw a soldier standing guard. He tipped out the back way.

After another day spent in walking, Fate again stopped at a farm to beg food. He was given fried pork, cornbread and baked sweet potatoes, but was told to go quickly because there were Yankees all

about. Returning to the woods, Fate sat down behind some bushes to enjoy his feast.

While relishing his supper, he looked down the fence row and saw a Yankee leaning over the rails, enjoying a cigar. Fate stopped breathing and froze until the soldier finished his smoke and left. Fate eased out and got away from there. In time, he made it back across the line and rejoined his company.

A good talker who made friends easily, Fate hired out to work on a Tennessee farm when the war ended. He lived and worked as a hand for a lady named Della - last name unknown - staying with her nearly two years. Then he got homesick and walked home to Mississippi. He received a hero's welcome when he at last returned.

Fate lived for a time with the Wilsons' near neighbors, Jackie and Margaret Smith of Pine Springs. We do not know if he had hired out to work for Jackie or if he just stayed there because both enjoyed drinking and swapping tales. He fell in love with Miss Anne Mariah Brown, daughter of Capt. John and Eliza Davidson Brown. The Brown farm was beside Gumlog Church where Capt. Brown was the minister. Annie must have returned Fate's affection, for they were married on March 26, 1871.

Fate and his younger brother George W. Wilson, had been in the same outfit in the war. Both bought farms in Obadiah across the road from each other, just west of Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church. Fate and Annie had eleven children, six being sons. One of their sons was Joseph A. Wilson, who bought land in Pine Springs in 1906. Born in 1885, Joe was their fifth child.

The third child of Fate and Annie Wilson was Lidie (Lydia) Elizabeth, born in Obadiah on September 13, 1873.

It was a demonstrated fact that Fate had a quick temper. He was entertaining with his yarn-telling when he sat around country stores, but his temper was fractious at home with Annie and his children.

One story told on Fate was of the time he got mad at the wind. A thunderstorm was coming up and Fate was hurrying to get his horse saddled. He put the blanket on the horse's back and reached for his saddle when the gusting wind blew the blanket off. Fate chased it down, but again, when he reached for the saddle, the wind took the blanket away. Fate was pretty well "put out" when he ran after the pad the second time.

On the third try, he had the pad in one hand and the saddle in the other. He threw the blanket on with one hand and slapped on the saddle with the other. He yelled some non-repeatable oaths and shook his fist at the sky.

"NOW blow it off, damn ye!", he shouted.

At that moment a deafening roar of thunder sounded as lightning struck nearby.

"Now, Lord, don't get mad with me. I wasn't talkin' to You," he said, somewhat subdued.

Whenever Papa was angry, watch out! All Fate's children learned to step lightly when he was displeased - except his daughter, Lidie. The problem was that Lidie had about as much bad temper as her father. When he got snappish she snapped right back, which sometimes led to a fracas. Lidie left home to live with her granddaddy, Rev. John Brown, when Fate threatened to lock her up in the water-closet for her sass.

Rev. Brown, a Primitive Baptist, was a gentle person, although he was most strict about matters of religion. He had early gained experience in the US Army fighting the Seminole Indians in Florida, but was judged too old to fight in the Civil War. The confederates made him a Captain and stationed him near his home to train recruits at Marion and Enterprise. When two of his sons fell in battle, he became more religious, if possible, and was ordained a minister at the Gumlog Fellowship Baptist Church. Lidie Wilson was happier at her grandparents' home and remained there until she married.

Lidie married John Wesley White, a young Obadiah man, when she was 19. Their wedding date was December 4, 1892. Johnny White was a son of J.J. (John James) and Mary Jane White.

J. J. White, son of James Wesley White and brother of Mrs. Green Berry White (former resident of Pine Springs), had grown up in the county and had fought for the South in the Civil War. When J.J. married his third wife, Mary Jane, in 1872, they each had children from two former marriages. There were four 'sets' of children in the household when they married; the six children that J.J. and Mary Jane had together made the fifth set.

Johnny White, oldest of the fifth set of children, grew up in a rollicking, happy home where there was always activity of one kind or another. The all worked on the farm, but toiling together made it fun. They were a church-going, God-fearing family, but they wore their cloak of religion lightly.

When Johnny married Lidie Wilson, they set up housekeeping in "the Polly house", a tenant shack named for a former washer-woman, on the Rubush farm in Pine Springs. (Aunt Mattie Rubush was Mary Jane White's sister.) They had a baby daughter, Myrtie, born in the Polly house before they returned to Obadiah to buy the farm next to Johnny's parents. By the spring of 1908 when Johnny and Lidie again came to Pine Springs to live, Lidie had presented Johnny with nine children, with hopes

of more to come. (One of their little girls, Lillian Edney, had died when she was a year old.)

It was Charley Dabbs who talked John White into buying the big Rubush farm at Pine Springs. Charley was John's brother-in-law by virtue of having married John's half-sister, Miss Lee A. Radford. (Mary Jane White's second husband, Radford had died following an illness, and Lee Anna Radford, his only child; had been raised with Johnny in his step-father's home, Bob Dabbs, was murdered in the Chisolm-Gully feud. during Kemper County's reconstruction days.

Bob (Robert) Dabbs (b. 1837, Al) and his brother were printers in Dekalb before the war. A captain in the Confederate Army, he was wounded in the fierce fighting near Corinth, Mississippi. Following the war, he returned to find all in turmoil, due to the conflicts between carpetbaggers and scalawags on one side, and the Ku Klux Klan on the other.

Unable to resume his trade, Dabbs took a job as bartender at a tavern owned by John Gully, arch-enemy of the so-called scalawag leader W.W. Chisolm. In 1877, Walter Rile, a hired gun, shot Dabbs as he stood in the lighted doorway of the saloon. It was some time later that Riley was apprehended and hung for the murders of Bob Dabbs and John Gully.

Charley Dabbs, an only child, was born ten years before his father's death, and his mother was no longer living. Mark Dabbs, Bob's younger brother, took the boy to his Meridian home to raise. [Mark Dabbs, worked for Marks-Rothenberg & Co. in Meridian. An April 1910 edition of The Meridian Star reported that Mr. Mark Dabbs' fellow employees presented him with a watch upon his retirement.]

Some say that young Charley Dabbs started out with a pawn shop in Meridian. Whether this is true or not is not known, but when Merchants and Farmers Bank was organized in Meridian in 1907, Charley was one of its vice presidents.

Charley was not a big man, but he looked taller than his actual height. He had a proud bearing, and he spoke with a voice of self-assurance. His expensive suits, bowler hat, string tie, and diamond stick-pin marked him, in the early 1900's, as a man of affluence. He was exceedingly proud of his gold watch with its healthy chain, from which dangled an Elks fob that always attracted notice. The gold Fob had an embossed elk on front with two small



Charles E. Dabbs, 1867-1918

diamonds blazing from the animals eyes. Elsewhere the piece was a rather large ruby, three very nice diamonds, and some sort of blue stones worked into the emblem of the fraternity. He also had lapel pins from other organizations, but his watch and Elks fob was his favorite.

Flamboyant though he was, Charles Dabbs was good-hearted and generous to those he loved. He must have missed having close family ties in his early life, for he adopted his wife's family as his own. He loved his brother-in-law, John White, as if they were brothers of the same blood. Charley and Lee thought of John's older children as the family they were never able to have.

Builder Charles M. Rubush, at age 64, was ready to give up his farm, Foxworth. (Foxworth comprised around 400 acres, roughly covering the area of the original Stokes plantation in Sections 3, 9, and 10, with the main house being in the northwestern corner of Sec. 10. The Rubush children were grown and he developed other interests, and Charles and Mattie seldom ventured out to the country any more. It was as exciting to raise horses after



White family, 1910. L to R: Lidie with Leo, J.L. and Claude, on trike in front. Ernest and Leana behind John. Algie standing on box, then Lawrence, may Belle, and Myrtie. John White's home, shown here, was built by Judge Eldrige Gibbers in the late 1870's; it was destroyed by fire in 1918.

Racing was outlawed. Rubush spoke to his niece's husband, Charley Dabbs, about helping him dispose of the place, and Charley said he would help him sell it.

Charley Dabbs went to work on John White with his sales pith. John didn't have the money, but he talked him into forming a partnership on the farm; Charley would supply the cash, and John would live there with his family to provide the labor. Charley and Lee would continue to live in the city, but would reserve a room in the country home where they could visit on the week-ends.

John agreed, and he papers were signed on April 11, 1908.

The Rubush family moved their things out and that fall, John and Lidie White moved their family in. To the delight of the white children, the old race horse, Star of the East, was left behind. Star spent his last days in happy retirement at his old stable behind the house.

Charles M. Rubush died in 1915. He had had a full and interesting life and enjoyed every minute of it. Martha Ann "Mattie" Wedgeworth Rubush lived until 1940. The seven Rubush children were

Pearl, married Chas. E Girtin; Ruby, m. Eugene S. Bostick; Chas. M. Jr., m. Millie Gode; Jodie, m. (1) J.M. Bostick and (2) Vivian Moss; Zulu, m. W.T. Perry; Elmer, m. Lela Broyles; and Hazel.

In the early 1860's, Dr. Lovett (first name unknown) owned a farm adjacent to James W. and Eliza White in what is now the Obadiah community. Mrs. Myrtie Love, oldest daughter of John White, still recalls stories told her by the 'old folks' when she was a child in the 1890's. She was told of when Sherman's men came riding through the Obadiah community, James White (Myrtie's great grandfather) and Dr. Lovett took to the woods to hide.

Miss Myrtie said they laughed about how Dr. Lovett, with his long legs, had shinnied up a tall tree to watch for the enemy. When he had spied the Yankees coming from towards the Philadelphia Road, he and old Grandpa White, fearing they would be apprehended, skedaddled to the tall timbers to lay low until the raiders passed. They "figgered"

the Yankees wouldn't harm the ladies and children. The Yankees did considerable damage to the White farm, but Mrs. Love was not told what had happened at the Lovett farm. [John Lovett's descendants say that before the Union soldiers came, their grandfather hid his money near the spring behind his home. He had not disclosed where it was before he died and the money was never found.]

Although she is not sure, Mrs. Love faintly recalls that Dr. Lovett had at least three children, but does not know their ages. One was a daughter, Minnie Lovett, who married a Mr. Mixon, and another was a son who "went off somewhere and made a doctor". The third Lovett was our John O. Lovett who came to live in Pine Springs. [A headstone marked "Mrs. L. C. Lovett" is in the Mt. Carmel Church Cemetery near the old Lovett homestead, but the dates are illegible. Was this John Lovett's mother?]

John O. Lovett was born after the war on June 30, 1872. His brief first marriage was to R. Lillian Denton in 1889, a daughter of A. M. and Mattie Judson Denton who lived in Obadiah. They were both young; he was 17 and she was 18 years old. Lillian died in February the following year and was buried in Gumlog Church Cemetery. She left no children.

In 1891, John Lovett married Miss Mattie White, older sister of Mrs. Joe Wilson who came to Pine Springs, both being daughters of Greenberry and Mary Anne White. John and Mattie had one daughter, Lottie, born the following year.

John Lovett was the only Lovett listed on the county tax roll in 1892, which showed John owned 160 acres of land in Sec 19, T-8, R-16E. This land was adjacent to the J.J. White farm, and apparently John Lovett had inherited it from his father. John and Mattie were living on this land two years later when Mattie was severely burned.

The accident happened in the wintertime after the Lovetts had butchered hogs. Mattie was rendering lard by cooking pigskins in her washpot. The pot, sitting upon bricks to allow more room for the fire, somehow tilted, and boiling grease splashed Mattie's long skirts and ignited. She was badly burned and death followed on May 16, 1894. She was buried near their home at Mt. Carmel Church.

After Mattie's death, John sold the Lovett farm to Johnny and Lidie White, and moved to Meridian to work in the railroad shops. Little Lottie Lovett went to live in town with her Grandma White (Mary Anne). It was six years before John married again.

John Lovett's third wife was Mildred Elizabeth Brown, this marriage taking place in 1900. Elizabeth was the second child of Robert Ridney

Brown and his wife, Alice Ethridge, a farm family who lived west of the Okatibbee near Gin Creek. (Many remember Elizabeth Lovett as "Miss Lizzie", but she detested the name.)

Robert R. Brown, Jr. was from a 3rd Brown family who came early to settle in Lauderdale County and left descendants who later lived in Pine Springs. Robert, Jr.'s grandparents had been George and Sarah Brown of South Carolina, who came from Wilcox and Mobile Counties in Alabama in the 1830's. The middle-aged couple bought a large tract of government land along both sides of Okatibbee Creek in Sections 21 and 28, a quarter-mile below the point where Rogers Creek empties into the Okatibbee. Old George died in 1850, leaving a will. He left his land to his two sons, John C. and Robert. George left a sizable estate and, although his two married daughters, Mary Ann Spier (Spears) and Elizabeth Patterson were left no land, they received slaves, money and other items such as "the silver teaspoons".

The younger son, Robert Brown, Sr., lived toward Suqualena on the half of the plantation he had inherited. After his wife, Sarah Latham, died, he moved to the eastern part of the county, where he wed Gaska White and served, at one time, as pastor of Salem Baptist Church. The youngest of Robert and Sarah Latham Brown's eight children was Robert Ridney, Mrs. Elizabeth Lovett's father.

Robert, Sr., then living near Toomsaba, received a message that his older son, George, a Confederate soldier, was wounded at Vicksburg and had been brought to Meridian. He sent young Robert, a gangling eleven-year-old, in a wagon with food, and with instructions to bring George on home. When young Robert arrived at the Army hospital, he found his brother had already died.

Robert Jr., was a tall boy, nearly as tall as a grown man, and they desperately needed help. Someone handed him a rifle and put him to guarding the prisoner stockade. When the Confederate troops pulled out for Alabama, Robert took the gun and left with the soldiers. He never got around to enlisting, but he fought through the rest of the war. [In later years he was denied a pension because there was no record of his service.]

After the war, Robert married Alice and bought a farm on Gin Creek near today's West Lauderdale School. He tried farming but didn't do very well. At one time he built a kiln and made bricks. When times became so very bad for farmers, he took gunny sacks into Okatibbee swamp and gathered herbs to sell to drug companies. Indians had taught him the medicinal roots and herbs when when he was a boy. He claimed he could get more cash by "collecting" than he could from raising cotton.

Elizabeth, wife of John Lovett, was one of Robert R. Brown's eight children. In 1907, the Lovetts bought land in Pine Springs, along Okatibbee Creek in Sec. 17. The date they moved to the community is not certain.

Lottie Lovett was around 8 when her father re-married. Elizabeth wasn't "comfortable" having the child around, so Lottie continued to live in town, first with her aunt, Mrs. Minnie White Short, and later, with her cousin, Mrs. Ruth Hern, daughter of another aunt, Mrs. Beulah A.E. White Davis. Ruth Hern, herself a teacher, made it possible for young Lottie to get a good education.

John and Elizabeth had six children, all born before 1910. They were Roy, 1901; Albert, 1903; Alma (Albert's twin), 1903; Lewis, 1905; Little John (John, Jr.), 1908; and Herbert, 1909.

* * * * *

In the fall of 1906, the family of Markus Lafayette Hawkins moved to Pine Springs to live on The Lane. Hawkins' decision to move from their rented house on Hooper St. in Meridian to the Lowe farm had arrived suddenly.

There is a commonly held opinion that railroad men and the Irish all love good whiskey. Whether this is fact or fancy will not be discussed here, but Markus Hawkins was one red-headed Irishman who worked for the railroad shops that did his share to keep the argument for this opinion alive.

Markus was downtown visiting the taverns one day when he ran into Lon Lowe of Pine Springs. History does not record what transpired between the two men, but it was late in the afternoon when Markus returned to Hooper St. with a team of mules hitched to Lowe's wagon. The two men came into the house and told Mrs. Hawkins to hurry and get packed; they were moving to the country.

Lily Hawkins did not have time to pack properly, for Markus was impatient and the men immediately began to load the wagon with furniture. Lily gathered up their four young girls and did what she could, and soon found herself in their buggy, following the wagon containing all their belongings to Pine Springs.

It was around midnight when they arrived at the 4-room shack down The Lane from Lowe's big house. The cook stove was set up first so Lily could prepare something for their supper. As the bedsteads were set up, the girls spread the covers, and left the other "putting away" to be done next morning.

Markus Hawkins always told his girls that his father, William Lafayette Hawkins, had come to America to escape the potato famine that drove

so many Irish from their homeland in the late 1840's. [Among the passengers of the USS "Arkansas" that arrived at Mobile from Dublin, Ireland on April 9, 1849, were William Hawkins, a shoemaker, 30; George Hawkins, also a shoemaker, 28; and Mrs. Mary Hawkins, 25, with her children Samuel, 6; Eliza, 4; and William, 2.]

The year 1860 found William L. Hawkins, 20, a laborer, staying with the James Henderson family in Lauderdale County. It is not known if he fought in the up-coming war but, in 1868, he married Mrs. Rebecca Brown Lee in Lauderdale County. Rebecca, daughter of Robert Brown (Sr.) and oldest sister of Robert Ridney Brown, was the widow of Adam Lee of Suqualena, a fallen Confederate soldier. Markus L. Hawkins, born 1869, was Will and Rebecca Hawkins' oldest child.

Around 1880, the Hawkins had several children when they followed the railroad westward. Their 7th child, Alice, was named for Alice, Texas, where they lived in 1883. Their 8th child was born in 1885, about the time that William Hawkins was killed. William was buried along the tracks in Alice.

Rebecca Hawkins and her children (Markus was 17) returned to Lauderdale County to move in with her brother, Issac L. Brown, whose dairy farm was between Topton and Toomsaba. In time, she opened a boarding house for railroad men in Meridian's South Side and, by this means, she raised her children. They were all married by 1906 when the tornado that destroyed South Side did great damage to her home.

Rebecca was remembered by her grand-daughter, Minnie Hawkins White, as having luxuriant auburn hair, with thick tresses so long she could sit on them when she let it down to be brushed. Rebecca, with her fair complexion, developed skin cancer, which was the cause of her death ca1910.

Markus Hawkins had grown up in railroad camps and, being on the move, had no opportunity for education. He could scarcely write his name. When he returned to Mississippi with his mother, he went to work at the Northeastern Railroad shop to help support the family. From his mother he had inherited his thick red hair and from his father, he inherited a fiery temper. He came along in an environment where he had to fight with his fist or with his feet to get along. He learned to do either as the situation demanded.

An avid baseball player, Markus stayed with Uncle Issac Brown during the baseball season, playing with the Topton team. Handsome in his youth, he caught the eye of the young ladies who came to enjoy the game. One of the young ladies was Miss Lily Ophelia White, daughter of William V. "Bud" White and his wife, Frances "Fanny" Satcher of Toomsaba,

and grand-daughter of William V. H. White, a gentleman from Whynot and Toomsba. Markus and Lily were married on November 21, 1894. They had four daughters when they came to Pine Springs in 1906. (A fifth daughter, Audie Lee, had died young.) The Hawkins girls were Maude, 1895; Minnie, 1897; Virgie (Virginia), 1899; and Rilla, 1905.

Markus kept working for the Northeastern after they moved to Lowe's Pine Springs farm. Miss Lily arose early to make Markus breakfast and while he ate she hitched their buggy for his ride into town. After the Lovetts moved to the community, Markus rode to work with "Cud'n John". (Elizabeth Lovett was Markus' first cousin.)

* * * * *

In the late 1870's, four boys named Clark were orphaned. The names of their parents have been lost, but the names of the young brothers were James K., 1866; Joel, 1869; Theodore, 1871; and Early, 1876. The boys were raised in Beat 3, Lauderdale County by their uncle, Joel McWilliams, who became their guardian.

Mr. McWilliams was not young and he had no wife. He sent the three youngest boys to board at Cooper Normal College at Daleville. When they became of age, they were turned loose to make their own way.

The older Clark brothers seemed to have turned out well, but the youngest, Early (Earl), led a wild undisciplined life. In 1898, Earl, swept by the cries of "Remember the Maine!" and the exciting accounts of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders, joined the US Army to serve in the Spanish-American War.

Earl returned to civilian life after the war, and in 1906, his brother, Joe (Joel) Clark, bought part of the former 80-acre Andrew Pace farm in Pine Springs from Hard Smith. [W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,S-5] Joe stocked the farm with cattle and sent Earl to live in the old Andy Pace home to look after the cows. [Today's older Pine Springs residents still call the 40-ft. bluff at the east end of the dam overlooking Okatibbee Lake, "Clark's Bluff"]

Living alone in the western hills of Pine Springs, Earl did little to impress his neighbors. He was known as a ruffian who drank a lot and bragged about who he was to beat up or shoot. One time he announced that he was "carrying a gun" for Joel New, although it was never clear what New's offense was supposed to have been.

Aubrey Smith said that Earl Clark was a good cook. When Mr. Smith was a lad, he went by Clark's one day with his father, Kirby Smith, and Earl fed them a delicious steak. Raising cattle, Earl always had good meat on the table.

Joel Clark married and raised a family on his farm outside town, just north of today's Broadmoor Shopping Center. He opened a store on Poplar Springs Drive. Farm families coming to town would park their wagons at Joe's store and ride the street car on into the city. Miss Ebbie Smith recalls wagon trips to town with her father when she was small. On the Bailey Road, the long red-clay "Joe Clark hill" passed Joe Clark's store on the northern outskirts of town.

* * * * *

In 1909, John Andrew Townsend bought the southern half of the northeastern quarter of Sec. 16 in Pine Springs. John was called Mr. Sigh Townsend.

Older residents of Pine Springs recall Mr. Sigh Townsend, although it is surprising how few knew his real name. He acquired his nick-name from a habit he had of punctuating his statements with the word, "Sigh". Once his son Victor asked him why he said "sigh" so often.

"I vow, Victor Trussell (sigh)," Mr. Townsend said. "If (sigh) I ever used the word (sigh), why (sigh) I never knowed about it."

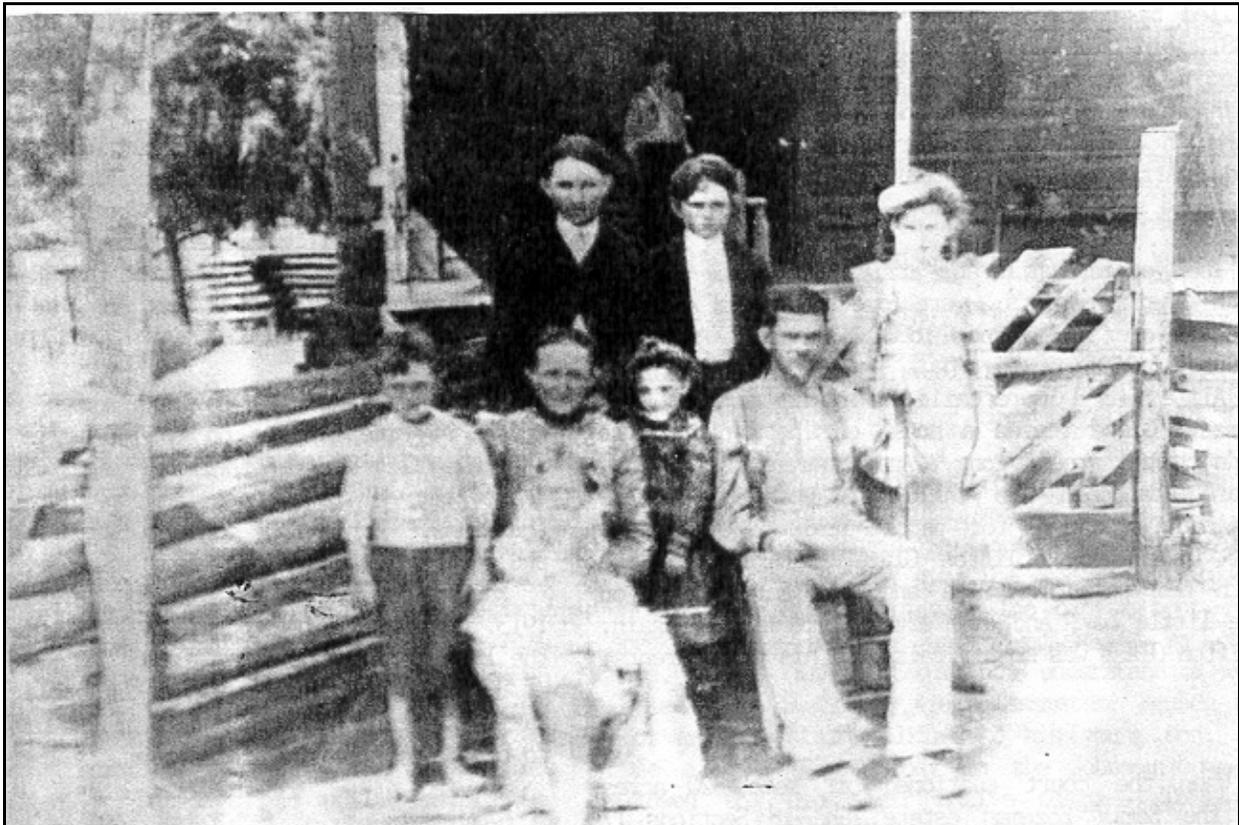
Sigh Townsend's father, born in Virginia in 1830, had come to Mississippi where he married, in 1850, Miss Winnie Moore, the 14-year-old daughter of Levi and Sarah A. Johnson Moore of Leake County. He was named Andrew Jackson Townsend, but was commonly called "Jack".

Jack and Winnie Townsend were living on their farm in Newton County and had children when he enlisted in the Confederate Army in October, 1863. [Frank Townsend, a slave, followed his master to war and was made a mule-skinner for the mules that transported cannon. Frank was living in DeKalb in 1902 when he was granted a Confederate pension.]

Following the war, Jack and Winnie remained on their farm until she died, at age 69, in 1905. Jack sold the farm after her death and went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Junia Calvert, near Rio, Kemper County, until his death a year later. The Townsends are both buried in Mt. Zion graveyard.

Mr. Sigh, one of Jack's six known children, was born February 5, 1855 in Newton County and he married Miss Sarah C. White in the late 1870's. It is not known which White family Miss Sarah was from, but descendants recall that she had a brother named Jeff. Sigh had a farm near Battlefield in the Union-Little Rock area in eastern Newton County in 1909 when he bought the 80-acre farm in Pine Springs. (He later sold the north half of the 80 acres to his son, Joe.)

According to Mr. Sigh's grandson, Cecil R. Townsend of Collinsville, his father, Grover



1903 (?). John A. and Sarah Townsend at their log home in battlefield, Newton County. The children with them are Joe, Grover, Allie, Birdie, and Ava.

Townsend, was partly the cause of his family's move from Battlefield to Pine Springs. Cecil tells that his brother-in-law, John Pinson, got into a heated family discussion over "somethin' or 'nother". Push came down to shove, tempers flared. Young Grover got out the old flintlock rifle and was going to shoot Pinson. Pinson took off running with Grover hard on his coat-tail, trying to load and run at the same time. He couldn't get a bead on Pinson and young Joe Townsend joined in to help his brother out. Joining the chase, Joe scooped up rocks and threw them at Pinson, with one of the missiles striking the back of Pinson's head. Pinson got away and went to Dr. Davidson, a country dentist, to get his head patched up. Pinson told that Grover had shot him, when in truth, Grover had just shot wild in that general direction. It was Joe's rocks that had done the damage.

There were hard feelings in the family for a while and their father, Sigh, said maybe it would be best to just move to his land in Pine Springs to keep down contention in the family.

Harve Townsend, one of the older Townsend sons, was already living on Townsend's Pine Springs land. He had married Ada McCullum around 1908, and they were in Pine Springs when their first child, Roy, was born in 1910.

The Pine Springs Road crossed through the western 40 acres of Townsend's 80 acres. On the west side of the road and across from the old log home was the store, vacant since Haman Taylor had gone out of business, and the empty barn-like ginhouse. The ancient log home, on the eastern side of the road, was a cabin that had been built years before by a previous owner. The Townsends lived in the cabin while Mr. Jim Thead was hired to build on new sleeping quarters of wide boards and 1x4 battens. The older log section of the house, connected to the new rooms by a porch, served as a kitchen and dining area.

Sigh and Miss Sarah were in their mid-fifties and had ten living children when they came to Pine Springs. Their older children had already married. Callie, born 1880, had married William Tingle and lived in Vicksburg. [She and her daughter were both

killed by a tornado there in 1953.] Pearl, born 1881, had married John Pinson in 1900 and had a farm near Pleasant Grove. Willie (Wm. Jefferson), born 1882, had married Shelby Rigdon and had a farm in Collinsville. Harve (Harvey Lee), 1886, had married Ada and rented in Pine Springs. Townsend's next child, Roy, had died around 1894 at age 2.

The younger children, arriving in Pine Springs with their parents, were Joe (Joseph Andrew), 1885; Grover Cleveland, 1888; Allie, 1890; Victor Trussell, 1895; Birdie, 1897; and Ava Irene, 1902.

Allie was a mere child when she married John Glaze. Glaze rented a house on The Lane, but he didn't stay around long. An itinerant hired hand, Glaze abandoned his child-wife when she became pregnant, leaving for parts unknown. Allie and her infant son, Clifton Glaze, returned to live with her parents. Sigh and Miss Sarah doted on the little boy, and even after Allie married again, Clifton Glaze was mostly raised by his grandparents.

* * * * *

When the court auctioned off some 320 acres of the Sammy Bozeman estate land in Sections 17 and 20 to satisfy debts, William A. Griffin's \$1520 bid was the highest. The sale took place on January 23, 1909.

Will Griffin, who some say was related to the older Sam Bozeman's wife, was 27 years old and single. There was no house on the place and Will boarded, for a time, with Sam and Georgia Bailey. The Bailey's place was next to Will's, on Okatibbee Creek south of Allen Swamp Road.

Will was boarding with the Baileys when he was counted in the 1910 census.

* * * * *

Ransom C. Richardson, pioneer settler of Drip Off Springs, lived to be 86 years old. He and his Lucinda lived all their married lives in that community, and had seen their fortune ebb and flow through times of war and peace. When Lucy died he never married again, although he lived 37 years after her death. Both are buried at Gumlog Baptist Church where Lucy had been a charter member.

Rebecca, the 4th child of Ransom C. and Lucy Richardson's eleven children, became the second wife of the settler, David M. Brown. The 9th child, Jenny, was the mother of Sam Kinard of Pine Springs. The 11th and youngest child was Ransom S. Richardson, who was born at Drip Off in 1856.

Ransom S. Richardson was in his 30's when he married Miss Bunnie Vinson. On August 25, 1890,

a post office was opened near Topton. Ransom S. Richardson, its first postmaster, named it Bunnie in honor of his wife. [The Bunnie post office closed in 1899.]

On March 19, 1909, Ransom bought 40 acres in Sec. 3, west of Sam Kinard's in Pine Springs, from Spinks and Miss Canny Jones. [NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-3] His son, Burchell, married Miss Daisy Warbington at about that time, and it may be that Ransom bought the land for the use of his son, as Ransom and Bunnie, established at Topton, never lived in Pine Springs.

Burchell Richardson built a rough shack of a house in Pine Springs on the 40 acres where he and Daisy lived after their marriage. They weren't there but a few years before they moved to Louisiana. Burchell's house became a tenant house and was rented to various 'croppers.

Ransom S. Richardson died on Christmas day in 1913. In April 1919, Bunnie and her children sold the Pine Springs land to Wallace P. and Ruby Lang. Mr. Lang, a Meridian buggy-maker, sold the place in October the same year to Sam and Laura Kinard, to become part of the Kinard farm.

* * * * *

Two doctors at a small Adventist sanitarium at Battle Creek, Michigan, gained recognition in medical circles for their health-teaching practices. They invented a way to roll cooked grains to be eaten dry by their patients. This form of cereal became so in demand that they began to offer it for sale. They dissolved their partnership, each going into the packaged cereal business. Dr. Kellogg and Dr. Post became known the world over for their prepared cereals.

Amanda Anderson, a girl from Stockholm, Sweden, came to Michigan to take nurses' training at the Battle Creek Adventist Sanitarium. While there, she became a dedicated Seventh Day Adventist. Upon graduation, she met Fred Johnson and they were married in Cumberland, Barron County, Wisconsin.

Fred Johnson was born in Sweden in 1860. As a young man, he came alone to America to join his uncle, a Wisconsin farmer. Fred was an energetic, enterprising person and he started his own dairy. He had been a Presbyterian when he married, but Amanda converted him to the Adventist doctrine.

The Johnson's firstborn, Eric, died at age two, but they went on to have seven more children. Around 1904, Amanda and two of their children became ill with pneumonia. Amanda and her daughter, Mae, succumbed and were buried at the same time. Their child, Reuben, recovered.

Fred returned to Sweden to find another wife. There he met Hilda Anderson, his late wife's younger sister. Hilda could not speak a word of English, but was delighted with the idea of going to live in America, and married the older man.

Life in America was not as Hilda had dreamed. She was unaccustomed to farm life and her oldest step-child, Ruth, was near as old as she was. The younger children had turned to Ruth to take the place of their mother, and thought of Hilda more like a bossy older sister. Fred, always an optimist, let them work out their differences, never doubting that God would take care of their problems.

Because of the death of his first wife and children, Fred Johnson determined to locate in a less harsh climate. Hearing that California was a land of sunshine, he made plans to sell his farm and move to that more temperate state. He sold his farm, crated his farm and dairy equipment and put it on a train bound for California. He had two handsome teams of Percherons, beautiful dappled-gray thick-bodied horses, bred for strength to pull heavy loads. He was extremely proud of his horses, but he sold one pair and shipped the other along with his equipment.

Fred Johnson's sister had immigrated from Sweden sometime earlier and had married Mr. Case, paymaster for the Graffenried Lumber Company. The lumber company transferred Case to Meridian when the industry began to harvest the Mississippi Pines. With his farm sold and his equipment en route to San Francisco, Fred got a telegram from Mr. Case that Fred's sister was gravely ill; if Fred wanted to see her alive again he must come right away. Instead of leaving for California, Fred, Hilda, and his six children boarded the train for the south to see his dying sister.

It was late in the year but the Mississippi weather was warm; it had been snowing when they had left Wisconsin. Impressed by the climate, Fred decided to stay in the south. Believing in the goodness of people, Fred commissioned a land agent to find him a suitable farm for a dairy. J.W. Gaston, who owned the land in Sections 4 and 5 in Pine Springs acquired from Cas Wolfe, said he had just the land that Johnson needed. Fred bought the Cas Wolfe place on December 13, 1909, and the Johnson family moved into the log house. It was an old house, but sturdy, and a former owner (Sebe Smith?) had covered the original logs with wide weather-boarding.

When Fred inspected his new farm he must have realized he had made a mistake. The once fertile

land was worn out and much of the top-soil had eroded from the hilly fields. There was level ground enough for small "patches", but not big enough to operate machinery for hay and meadowlands. Most of Johnson's pasture was in hilly woodlands, poor forage for dairy cows. The fields had been fallow and an ax was required on the rampant overgrowth. But, Fred had spent his money and they would have to stay.

Fred, the optimist, took over. With energy and enthusiasm he and the kids did much to reclaim the land. Fred chopped as his children piled brush into gullies, and together they got the old place into better shape.

In 1909 when the Johnsons came to the community, Fred's children were Ruth Amanda, 13; Martha, 11; Carl Adolph, 9; David Ferdinand, 7; Reuben Leon, 6; and Joseph Anderson, 4. The school-aged students enrolled at Pine Springs. The oldest four could speak English but, as only Swedish was spoken at home, little Reuben could not understand a word. Called "The Swede" by his classmates, Reuben made poor marks. After talking to his young son, Fred made a rule that nobody in the Johnson home was allowed to use their native tongue. They must all speak English so Mrs. Johnson and the little fellows would learn. It did not take Reuben long to understand the new language, but Mrs. Johnson, not being a student, took longer.

Hilda Johnson found the drudgery of being a farm wife was not at all like she had envisioned life in America. Speaking little English, there was nobody outside her home with whom to talk. She could play guitar and sing, and her Swedish songs delighted her neighbors. Still, she felt somewhat isolated.

When Miss Hilda's babies, first Rex and then Rena Mae, were born, it became the task of the little boys, Reuben and Joe, to baby-sit while Hilda did her housework. Half afraid of what their step-mother would do if the baby cried, the boys propped the baby in a rocking chair with pillows and rocked it to keep it from crying. The louder the baby cried, the more frantically the little fellows, one on each side of the chair, would rock.

Fred Johnson and his family remained Seventh Day Adventists and met on their Sabbath with a group of their faith in Meridian. Pine Springs had no regular minister to preach at the Union Church, but local families took turns inviting ministers to bring the Word. Sis. Phronie often invited Holiness ministers, the Vincents, Wolfes, and Whites invited Methodists, and there were Baptists, Missionary and Primitive, that came from time to time. Fred Johnson invited the Adventist minister out upon occasion and his sermons were as well attended as the others.



DEDICATION OF THE NEW SCHOOLHOUSE, PINE SPRINGS, 1911

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. John "Sigh" Townsend | 34. Martha Johnson | 67. Mazelle Lowe |
| 2. Bob Stone | 35. Evelyn "Ebbie" Pace | 68. Clara Bailey |
| 3. Merse Platt | 36. | 69. Ave Snowden |
| 4. John W. White | 37. Bonnie Ree Huffmaster | 70. Leana White |
| 5. Vester Love | 38. Leora Love | 71. |
| 6. Lon Lowe | 39. Lawrence White | 72. Minnie New |
| 7. Tommy Wolfe | 40. Flora Richardson | 73. Algie White |
| 8. Charley Vincent | 41. Sam Bailey | 74. Bessie Pace |
| 9. Stacy Snowden | 42. Margaret Bailey | 75. Pearl Bozeman |
| 10. Henry New | 43. Mrs. Dora Lowe | 76. Melva Johnson |
| 11. Nade Byrd | 44. Willie Huffmaster | 77. Sadie Mae Lockard |
| 12. Luther Bailey | 45. Mrs. Hilda Johnson | 78. Adolph Johnson |
| 13. Leo White | 46. Leonard Lockard | 79. Joe Johnson |
| 14. Ernest White | 47. Cecil Pace | 80. Reuben Johnson |
| 15. Mrs. Sara Chisolm Lockard | 48. Ava Townsend | 81. Lizzie Love |
| 16. Neva Stephenson | 49. | 82. David Johnson |
| 17. Mrs. Juel White Ratcliff | 50. George Jones | 83. Felix Jones |
| 18. Mary Byrd | 51. Florence Huffmaster | 84. Claude White |
| 19. Mrs. Velma Gipson Byrd | 52. Jim Wyatt | 85. Frances McGowen |
| 20. Baby Stella Byrd? | 53. May Belle White | 86. Roy Lovett |
| 21. Mrs. Julia Harrington Wolfe | 54. Leo Love | 87. J.D. Jones |
| 22. | 55. Virgie Hawkins | 88. Lavell "Slim" Snowden |
| 23. | 56. Johnny Wyatt | 89. Bennie Dee Smith |
| 24. Mrs. Lidie Wilson White | 57. Lewis Irby | 90. J.B. Pace |
| 25. Baby White | 58. Ches Love | 91. Henry Clay Lockard |
| 26. Alice Lowe | 59. Jake Smith | 92. Albert Lovett |
| 27. Lorena New | 60. Leon New | 93. |
| 28. Lessie Snowden | 61. Charley Love | 94. Lester Wolfe |
| 29. Miss Cecil Houston, teacher | 62. Mrs. Velma Stone, teacher | 95. Chestine Wolfe |
| 30. Myrtie White | 63. Minnie Hawkins | 96. Lewis Lovett |
| 31. Maude Johnson (?) | 64. Marie New | 97. Roy Wolfe |
| 32. Martha Johnson (?) | 65. Maude Hawkins | 98. J.L. White |
| 33. Bessie Mae Huffmaster | 66. Birdie Townsend | 99. Victor Townsend |

Mr. Johnson loved to talk about the Bible. Often, Hill Wolfe walked over after supper to sit on the front steps of the Johnson house where he and Fred talked, back and forth, over the meaning of the Scriptures. Neither could change the other's mind-set, but they enjoyed their heated discussions and always parted friends.

Giving up the idea of a dairy farm, Johnson planted cotton, corn, sweet potatoes, and Blue Ribbon Cane like all other local farmers. He didn't make much from his farm so he left the plowing to his older sons to take an outside job. He worked for Whitaker & Co., hauling wood to their spoke factory in Meridian and to their mill in Suqualena. Most of the wood went to the Suqualena saw mill., but loads of hickory, cut to lengths and split to proper size, went to the Meridian factory to be made into long, thin buggy spokes. Fred worked under C. P. Renfro investigator and timber buyer for the company. [Mr. Renfro also owned a hardware store on Front Street in Meridian. A 1910 news item in The Meridian Star reported Mr. Renfro had opened a second store in Jackson.]

Dr. Reuben Johnson, when asked about the operation of the Johnson farm, said:

"Well, there was a couple of old houses on our place that my father would let transients stay. Most of them would have a big old fireplace, I suspect, would be 4 or 5 feet across the front of it...made of old adobe mud and straw or what-not. People would cook on the fireplace."

"My dad, for a long time, had all kinds of people who were transients. They wouldn't be going anywhere in particular, just be looking for a place to settle...and do sharecropping. Most of them didn't have a team and depended on the farmers that owned the property to furnish them with a mule and cow and a place to stay. The small farms around here didn't have much way to get money except from corn or cotton. There wasn't much outlet for vegetables and produce unless you could get to Meridian and peddle it on the street. To most people, cotton was the staple crop. That was all they'd have. The best of the farms, well, about three bales was all they could get. The boll weevil, dry weather, bad weather, didn't do any good. If you made four bales of cotton, you were sittin' on TOP! If you got \$50 for a bale or \$200 for your crop, why then you'd be doing pretty good!"

Fred Johnson was responsible for introducing Rutabagas to this part of the country. He grew hungry for the large yellow turnip that was grown up north. He ordered a whole railroad car of them to be shipped to Lauderdale County. He ate all he wanted and stored much of them, and gave his neighbors what they would eat of the "new"

vegetable. The rest he sold to local grocers.

* * * * *

Children, children, everywhere young'uns! The more folks came to Pine Springs, the smaller the schoolhouse looked. The school was so crowded that it was obvious that something had to be done. An ambitious building project on Pine Springs School was commenced.

The building that replaced the early cabin and proudly celebrated upon its opening in 1893, was still in good condition. Sited on the eastern side of the road directly across from Pine Springs General Store, it had sufficed for nearly 15 years. As households grew in numbers and size, it became necessary for two, and sometimes three, teachers to instruct the burgeoning scholars. A room divider was added in the one big room, which kept down classroom confusion but did nothing to ease the seating problem.

Prof. W.L.Scott taught the school in 1900-01, but all the teachers who came after him are not known. Mrs. Virgie Hawkins Byrd said she was seven in 1906 when she began school in Pine Springs under Miss Nina Stillwell, her first teacher. Another teacher was Miss Velma Lowe, who married Bob Stone in 1905 and taught at Pine Springs in 1910 and 1911.

About 1908, an identical building, separate from the existing plant, was added a few steps away. Inside, each building was divided by a short partition which enabled the instructors to divide classes while allowing them to keep an eye upon the students' department.

In 1910 while J.R.Ellis was the County Superintendent of Education, the men of the community constructed the third and last phase of Pine Springs schoolhouse. A third room, larger than the first two, formed an assembly room between the two classroom wings which tied all three structures into a single unit. A porch ran the length of the new auditorium and served as a covered walk-way between the classrooms. The completed school faced south and opened onto a playground between the school and the Union Church. On Sabbaths, the playground was filled with wagons and buggies when worship services were held.

The biggest part of the community showed up for the dedication program in the fall of 1910. The porch was not yet roofed, but the community gathered on the porch deck to have a picture made. The teachers were Mrs. Velma Stone of Pine Springs and Miss Cecil Houston of Collinsville. [Miss Cecil was daughter of Joseph and Minnie Houston.]

Wood heaters provided warmth for the school

And the fathers who had school kids took turns cutting a load of firewood and to deliver to the school woodpile. The trustees didn't wait for volunteers but notified each father when it was his turn. Drinking water was kept in a big cooler with handles on each side, and they drank from a common dipper. When the cooler was empty, teacher sent two "big boys" to fetch more from the spring at the bottom of the hill below the graveyard. This went on for years until a well was dug across the road in front of the store. In later years, a well was dug in the schoolyard.

There were no school wagons. From the northeast corner of the community, Mr. Albert Pace's children started out first in the morning to be joined by children from each house they passed. At The Forks they met another group of students

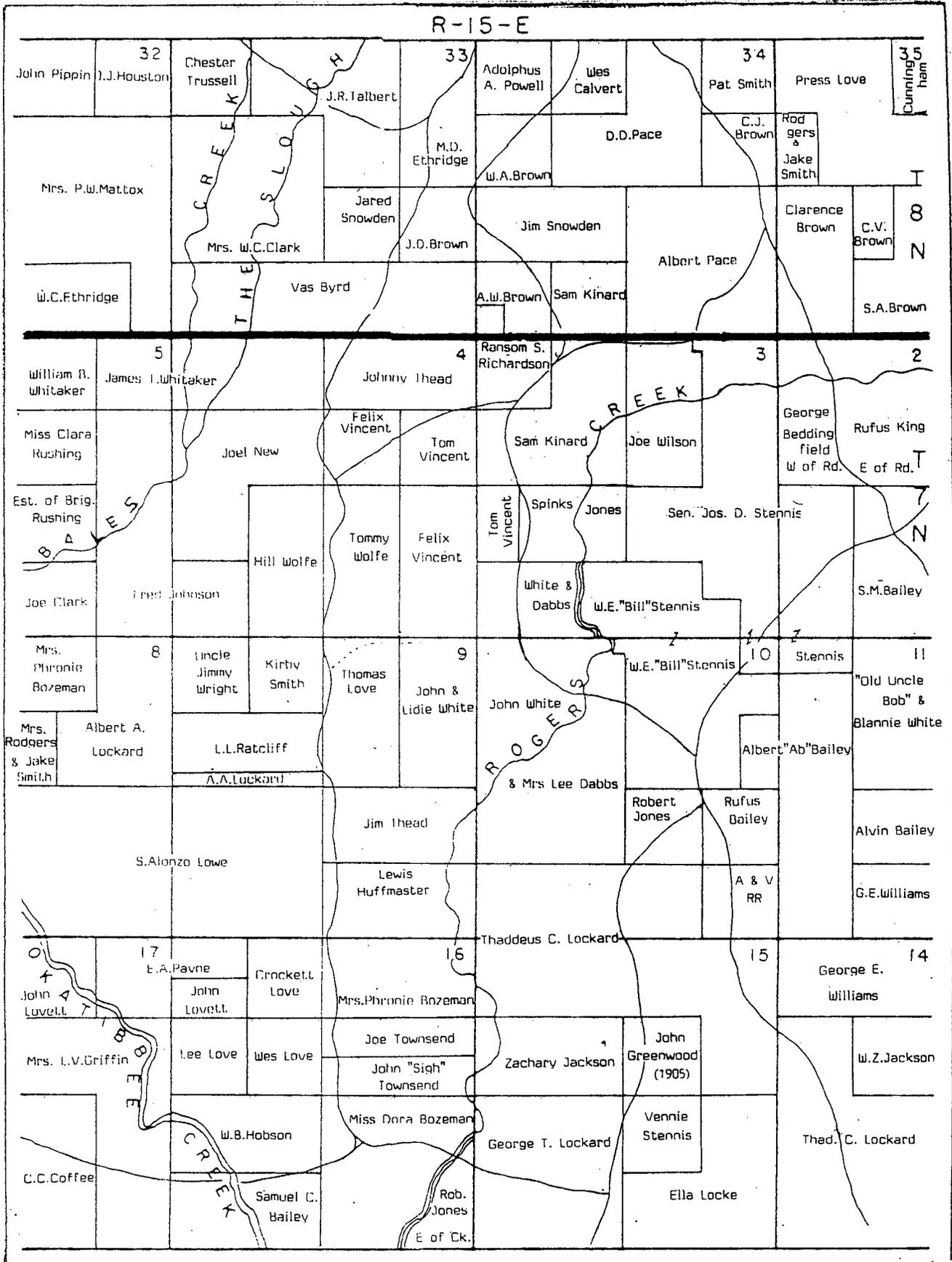
the upper Pine Springs Road and they all walked together. Students from down the road walked together in much the same way. On rainy days when the roads were wet and sloppy, Albert Pace gave a lift to the youngsters living in his direction. Joel New collected slabs (scrap boards) from saw mills to make a shoe-saving walkway from stump to stump along the road at the boggy area in front of Hill Wolfe's

Far from finding walking hardship, the youngsters, laughed, fought, played jokes on each other along the way. Miss Ebbie said her earliest recollection of going to school was fighting along the way with Luna Kinard. One occasion, two of the girls caught Jake Smith, held him down and kissed him. Little Jake spat and wiped his face but he never told on them. . .



Pine Springs School, about 1915. Boys in front yard are Lester Wolfe, Herman New, and Roy Pulliam.

LANDOWNERS (1910 TAX ROLL)



Lemuel Lee and Juel Ratcliff lived in Obadiah until January 10, 1911, at which time Lee bought the Pine Springs General Store from Joe right. Thus began a long rewarding relationship of a man and his wife with their community. It lasted through boom times and bust times, through two world wars and times of peace, and through three generations of Pine Springs citizens.

Lee and Juel never had children but adopted all the Pine Springs children as their own. The farm of John White, Juel's brother, was less than a mile to the east of their store, and his thirteen youngsters called the Ratcliffs Aunt Juel and Uncle Lee. The neighborhood children took it up, and the Ratcliffs became Aunt and Uncle to all. Everyone that grew up in Pine Springs during that era has their own particular memory of the Lee Ratcliffs.



Mr. And Mrs. L.L. Ratcliff

Lee Ratcliff was a grandson of James S. and Elizabeth Ott Ratcliff, who had come to the county from South Carolina in the late 1830's. One of their sons was "Lennie" (Lemuel W. Ratcliff). After the Civil War, Lennie and his second wife, Martha, built a fine home near Hickory Grove Baptist Church. Lee Ratcliff, born in 1873, was the youngest

of Lennie's four children. (Lennie's sister was Angeline Ratcliff Byrd, which made Vas Byrd and Lee Ratcliff first cousins.)

Aunt Juel used to tell that the Ratcliff family (in Hickory Grove) often sang as they went about their daily tasks. She said that one would break into song and another would chime in with the harmony. Ere long, the whole family would be singing from different locations about the big house.

In Pine Springs, Uncle Lee and Aunt Juel Ratcliff lived in the "Weatherford" house to the rear of the wagon park on the south side of their store. At that time it was a three-room house which opened onto an "L" shaped porch. Uncle Lee had the house remodeled and enlarged and in time, a larger porch, boasting concrete steps was added, facing the road. Inside the house was fixed up mighty grand with wallpaper. To anyone's knowledge, this was the first time that wallpaper had been used in the community.

Their first door opened into a parlor fitted out with horse-hair stuffed furniture. Uncle Lee bought Aunt Juel a handsome ginger-bready organ, although she really couldn't play very well. Sometimes she would let young visitor play if they were properly respectful and did not get carried away and pump the pedals to vigorously. If a youngster sat with quiet decorum, Aunt Juel would also let him use her stereoscope to view her collection of three dimensional scenic pos cards. One was always on best behavior when one visited with Aunt Juel. She wouldn't scold when one misbehaved, but she would be so disappointed and sorrowfully say, "Oh, honey," in such a hurt tone that the culprit felt like he had just been caught eating worms.

The Ratcliff house was painted white and in time, they had store bought slatted green shutters installed at its windows. It sat back a short distance from the main road behind a grove of oaks, which provided shade for the mules, oxen, horses, or whatever critters had been used to travel to Ratcliff's store. Most of the time everyone walked to do their buying unless they had to heavy a load to tote.

The folks living nearby visited the store 'most

every day to catch up on local news, talk politicks, or to exchange ideas. Sometimes they found excuses to come, such as their lamps being low on coal oil, in which case they brought their can to be filled. (An Irish potato speared onto the cans skinny spout prevented spillage.) Sometimes they would need a handful of nails, or a new "staw Katy" sun hat, or a spool of quilting cotton for the wife. Sometimes they bought one of those one of those Coca-Colas and a Moon Pie, depending upon how well the hens were laying. Uncle Lee would take eggs for payment and kids were known to rob their mama's hen nests so they could buy penny candy.

Uncle Lee was the JP for several years and held Justice Court in his store. Spectators sat around on up-ended soda pop crates, listening and feeling free to add their thoughts. Often neighbor disputes were settled by an informal hearing before their peers without having to "go to court." These squabbles were usually about someone's cows getting into a neighbor's garden, or perhaps another's being shortchanged in a hand-shake deal over the use of a field. The "elders" of the community would sit around and discuss what had happened between the two involved parties, and each would say what he thought would be the right thing to do. Most of the time Uncle Lee had little to say, but let the neighbors work it out. Surprisingly often the dispute could be settled in this manner, with dissenting parties abiding by the decision reached in the kangaroo court.

Joel New, known for his uncommonly good common sense, was often consulted at this cracker-barrel courthouse and, most of the time, what he said sounded right. Lee Ratcliff, the JP, never one for a lot of conversation, let the others reach a conclusion.

Everybody knew that the store was closed on Sunday - don't even try to get Uncle Lee to let you in that day, no matter if you had a "big" company come in unexpected and needed a loaf of light bread mighty bad. Not on Sunday! Now, if you were sick, why that was a different matter, he would always let you in if your mama thought you needed an emergency dose of Black Draught or castor oil. He would walk out to the store and unlock the door, but made you feel so uncomfortable that you didn't want to do that again.

Ratcliff's grist mill was opened around 1916 and folks stopped having to go to Bailey or Meridian to get cornmeal ground. On the west side of the road across from the Union Church, it was separated from the store by the wagon park in front of Ratcliff's house. It



1911, m L.L. Ratcliff bought
"Weatherford" house from Joe Wright.
(Present home of Terry White)

was powered by a 1914 Ford "Fliver" engine, which nearly shook the building apart until Uncle Lee mounted it on a concrete base. The automobile engine was never successful. Around 1917 Uncle Lee switched to Delco batteries to power his mill and, while he was at it, added Delco incandescent lights to his store and residence.

His grist mill did a tremendous business. On the weekly mill day everyone showed up - by mule, wagon, or horseback - with sacks of corn to be ground. The parking lot would be full of teams and the school playground across the road was used for overflow. On pretty days the men awaiting their turn sat on the low roadbank in front of the mill to pass time together. The boys hanging around could sometimes be "egged on" to flexing their developing muscles in an impromptu wrestling match. The men watched with glee if the wrestling became a heated fist-fight when the "Banty" roosters lost their tempers.

All this stimulated business for Ratcliff's store. He stocked a variety of merchandise from ladies high-buttoned shoes to men's denim overalls, and from fishing hooks to horse collars. On mill days, Aunt Juel had help waiting on customers.

After Joe and Clara Wright sold the store to Ratcliff and moved to town, Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Mary Jane Wright lived in their wee house found through the woods behind the store. Aunt Mary Jane gradually lost her sight but when she was completely blind, old Uncle Jimmy was there to help. Their faith in God and the Holiness church never faltered.

Miss Bernice Simmons of Kewanee, now in her 80's, tells of the only time she recalls seeing her Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Mary Jane. Miss Bernice, then a youngster, was impressed by how happy the old couple were. They had been to the Holiness campground

revival near Cuba, near the homeplace of Jimmy's long deceased parents. They took advantage of the 'long' trip to once more visit relatives in the area. (It was a long trip in those days.) One of their stops was in Kewanee to visit Mrs. Sarah Frances Simmons, Uncle Jimmy's sister. Even after intervening years, Bernice Simmons remembers how moved she was when the aging couple sang as they sat on the porch after supper. Mary Jane was already blind at that time.

Uncle Jimmy's heart began to fail and, in 1914, he became critically ill. He was in such a sad state by fall that he could not breathe if he lay down. Near the end, he had to sleep in his chair. As was the custom, neighbors pitched in to help in time of need. As Uncle Jimmy's death seemed near, Bob Stone volunteered to sit up at night with the old gentleman.

Uncle Jimmy lingered on for over three weeks, sleeping in his chair, his family expecting him to go at any time. He never lost consciousness and prayed each day for his Savior to take him home. One morning, Stone went home tired, sleepy from his nightly vigil and, faced with his own day's work ahead, remarked to Miss Velma that it looked like they were going to have to hit the old man over the head so he could go on and get his dying over with.

A few nights later, Uncle Jimmy said to Mary Jane, "I just feel tonight's the night. I feel like I'm going home tonight."

He slept a while, then waking, he called Mary Jane to his side.

"I hear Jesus calling!" he said. "Sing to me, Mary Jane, sing me on to Glory! I'm crossing over to the promised land!"

As Aunt Mary Jane sang, Uncle Jimmy passed away. Nobody had any doubt that he was that night with his Lord and Savior. He had lived 82 years of a full life when he died on December 4, 1914. He was buried at Bethel Church in Kemper County, near where he and Mary Jane had raised their family.

Aunt Mary Jane's relative (son or nephew?) came to live in the little house with her. After she fell, in her blindness, out her back steps and broke her hip, she went to live with Joe and Clara Wright in Meridian. In 1919, her little house and land were sold to Lee Ratcliff, and Ratcliff added farming to his other business enterprises.

Confined to bed and in much pain, Mary Jane realized that she had become addicted to her medication, Laudanum, a form of Opium. She put herself on smaller doses and, with prayer, she overcame her drug dependency. She never walked again, but spent the rest of her days in a "rolling chair". Cared for by her grandchildren, she lived

to be 97 years old, having lived with grace through four wars, the burial of two husbands, and the death each of her twelve children. She was an inspiration to all.

When Lee Ratcliff bought the Jimmy Wright farm, he rented the little house to sharecroppers. In October of that same year (1919), he also bought the 40-acre field directly behind the schoolhouse from Tom Love. He had a new rental house built on his land adjoining the Union Church property on the eastern edge of Pine Springs Road. The five-room house was well-made, sealed, painted, and was a shade above most tenant houses. With tenants to farm his land, Lee occupied his time with his store and grist mill.

Horseless carriages had been about Meridian for several years before one chugged out the bumpy deeply rutted wagon road to Pine Springs. This occasion happened around 1910. One fine spring day, banker Charley Dabbs and his wife, Lee, were driven out in their machine by Bud (their chauffeur) to stop at the Ratcliff's store. The school was "keeping books" when the unaccustomed noise alerted the students that something was going on outside the classroom. After they saw the motor car, the teacher knew that it would be useless to try to hold their attention, so she allowed them to cross the road to get a closer look.

The automobile was an Essex touring car, painted Fireman red. (To tell the truth, it looked as big as a fire engine.) The white canvas top was folded back and, peering inside, the spectators could see the finely stitched black leather upholstery. The back seat was higher than the curved front seat where Bud sat to steer the machine by operating a lever. The engine was under the back seat and had a chain to turn the vehicle's wheels. Oh, what a marvel it was!

Bud (Jerry White), who tended Mrs. Dabb's flowers and worked about their Meridian home, was the son of old Uncle Bob White, a former slave of Mrs. Dabb's stepfather, J.J.White. On this occasion he sported a new chauffeur's cap and you'd have thought the motor car was his, he was that proud! He hovered around the automobile, wiping at the gleaming brass trim on the carbide lamps (the size of dinner plates), while keeping a watchful eye "lessen one of dem chill'un forgot hisself and tried to tetch sumthin!"

After a while the Dabbs came from Aunt Juel's to be helped into the back seat. They adjusted their goggles (the car had no windshield) and Bud drove them down the hill, headed toward Johnny White's. The students returned to their studies, feeling important because they had witnessed a modern marvel, a horseless carriage.

As more people bought motor cars they demanded better roads; wagon roads were not good enough for automobiles. The January 6, 1910 The Meridian Star reported that the Board of Supervisors were asking for county convicts to build and maintain roads and were waiting for new legislation from Jackson. The article encouraged state Legislators John A. Bailey and Joe D. Stennis, among others, to continue their efforts to secure enactment of this statute. (Sen. Stennis of Pine Springs was son of the late Maj. Adam T. Stennis, and Rep. Bailey was one of the late Col. Sam M. Bailey's two sons.)

The law passed and guarded convict work crews were put to work. Building few new roads, they drained, widened, and smoothed the existing roads, putting gravel on the more widely used routes. Pine Springs roads were kept much the same, although some curves were taken out. It was over fifteen years before the local muddy roads were graveled. Dr. Reuben Johnson writes:

"...the road maintenance gang made their appearance about twice yearly, those gray and green striped men called convicts. I often wondered, as a lad, what you had to do to have to wear such garments, and why they must be bound by those rattling chains that held them fastened so securely, and why they must be "supervised" and "protected" by armed guards that displayed their weaponry so openly...bloodhounds [were kept] near to discourage any attempts to escape. They called them chain gangs. They didn't look mean, nor did they look happy. Road grading machines, pulled by teams of mules, were too light for heavy work, and too heavy for light work. They were ineffective as road surfacers, but were good dust-makers."

Even after roads were improved, no one in Pine Springs owned a car until around 1917. Dr. Dee Pace's Model-T Ford, one of the first models, became a familiar sight in Pine Springs. His automobile had carbide lamps and had to be hand-cranked, as starters had not been invented. Uncle Lee's 1919 Model-T had electric headlamps.

Burton Kinard said that when he was a boy, their neighbor, Mrs. Edna Wilson, would run to the telephone to call the Kinards whenever a car passed the Wilson place. The young Kinards would just have time to make it to their front yard fence to watch it pass.

Dolf (Dolphus E.) Hughes formed his Obadiah telephone exchange in January of 1911. Starting with 75 subscribers, Obadiah Telephone Co. expanded to include Pine Springs. The local line, installed 1912, not only kept isolated farm families in touch, but was a new source of entertainment.

The switchboard was in Hughes' store at Obadiah and was operated by Dolf or Miss Ollie, or by whomever of their daughters was closest. The entire system was a one-party line and when one talked, everybody on the line could pick up to listen. To place a call, the crank on the side of the wooden wall phone was turned in a certain sequence of turns to get the party one desired, and then all the phones rang. Theoretically, only the party whose "ring" was cranked was supposed to answer, but it never worked that way. Some of the nosy ladies would pick up to listen on ALL the rings just to see what was going on. Once, it has been told, Dolf called a subscriber to relay a message.

"Wait jist a minute," Dolf said when his call was answered. "Give ALL those sons of bitches time to pick up so I won't have to say this but one time."

There was no doubt the telephone brought convenience and pleasure to the community. One Sunday afternoon the Vincents gathered about the organ in their parlor and, while Miss Nannie played, the others joined in to harmonize on the hymns. Enthralled with the sound of her children's voices, Mrs. Vincent called a neighbor to listen on the telephone while the family sang some of the favorite songs. Later, others from the community commented on how much they had enjoyed the music. Everyone had raised their receiver to listen in when the phone rang and had heard the Vincent "broadcast".

The telephone was the quickest way to get a doctor. After John White's son, Claude, married Lela Walker, he and Lela were at a distance behind White's house when Lela was bitten by a snake. Lela, scared out of her wits, began running and screaming. Claude tried to carry her, but she jumped down and outran Claude to the house. Miss Lidie didn't want to waste time locating Dr. Pace, so she rang Dolf Hughes and told him to find the doctor for her. When the doctor came, he was laughing about the message Dolf had given him.

"Best get on down to Lidie White's, Doc," Dolf had said. "One of those damn mean young'uns of Lidie White's has done bit herself a snake."

Dolf Hughes had reason to think that "Lidie White's young'uns" were bad news. Once he had a whole section of telephone line go dead and he could not find a reason. He rode his horse for miles, along the road and through the woods, looking for the trouble. After some time and aggravation, he found it. Lidie White's kids had been playing telephone. They found a bit of wire and attached tin cans to each end, and had thrown it over Hughes' telephone wire. Their "telephone" had grounded the main wire and put the system out of commission. Dolf asked Lidie how she happened to get such a bunch of mean young'uns.

Joshua Heard Downey, called by his middle name, was born in Alabama in 1853. He came to Mississippi where, in the late 1870's, he married Agnes Love Clanton of Neshoba County. Heard and Agnes had a farm about three miles from the House community where they had nine children, six daughters and three sons. (One son, Algie, died a child.)

Heard Downey farmed until he became crippled with arthritis. To make a living, he hitched an ox to a cart and operated a "rolling store". Adding to his problems, his wife was often ill, although his daughters were able to take over the household tasks.

The oldest daughter, Ira Belle, born in 1882, was the first to marry, becoming the wife of Simon Williams, also of Neshoba. Sadie, born 1887, married William Edwin Chisolm, another Neshoba boy, who lived near Herbert Springs.

Effie Lee, born 1885, and Mamie, born 1889, both married sons of Joe D. Trussell, who lived in Martin. The Trussell brothers, Edwin (Effie's husband) and John (Mamie's husband), and two brothers, Robert and Chester Trussell, all bought farms just north of Bales Creek from Pine Springs. Ed and John were saw-millers, and Robert and Chester were master carpenters. [The Trussells lived in the area of today's Okatibbee Water Park Campground on the northeastern shore of Okatibbee Lake. The area of their farms became known as Trusselltown.]

On October 30, 1911, Heard Downey, influenced by his married daughters, sold his Neshoba farm and bought 220 acres of land in western Sec. 33 (in the northern end of Pine Springs) from Mrs. A.C. Clark (widow of M.E. Clark?). The Downeys moved into a dilapidated shack that was located on the place, next door to Jaritt Snowden.

[Other than deed records, nothing has been found to identify this Clark family. None of the surviving residents of the community remember the Clarks; their lack of participation in local affairs suggests that they lived away from Pine Springs.]

Using timber from his new farm, Heard Downey had Ed and John Trussell cut and plane lumber for a new house. Robert and Chester Trussell built his house on the west side of Pine Springs Road at the crest of the hill that led down to the low land along Bales Creek. It was a comfortable home, finished on the inside with tongue and grove ceiling. It was unusual for its time and place in that it boasted running water. Heard had dammed a spring behind the house to create a small pool below which he placed a hydraulic ram to pipe water to the kitchen. As far as is known, this was the first kitchen with tap water in Pine Springs.

Mr. Downey gave up selling general merchandise from his ox-cart to become an agent for Raleigh

Products. As health permitted, he sold Raleigh pomades and salves, food flavorings and patented remedies.

The unmarried Downeys moving to Pine Springs with the parents were Ava, 20; Julia, 18; J.C. (John Calvin), 16; and Ray S., who celebrated his 12th birthday in September the year they came. J.C. and Ray enrolled in a small school the Trussells had opened across Bales Creek, as it was closer than Pine Springs School.

Julia Downey soon married her old sweetheart, Tom Murphy, and returned to Neshoba County. Ava, the remaining daughter, was stuck with the housekeeping and caring for Mrs. Downey, who was too ill to cope. Mrs. Downey died in 1912. After his wife's death, Heard Downey traded land, in 1913, with E.J. Trussell of Trusselltown.

Young J.C. Downey married and moved to Union (Newton Co.). Ava Downey, the faithful daughter who remained with her father until his death, was nearly 40 when she married a Neshoba farmer, Charley Harbour. Harbour was a Neshoba County Supervisor,

Ray Downey, now 92 years old, recalls the days of his youth when he came to Pine Springs:

Every Saturday night Mr. Jarred Snowden, Brice Sims, and Jesse Bounds - they all played the fiddle. Sometimes Ave Snowden would play the fiddle and sometimes she would cord on Snowden's piano. We would meet at one of these places. The best time we kids had would be to parch about a peck of peanuts, and we'd eat peanuts and, man, we'd have a ball! We didn't dance much, my daddy didn't believe in no dancin'. He was a Methodist. At Mr. Snowden's, well, we played games down there a lot. Games like Snap. I don't remember just how it [the game] went.

I did go to some round dances. It wasn't like square dances...I did go to some of 'em way off somewhere and ride a mule, a mule named Bessie. When I got to datin' my wife we'd walk and go. We walked to Curt [Curtis] Snowden's one night. They'd dance over there. I remember Odie Snowden, and Miss Julia, they were big dancers, but I never did, tho'. See, we didn't have no way to go nowhere. We went to picnics at Obadiah, Suqualena. That was after I finally got me a buggy.

I never had been around no job, but I raised me a cow and calf. He [the calf] got up pretty fair size and I sold them and bought me a buggy. You could get about \$75 for a good cow. That cow paid for the buggy. That was the only way I had of making money.

Ray Downey went to work in 1917 when he was 18.

He drove a Meridian street car for seven years and then worked in the car barn, a building at 10th St. and 34th Ave. He had worked on the cars about a year when the city changed over to buses. He was working there when he married his childhood sweetheart, Miss Lessie Snowden, a Pine Springs girl who had lived next door.

* * * * *

When Heard Downey traded land with E.J. Trussell in 1913, Trussell rented the Downey house to John G. Calvert and wife, Junia, of Kemper.

The Calverts of Ireland immigrated to America around 1827. William Calvert, (b.1875) and his wife, Easter (b.1895), came to America with two young sons, Adam and George, but increased their family in the United States. They settled in Walker Co., Alabama but, by 1835, they had moved to Greene (now Sumter) Co. Their friends, another Irish couple named John and Isabella Dickson Greenlees, were listed with them as members of Bethel Presbyterian Church.

William and Easter Calvert moved to Kemper County, Mississippi before 1839, where they lived the rest of their lives.

Adam, the oldest Calvert boy, opened a store in Kemper County about three miles north of the Lauderdale County line near Zion Presbyterian Church. Adam did a large volume of business in the early days of his establishment and, in 1854, a post office was opened in his store. Adam's son, George W. Calvert, became postmaster of Calvert, Miss. in 1871. It was this George W. Calvert who traded his Kemper farm to Andrew Alewine for the Pine Springs store in 1901.

An older George Calvert, the second son of the immigrant, William, was born in Ireland in the late 1820's. George moved to Kemper with his parents but, around 1855, he fetched Mary Greenlees of Alabama to be his bride. Mary was daughter of John and Isabella Greenlees.

One of George and Mary Calverts' sons was John Greenlees Calvert, born 1857 in Kemper. In the early 1880's, John G. Calvert married Junia Townsend, younger sister of John "Sigh" Townsend who later moved to Pine Springs. Junia's full name was Junia Ida Josephine Townsend Calvert.

John G. and Junia Calvert were mid-aged and had 10 children, although not all were with them, when they came to Pine Springs. David Lawrence, their oldest boy, was a logger and had married Bessie Hawkins and settled in Conecuh Co., Alabama. The second Calvert child, Lelia, had died young and was buried at Zion Church in Kemper.

Wes (William Wesley) Calvert (b.1887) married Mamie Anthony in 1905 and was renting a house in Pine Springs before his parents moved to Lauderdale County. He bought the A. A. Powell farm at Pace's church where they raised four children. In later years, Wes and Mamie moved to Alabama where Mamie died. Wes' second wife was Prudie Salter.

Rufus Calvert (b.1889) married Carrie Anthony and their children, Martha Lee and Jack Rufus, were born in Pine Springs. Rufus was a sharecropper, but he also worked with timber.

Kaizy Calvert (b.1891) married James R. "Jim" Wyatt after the Calverts moved to Pine Springs. Jim was living with his parents, John and Matilda Wyatt, on The Lane when they met. Jim and Kaizy moved away after their marriage.

Lizzie (Mary Elizabeth) Calvert (b.1893) married Joe Smith, around 1911. Joe was the youngest son of Jackie and Margaret Smith of Pine Springs and had inherited land from his grandfather, but he didn't keep it. He was hauling logs when he and Lizzie married, and they lived in or around Pine Springs. Their first child, Charles, was born in 1912, but died at four months. By 1920, they had four more children.

John and Junia Calvert's youngest children were in their teens when they came, and they went to school at Pine Springs. They were Ollie, 1896; Henry, 1898; Minnie Lee, 1905; and Walter Clinton, 1906.

In 1918, Henry Calvert married Mattie Lou, daughter of Elijah J. and Mary F. Powell Fortson. They had a "housefull" of children they raised on their Collinsville farm.

Miss Minnie Lee Calvert married Jeff Wall and moved to the Mississippi delta country to farm. She died, a young housewife and mother, and was buried at Drew, Mississippi. She left two daughters.

Mr. Aubrey Smith remembers what a crowd would show up on mill day at Ratcliff's grist mill. When he was about eleven, he was there on mill day when Mr. John Calvert had some kind of seizure and "fell out". The men gathered around and placed him on a wagon, and someone drove him up the road to his home. Mr. Smith says that, looking back, he "figgers" that Mr. Calvert must have had a stroke, for he never got out of bed again. Miss Junia "nursed" him for months before he died. Ollie Calvert married Bessie Pace of Pine Springs the summer Mr. Calvert was taken ill. They sat with him at night so Mrs. Calvert could get rest.

Death came to John Greenlees Calvert in 1920 when he was 63. He was buried at Zion Church near Calvert's store. His youngest son, Walter Clinton Calvert, a 21-year-old unmarried man, died of an illness in 1927. He was buried at Pine Springs.

Mrs. Junia Calvert broke up housekeeping and went to live with her married children. She was staying with her daughter Lizzie when she died January 1952.

* * * * *

After Mrs. Vennie Snowden died in 1910, Mr. Jaritt married again. His new wife was Miss Ada Stephens, daughter of Elijah W. and Annie M. Jones Stephens on Lauderdale County. The only child from this second marriage was Annie Lee, who was born in 1913.

Annie Lee had a natural talent for music. Her half-brothers were several years older than she, and not having many playmates, she must have spent hours at the Snowden piano. She knew some music, but she added grace notes and runs of her own to the written score, and when she played, she made good use of the entire keyboard. She had shiny golden hair that curled, and a brilliant smile that made friends with everybody. What a delight she must have been to her parents!

Earl Snowden, Jaritt's oldest son, married Bertha Mosely of Daleville. A barber, he lived in Meridian where he worked at Brown & Young Barber Shop. Miss Ave and Miss Lessie Snowden were quiet, well-mannered girls and never caused any problems. It was Mr. Jaritt's two younger boys, Slim (Lavell) and Jack (Everett), that gave him cause for concern.

Both boys are remembered as being very "smart". Jack was the musician - he could play any string instrument he chose, but most of the time he played banjo or mandolin. It is not known if Slim played anything or not; if he did he was shy and did not play in public. They each had an innate mechanical ability that, had it been trained in the right direction, could have carried them far. They each seemed to march to the beat of their own drum.

It must have been 1913 when young Slim did his famous "swan dive" from the top of The Chestnut Tree, as folks say he was about ten at the time. Old-time residents of Pine Springs - they all remember The Chestnut Tree, and several have mentioned it when they talk of their younger days in the community.

The Chestnut Tree was a "grand-daddy" of a tree with a height estimated at around 75 feet, and the diameter of its trunk, some say, was between 3 and 4 feet thick. What made it so memorable was the span of its long, thickly spaced branches, which formed a canopy over an area of, roughly, a hundred feet across. On Mr. Fred Johnson's farm a short distance west of Johnson's house, the tree stood on a westward facing slope. It must have been

a familiar place for local families with children to pick up nuts in the fall, as so many who grew up in Pine Springs remember gathering there. The tree, with its limbs growing low to the ground, was made for climbing and the children crawled through its many branches.

On one particular fall day, a group was out collecting nuts at The Chestnut Tree and, as usual, several boys were climbing overhead. Slim Snowden had climbed as high as he could go, almost to the top. Suddenly, whether by accident or by design, Slim came crashing down through the branches, bumping along from limb to limb.

Slim hit the ground with a terrible THUD, and everyone was almost afraid to go view his mangled remains. But, they gathered around and as soon as he got his breath back, Slim sat up. He had a few bruises and was some scratched up from landing on the rough Chestnut burs, but other than a broken arm, he seemed to be all right. He walked on home to get his arm taken care of, we are told.

Joe New, who was watching, said that Slim seemed to have just turned loose and did a swan dive from the top of the tree.

[It is unfortunate that this grand old tree is no longer there. A blight that began in New York in 1905 had, in 40 years, spread through the Chestnut, Elm, and Chinquapin trees in the eastern United States. Pine Springs' Chestnut trees were among the blight's countless victims.]

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In the winter of 1912, three young girls were on their way to school. They had just moved to a new farm Papa had bought and, being new to the neighborhood, they had never seen the school and did not know where it was. They were uneasy, but Papa had told them to just keep walking down the road and they would come to the schoolhouse.

The sisters walked side by side, their dinner pails swinging in their hands. They smiled to give each other courage.

"Do you think we have passed it already?" said Aline, the youngest.

"Maybe we'll see it when the get to the top of the hill," the oldest, Dora, replied.

At the top of the hill the schoolhouse was not in sight.

"It must be over the next next hill," Thelma said, but when they got to the top, the schoolhouse was still not in sight.

The three Bounds sisters at last came to the school after climbing the longest hill of all. They thought they had traveled over five miles down the unfamiliar road but, if fact, the school

was only half that distance from their home. The sisters were greeted by the teachers, Mrs. Velma Stone and Miss Ruby Gipson.

It was on January 4, 1912, that J.D. Bounds bought the house and 40 acres of Pine Springs land from Jeff Brown. [NE 1/4 SE 1/4, S-33] All of Brown's children were grown and as he approached 60 years of life, he was ready to give up his home. Jesse Bounds and his wife, Annie, moved to their newly acquired farm in February.

Jesse Dudley Bounds was named for his grandfather, the first Jesse Bounds, who was born in 1816 at the end of the Alabama Indian uprising. The older Jesse and his wife Mart, were pioneers in Kemper County. They had nine children, with their fourth child being William, Born in 1847.

William Bounds fought in the Civil War and, at war's end, he married Idora Hall, a Kemper girl. The Jesse who came to Pine Springs was one of the five children of William and Idora Bounds who grew up on William's farm in Moscow.

Born in 1876, Jesse Bounds married Annie Clementine Phillips in Kemper County. Miss Annie was the youngest child of James and Martha Caroline (Tinsley?) Phillips (and first cousin of her new Pine Springs neighbor, Mrs. Rossie Phillips Byrd). Their wedding took place in 1900, the year that Jesse became constable of Beat 3 in Lauderdale County.

Jesse and Annie were living near the northern edge of the county in 1906 when Jesse was church clerk of the Arkadelphia Baptist Church. He as 32 in 1908 when he was elected the Lauderdale County Supervisor of Beat 3, ad was elected for a second four-year term in 1912. In 1916, J.D. Bounds was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives and was in office during the war years of 1917-1918.

The Bounds had five children when they moved to pine Springs. In addition to the three older girls already mentioned, they had two younger children, Kathleen and James William. Three more children, Jesse D., Jr., Walter Mason, and Mary Annie, were born during the six years they lived in the community.

Jesse and Miss Annie were very much interested in the local school and church activities. They were Baptists, but went to both Gumlog and the Union Church, whichever church was having preaching that week. Jesse was a school trustee for three years starting in 1916. As trustee, he worked to have Pine Springs school district consolidated with other districts in the area to form a bigger and better 12-grade school. The majority of the local parents, fearing a tax

increase, would not sign the required petition. Pine Springs remained an eight-grade school.

On December 21, 1918, Jesse sold out to Mrs. China Love and the Bounds returned to their old farm near Arkadelphia Church. They had made close friends; their Pine Springs neighbors were sorry to see them go. After they left, the Bounds had two more children, John Rufus and a baby who was stillborn.

Rep. Bounds was re-elected and returned to Jackson for another term. He was 92 when he died in 1972. He had never been wealthy; at the time he lived in Pine Springs he lived in a plain house on his forty acres of land. The riches he passed to his children lay in his example of moral integrity and his respect for education. His children developed a sense of social consciousness and a devotion to God and man.

Miss Thelma, the Bounds's second daughter, became a teacher and returned to Pine Springs to teach in the 1925-1926 school year, boarding at the home of John and Liddie White. The following year she entered Mississippi Southern



School Chums: at right, Lessie Snowden, Ebbie Pace, Dora Bounds, Margaret Bailey, Leora Love, Thelma Bounds, May Belle White, and Luna Kinard.

College where she earned her degree. Upon entering the US Indian Service, she was sent to New Mexico to work with the Navajo Indians. Later, she transferred to the Choctaw Indian Reservation at Philadelphia in Kemper County. Finding information unavailable to teach Choctaw heritage to her students, she wrote two textbooks on the origin and history of the Choctaw tribe.

Miss Thelma married Paschal White near the time of her retirement, and is now living near her father's old homeplace in Obadiah. Mr. White, now deceased, was Miss Thelma's teacher when she was a student at Pine Springs.

Vas Byrd, 68 years old in 1910, rented his fields and any farming was done by others. Vas did little farming on his own, but traveled the roads with his horse and buggy. He would often be found on the porch of Ratcliff's store drinking "Coke-Colas". When the school across the way was dismissed, Vas took delight in picking at the school children, to the consternation of Aunt Juel.

Vas may have still worked in some capacity in the timber industry, as he was often seen riding along near Whitaker's saw mill in Suqualena. If he earned much salary it was not evident; he kept his business to himself. Even his children had to speculate on where his money came from (not that he ever spent any). They whispered among themselves that he had money buried somewhere about his farm, but this was probably not true. If he had treasure stashed away it was a well-hidden secret.

Miss Rossie Byrd became known amongst the neighbors for her healing powers. Nobody seems to know where "Grandma Byrd" got her medical knowledge, but leaning heavily upon herbs, poultices, and the power of suggestion, she was often sent for to tend the sick, injured or dying, where she applied her homespun remedies. Grandma Byrd helped at the birthing of many a babe in Pine Springs. She would not only help with the baby, but would stay to cook up a meal for the family.

In 1913, Mary Byrd (Bud's twin) married Ellis T. Pratt and moved out to 'crop on various farms. Ellis, a son of Owen R. and Mary Pratt of Bailey, was a nephew of Joseph Pratt, the late father of Mrs. Betty Pace and Mrs. Ellie New.

Preston and Velma Byrd continued to live in the old Robert Phillips house (which now belonged to Vas) until the winter of 1914. Preston became ill that winter and passed away at age 22. He was buried at Gumlog Baptist Church. When little Stella Byrd was six, Miss Velma married D.H. Barns, a widower with children, and moved away.

Bud Byrd, with his irrepressible good nature and high spirits, lived for several years in the log house on his father's farm. He tried to make a living for his increasing family in the worn-out soil, but it entailed a lot of labor for little income. After his and Annie's twin sons died at birth in 1912, they went on to have four more children born before 1920. They were Stanley, 1913; Claudine, 1915; James, 1918; and Talmadge, 1920. They did not have many comforts, but they laughed a lot and enjoyed their young family. Bud and his brother, Nade, who still lived nearby at the old Byrd home, continued playing their little tricks on everybody.

The brothers tangled with a rabid animal and

were sent to New Orleans, the nearest place for Rabies treatment. Nade had to stay for the full course of painful shots, but Bud was given a clean bill of health and sent home. This episode sent the neighbors buzzing. Everybody watched their animals for signs of the disease, and took to locking up ole Bugler or Trailer if they looked like they were even THINKING of snapping. When Bud came home, people steered clear of him, waiting to see if he exhibited any 'madness'. Bud got a little peeved.

One morning he saw the mail buggy coming up the road. He hid himself on top of a roadbank where Thames Gunn had to pass. As the buggy drew nearer, he saved a mouthfull of spit and swished it around until his chin was slobbery and frothy. As the wagon passed underneath the bank, Bud jumped on the cab and commenced to howl and growl, scratching around like some varmint trying to rip the canvas. He leaned over and stuck his slathering face into the cab and Gunn whipped his horse to outrun the thing that had him. Bud had a wild ride before he was chunked off.

Nade was a smart young man although, to Miss Rossie's regret, he did not take schoolwork seriously. He began cutting wood when he was young and remained intent upon having a good time. He did not know a note of music, but played the fiddle at the local dances. He was a passable fiddler, but his real love was baseball.

At that time baseball was an unorganized game played by amateurs. Regular schedules were not made; it was simply a matter of one community team challenging another to a game. Nade played at one time or another for Klondike, Blackwater, Suqualena, Ponta, and others. He arose early on Saturdays to ride his horse to wherever a game was to be held. He played in the position of catcher, and became so good at it that teams from other neighborhoods would get him to play for them. They slipped Nade small gratuities for helping them win.

Nade was 21 when he married Miss Virgie Hawkins in 1916. Miss Virgie was one of the younger daughters of Markus and Lily Hawkins who lived on The Lane. She was a pretty little thing, petite, with a mass of bright red hair. Nade brought his bride home and they lived for over a year with Vas and Rossie Byrd. During this time their first child, Corbert, was born.

Corbert remembers his dad's beautiful horse. Nade took his small son everywhere when the boy was so little that his short legs would just touch Ole Dan's mane when Nade took him in the saddle. Corbert sat on the bag of corn when they rode to Ratcliff's grist mill. Sometimes they rode through

Okatibbee Swamp. There were enough big trees remaining to keep down undergrowth so the ground beneath was open. Nade let Dan run. To the boy it was riding the wind through the forest.

On one occasion, Nade took Corbert with him on Dan when he went up country to play ball. A storm came up and the game was canceled, so they returned home. When they came to Bales Creek swamp above home they found the cloudburst had washed out the low wooden bridge. All across the wide floodplane there was water, one side to the other. Corbert was afraid but Nade and Ole Dan didn't hesitate. Dan entered the water and kept going until the water was too deep for him to walk. The horse never checked, but swam several yards through the flood to take them on to safety.

Dan was a Mustang that Nade had swapped around to get from Ed Trussell. The pony was wild as a jack-rabbit and Trussell couldn't do anything with him. He was a small horse, didn't weigh more than 1000 pounds, but he was black and beautiful and Nade felt he had to have him. Nade worked with the horse until he broke him to ride as well as to plow. Ole Dan became a big pet.

Nade's and Virgie's oldest daughter, Vivian, was born in 1917. Apparently fatherhood inspired Nade to make a better effort at making a living. He took a job with Pres Johnson, a merchant from the Blackwater area. They lived in a rented house there while Nade supervised a crew that cut spokes and barrel staves. It may have been at this time he played on the Blackwater baseball team on Saturdays, as he played for some time after he and Miss Virgie married. Their second son, Roscoe, was born in 1919.

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Joel New's older sons, Henry and Leon, finished eighth grade at Pine Springs and Leon went to board with Mr. Cliff Pace (son of Alsa Carol Pace) at Gumlog to attend high school at Obadiah. It is not known if Henry went on to high school or not; Henry was not as interested in learning as Leon and may have stayed home to help Joel on the farm.

Cliff Pace's son, Jack (Nevelyn), recalls that when he was a boy, Leon nailed new shingles on their house while living in their home. It is thought that Joel made shingles for Pace in exchange for Leon's keep. (Joel rived tapered pine shingles and took orders from neighbors.)

Henry and Leon usually did everything together, so when Henry wanted to leave to go job hunting, Leon quit school to go with him. They found

jobs as laborers at Mobile but later worked for a lumber company at Samson, Alabama. They felt guilty about leaving Papa with all the plowing to do so they sent money for Joel to hire a plow hand. They had 50¢ to spend each week after they paid for room and board, but Leon managed to get an arithmetic book to teach himself math.

After Joe New was born in 1908, Joel and Ellie New had two more children to complete their family. Susie Mae was born in 1912 and Irvin, their ninth child, was born in 1916.

When she was 17, Minnie New finished her schooling and married Curtis Snowden. Marie New also finished at Pine Springs, but went to live with her Uncle Dee and Aunt Allie Pace at Obadiah to go to high school at Daleville. She did not graduate because she dropped out to marry Ben (William Bennet) Pace, son of Andrew P. and Lavisa Anne Love Pace, former residents of Pine Springs.

Ben was a sharecropper. Like so many of that time, they were poor but made the best of their lot. Ben was a story teller. When a tale he was telling began to get a little far-fetched, Marie would make him back up to tone it down with more plausible details. Their four children were Mamie, 1918; Elaine, 1920; James Andrew, 1922; and Ruth Marie in 1928. They lived on different farms in the area. In the 1930's, they moved back to live about the neighborhood in Pine Springs.

Lorena New was a lively girl who had, like her father, a direct, to the point, way of expressing herself that punctured inflated egos. With no artifice in her own manner, she spoke what came to mind, her remarks so unexpected and phrased that they were humorous. She laughed at herself as well as others, and her young friends enjoyed her company.

Charlie New, Mr. New's nephew who was a painter, came up from Meehan to paint Joel's house. Charlie was bad to drink, giving the excuse that whiskey took the poison paint fumes out of his system. Charlie worked all week but that weekend he 'cleaned his system' and got drunk. He was making a nuisance of himself, so young Lorena shut him up in the corncrib and wouldn't let him out. When Joel came home, he could hear Charlie's plaintive pleas from the barn.

"Uncle Joel, Uncle Joel! Let me out. Pu-LEASE let me out! That Lorena's got me shet up in the crib! Please come let me out, Uncle Joel!"

For a Christmas party at the New home, the boys had cut a Cedar tree that reached the high ceiling. The young guests had drawn names and brought a wrapped gift to go under the tree. Mr. New had butchered a hog the week before, and Lorena had wrapped the pig's tail in pretty paper and wrote

Bud Byrd's name on it. Knowing Bud's appreciation of a good joke, one can imagine his reaction when he opened his gift. The party was a big success.

Lorena was 17 in 1919 when she and Lawrence White were married. Their wedding took place on her father's front porch. Ralph, Curtis and Minnie Snowden's son, still remembers being an unexpected participant in his Aunt Lorena's wedding.

Joel New always kept a passel of cats around the place, who seemed to multiply with the speed of lightening. Although a count was seldom made, there must have been at least 15-20 cats about at any given time. They mostly made their own living by keeping rats down from corncrib and peanut loft, and were even known to catch trespassing rabbits from the garden.

Near the same age of his young Uncle Irvin, Ralph Snowden, about two or three years old, liked to visit Granddaddy and Grandma New. On Lorena's wedding day he was unaware that the visit was "special", and he and Irvin went about their usual little boy business. They found a nest of cats in the Granddaddy's potato pit and, loading their arms with kittens, they brought their find into the house to meet the folks.

They entered through the kitchen and, finding the house deserted, they walked out through the front door, right into Aunt Lorena's wedding. Surprised by all the people watching, they began to sense something was wrong and loosed their burden of animals. Granddaddy grabbed both boys and stepped back into the house, but he had to go back to retrieve a cat or two. Granddaddy left the impression that the boys had made the wrong move. Amid the solemn occasion, snickers were coming from the spectators. Even the bride had trouble keeping a straight face.

Lawrence and Lorena did not have a place of their own but worked and lived here and there about the neighborhood. Joe New used to say that they moved so

often that every time he drove the wagon into their yard Lorena's hens would run to jump onto the coupling pole; they thought he came to take them on another ride.

Herman and Joe had it easier than their older brothers, but still learned how much work farming really was. To make farming pay, everything had to be done right and on time. They were allowed to play only after farm chores were done. Both hunted and fished, but Joe was the bigger sportsman. Joe always carried a Prince Albert tin of worms in his overalls pocket, and as soon as he was free, he lit out for the Old Slough to "see if they were bitin'". Fishing became Joe's life-long hobby.

Herman was the first driver of the school wagon that Joel New sent to the big new Center Hill School when it opened in 1919. Starting from the New house, New's mules, Mack and Lucy, pulled the canvas covered farm wagon five miles up the main Pine Springs Road to Center Hill (at Drip Off), picking up students along the way. Mack, w young mule, flop-eared, dark red, did most of the pulling. Old Lucy, petite, fawn-colored mixed with gray, old and wise enough to let "the kid" do most of the work, had to be yelled at to make her pull her share. Both had a heavy burden when they climbed the sticky red clay hills after a rain.

Joe New said that on occasions a deluge would come while they were at school and Bales Creek would get out of its banks. The girls would be left at Stamford Avera's home on the far side of the creek for the night, and the boys unhitched the traces and, leaving the wagon, double dup to ride the mules bareback on home.

Mrs. Drucilla Stephenson rented shacks about the neighborhood, but kept her family together after Lish died. Her children, pretty well grown, began to marry one by one. Sixteen-year-old Hattie married M.L. McCullum in 1910. It was thought that they rented a place in Pine Springs and McCullums daughter was the Macie McCullum who was a student in Pine Springs school. Around two years after Hattie married, Frank Stephenson married Miss Eulie (Eula) Gipson, sister of the Meridian lawyer, Vannoy Gipson. Frank and Eulie were a good match. Miss Eulie is remembered as having a placid temperament and a trusting nature. She was not considered to be quit-witted because she calmly took the practical jokes that Bud and Nade Byrd played on Frank. They lived in a house near Fred Johnson when the Byrds pulled what some thought



1919. Lawrence and Lorena White's wedding day. In back: Bride and Groom, and Herman New. Front: Joe, Susie Mae, and Irvin New.

was a rotten caper.

The Byrds knew Frank, a woodcutter, was in the habit of taking Eulie to the store after he was paid each week, and they waited until the couple returned from their Saturday trip. Giving Eulie time to build up her fire to cook Frank's supper, the Byrds slipped onto the roof and closed off the chimney. The house was so full of smoke that Frank and Eulie had to go to Frank's mother's until it cleared out. Bud and Nade had a big laugh from their escapade, but one would imagine that Frank's smile was a little thin.

Frank died fairly young (he had never been strong) and after his death, Eulie relocated in Texas. Their children had migrated and Eulie went with them.

Ab (Albert) Stephenson had gone to work in the woods as a log-cutter when he was a teen-ager. At one time, he and his brother Frank were both on the spokewood-cutting crew supervised by Mr. Fred Johnson. As time he went on, Ab got his own wagon and began hauling spokes to Whitaker's mill in Meridian.

Brice C. Sims was another woodcutter that worked with the Stephenson brothers under Mr. Johnson. Brice was 27 in 1907 when he married his wife, Mattie, and moved to Pine Springs. The Sims rented about the community and Brice became known for his fiddle playing. About 1915, Ab Stephenson married Miss Sudie Sims, Brice's sister.

Ab took it pretty hard when Sudie died in 1917, less than two years later. After her funeral in Pine Springs) Ab did not want to go home alone to the little house they had shared next to the Johnsons'. One of Fred's boys went with him to stay a couple of days. Until Ab was up to staying alone, one or another of the Johnson boys showed up each night to keep him company.

One morning Reuben Johnson was staying with Ab when he was waked as Ab returned from an early morning squirrel hunt. Ab told Reuben to just sleep a while and he would make him a good breakfast. Ab made a most delicious smelling squirrel stew and a sumptuous pan of hot biscuits. Reuben enjoyed the fine biscuits and the gravy was good, but he could not bring himself to taste the squirrel. The Johnsons, being Adventist, were not used to eating meat, and Reuben couldn't make the squirrel go down.

Ab and the Johnson boys got to be good friends, but one day they had him in a dither. The boys found a poisonous snake and, for reasons now obscure, they removed its fangs. Hearing Ab approach, they made up a scenario for Ab's benefit. When Ab came up, one of the boys danced and held his leg, yelling that a snake had bit

him. Ab ran to the boy to offer help. While he was trying to get the boy to hold still, another boy shouted that he had found the snake and it bit him on the hand. He flung the snake and it fell at Ab's feet. Ab, seeing that it was of a type that was bad news, turned to the second boy to give aid when the third boy shouted that the snake had nipped him, too. Poor Ab was surrounded by three Johnsons, all writhing and crying that they were snakebit and was at a loss as to whom should be tended first. Then they all began to laugh and Ab realized it was all a hoax.

Miss Ada Stephenson, Drucilla's oldest daughter, waited until she was in her mid-thirties before she married Mr. Garret, a man that owned a dairy farm below Meridian. A year later, Neva, the baby of the family, married Richard Otto Poole, brother of Ivan Poole who had married Dora Bounds. The Poole brothers bought farms near Pine Forest Church (near today's West Lauderdale School) and they both raised families there.

Mrs. Stephenson died in 1932 and was buried beside Elisha Stephenson in Pine Springs Cemetery. She had lived to be 84 years old and had seen many changes take place in Pine Springs community since she first came with her father, Robert Phillips, in the 1870's.

* * * * *

Fred Johnson was a peace-loving, agreeable fellow and got along well with all his neighbors except Kirby Smith.

Smith owned some land over on the Okatibbee where he ran cows, and later he bought the Joe Clark place in Sec. 5, just west of the Johnsons. Kirb used his wagon to take feed to his cows in the far pasture, and a problem arose (for the Johnsons) when he drove straight across Johnson's field and corn patches with his team instead of going around the edge of the worked ground. This would drive Adolph and David Johnson wild. They were the biggest of Fred's boys and it fell their lot to do most of the plowing while their father worked in the woods.

"Look, Papa!" David would say, pointing to the wagon tracks and the ruined corn stalks. "This is supposed to be a field!"

Fred would never say anything to Kirby, and of course the boys, being mere boys, could not say anything. Fred wanted peace with his neighbors and did not want trouble, but his sons wondered if he was afraid of Kirby Smith.

Fred Johnson, an energetic worker, was soon promoted on his job with the Whitaker brothers. Reuben Johnson writes:

My brothers [Adolph and David] hauled spokes as did several others that lived around here...We had two wagons on the road with spokes. The buggy spokes went to Meridian, the others went to Suqualena. Suqualena had a large spoke mill there as well as a large lumber mill concern...Renfroe was the man that ordinarily made the deal and purchased the wood. He was the timber buyer. My father took care of the other arrangements; the cutting crews and the cutting, whether to cut certain areas, what kinds of stumps to cut. If the bill was calling for oak - white oak - and the other was other kinds, he filled the orders.

Well, there were so many things that were happening in the lumber business. That was one area where most of the people got some of their income. Selling lumber and selling timber for spokes. Spokes was the big deal besides the lumber. Wagon and buggy wheels required that kind of stuff. They used oak and hickory for spokes. They didn't use pine; pine went into houses. The white oak and chestnut went into the making of wagon bodies...red oak and white made the best spokes. It was cleaner, having less knots and stuff like that. It was easier handled.

The Johnson boys never became really close to their step-mother. Ruth had always helped them when they needed a mother's touch, and they were content to let it go at that. Fred and Hilda added four more children to the Johnson family. After Rex in 1911, came Rena Mae, 1912; Fredrick Lee, 1914; and Bert in 1916, the year Mr. Johnson was killed.

By 1916, Mr. Johnson had two wagons on the road to haul spokes, with Adolph and David being his drivers. Fred continued to supervise the cutting. The Johnsons did not work on Saturday, their Sabbath. On Sundays, however, when the rest of Fred's crew had the day off, Fred and his boys would take to the woods to cut and load, as Sunday was not their day of rest.

The three were in the woods cutting alone one Sunday and as they felled a big oak, one of its limbs snapped as it was falling. It struck Mr. Johnson, taking off the top of his head.

Fred Johnson was buried in Meridian. Mrs. Hilda Johnson went to work at a cotton mill. As soon as she could, she went home to her folks in Stockholm, taking her four young children. Ruth and Martha Johnson were away at nursing school, so the orphaned boys, Adolph (16), David (14),

Reuben (12), and Joe (11), were left to fend for themselves. During this critical time in the boys' lives, Pine Springs neighbors exhibited such genuine loving and caring that they won a permanent place in the youngster's hearts.

The boys learned to cook for themselves, after a fashion, but ladies of the community often sent them "special goodies" from their own tables. Miss Lizzie, Kirb Smith's wife, cooked more than her family needed to share a special dish with the orphans. Reuben, recalling a big delicious cake Miss Edna Wilson sent over, still says that she was a saint! The Townsends, News, Vincents - the entire community helped by sending food or offering them a chance to earn money by doing day labor.

Joel New, their close neighbor, watched after the boys. He worked his own farm during the week, but each Sunday he walked over to the Johnson's to see how they boys were making out. Joel commented on how much they had accomplished during the week and pointed out which tasks needed to be done next. If they were letting grass get ahead of them, Joel would point this out, saying "You are raising a fine field here, but what are you trying to grow, grass or corn?". In his abrupt way he talked to the boys as if they were his own, and taught them the correct way to farm.

One day Joel came over to find Adolph struggling to make shingles. He picked up and examined the shingles that Adolph had cut and then made his evaluation.

"This sort of puts me in mind of when the woman was cooking breakfast with a little feller follerin' 'round swingin' on her coat-tail. She spilled her skillet of eggs and squatted to pick them up. The baby wasn't wearin' hippins, and when she put her eggs in the pan she sniffed at each handful and says 'This here handfull's eggs. This hear handfull ain't.' That's the way with yer shingles, son. Some are shingles, but some ain't."

Joel also hired the boys help him in his fields. Young Joe New didn't take work too seriously and Joel had trouble keeping his son's mind on the job. Joel sent Joe to dropping corn and had Reuben coming along behind covering seed. Joel knew Reuben was a fast, steady worker so Joe would have to step out smartly to keep his bare feet ahead of Reuben's hoe.

Miss Hilda's son, Rex, became homesick after his mother took him to Sweden. He wanted so badly to return to live with his big brothers that Hilda gave in and had an agency arrange his trip back to Mississippi. After two years in Sweden, Rex had almost forgotten English, so they pinned a tag to his coat to tell who he was in case he got lost, and put him on a ship for New York.



1920's.
Spokewood
Cutters.

Rex Johnson made the trip alone, stewards telling him where to eat and sleep. He stayed on deck a lot and, being fair, he sunburned. The badly blistered kid arrived on the train at Meridian safely.

Seaborn "Jackie" Smith, Sr., was paroled from the state penitentiary in 1910 but he had nowhere to go. Miss Margaret was dead and none of his sons, remembering what he had done wanted to take him in. Mr. Jake Smith, when asked had he ever met his grandfather, said,

"I saw him one time but he didn't see me. I knew who he was and didn't want to meet him."

Kirb Smith let his father stay with him until he could find a place, but Miss Lizzie, usually a kind and generous person did not want Jackie in their home. But Kirb usually did what he wanted and got his way. Kirb gave Jackie a place to stay, but he didn't say long.

Sebe, living over near Buttercup, gave his father a home. In August 1910, Sebe helped Jackie apply for his Civil War pension. Dink Collins wrote a statement in Jackie's behalf in which he stated he had served in the regiment with Seaborn Smith, and that Smith had been a good soldier.

Seaborn Smith, Sr. died a year later on September 24, at the age of 74. He was buried beside Margaret at Fellowship Baptist Church.

Mr. Kirb and Miss Lizzie were in their late 30's during the World War, and Kirby was taking his place among the respected "elders" of the community. His temper had somewhat cooled from his earlier years, and he remained one of the trustees of Union Church. He and Miss Lizzie did not always attend, but they generally showed up for revivals and other special occasions. When the Methodist church was organized, the

Smiths voted to remain Baptist and kept their memberships at Pace's Fellowship Baptist Church.

Mr. Hill and Miss Luly (Lucille, or "Lucy") Wolfe were living in their log house in Sec. 4 when Miss Luly became sick, her final illness. She died on the 4th day of November in 1915, and was buried in Pine Springs Cemetery. There were already two new Wolfe graves at Pine Springs; Miss Luly's only granddaughter (Tommy's baby) who died at birth on Nov. 8, 1911, and Mr. Cas Wolfe, who died Jan. 28, 1912. [It is not known where Cas' wife died, as her grave is not at Pine Springs.]

After Miss Luly's death Tommy offered his father a home with him and Julia, but Mr. Hill preferred to live alone. A short time later he was hit by a street car in Meridian which left him a semi-invalid. He was forced to live with his son after the accident as he walked with difficulty with the aid of crutches.

Mr. Hill is remembered as a short, plump little man who enjoyed reading and discussing the Bible. He hobbled onto Tommy's front porch in the afternoons and watched passers-by on the road. Tommy placed a board across the ditch in front of his house so his father could sit closer to the action and Hill was always there in clear weather to watch for the school children. Some would linger a spell and he enjoyed their young company, as well as the company of anyone who had time to stop for a chat. Mr. Hill especially treasured the company of his young grandsons Roy, Lester, and Chestine.

Tommy and Julia Wolfe had one other son born after the death of their infant daughter. He was John Aubrey Wolfe, born in 1917. Aubrey was near the age of Ralph Snowden and Irvin New, and the three boys became playmates.

Tommy Wolfe was called upon, at times, to be Methodist 'lay preacher' at Union Church when no regular minister was available. Sometimes he gave a eulogy if a neighbor died.

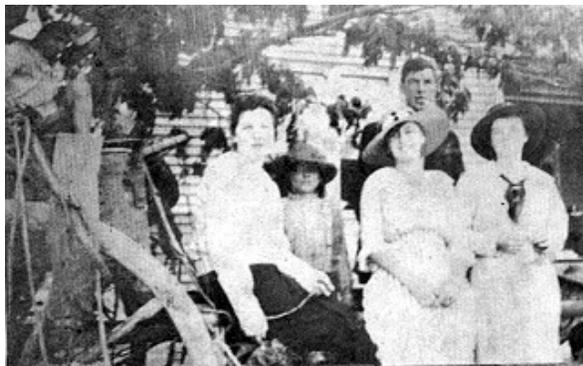
The Albert Pace, Joe Wilson, and Sam Kinard families on (today's) Brown-Hooke Road continued to live well, although they had little cash to spend. Pace, willing to try anything, tried raising tobacco for his cash crop when boll weevils plagued him, but this was not successful, perhaps because a market for this commodity had never been developed in this area.

Grandma Pratt, a part of the Pace household as long as the children could remember, was getting on in years. She did the mending and other household tasks that did not require exertion. Albert's six older children were growing up.

After the oldest Pace daughter graduated from Pine Springs, Albert let her use the family horse and buggy to travel to Beeson College in Meridian to finish her education. Upon graduating, miss Bessie taught at Cook School, a county school just north of Bailey Store. In 1920, she married a local boy, Ollie Calvert, and they set up housekeeping in a small house on her father's farm.

Cecil, the oldest Pace son, was a disappointment in some respects, but other qualities more than made up for his disability. He had a speech impediment and could never progress in school beyond the third reader. He loved everybody and his good-natured, helpful attitude endeared him to everyone. Cecil Pace was a special person.

J.B., the twins Jack and Ebbie, and Barney, all went to school at Pine Springs. J.B. did not finish school but got a job with a construction company that built bridges so he was not home a lot. Ebbie, along with the other Pace



T Pace home Sept. 1917. L to R: Susie Mae New in Wagon, Bessie, Herman New, Lorena New, Ebbie. Rear: Cousin, Mr. Dean.

students, transferred to Center Hill the year the northern portion of Pine Springs school district was consolidated. She went to the new school a year before she dropped out to marry. She and Jake Smith married in 1919 after he returned from the World War. Most everyone called Ebbie by her nick-name, but Jake, for as long as he lived, always called her Evelyn.

Albert and Miss Bettie Pace had three more children before 1920. They were Betty Maye, 1913; Pat (Marcus Cleon), 1915; and Myra Belle, 1917. Their youngest children were Buck (Millard Larnell), 1921, and Martha Isabelle, 1923. Baby Martha lived only three days.

Frank Love and his son, Jodie, vacated Joe and Edna Wilsons' Pine Springs farm and the Wilsons came out to the country to live. About 1916, Joe gave up his railroad work and accepted a job as manager of a delta plantation in Cohoma County. The plantation was at a place called Sherod, about half way between Clarksdale and the Mississippi River.

When they moved, the Wilsons rented their Pine Springs farm to Elias and Molly Brown Walker, 'croppers who had four children.

The Wilsons adopted another son while they were in Cohoma County. The baby, born in 1917, was named Harold. The whole family was attached to the little fellow, but in November 1920, the little boy died rather suddenly, possibly from pneumonia. Their natural son, Little Joe Eddie, took his adopted brother's death rather hard, as the baby had died in his arms. They brought Harold back to be buried with the other Wilsons at Gumlog Church.

Joe and Miss Edna Wilson returned to Pine Springs and remodeled their little tenant house and made it their permanent home. Little Joe Eddie was about 12 when they returned.

When the Wilsons came back, the Walkers rented the new tenant house that Lee Ratcliff built next door to the Union Church.

Sam and Laura Kinard were able to increase the size of their farm and, by 1920 when Sam was 40 years old, it totaled 240 acres. The last three of their seven children were Edna, 1913; Ina Marelle, 1915; and George, 1917.

Burton Kinard recalled that he was in fifth grade when the upper half of the Pine Springs School district was consolidated with Center Hill. He

said the Kinards rode in Mr. Albert Pace's school wagon with the driver being Vester Richardson, Burton's cousin.

In 1920, the oldest Kinard boy, Willie, married a neighbor girl, May Belle White. She was the third daughter of John and Lidie White from down the (Fellowship) road.

Mr. Jim and Miss Annie Snowdens' home was on the portion (now extinct) of the Stagecoach Road that passed across Sec. 34. Their log house, on the eastern edge of the road, had two bedrooms in front with a shed-room across the back where their "cookin' n' eatin'" took place. When their youngest child married, the older couple, in their 70's lived alone. Their daughter, Bessie, and her husband, Sid Smith, came to share the house with them. The old couple took one of the bedrooms and the younger couple took the other, and they shared the back room to eat together. Sid and Bessie had no children.

The Snowdens lived with few requirements, much the same as their fathers before them. Mr. Snowden had made furniture himself as the need arose, most of it put together with wooden pegs and dating back to the 1870's when they had married. Through years of constant use, it had rounded the corners and burnished by the many hands that had caressed it.

Their long hand-made dining table was flanked by two worn-smooth benches, and the table was always loaded with fresh milk, or buttermilk if one preferred, a big bowl of butter, yellow as gold. Always there was a choice of meats - ham, sausages, beef, chicken - as well as a whole array of fresh-picked farm vegetables.

The Snowden's granddaughter, Norma (Ed Snowden's daughter), grew up in the Martin community. She recalls Sunday visits to her grandparents after church when she was young. The porch of their log house had no floor but a swept clean dirt area underneath the roof. Grownups sat in cane-bottomed chairs to talk while youngsters played in the sand at their feet. Miss Norma remembers that her Grandma Snowden had a round wooden cheese box that she kept filled with tea-cakes, and little hands were allowed to reach in to get as many as they wanted. There was always a number of horses on the place, and she feels her grandfather must have raised horses to sell.

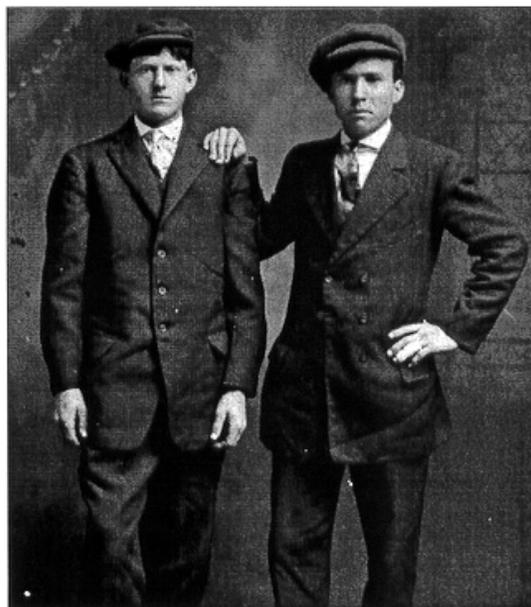
Norma Snowden, now Mrs. Claude Harrington of Marin, also remembers that her Grandma was quite a horsewoman.

Anne had her own horse, Bell, which she hitched to her buggy to drive, alone, to Meridian to sell her butter and fresh produce. Miss Anne had regular customers she supplied with eggs and other provender to collect her own spending money.

Miss Norma was 12 in 1919 when her Aunt Ada (Mrs. W. Henry Davidson) died at her home at McDonald in Neshoba County and was brought home for burial. The pine casket, home-made as most were then, made the long trip from Neshoba in a wagon behind a pair of mules. A wake was held that night at the Snowden's home and her funeral was held the next morning at Pace's church.

The youngest of the Snowdens, Stacy found work at local saw mills when he finished school at Pine Springs. He enjoyed playing the fiddle, but his fiddling was not remarkable. He was good at calling the sets at the local square dances. Stacy did love to dance.

Stacy was 19 in 1915 when he married John White's second daughter, Miss Lena. He was working at a saw mill around Dekalb in Kemper County and had a fine-looking horse he rode down to court his childhood sweetheart. After he and Lena married they lived in Kemper. Their first born, Lamar, was born in 1917 and their oldest daughters Stacey Margaret, was born in 1919. It was several years before Stacy bought a mill of his own and returned to live in Pine Springs.



1914, 1915?

Stacy Snowden and Ernest White

Curtis Gray Snowden, born 1888, was son of James Gray and Sara Pinkie May Snowden, who lived off today's Center Hill-Martin Road near Shucktown. Cousin of Mr. Jim and Mr. Jarred Snowden of Pine Springs, Curtis was a grandson of William B. Snowden and Bethana "Thanie" Sanderford and was a descendant of the early settlers who came to the county in the 1830's.

When Curtis married Minnie New in 1913, Minnie's uncle DR. B.D. Pace, helped them buy a 60-acre farm in Pine Springs. Spinks Jones had owned this house/land in Sec. 3, but had mortgaged it to Mr. David D. Pace in 1911. D.D. Pace foreclosed on the place and sold it to Dr. Dee Pace, who was acting for Curtis and Minnie. The newly wedded couple moved right into the sturdy 1850's log house and commenced farming. [Luna Kinard Brown said D. Pace had "beat Grandpa Jones out of his land by claiming he was going to get grandpa's ox-yoke patented".]

Curtis and Minnie fared better on their farm than did most local farmers. Both were raised in farm families who knew how to wrest a living from the land. Curtis was a progressive farmer and practiced good soil conservation. He drove himself when he worked; one time he "passed out" from heat in his fields.

Miss Minnie had a ready smile and was quick with humorous antidotes and witty comments. Her eyes were a dark brown that appeared black, and her dark straight hair was so thick that her father teased her, saying a cootie would swim the Mississippi River to get into such a head of hair. Her sister-in-law, Maebelle New, admired Minnie for being able to "turn out so much work". Miss Maebelle said Minnie could go into her kitchen, turn around twice, and her work would all be done. She was capable and efficient.

AS busy as they were, the Snowdens took time to enjoy life. Minnie was attended ladies' get0togethers and Curtis was interested in politicks. He never ran for office, but campaigned for his favorite candidates. Curtis and Minnie, like four preceding Snowden generations, were members of Pace's church.

The Snowden's first infant, Joel Edward, died at birth in 1914. Ralph Marion was born in 1916 and Curtis Raymond was born in 1918. (Raymond choked to death on a watermelon seed when he was two and was buried at Pace's church.) Their last child Ruth Earline, was born in 1924.

In Pine Springs in 1910, the children of John and Lidie White were Myrtie, 17; Ernest, 16; Leana, 14; Lawrence, 12.



1913. Curtis G. and Minnie New Snowden.

(Mary Jeanette had died a child and was buried at Mt. Carmel in Obadiah.) The younger children that year were May Belle, 9; Claude, 8; J.L. (John Lewis), 6; Algie, 3; and the infant Leo. Before 1920, five more children were born: Billy (Otto Wilson), 1911; Robert (who died at age two), 1913; Louise, 1914; Perry, 196; and Imogene, 1918. Imogene was the Whites Fifteenth child (Thirteen grew up and married.)

Understandably, the White's Pine Springs home, built in the 1880's by bachelor Judge Gibbens, did not have enough bedrooms. To add to the congestion, Uncle Charley and Aunt Lee Dabbs reserved a bedroom for weekend visits. As babies kept coming, John added a room across the back to bunk the boys. He called it the bull Pen. Uncle Charley tried to talk John into building a new house, but John and Lidie were satisfied with what they had. They did consent to give the house a fresh coat of paint and had carbide gas lighting installed.

Johnny White reveled in life and activity and made mundane farm labor a celebration. Each season had its special kinds of farm chores which, somehow, became a party. There were always black helpers at hand, mostly descendants of old Rufus Bailey

whose neighboring farm was up the hill on the other side of Rogers Creek. They seemed a part of the family and often brought a guitar to provide music as they joined in the work and fun. Sometimes they came "just for fun" whether John had hired them to work or not. They collected for "hog killns" when several hogs would be butchered at one time, and "syrup cookin'", "watermelon cuttins'", or get-togethers for no reason at all.

Each fall, John collected children, blacks and neighbors to pick off peanuts from a great stack of pulled vines. Most of the peanuts were stored for later use, but a sizeable portion of the green peanuts were boiled in the hull in a washpot of salted water. There was singing and laughter as they worked together and everyone had all the boiled goobers they could eat.

One celebration the Whites had on a July 4th Independence Day was attended by



John and Lidie with older children, ca 1909.

Cliff Pace family of Obadiah. Cliff's son Jack (Nevelyn) Pace, was a boy then, but remembers the occasion well. John White had built a wooden pavilion so the young people could dance [Cliff Pace, son of Carrol Pace, was a grandson of the late Alsa Pace of Pine Springs. His wife, the former Miss Della Wilson, was Lidie White's aunt.]

Lawrence White, an older son, found the men's jug of moonshine. Listening to the fiddles, he began to buck dance, and soon had the whole platform to himself. As the crowd clapped and cheered, he danced until he gave out. Lawrence's buck dance became a tradition when there was music and dancing, and he buck danced in local fiddler's contests.

Although John did not indulge often in strong drink, home-made corn whiskey was kept in Southern tradition, for those of his guest who did. Hardly a week went by without friends or relatives (or both) dropping by for Sunday dinner. Miss Lidie never knew how many she was cooking for. In addition to feeding her immediate family which numbered over a dozen, Lidie and

her kitchen helpers often cooked for two or three tabesfull of hungry folks. She had Rufus Bailey's daughters, either Tennessee Pruitt, Nancy Jane Darden, or Anzie Stancil-Hannible, to help her most of the times. Their long table had chairs at each end, but was flanked by benches for the children and guests of lesser importance. The men ate at first table but Lidie hurried them if they dawdled to talk; the next group would be getting hungry. The last table was made up of youngsters and mothers with babies to feed. Eating with them all was an experience. There was food for all although the last table didn't always have choice pieces of chicken. Lidie's cooks and field hands ate in the kitchen.

Some of John's friends who visited often were the Doctors McDonald and Wilson, and Bro, Snellgrove (a Methodist lay preacher from Meridian who often preached at Union church). Other guest were one or more of his many cousins and uncles from the White and Wilson families. Of Course, Uncle Charley and Aunt lee Dabbs were always there.

One Sunday evening in 1917 after the Dabbs returned to town, John White's house burned to the ground. The fire started in Dabbs bedroom and it was said it may have been ignited by one of Charley's cigars. Uncle Charley often nagged John to build a bigger house; at last he got his wish.

The white family crowded into the Polly house (a board tenant shack on the place) while their new house was being built. All on one floor, John's new home was probably the biggest in Pine Springs. Besides the spacious kitchen, dining room and parlor, it had four bedrooms, each big enough for at least two double bedstead. The porch crossed most of the front and continued down one side. A two-room suite separated from the White's part of the house by a wide hallway, was for Uncle Charley and Aunt lee. Again, carbide lights were installed. [These were later replaced by a Delco battery system which lasted until REA brought electric power to Pine Springs in the 1930's.] In 1918, John and Lidie's last child Imogene, was born in the new house.

Following the war, Aunt Lee Dabbs had a summer cottage built on the farm on the far side of Rogers Creek. Rustic in appearance and stained barn red, it was near a cold spring at the base of the row of hills that rimmed the east side of the creek bottom. The hills and bluffs overlooking the cottage abounded with ferns and suggested its name, Fern Hill Camphouse. Making Fern Hill their hobby, Lee and her niece, Mrs. Bobbie Harrington (daughter in law of Ben and Mattie Harrington), devoted much time to landscape its grounds.



1911. John White's Log Rolling.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Aunt Lee Dabbs | 11. Rufus Calvert | 21. Aunt Mary Anne White | 31. Claude White |
| 2. Billy White | 12. Sam Kinard | 22. Aunt Edna Wilson | 32. Uncle Joe Wilson |
| 3. Aunt Mattie Harrington | 13. J.L. White | 23. Leana White | 33. Lawrence White |
| 4. Mrs. Amanda Vincent | 14. Bud Ratcliff | 24. May Belle White | 34. Little Joe Wilson |
| 5. Aunt Juel Ratcliff | 15. John Love | 25. Ollie Vincent | 35. Leo White |
| 6. Myrtie White | 16. Markus Hawkins | 26. Tommy Wolfe | 36. Mrs. Nancy Jane Darden |
| 7. Miss Lela Vincent | 17. Yancy Boyd | 27. John White | 37. Mrs. Tennessee Pruitt |
| 8. Algie White | 18. Ernest White | 28. Uncle Lee Ratcliff | 38. Mrs. Anzie Hannible |
| 9. Uncle Charley Dabbs | 19. Albert Lockahard | 29. Bob Stone | 39. Monroe Merridy |
| 10. Will Skinner | 20. Minnie Vincent | 30. Vester Love | 40. Rog Darden |

They left the setting natural but added shrubs to the native flowers. A wildwood trail cleared through the threes was spaced with rustic benches to invite one to rest. Lee enlisted John's sons to build a fishing lake fed by a spring from up the hillside. She had a concrete swimming pool, complete with dressing rooms, built at the base of the pond dam. The pond spill way provided the pool with constantly changing water.

While working to build Aunt Lee's pond, a log was dropped on Lawrence White that injured his back. The accident left Lawrence with a pronounced curve in his upper spine, but his family refused to feel pity. They began calling him Humpy, and with unsung courage, Humpy White continued his customary activities. This happened after he and Lorena were married.

Charley Dabbs died in 1918 and was buried in Meridian's Magnolia Cemetery. For years Aunt Lee had her chauffeur drive her out in her Packard automobile to spend time at her country retreat. Lee Dabbs lived until 1958.

John White was about six feet tall,

big framed, and was vitally alive. He was described as being "raw-boned and strong as a mule". He smoked an old corncob pipe and most of his life he wore a mustache. He had light brown, straight hair and blue eyes, although most of his children were sandy blonds or red-heads. (Ernest was the only child with dark hair.) He had an old accordion he would pick up and play by ear, making up silly songs for the kids around the fireplace. His playing was bad and his singing was worse., but they enjoyed it and would join in when he played a song they knew.

John ran the farm, but the house was Miss Lidie's domain. The kids knew they could get away with a lot with Papa, but had better watch out with Mama, or suffer the consequences of her "Lidie White temper". With so much cooking, canning, housekeeping and entertaining, she did not have time to cater to many whims. If she caught kids fighting she would grab a limb and flail both parties, the innocent along with the guilty. It

seemed she was perpetually pregnant. When things got too much for her, she had what they called "a Lidie White fit". John could calm her, most times, with a soothing voice, "Now, now, Lidie..."

The Whites were Methodists. The old family had been Presbyterian until John's father married Mary Jane, daughter of a Methodist minister. John had grown up Methodist like his mother. He among the neighbors who met with Tommy Wolfe in 1920 to organize Pine Springs Methodist Church.

Myrtie White was about 19 when the boy she was to marry, Vester Love, was killed in an accident at his father's saw mill. Myrt went into a decline and John and Lidie were worried but, after a period of mourning, she put the past behind. In 1915, she married Chester Lee Love, son of Mr. Wes Love. (Ches was her late sweetheart's cousin.) Ches worked for the railroad shops in Meridian but, as the rule "last man hired is the first laid off" was followed, Ches was often laid off. They lived in town at intervals, returning to Pine Springs to rent whatever was available between work periods. Ches had a garden and farmed while waiting to be called back. Their three children were Onida, 1918; C.L. (Chester Lee, Jr.), 1921; and Mack Wilson, 1927. The children spent much of their childhood in the country and had happy times with their many cousins.

Ernest White was not only John's oldest son but was his dad's best friend. The younger children called him Doc, the name adopted by his friends. Kept busy farming by his father, Doc had a skimpy education but that was all he thought he needed. Uncle Charley tried to persuade Doc to live with him to learn the banking business but John could not spare Doc from the farm. Doc didn't want to go, anyway.

Doc was 20 in 1914 when he married Miss Minnie Hawkins, daughter of Markus Hawkins who lived on The Lane. Uncle Lee Ratcliff, JP, officiated at their simple wedding on the Fourth of July and Doc brought his bride home. Living with the Whites, Miss Lidie assigned Minnie a share of the housework. One job was to roll out of bed before dawn to roll and bake three large-sized pans of biscuits. Each pan held 36 biscuits.

Doc took a job delivering lumber to Meridian. None of the streets were paved except the brick-paved Front Street which paralleled railroad. Heavy traffic made the dirt streets soupy when it rained.

One rainy day after Doc unloaded his wagon, he coupled its wide-spaced wheels up close for the return trip. With the wheels close-coupled the wagon was easier to handle but the long coupling pole extended some distance behind the

the rear wheels. Driving down the street in front of the Marks-Rothenburg Store, he saw Mr. Marks in a fine store-bought suit coming from the building. Doc's wagon had just passed, but Mr. Marks didn't notice the long coupling pole extending from the rear. Marks started across the street and ran right into the pole and was knocked flat. Nothing was hurt except Mr. Marks' dignity and his fancy suit, but Doc sure had a good chuckle.

The Prohibition Party worked to get liquor laws passed to "protect" the World War doughboys. New wartime prohibition laws curtailed the practice of saloons selling individual drinks, although whiskey could still be bought wholesale by the barrel. In later years, Doc confessed to taking a shotgun along on Fridays so on the way from town he could buy a "barrel" of whiskey to drink. He would buy a second "barrel-full" for his friend Nick. (Nick was his lead mule.) Next he would buy ole Rube a barrel-full and continue down the line until each mule had a (gun) barrel purchased in his name. Doc would be tipsy when he got home and Miss Lidie raged and stormed, but Doc would just laugh.

Until 1918, Mr. Ernest said, the county had two large convict crews to build and maintain roads. After that year they didn't use convict help but hired patch gangs, made up of four men and a foreman, to do the work. The men camped in tents near their work, going home only on weekends. They were paid \$40 a month but had to buy their own food. They pooled their money to hire a camp cook.

Doc went to work for the county when Will Talbert was road foreman of Beat 3. Acting as foreman of a gang, Doc operated a six-mule road machine with a wide blade they used to build roads. His first assignment was building a new road through the Tallahatta Hills on the far western side of the county. It was a hard road to build because of the many rock shelves in the hills. In many places they couldn't use the road machine but had to use a dirt slip to build abutments. It required physical stamina but Doc stuck to this job for two years. Some weeks Miss Minnie went along to camp with him until their son, Howard, was born.

Ethan Lowe, after leaving Pine Springs, managed one of the Tuscometa Lumber Company's two saw mills in Leake County. He got Doc a job with the big company which entailed driving a six-mule team from the mill at Lena to Basic Lumber Co.'s lumber yard in Meridian. Doc moved Miss Minnie to the small tenant house in the edge of John White's field and went on the road hauling lumber. In 1921, Doc and Minnie's only daughter was born, and they named her Helen.

In 1924, a second son, James, was born while



Early 1920's.
Six mule road grading machine
driven by Ernest White. Negro
on lead mule, Prince Johnson
Motor-driven road graders
were first bought in 1930's
when Oliver King was Beat 3
Supervisor.

Doc and Minnie lived in White's tenant house. About a year later, Doc was made a foreman at one of the Tuscometa's mills and moved Miss Minnie and the three children to the little town of Lena. A nice raise went with the foreman job, and Doc began to buy things for his family. He bought a Model T automobile for himself and a red wagon for little Howard. (Every day the small boy pulled his baby brother down to the track to watch the daily train go by.) Miss Minnie got new furniture.

As a foreman, Doc had to drive his Ford "Fliver" to the bank in the next town to pick up the payroll for the lumberjacks and mill hands. Doc bought a pistol to take along when he picked up the cash. One Friday he was on the way back with the payroll when a "road agent" jumped on the car; running board when the steep hill had the Fliver slowed to a crawl. As the car reached in to grab the money sack, Doc stuck his "hog-leg" in the bandit's face and made him hang on until the top of the hill was reached. (The long barreled revolver was just a .22 caliber but it must have looked like a cannon to the would be robber.) At the top of the hill, Doc gave the car more gas and flew down the other side. Still holding the gun, Doc forced the highwayman to jump off while the car was going at break-neck speed. That was the only time Doc had any trouble.

Although his young brothers came to visit at Lena, Doc became homesick for his father and Pine Springs. He rented Uncle Lee's tenant house (the old Jimmie Wright place) and moved his family home to take up farming. Doc's last child,

Robert Lee, was born on Uncle Lee's place in 1928. Doc's brothers and sisters called the baby Dusty, a name Dusty White still uses.

Leana White married neighbor Jim Snowden's son Stacy in 1915. And moved to Kemper county where Stacy worked at a saw mill. May Belle White married Sam Kinard's oldest son, Willie, but stayed in the community. Humpy White married Lorena New in 1919.. Their daughter, Ina Pearl, was born in 1920.

John White was fortunate that in the World War, which turned out to be a short war, none of his sons were drafted into the Army. They were either married or too young for the draft.

The hooks family migrated from North Carolina around 1809-1810. Evan Hooks (some records have it Evin or Ervin) was born in Georgia in 1813 and was young when his family traveled on to Sumter County, Alabama. Evan grew up in Alabama where he married his wife, Eliza, and they had two children when they moved to Mississippi. Evan's name first appeared on the Lauderdale County poll tax roll in 1939. He bought a small plantation near Hickory Grove Baptist Church where Rev. Richard Weatherford and the Ratcliff family were prominent members.

Evan's oldest son, William Madison Hooks (Sr.) had been born in Sumter Co. but grew up in Mississippi. He married Elizabeth Pamela Weatherford (b. 1841), a daughter of Rev. Richard and Lucinda Weatherford, and grand-daughter of the famed RedEagle. Pamela, called "Betts" was (continued next page)

an older sister of Dock Weatherford who later moved to Pine Springs.

William and Betts Hooks lived near Hickory Grove and had two little ones when their life was interrupted by the Civil War. William fought for the Confederacy but returned at War's end to put their lives back on track. He bought a farm east of Bailey Store.

Betts was pregnant with their ninth child when William came down with Typhoid Fever. He was desperately ill for days. He could not eat and lost weight but stubbornly held on, refusing to die. He began to get better. One day the doctor said William could try solid food.

When the doctor left, Betts asked William what he would like for supper. Feeling stronger, Will was hungry. He said he had been thinking of how good some 'possum and sweet 'taters would taste. Overjoyed at his improvement, Betts sent the older boys to get a 'possum which she cooked, just as William liked it. Boy, it was good! It was the first solid food William had eaten in some time and he made a pig of himself. He ate too much, too soon, and it turned out that 'possum and 'taters was his last meal. Betts had a struggle to raise her family alone, but with the help of her oldest son, they were able to get by.

Henry Edward Hooks (born 1874) was the seventh child of William and Betts Hooks. He was tall, over six feet, which was a bit unusual as folks weren't generally as tall then as they are now. In his youth, Ed Hooks weighed over 200 pounds, had black curly hair, a fair skin, and bright blue eyes. He had a Christian upbringing and was "honest as the day is long" and would "give you the shirt off his back". Only six when his father died, Ed grew up fast; early on in life he did the work of a grown man, as the Hooks children had to move out before breakfast to help their mother. Ed didn't mind. Accustomed to hard labor, he thought life was supposed to be like that. He enjoyed getting into the woods to fish or hunt. He didn't like church and didn't go to services often, feeling a fellow could be a good man without all that bother. Truth was, Ed Hooks was a little on the shy side and did not enjoy a crowd.

Ed was busy earning a living when he realized he was in his middle thirties and it was high time he found himself a wife. He began to get to church and took note of the ladies. He met Miss Ida Vincent of Pine Springs...

Felix and Amanda Vincent were over sixty before any of their children married. Within a few years they were all married except Tom, Lelia, and

Nannie.

Tom and Lelia, the oldest, felt a strong responsibility toward their younger siblings. In looking after the rest they never took time for themselves. Tom worked with his father and when opportunity presented, he bought nearby land against the time his brothers should marry. Lelia, a dear big sister who was always there for the others, was an excellent housekeeper. She sewed a fine seam and boiled white Sunday shirts, the kind with stiff-starched detachable collars, which she ironed to perfection, as well as ironing the ruffled undergarments her sisters wore.

Miss Nannie was the organist at most of the local religious services, accompanying the hymns on the pump organ at Union Church. She became ill before she decided upon a husband, though some thought she and preacher Dan Yeager would marry. As she progressively became crippled with Rheumatoid Arthritis, she took to her chair where she remained the balance of her life. Miss Lelia patiently waited on her sister and never took time to marry.

Miss Ida was the first of the Vincent children to find a mate. She was thirty-six when she met Ed Hooks at a church picnic and found he was the man she had been waiting for. Still youthful, but mature enough to leave behind the silliness of girlhood, she made shy Ed Hooks feel comfortable. They began to plan for their marriage, but Ida's illness intervened.

In 1911, there had been only one appendectomy performed in Turner Hospital (fore-runner of Anderson Infirmary of Meridian). The operation was successful but the patient died. When Miss Ida presented herself at Turner's with appendicitis, Dr. Turner was not eager to lose another patient on the operating table. He gave Ida medication (for pain) and sent her home, hopeful that the acute attack would pass. It didn't. Her appendix ruptured.

Miss Ida was so sick she couldn't return to the hospital, so Dr. Dee Pace was called. He came, but as he had never performed the "new" surgery, he sent for Dr. Turner. Turner came and after consultation, it was determined they should operate at home, using the Vincent's kitchen as a surgery. It seemed likely Ida would die, but she was dying anyway, they reasoned, so they might as well try the knife. Dr. Pace may have been remembering his sister-in-law's tragic death twelve years earlier, when Mamie New died from a ruptured appendix before the operation had been perfected. He wasn't likely to leave anything undone this time.

Through all the excitement, Ed Hooks practically moved in at the Vincents. He could not go away, not with his Ida facing death. He helped get Ida onto the kitchen table and then he was sent from

the room. Not being able to hold her hand, he stood outside the window and watched. As Lelia and Minnie held high the kerosene lamps, Dr. Pace put the patient to sleep with chloroform and Dr. Turner began the operation. He made a long incision but, being somewhat inexperienced, had a time locating her appendix. Ed later said it looked like most of her innards were out on the table while the doctor looked for the infected part. He found what he was after, put everything back in place, and sewed her up. Ida had to lie flat on her back for six weeks while the oversized scar healed. Mr. Vincent hired two nurses to stay with her, each taking a 12-hour shift.

After several days they noticed an unpleasant aroma near Ida's bedside. Upon investigation they found infection had developed and a drain had spontaneously opened in her back. Her bed was saturated and drainage was dripping through the mattress. The nurses had been instructed to not move her, so they had never changed her bed nor even looked at her back. The fact that she had burst and drained may have saved her life in those days before antibiotics. By some miracle, Ida did recover and the deep diagonal scar across her abdomen finally healed.

Through Ida's long convalescence Ed Hooks rode his little mule over from Bailey each day to visit. Their wedding was postponed but they did, at last, get married.

It was a double wedding. Ida's sister, Minnie, had developed a romance with one of Mr. Sigh Townsend's sons who had recently moved to Pine Springs. Minnie had been keeping company with Joe Townsend during the time of Ida's recovery and, when Joe proposed, the sisters made plans to be married at the same time.

It was a wintertime wedding on January 7, 1912, the double ceremony being solemnized by Rev. R. E. Rutledge, a Methodist minister. [Rev. Rutledge later became one of the first pastors of Pine Springs Methodist Church when it was organized.] They had decorated the front porch with Mrs. Vincent's potted ferns and the weddings took place in a bower of greenery. The brides wore off-white dresses as they walked out with each on one of their father's arms. As visitors watched from the yard it began snowing. They were married by candle-light midst the quietly falling snowflakes.

When Ed and Ida first began to speak of marriage, Ed bought 20 acres next to the Vincent farm from Tom Vincent. [$W\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$ of $SE\frac{1}{4}$, S-3] He cleared the land but left untouched the patch of ground where he planned to build Ida a home. Once the site of an ancient Indian hunting camp,

it was surrounded by big Oaks.

The housebuilding, with Ed's brother to help, began in the spring. Ida went to the site to watch and sew baby garments as her home took shape.

The house was a typical framed country house of that period, having three rooms on one side of a hallway, and one large front room on the other, and a front porch. A well was dug at the end nearer the kitchen of its L-shaped back porch.

The house was white outside but the inside was never painted. Ida's uncle, Wash Jones, cut and put up a picket fence around the yard. The old soldier's mental problems still plagued him, but he was a good carpenter still, and all the pickets were uniformly cut and neatly level.

The four Hooks children were Ethel, 1912, who died an infant; Edna, 1915; Lester, 1917; and Louie, 1919.

In 1911, Frank Vincent bought 40 acres of his father's farm and engaged Uncle Wash to help build a house. [$SW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$, S-4] The house was much like the house Ed had built for Ida, but Frank never finished the interior and never got it painted. He married Miss Edna Morrow from Andrew's Chapel community in 1913 and they moved into the unfinished the house.

The little-used wagon trail road still ran diagonally across Frank's 40 acres, passing the front of his house and the site where Oak Grove School had been in the 1880's. The old road served as Frank's driveway to the main road, but he incorporated the portion behind his house into his field.

Frank went to work for the railroad and, in 1922, he sold his forty acres and unfinished house to Jake and Ebbie Smith. He and Miss Edna, with three children, moved to town. The children, born in Pine Springs, were Gladys, 1918; Frank, Jr., 1920; and John Morris, 1922. They later had two more sons, James and Ray.

* * * * *

Tom and Molly (Mary E. J.) Love, in their home on the crossroad (Ernest White Road) east of The Forks, farmed their 80 acres to a some extent, but mostly raised livestock. Cattle gave Mr. Tom time to operate his saw mill.

Vester Love, a stalwart young man of 21, lived with his parents and worked at saw mills. He and Myrtie White had an "understanding" and made plans to marry. He was working at the mill on the Lowe farm when a fatal accident occurred. The whirling saw hit a hard knot in a log and shattered into pieces. One piece flew out to enter Vester's lung. Some reported him nearly cut in half.

Mrs. Lily Hawkins, living nearby on The Lane, was one of the first that arrived when the saw mill's alarm whistle blew. Miss Lily was a kind Christian woman and offered the injured man comfort. Vester didn't want her to leave and she rode in the wagon that brought him home. She remained by his side till the end.

Miss Myrtie was inconsolable. For a time her family lovingly guarded her, afraid she might do herself harm. It was a sad time for all concerned.

With Vester's death, Mary Esther was the Love's only child left at home. She was old enough to entertain beaux, and one night Chester Trussell came calling in his buggy. Chester, a carpenter, was one of the Trussells that lived near Bales Creek.

As it was time for supper, Mr. Tom invited the young man to eat, but Chester and Mary Esther both allowed as how they were not hungry. As Tom and Miss Molly ate, they heard the buggy drive away. It was only later they realized Mary Esther had gone with Chester. It was too late by then to stop them. They had eloped.

In November 1919, Tom and Miss Molly sold their house and the north 40 acres of their farm to Wallace and Ruby McCarty Lang of Meridian. (Ruby Lang was a niece of John White and Juel Ratcliff.) Tom sold his south 40 acres, east of the schoolhouse, to Lee Ratcliff. (Tom Love's was not the first land the Langs bought in the community. They had bought small parcels of land before, keeping it a year or so before selling it. They sold Tom Love's house and 40 acres to Tom Vincent in 1921.)

Tom and Molly, middle-aged, moved to Hattiesburg to live near their surviving son. They were missed by their Pine Springs neighbors. Tom Love was a trustee of Union Church, and he had taken his turn at being a school trustee. They spent their final years in Laurel.

* * * * *

In 1911, Johnny, Mr. Jim and Miss Beulah Thead's oldest boy, married when he became 19. His bride was Lizzie Boyles, fifteen-year-old daughter of J. W. Boyles of Texas. Boyles and his second wife, Annie, had moved to The Lane in 1910. They had five children, Carl, Lizzie (who had married Johnny), Rosa, Horace, and Alma.

Johnny and Lizzie Thead lived in a little board shack between Jim Thead and Lewis Huffmaster, although it is not clear on whose land the house was situated. They had a small son, Jesse Lee Thead, born 1912, and another child on the way when Miss Lizzie was killed.

Johnny claimed it was an accident. He had been hunting, he said, and was cleaning his gun when it discharged, striking 6-month-pregnant Lizzie. There was an investigation, but all there was to go on was Johnny's own statement. There were no witnesses. Shortly thereafter, Rosie Boyles, Lizzie's younger sister, and Johnny were married.

Ugly gossip flew up and down Pine Springs Road. Even Johnny's relatives expressed doubts about the "accident" and the locals had a glorious time repeating all they heard. Suddenly folks remembered that Rosie had visited her sister right often and maybe it wasn't just Lizzie she had been going to see.

Mr. Jim Thead had bought Spinks Jones' house, store, and 80 acres up the road in Sec. 4 when Jones moved away in 1910. The store was vacant after Jones left, but Mr. Jim kept the house and land rented. After Johnny married Rosie, they moved into the old Jones house. The place was next Vas Byrd's farm, and soon Johnny became friends with Bud and Nade Byrd. The three men were hunting and fishing buddies.

Mr. Nade Byrd told of one of their overnight fishing jaunts. He said he, along with Bud and Johnny, went to the Okatibbee to set out hooks and spend the night. He didn't tell how many fish they caught but they built a bonfire, got roaring drunk, and had a big time.

Next morning they were walking home, dirty, sleepy, hung-over, with two miles left to walk, when they met Miss Pearl Bozeman. Pearl, squeaky-clean, spruced up, was on her way to church.

"You boys had better hurry up - you're goin' to be late for preachin'", she told them brightly.

"Well, Miss Pearl," Nade woefully told her. "I believe we're jest a little too drunk to go to church today."

The preachers "came down hard" on the drinking of strong spirits, preaching the evils of whiskey would bring ruin and damnation. Some of the church-going crowd never touched a drop, but many saw nothing wrong with taking a nip now and then to help them over rough spots of their hard lives. Outwardly, the community was "dry", but the sons of even the more staid parents slipped away to the woods for their cock-fights, or out behind the barn at social gatherings to visit the hidden jug of "corn-squeezin's". The fiery sermons produced an outward show of sobriety but, with long tradition, Southerners were some of the hardest drinkers in America. Pine Springs was no worse than anywhere else.

John Thead, unlike his father, was not admired for being a "good provider". Beside his son Jesse, he and Rosie had four children, Willie Mack, 1914;

James Henry, 1916; John Wallace, 1918; and an only daughter, Beulah Mae, 1920.

When prohibition laws were passed in 1919 making the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages illegal, Johnny got himself a still and began to try his hand at making moonshine whiskey. Bud Byrd, devil-may-care and having little respect for authority, was talked into going in with Johnny on his new enterprise. To Bud it was just another lark. Bud's wife, Miss Annie, was appalled at what Bud was doing but Bud said it would only be for a little while, until they could buy a farm of their own.

Around 1914, James b. and Frances Bradley moved to Pine Springs and rented the house Albert Lockahrd had built near the store. (Since Lockhard left it has been part of the Lowe farm.) The Bradley's big family, mostly boys, were engaged in the logging business.

One Bradley son, Rush, had an eye on Mr. Jim Thead's oldest daughter, Miss Mattie. For some reason, Mr. Thead thought Rush was not a fit suitor for his daughter and ordered Rush to keep away from his home. Aubrey Smith, Mrs. Thead's nephew, recalls that upon one occasion Mr. Jim shot at an Allen boy thinking he was shooting at rush Bradley. Young Allen had come to call on Miss Belvah Thead. Fortunately, Mr. Jim missed. In 1916, Miss Mattie ran away and married Rush against her father's wishes. Mr. Jim was a good man and was respected by his neighbors, but he was unyielding in his treatment of his wife and daughters. He forbade Mattie the right to visit her mother.

The Bradley family lived in the community only a short time before they moved away. Rush, who had some experience as a machinist, took Mattie and left with his family.



Clarence
Thead
and Miss
Lottie
Lovett.
1917

Miss Lottie Lovett, oldest daughter of John Lovett, taught at Pine Springs for the scholastic year 1915-1916. She taught at Whitlock School in 1916-1917 and when that term ended, she married Clarence Thead.

Clarence and Lottie lived in the neighborhood but did not own land. For some time they farmed Miss Dora Bozeman's place and shared her big

house. By 1920, they had two little daughters, Louise and Martha, although Martha died with pneumonia when she was a year old.

Miss Belvah Thead married her sweetheart, hunter Allen, about 1918, but did not go far from home. The Allens bought a farm across from Okatibbee Creek on today's Allen Swamp Road. Their three children, Earline, Cecil, and Lessie went to school at Suqualena.

Mr. Jim and Miss Beulah's two youngest children James Roy and Sug (George Lee) were still schoolboys.

When Horace Lowe and Edna Brown married they moved to Drip Off (Center Hill) to open a general store. The first three of their six children, Earlyne, 1908; Mary Elwyn, 1911; and Walker Ernest, 1912, were born while they lived there. Horace and his father, Mr. Lon Lowe, were more like business partners than father and son. AS the older man began to slow down, they agreed to 'swap stoppers'. Mr. Lowe and Miss Dora moved up to Drip Off to run Horace's store while Horace moved his family back to Pine Springs to operate Lowe's cotton seed business. Horace and Edna's fourth child, Helen Merle was born in pine Springs in August 1914.

Aubrey Smith, youngest son of Kirb Smith recalls a story he heard from his father. Mr. Smith said Horace Lows had a hog he had fattened to sell. Horace owed his brother, Ethan Lowe, \$5 and Ethan told Horace he would be willing to take the hog and they could call it even.

"No," said Horace told him. "I' gonna find somebody that will give me \$10.00 for my hog, and then I'll pay you."

Kirb Smith came by and saw the fine hog and Horace talked him into buying it for \$10. They loaded the hog onto Kirb's wagon and Kirb took him home, telling Horace he didn't have the money on him, but he would leave it at Ratcliff's store for him to pick up the next passing. Late that afternoon, Kirb went to the store and Mr. Ratcliff asked Kirb if he had the money for Horace Lowe.

"Yeah, I do. It's right here," Kirb said, patting his shirt pocket.

Good!" Ratcliff said.

Of course, Kirb asked him why he was interested and Ratcliff wouldn't tell him. Kirb insisted, so Ratcliff told him Horace had been in earlier, liquored up a bit, and said if Kirb didn't pay him the money he owed, why, he was going to buggy-whip him.

Well, that set Kirb on fire! About then here came Horace Lowe riding up in his buggy. In about two jumps Kirb was up in the buggy with Horace, who began hitting at Kirb with his buggy-whip. Kirb snatched the whip from Lowe's hand and beat him over the head with the handle. Horace managed to get the buggy turned around and headed for home, Smith pummeling him all the while.

Onlookers said that Kirb hung on and fought until Horace turned in at his road. When the buggy went around the corner in the deep sand, one side tipped up and Kirb was thrown out. Horace didn't check his momentum until he reached the safety of his barn. Kirb walked back to the store, brushing the dust from his clothes.

"Did you give Horace his money?" someone asked.

Kirb patted his pocket again. "This is as close as Lowe will ever get to THIS money," Kirb said.

And as far as is known, Kirb Smith never did pay Horace Lowe for his hog. Kirb was a good man, but just a mite hot tempered.

The European war stimulated the use of cotton and were it not for the pesky boll weevil, Horace would have done well at operating the Lowe farm. However, in 1915, his crop suffered a ruinous weevil infestation. With this crop failure the Threefoot mortgage was not paid and they foreclosed. The Pine Springs Lowe farm became the Threefoot place.

The Threefoot brothers were not farmers so Horace and Edna stayed on the land for a while, but after their baby, Raymond Ray, was born in 1916, they moved away. Soon after 1918, both Lowe families, father and son, moved to the Mississippi delta. Horace first lived south of Clarksdale, then near Belen and finally, in a place called Alligator. Horace's last child, Edyth Lee, was born near Belen in Quitman County in January, 1921.

Lon and Miss Dora Lowe went to Marked Tree, Arkansas near Osceola, although in their late years they returned to live with Horace and Edna at Alligator. Miss Dora was killed in a car wreck in the summer of 1935 and Mr. Lon died in the fall that same year. They were both buried at Harpersville, Mississippi.

Miss Mazelle Lowe married Roland "Steve" Stephens of Hazelhurst (Miss.) and Miss Alice married Pat Boyles and lived in Jackson. Ethan Lowe lived a while at Forest, Mississippi, and worked in the saw mill business. He married Miss Eula Austin and had a large family. At one time Ernest White of Pine Springs worked for Ethan in a saw mill in Lena.

Mrs. Velma Stone was the only Lowe family member who remained in the county when the Lowes relocated. Miss Velma and Mr. Bob Stone had built their house on her father's land so when the Threefoot Brothers

foreclosed the Stone's lost their home.

Bob Stone was a house painter by trade and always wore white paint-streaked overalls during the six years they lived in Pine Springs. Mr. Nade Byrd used to tell of when Bob got the job to paint the new school house. Unlike his "persnickity" wife, Mr. Nade said, Bob was a relaxed fellow who generally took things as they came. It seemed he was taking forty forevers to get the school painted. Taking his own sweet time, he visited with folks that hung out at the store or, if he wasn't in the mood to paint, he just stayed home. Nade remarked that he wasn't gonna make much money, seeing as how long it was taking to finish up his job.

"Naw," drawled Stone, "If I finish in one day or if it takes a year, I'll still get \$100. No call to be in no hurry."

Miss Velma was a more abrupt individual, a firm believer in school discipline. Mrs. Luna (Kinard) Brown recalled when she started school in 1911, Mrs. Stone was her first teacher.

"She was a hellcat!" Miss Luna said. "She would stomp her feet when she got mad and scared all the little fellers."

Dr. Johnson recalled, "Velma Stone was bad about giving whippings. She would promise an offender that when the school day ended she would administer punishment. She would stick to her word and those that had a whipping coming had all day to dread retribution."

Dr. Johnson went on to say that one day Mrs. Stone promised young Albert Lovett a whipping. When the time came, she told the boy to go and cut her a long limb. Albert, claiming he was not guilty, wouldn't go. Not to be outdone, Mrs. Stone had young James Thead bring her a switch, which he did - a limb about four feet long and as fat as your thumb.

Albert was made to bend over but, as the limb began to fall, he refused to cry. Not getting a reaction, Mrs. Stone whipped harder. Albert remained silent as he took the licks. The teacher was exhausted as she wore out the stout switch across the child's back.

When Albert got home and Mr. Lovett saw the sad shape of his son's back, he took action. The trustees met with Miss Velma with the intentions of dismissing her from her job. We do not know what happened at the meeting but, although the teacher remained, she meted out less severe punishments.

With all fairness to Velma Stone, she was not the only teacher that believed in horsewhipping. More than one former student tells of how harshly Prof. Fields dealt with the students. Fields,

who came to Pine Springs while Mrs. Stone was still teaching, was also known for tanning backsides. Another male teacher, name now forgotten, also "taught to the tune of the hickory stick". Especially when he was hung-over from a lost week-end. He did not last long.

Both of Bob and Velma Stone's daughters, Mary and Dora, were born in Pine Springs; Dora was a school chum of Louise White. The family remained in the county a while but by 1935 they were living in Harpersville, near Brandon. (Horace was taking his parents to visit Miss Velma when Mrs. Lowe was killed.) Both Stone girls graduated from MSCW. Mary taught in a college near Los Angeles and Dora lived in Texas.

* * * * *

The Threefoots had been in Lauderdale county for some time. They were all descendants of Abraham Threefoot, who had come to Marion several years before the Civil War.

In Richeldorf, of Kuhr, in Hessen, Germany, Abraham Threefoot was born on the 27th of December in 1824. He and his brother came to Mobile, Alabama when Abraham was about 18. Abraham moved to Lauderdale County and opened a tannery in the town of Marion. His brother remained in Mobile.

Abraham met his wife, Miss Tarris Levi, in Mississippi, it is believed. The Levi family had emigrated to Mississippi from Langatt, Lorraine, in the Alsace area between the Rhine River and the Vosges Mountains, which was a part of Germany when Miss Tarris was born in 1830. [Near the Franco-German border, Lorraine became a part of France after the Treaty of Versailles in 1871.]

Abraham and Miss Tarris were probably married about 1850, although we do not know their wedding date. When the Civil War came, Abraham enlisted in the Confederate Army but was not in combat. He was told it would be more helpful to the cause if he operated his tannery, as the Southern soldiers were sadly in need of shoes.

The Threefoots had two sons, H.M. (Henry Marshall) Threefoot, born 1853, and Kutcheu Threefoot, born 1861. With his tannery burned by Sherman's raiders, Abraham moved to Meridian to open a grocery store. As his sons became older, they took over the store and expanded it into a wholesale grocery, operating under the name of Threefoot Brothers & Co.

Mrs. Tarris Threefoot died in 1888, and Abraham died in 1898. They were both buried in the Jewish cemetery near the old Marion Road in east Meridian.

H.M. and Kutcheu were young men when they began

their wholesale business. H.M. Threefoot was on the Board of Trade and the Cotton Exchange when they were founded in 1873. Their wholesale grocery did well and they expanded to include a hardware store. They loaned money to farmers who struggled to get their cotton farms back into production following the Civil War. Both brothers married into the wealthy Rothenberg family. H.M. married Yetta and Kutcheu married Yetta's sister, Julia, sisters of Marks Rothenberg who made his fortune as a merchant with Meridian's Marks Rothenberg store.

Eventually the Threefoot brothers gave up the grocery business but kept their store that stocked farm implements and supplies. They concentrated more on buying and selling cotton and financing farm operations. Their firm had given loans to Mr. Lon Lowe for several years before they foreclosed on his Pine Springs farm in August, 1915.

In 1916, 63-year-old H.M. Threefoot died. His only son, Louis Threefoot, took over his father's business affairs. In settling the estate after his brother's death, Kutcheu signed a quit claim deed to the Lowe farm (Feb. 16, 1917) to his nephew, thereby placing Louis in charge.

Louis Threefoot hired a Mr. Arnholt, a native of Indiana, to be the farm manager in Horace Lowe's place. Louis put the farm up for sale, but kept Arnholt until a buyer could be found. Some of the local residents snickered when they saw Arnholt's riding saddle.

"It was a little biddie thing, no bigger'n a postage stamp," Jake Smith said.

Martin Thomas Brown, farmer, came to live on The (Threefoot) Lane in the winter of 1918-1919. Mart Brown's father had been Buck (William B.) Brown (b.1839), a veteran of the Civil War. Buck, son of the settlers David M. and Eliza Fort Brown, had grown up at Drip Off Springs. Mart, youngest of Buck's eight children, was born in 1879.

Mart and his wife, nee Ann Haggleton, had five children when they came to farm on the Threefoot place. Their oldest was 13-year-old Cola (pronounced Colie). Cola Brown, now 86 years old and widow of the late David M. Ross, lives in Toomsaba. She well recalls the five years she lived in Pine Springs.

I went to Drip Off School until I was about 13. I remember Armistice Day [Nov. 11, 1918] came while we were at school. Somebody had gone to Lowe's Store and heard the war had ended. They turned school out for the day in celebration and we went home early. That winter we moved to Pine Springs.

The first year on the Threefoot place we lived in a little house on The Lane. The house we lived in was called Happy Hollow

after some family that had lived there. [The family was the Hawkins, Markus and Lily's girls went around singing, which probably accounts for the Happy hollow name. After the three older girls married, Hawkins bought a farm at Center Hill and they moved away.]

When we first came, Mr. Arnholt was in charge. He was from Columbus, Indiana. I don't know how he happened to be here. He had a daughter named Bernice that stayed in Indiana - she was already married. He had a son who was a good-sized boy, named Norval. They had a croquet set and we played at their house. Dr. Tatum's two sisters, Emily and Baby Ruth, came out from town and we played croquet... They had other friends who came to visit. The Arnholts moved back to Indiana, but their son wrote to me for awhile.

Another thing Miss Cola recalled was an Easter at Pine Springs when she and Aunt Juel Ratcliff recited a chapter from the Bible. Bro. Snellgrove was to preach and an Easter program was planned. Aunt Juel thought it would be nice if she and Cola dressed alike and presented the 28th Chapter of Matthew.

Aunt Juel selected dress material from her store and Cola went to the Ratcliff's every evening to make their dresses and to practice their part. On Easter Sunday, Aunt Juel and Cola held hands and recited the entire chapter from memory. To this dy, miss Cola can quote that chapter.



Three Classmates
Ca 1914

L to R:
Bennie d. Smith
Roy Wolfe
James Roy Thead

Pine Springs had two teachers assigned to the school but, in 1915-1916 term, the number of students was so great that they had a principal and two teachers to handle the work load. In the fall of 1915, Prof. Claude Fields was principal with the teachers being Mrs. Stone and miss Lottie Lovett. The trustees that year were John White, Kirby Smith, and Joel New. Thaddeus Lockhard, son of Edward and Amanda Lockhard, was the newly elected County Superintendent of

Education.

As far back as 1910, John R. Ellis, then head of the school board, had begun work to get county school consolidated, reporting there were 119 schools in the county outside of Meridian. There had been talk of the need to consolidate the small school districts to provide bigger, better equipped schools, but progress proceeded with difficulty.

On July 9, 1916, qualified voters of Pine Springs, Drip off, Shucktown and Trussell schools applied to the Board of Education to have their schools consolidated into one large school. The Board approved this request, the consolidation to take place the following April in 1917. This did not happen, however, as a majority of eligible voters refused to sign.

A new set of teachers started the fall semester of 1916-1917. They were Prof. Paschal White of Kemper County, Mrs. J.T. (Florence) Powell of Meridian, and Miss Ida Adams of Pine Springs. The new trustees were Jesse Bounds and Lewis Huffmaster, with John White returning. There were 104 students that year, and all seemed to like the new teachers.

Mrs. Powell was Miss Beeman before she married Toxey Powell. They lived in Meridian, but Miss "Flora" boarded with Mrs. Phronie Bozeman and returned to town on the weekends while she taught at Pine Springs. Mrs. Powell started school sports for the first time at Pine Springs; she began a girls basketball team. The parents would not allow their daughters to wear bloomers as did many other schools. The Pine Springs team was required to keep its modesty intact by wearing loose-fitting skirts or shapeless dresses over their basketball uniform. Miss Ebbie says she played on the team for three years and, at the time she left, the basketball bloomers were still hidden.

[One item which may be of interest; around 19163 there were, out of 100 students, six sets of twins. These were Lula and Lela Walker, Albert and Alma Lovett, Ebbie and Leroy Pace, Macie and Joe McGowen (step children of Sidney Stephenson who lived on The Lane), Thelma and Elmer Bradley, and Fairy and Freda Simmons (who rented a house just below Phronie Bozeman's for a time). This seems to be a bit unusual for a school of that size.]

Prof. White, unrelated to the Whites that lived in Pine Springs, was well thought of by the community. The same teachers returned in the fall of 1917, but before the year ended, Prof. White

was drafted into the army and had to leave for World War I. Mr. Johnny Posey of Philadelphia (miss.) Finished out the school year in his place. In 1917-1918, the trustees were Jesse Bounds, Horace Lowe, and Tommy Wolfe.

On May 9, 1919, Pine grove, Drip off, Trussell, and the northern part of Pine Springs district were the schools that consolidated to form a bigger school district which they named Center Hill. In June, the school board asked the Board of Supervisors for a \$6000 bond to build Center Hill Consolidated School with the landowners in the new district to have a tax increase. The landowners who lived in the southern half of Pine Springs refused to have their taxes raised and voted to retain the local school. The new district included part of the Pine Springs territory; all of Sections 5, and 6, and the northern half of sections 2,3, and 4.

In the fall of 1919, the northern half of the community children began going to the new Center hill School. Joel New began sending a wagon to take the students that lived on the upper Pine Springs Road to Center hill. His sons, Herman and Joe, drove the new wagon, while Albert Pace, from Sec. 34, sent a wagon with his children and other students from Fellowship Road. The new school offered twelve grades while Pine Springs offered only eight.

The number of scholars remaining in Pine Springs numbered only 51 after the school split up. For the term of 1919-1920, the teachers were L.O. Brown and Miss Alma Vincent. [This was not Felix Vincent's daughter, was probably his niece.] The trustees were Tommy Wolfe, Wes Love, and P.G. [E.L.?] Harris

putting in crops on Mr. Barr's land [S ½ SE 1/4, S-9] for two years, Lewis and Allie Huffmaster bought the place, the purchase recorded October 22, 1910. The following year their sixth and last child, Iva opal, was born.

Lewis Huffmaster had title to the farm for two years during which time he built a better farmhouse for his family. He apparently had difficulty getting his bills paid, or perhaps he had a bad crop year, but he sold his new house and farm to Dr. D.C. Hull, Superintendent of the Meridian Schools. Lewis continued to work the farm as a tenant for Dr. hill until 1918 when Hull sold the farm to Pat Harris. Pearl Bozeman's new husband. Harris needed the place so the Huffmasters had to find somewhere to move.

Lewis and his brother John (who did not live in Pine Springs) both found jobs in Lepanto, Arkansas (Poinsett Co.), and they moved their families there. Lewis was 44 when he pulled up stakes to leave the county returning four years later, Lewis and Allie lived between Pine Springs Road and George Lockhard's farm.

Miss Florence Huffmaster married Lewis Vincent and remained in Pine Springs while her family was gone. Bonnie Ree married Iulus Allen in 1919 in Arkansas while her family was there. Iulus and Bonnie Ree Allen returned to Mississippi to buy a farm near his brother, hunter Allen, across the Okatibbee swamp from pine Springs.

Mrs. Saphronia Bozeman's task of rasing her children began to ease when one by one they became old enough to take care of themselves.



Off to war in 1917, Prof. White says goodbye to Mr. Wes Love at Ratcliff's Store.



1917 Pine Springs Basketball Team, L to R: Thelma Bounds; Macie McGowen; Mrs. F. Powell, coach; Lessie Snowden; Dora Bounds. Boy in front is Ckliston Glaze.

A f t e r

She had raised cattle, placed her fields in the hands of tenants, and had even rented part of her home to weather the lean years after Sammy Bozeman's death. Through the years of scraping by, she took solace from her religion. She had no thought of another marriage, not that she had no offers - she was a handsome woman and could have easily found a husband. It was just that she was so caught up in her religion she did not entertain the idea.

A parade of Holiness preachers made their bid to become the regular pastor of Union Church. One after another they preached and some held revivals. None became the church's official minister and most, after holding a stirring week of shouting exhortation, moved on.

The people of the community, indoctrinated to go to church, attended revivals well. There were more local Methodists, Baptists, Adventists than Church of God adherents, and they became weary of feeling obligated to attend so many Holiness revivals. They had precious little money to pay a preacher, and too often the plate was passed for a "love offering" to support a strange minister. Attendance at Holiness revivals waned.

Joe Bozeman, Rev. Sammy's oldest boy, opened a cafe' across from the Union Railway Depot on Front Street and, in 1915, he married Iris Fane Hasty. He upgraded "Bozeman's Cafe'" in the 1920's when he moved it to 5th St., located across the street from the court house, kitty-cornered from the tall new Hotel Lamar.

In 1910, Dora Belle married Marvin Chisolm of Pine Springs and moved to Texas. After Marvin died in Ft. Worth, Dora remarried and moved to California.

Sudie Bozeman married Albert Barker in Lauderdale County. They also made their home in California. The Barkers bought a 100-bed hotel which they operated for years.

Little Sam, the Bozeman's lively youngest son, left home soon after 1914. He went to Texas where he married a Waller girl and raised three children.

Pearl, the only child of Rev. Sammy Bozeman's to remain in Pine Springs, married Pat (Enoch Lloyd) Harris on 15 December, 1914. We do not know where Pearl and Pat first met. It seems likely they met at Cuba, Alabama at a Holiness week-long camp-meeting. Each year Sis. Phronie loaded up a wagon with her children, food, and bedding to stay in one of the cabins on the premises. Pat Harris had grown up near Cuba on his father's farm.

Pat's grandfather, Simon Harris, was born in 1836 in Chestershire Dist., South Carolina. He came to Alabama where he and his wife, Penelope Ann Holly, raised their several children on their

plantation in Siloam in Sumter Co. One of Simon's children, John Elmore Harris, was born on their plantation in 1859. He became Pat's father.

John E. Harris first married Miss Mary Franklin in 1882 and had seven children when Mrs. Harris died. Pat, born in 1889, was their fifth child and was but a boy when his mother passed away. He was raised by his step-mother, Annie Pearl Graham Harris, who added seven more children to the Harris household. The fourteen Harris children grew up on the Harris farm near Cuba.

Mr. Pat Harris was a tall, slender young man with bright blue eyes. He tended to be quiet, although his expression was pleasant and he had a kindly smile when he spoke. He was a Christian, but made no public display of his religion when he took Miss Pearl to church. He left the praying and testifying to Pearl and her mother, Sister Phronie. More reserved than shy, he kept his thoughts to himself. He was not a drinker, nor did he smoke or use profane language.

When Pat began calling upon Miss Pearl he had to drive his horse and buggy all the way to Pine Springs from Cuba. Miss Pearl was still a young girl and at first Sister Phronie would not always let her ride with Pat to church. He made the long trip from Alabama for naught.

Young Pearl was a short girl with wide-set hazel eyes who wore her hair, which tended to curl, in long ringlets. Pat was a persistent beau and when Pearl became eighteen, she and Pat were married on the 15th of December in 1914. The young couple moved into the Bozeman home with Sis. Phronie and Little Sam.

In 1918, Pat and Pearl Harris bought the 80 acres and house (that Huffmaster had built) next door to Mrs. Bozeman from Dr. Hull. That was the year their first child, Lloyd Bozeman Harris, was born.

The Adams family, who moved to Pine Springs in 1912, were descendants of John Adams who emigrated to Leake County, Mississippi in 1830 with his wife, Nancy Jane Pernetty Addleton. (They are both buried at Edinburg, Leake Co.) They had three children, the youngest being John Thomas Adams (Sr.), born 1855, who came to Pine Springs.

John T. Adams, Sr. was 57 in 1912 when his son, John T., Jr., bought a 30-acre farm in Pine Springs.

[N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, (20 ac.) S-16, + 10 adjoining ac., S-17. This land had been a part of the old Collins place and the log house on it had been built years before by John B. Collins. A quarter-mile west of the main road, it had more recently been the first

home of Crockett and China Love.]

The wife of John T. Adams, Sr. was Martha Ann Sikes of Neshoba County, daughter of Elison A. and Julia Blassingame Sikes. John and Martha Ann suffered much sadness in their married life; they had eleven children born to them, but seven of the little fellows had died before reaching the age of three. The oldest of the surviving children was John Thomas Adams, Jr. who worked for the Southern Railroad and lived near Meridian at Nellieberg.

John ,Jr., born in 1878, had married Blanche Shields. They had three small children when Blanche died. John buried Blanche at Nellieberg and took the children to live with his dad and mom in Neshoba County. He bought the Pine Springs farm in 1912 so his parents could live closer and he could visit his children more often. The children, Clarence, 8; Henry, 6; and Pearlle, 3, moved to Pine Springs with old John and Martha Ann.

In addition to John, Jr.'s three offspring, Old John and Martha Ann two more grandchildren living with them when they arrived in Pine Springs. Their second child, Julia Ann, had moved to Texas when she married. In 1909, Julia Ann and her husband M.A. Martin, both died in Texas, leaving two small orphans. John, Jr. using his railroad passes, traveled to Texas to bring the youngsters, Ola Mae, and J.D. Martin, home to Mississippi. The young Martins lived with Grandpa and Grandma Adams and moved with them to Pine Springs.

Among the hodge-podge of grandchildren that lived with Grandpa and Grandma Adams, were their two unmarried daughters, Ida (22) and Claudia (16) Adams. So, we have Old John and Martha Ann, two maiden daughters, and five grandchildren that moved into tiny old log house that had been built before the Civil War.

Old John and Martha Ann, Primitive Baptist, regularly attended Gumlog Baptist Church. Soon it became a familiar Pine Springs sight to see all the Adams family loaded into an old farm wagon behind a little mule, on their way to church.

About 1914, John Jr. married again. His second wife was Mrs. Lennie Carter, widow of the late Daniel L. Carter of Enterprise. After installing Lennie and her two Carter children in his Nellieberg home, he took back his own children from his parents. By 1921, John and Lennie Adams had five more children, which included a set of twins.

Miss Ida Adams finished her last year of grammar school at Pine Springs and continued her education at Beeson

College in Meridian. Upon graduation she took the teacher examination but failed. While waiting for the next exam to be given, Ida was hired as an assistant teacher at pine Springs. She taught at Pine Springs two terms but, in the fall of 1919, she taught at Kennedy School near Meridian.

Crockett and Chinie Love lived in a little board house they had built across the road from Mrs. Phronie Bozeman. Crockett, a young husband and father, took pneumonia and died when he was 32.



Miss Ida Adams



Miss Claudia Adams

Chinie had him buried near her Williams relatives at Suqualena Methodist Church. Unable to make a living, she sold her small house and 20 acres to John Lovett and moved, with young Leo and Lizzie, to her father's home in Meridian.

During the World war, Chinie and her children moved to Oklahoma where her teenaged son Leo Love, got a factory job in a chemical plant. Allergic to chemicals, leo was poisoned and nearly died. The family returned to Mississippi and Chinie bought another farm in Pine Springs. The farm she bought was from Mr. Jesse and Miss Annie Bounds in Sec. 33. They moved back in the winter of 1919.

When John and Elizabeth Lovett bought the Crockett love house, John kept his railroad job and, in 1915, he was elected Constable of Beat 3. Not having to depend upon farm income, he added rooms built porches, applied galvanized tin roofing, and otherwise made the little house quite comfortable. The six younger Lovett children grew up there and all went to Pine Springs School. (Except Little John and his buddy, Aubrey Smith, they preferred Suqualena School.)

Miss Lottie, married to
Clarence Thead, was the



Recent Photograph of vacant Love home west of the road opposite today's Pine Springs Grocery.

first of John Lovett's children to marry. Alma Lovett married Gordon Saddler, a World War soldier, while he was still in the army.

The Saddler family lived in the community for a time; old schoolmates recall the three children, Gordon, Hogan, and Roxie, that lived with their mother. They rented a part of the old Sam Bozeman house from Miss Dora Bozeman at one time. Aubrey Smith remembers Hogan Saddler because he gave Aubrey a pure-bred Collie dog when he was a boy. The Collie mad an excellent dog to herd cows. Roxie Saddler and Alma Lovett, about the same age, were chums at pine Springs School.

Gordon and Alma moved to the Mississippi delta country after they married. One fall, little John Lovett invited Aubrey Smith to go with him to visit his sister to make a money pickin' cotton. Gordon and Alma returned to Pine Springs after a few years, with

"Country Lasses,
Pure and Sweet"

Claudia Adams,
Roxie Saddler,
Alma Lovett.
1917



their little daughter Goldie Mae.

After Harvey Townsend and Ada McCullum married in 1908, they lived in pine Springs. Harve, a care-free sort of guy, was a sharecropper who cut and

hauled timber. He never had a home of his own. After the Townsends' son Roy was born in 1910, they had two more children, Gladys, 1512; and Ernest Lavell, 1915. The children grew up mostly in Pine Springs, although they lived at times, in Martin and Collinsville.

Harve didn't worry about collecting worldly goods. A friendly, fun-loving person, he made a round of the taverns on Saturdays. Neighbors laughed when they heard him coming down the Bozeman Hill at night, whooping and hollering, singing to his mule and having a grand time. He showed up at one of the annual Suqualena picnics. Some of the "boys", fortified with moonshine, raced their horses between tables, stirring up dust that settled on the bowls of potato salad. In the midst of the riders, here came Harve Townsend, riding his mule backwards, waving and shouting and having more fun than anybody.

Joseph A. Townsend, bachelor son of Sigh and Miss Sarah, was always busy at something. When he walked, he leaned forward from the hips, in a hurry to get there. In January 1910, joe bought the northern half of Mr. Sigh Townsend's 80-acre farm [n ½ S 1/4 NE 1/4, S-16] Within two years, Joe had a house built on his 40 acres waiting for his bride, miss Minnie Vincent.

Joe and Minnie had a lovely double wedding ceremony with her sister Ida and Ed Hooks in January 1912. Joe and minnie moved into the new home and, that October their first child, Aaron Elbert, was born. Elbert was followed by Thomas Mabra, 1915; Sadie Louise, 1917; and Annie Pirl, 1919. (That is the way she spells her name.) Joe and Minnie's last child, born in 1921, was James Howard. They all grew up in Pine Springs.

Mr. Sigh's son Grover was 22 when he married Flavia Brown (19110). Miss Flavia was a daughter of Robert Ridney and Alice Ethridge Brown, and younger sister of Mrs Elizabeth Lovett. Grover bought the 16th Sec. Rodgers land which Aaron had lost to foreclosure, and moved into the house on Allen Swamp Road.

Grover and Flavia's children were Elliot, 1911; Katherine, and Ruthie Mae. (Ruthie Mae was born and died in 1919.) Their last two children were Prentis Marcin, 1920; and Evertt Lee, 1923. Grover farmed but cut and hauled timber to supplement his income.

Allie Bell Townsend Glaze, with her "no-count" husband out of the picture, lived with Mr. Sigh and Miss Sarah when the Townsends first came.

It did not take long for Miss Allie, still young, to fall in love with one of the neighbors, Reuben Lee Love. After his mother died in 1905, Lee had lived alone in the old John Love home and was the last of John and Mollie's children to marry. He and Miss Allie married in 1909 and she and her small son, Clifton Glaze, moved in.

Inspired, perhaps, by having a family, Lee nailed a weather-boarding on the log walls of the old house. His little step-son always thought of Lee as his father, although the boy spent much of his time with Grandma and Grandpa Townsend.

Lee and Allie came to have children of their own. R.L. (Reuben Lee Jr.) was born in 1910, but their daughter Ruth, younger, came a good bit later.

Victor Townsend, Mr. Sigh's youngest son, was not more than a boy in 1911 when he married Maude Hawkins. Maude was 15, the oldest daughter of Markus and Lily Hawkins who lived on The Lane. Victor began work at local saw mills when they married and they stayed around Pine Springs a while before renting a house in tuxedo, a section of Meridian. Victor worked for saw mills as a laborer. He was plagued with alcoholism and was never able to overcome his addiction. Their two children, Lily, born 1912, and Joseph Lee, 1919, grew up in the city.

Around 1913-14, Birdie Townsend married James William Luther, a local boy who worked with timber. Their first son, James W. Luther Jr., was born in 1914, and was followed by eight more children, Estell, Edna, Annie Laura, Oscar Douglas, Robert Chester, Helen Eileen, Billie Gene (son), and Kathryn Lucille. The Luthers bought a farm in Collinsville.

Ava Townsend, like her sister Birdie, grew up in Pine Springs. In June 1918, Ava married a soldier returning from France, Hillard E. Hand of Collinsville. The Hands also bought a farm near Collinsville where they raised six children. The children, born between 1920 and 1930, were Ila Mae, Sarah, Louise, Mary Frances, H.E. Jr. and Christine.

Wes and Aunt Molly (Mary Frances)

First Cousins,
Ava Townsend and
Ollie Calvert

1917



Love were a staid couple in their 40's when their children began to leave home. Active in the church, school and other community affairs, their reputation of being "dependable neighbors" was well deserved.

Their oldest daughter Lily married J. Nolon Hodges (b. 1891), a railroad man, and they lived in Meridian. [Nolon was an older half-brother to Joe Hodges who later came to Pine Springs.] They had two children, Melvin and Mary Edna. The Hodges later built a home on today's State Blvd. Just north of town.



1920's. In Meridian, Lily and Nolon Hodges. A railroad man, Nolon just got in from work.

Wes and Molly's two sons, Chester and Charles, married soon after their big sister. Ches married Myrtie White of Pine Spring and Charley married Ruth Williamson of Suqualena. Charley moved to Meridian where he worked for the Mississippi Power Company.



Summer of 1918, Leora Love's birthday party.

Miss Leora Love seems to have been a popular young lady when she was a schoolgirl. She and some friends attended preachin' at Pace's church on Sunday near the close of the World War where, according to Miss Leora, she met her future husband. Awaiting discharge from the army, he still wore his uniform. Miss Leora says he was the prettiest man she had ever seen and she began to flirt to get his attention. It turned out the soldier was Shelby Hudson, 24, son of the late Daniel A. Hudson and Vona (Lavona C. Miles. When Shelby's father died,

his mother married Charley Weatherford, one of Dock Weatherford's boys.

Miss Leora must have made some impression on the young man, for they were married in 1919. With her marriage, only 12-year-old Nora was left at home with Mr. Wes and Miss Molly.

Miss Dora Bozeman never married, which gave some credence to the story that she once had a star-crossed love affair. The story, as told by old-timers, is that young Dora was engaged to one of the Lockhard boys who worked for a railroad. When word came that he had been killed in a tragic accident, she vowed she would be true to his memory.

In his biography "The Life and Times of America's Blue Yodeler, Jimmie Rodgers," Nolon Porterfield wrote:

"...To outward appearances, Aunt Dora was the archetypal old maid, one of those thin, sharp-faced spinsters who seemed to pass immediately from childhood to barren middle age...a frumpy stick figure poking about in sun-bonnet and gingham apron, tending gardens, raising chickens and someone else's children... Beneath that appearance there was, happily, another vastly different Dora Bozeman. True, she came to the role of Old Maid with all the likely credentials, right down to the inevitable tragic episode of youthful lost love. But...Dora took comfort in the old cliches about loving and losing being better than never loving at all... She had at least had a youth, however painful, and had emerged from it whole - a warm, delightful lady, full of humor and patience, apparently free of the self-pity and narrowness that often afflict those who find that life has delivered something less than promised.

Before he married, Ernest White became infected with wanderlust and wanted to see the world. Perhaps Doc was influenced by letters he exchanged with Henry and Leon New who, in 1913, were working near the Gulf Coast. Leon wrote of the sights they had seen and Doc wanted to see for himself.

Doc met Luther Bailey at the school house one morning and they walked into town. They kept to the woods because Luther was afraid his Papa, Sam Bailey, due along soon with the mail, might discover them if they walked along the road. Between them they had enough money for train fare to Pensacola.

When they arrived they looked up Henry and Leon and stayed with them at

their boarding house. Doc and Luther looked for work, but jobs were scarce as hen's teeth. Doc, being 18, was hired by a railroad and was to report the next day, but the company would not hire 17-year-old Luther. By then the homesick boys were weary and hungry. They used the last of their money to wire Doc's Uncle Charley Dabbs for train tickets to get home. They starved through the interminable ride back to Meridian; throughout his life Doc remembered how hungry they were on that long ride. When Doc got home he had more cause for regret for he had to work to repay Uncle Charley's loan. We do not know what transpired at the Bailey home.

Mr. Sam C. Bailey was still a postman when he died in 1915. Although the oldest of his children were married, Sam was only fifty and still had minor children. Mrs. Georgia Bailey remained on the farm a while after Sam's death but, after the war, she moved to Meridian to live in a two-story house on 8th street. Her oldest son, Bob (Robert Preston), managed a nearby grocery.

Julian Gully Bailey worked for the local power company but Earle went to Tennessee to become a printer. Leulla married R.M. Martin and taught Sunday School at First Baptist Church for 52 years and was active in the Eastern Star and ladies clubs.

Clara kept her ties to Pine Springs community by marrying William A. Griffin who, in 1910, had boarded at her father's home. Will and Clara lived on the farm on the Okatibbee Will had bought from the Sammy Bozeman estate. Griffin didn't do much farming but bought and sold timber.

Luther Bailey, a type-setter in Memphis for the Press-Scimitar, married Evelyn Wear and had two children. Sam F. Bailey, nemesis of Pine Springs teachers, married Eunice Ferguson and worked for The Meridian Star. He had three children, Joan, Sam (a dentist), and rev. Edwin Earl Bailey.

James L. Bailey, school friend of Jake Smith's moved to Laurel. Margaret married Elmer Kittrell. The youngest Bailey, Vivian Ruth, grew up to marry Walter Ray Crenshaw and moved to Florida.

James L. Bailey and Jake Smith

1916.



Men of the South were ready - eager - to join the America's war in its past, but in World War I, Woodrow Wilson a pacifist, stood for American neutrality. Southerners, without a cause, were not inspired to fight. After a series of events designed to involve the United States in the European war culminated with the sinking of the USS Lusitania, Americans at last became incensed. Pres. Wilson changed his attitude (some said in order to be re-elected) and adopted "Make the World Safe for Democracy" as his campaign slogan. The United States entered the war on April 6, 1917, but still the young men of the South - and Pine Springs - were not eager to join the army. Having no romantic leader such as Andy Jackson, Gen. Lee or Teddy Roosevelt to inspire them, many opted to allow the Europeans to fight their own battle.

For reasons that had nothing to do with Germany's "Kaiser Bill", two young men from Pine Springs, Henry and Leon New, joined the US Army before the United States became involved. Another young man, Jake Smith, volunteered for service and was sent to France. When conscription was instituted, four more Pine Springs men, Ollie Calvert, and the Vincent boys, Lewis, Ollie, and Charley were drafted. An eighth young man who was of draft age (as was gossiped about the community) shot off his toe to escape being taken.

The rural economy in the South, including Pine Springs, improved as war brought about a greater demand for cotton and other American farm goods. Industry boomed as war supplies were manufactured, and more sons of the Southern soil found jobs in town and left the farms. With the rising economy of the war years, Pine Springs experienced better times and, by 1920, the worst of the hard times for farmers were over.

Two years before America entered the war, Henry and Leon New enlisted in the Army Regulars. Henry joined in the spirit of adventure and Leon joined because Henry did. When they came home for a visit before they reported for duty, Mr. New took Leon aside and asked him if this was the move that he wanted to make. Leon assured Papa that he was sure that he really wanted to join, so Joel said no more.

The brothers enlisted on February 22, 1915 at Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia. Sent to Texas for basic training, they were on a 20-mile hike along the coast when an unexpected hurricane struck. They made it to Texas City and holed up in a brick school. When one side of the building blew in, their Sgt. Yelled that it was



Pfc. Joel Henry New and Cpl. Edward Leon New

every man for himself!

Henry and Leon spent a long night rolled up in their blankets on the steep incline of a driveway on the lee side of a garage. The next morning they found the garage had blown away over their heads during the night. Texas City was devastated and accounts of the storm and its loss of life were reported in the Meridian newspapers, causing concern to family and friends in Pine Springs until they heard from the New boys.

After training, the boys were given leave before being shipped overseas. They were received as heroes when they visited old classmates at school in their sharp uniforms. Leon especially enjoyed seeing the family and playing with his baby sister, Susie Mae. He called her Snooks and gave her piggy-back rides about the house.

When Henry and Leon reported back to their outfit, they were sent to the Philippine Islands. (The United States, at that time, was still neutral so they were not sent to France.). As they passed through the Panama Canal Leon bought a Spanish book and taught himself Spanish so he could speak the language when they arrived at Ft. McKinley in the Philippines.

In the Philippines the brothers parted company. Leon applied for officers training. Henry wasn't

interested; he was trained to be a barber. Henry was stationed in Siberia where he fell in love with a vivacious, sloe-eyed Russian girl who could not speak a word of English and they were married. When he returned home after the war he brought his bride with him. The correct spelling of Henry New's wife's names is not known, but it sounded like Olga Vinana Zieha. In America, she was called Ola New.

Leon finished officer training (he finished 7th from the top in a class of 200) and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant before being sent with the 5th Infantry to Tientsin, China. When he was discharged at Camp Shelby (Miss.) In August, 1919, he was a Captain. The short war was over before either of the brothers were sent to the front.

Leona finished one year at the state college when he was offered a job in a bank in Texas. He left school to go west Texas to a little town called Stamford. It was there he met his future wife.



Jake B. Smith and Army Buddy.

The orphaned Jake Smith lived with his Uncle Kirb and Aunt Lizzie Smith in Pine Springs until he was 16. After he graduated from the local school he went to live with his Uncle Sebe Smith at Buttercup. Sebe and Jake were not used to each other and had a misunderstanding. Jake thought he had been treated unfairly and left.

Enlisting in the US Army, Jake was

placed in the Field Artillery. When the United States entered the war, he was sent to France with other American Doughboys. He fought through most of the war but was not wounded. A bullet meant for him grazed his shoulder and cut the strap that belted his knapsack in place, but it drew no blood.

Jake returned after the Armistice was signed and, in 1920, married Mr. Albert Pace's daughter, Miss Evelyn (Ebbie). They moved into the old log house that had been the home of Jake's great-grandfather, old John Portwood Smith.

When America entered the war, Felix Vincent's three youngest sons were drafted into the army. Lewis Felix Vincent served in Co. D of the 155th Infantry and fought in France. In the trenches along the front line, he was attacked by Mustard Gas. It cost him a lung. After he was dismissed from an army hospital he was assigned to Co. F of the 312th Signal Battn. Where he remained until he was discharged in May, 1919.



Misses Bonnie Ree and Florence Huffmaster, with Miss Saddler

Back home, he married Miss Florence Huffmaster of Pine Springs. They rented the upstairs rooms of Mrs. Phronie Bozeman's where their daughter, Bonnie, was born in 1920. In 1925 their son Guy, was born after they moved to Meridian.

Ollie (James Oliver) Vincent who was 28, was not drafted until the war was almost over and was not sent overseas. After his discharge he married Miss Mollie Denton, daughter of William Denton of Suqualena. Ollie went to work for a stave mill and moved from the community.

In 1923, Ollie hurt his hand at work. It was a bad cut and they took him to Rush Hospital in Meridian where Dr. Jeff Anderson (Sr.) put him to sleep to apply sutures. The anaesthetic ruptured

Ollie's eardrums and Dr. Lehman Bounds was called in to operate on Ollie's ears.

One ear developed gangrene and Ollie died a week later on the day before Christmas. Ollie left no heirs but his widow married Rev. James Morgan and had two children.

Charles Benjamin, the youngest Vincent son, did not want to go to the army. He had a fine horse which he was rightly proud and, at 22, was enjoying squiring the young ladies. Doc White used to tell about a morning when Charley rode by White's vegetable garden astride his curried and shining horse.

The White's garden was along side the road where Doc was weeding. A new husband coping with added responsibilities and feeling sweaty and fatigued by the pressing sun, Doc was irked to see Charley taking his ease, riding along without a care in the world.

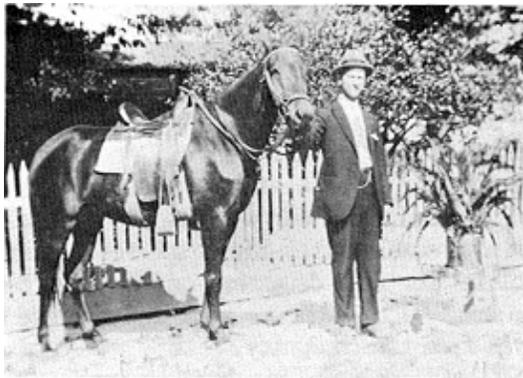
There had been a mongrel dog at the White's that morning, making a nuisance of himself by eating food set out for Doc's hunting hounds. Not wanting to kill the dog, Doc had caught him and smeared horse liniment on the tender area under his tail. The stray left hurriedly and was not expected to return any time soon.

There had been a recent Rabies scare in the neighborhood and Charley, stopping to pass the time of day with Doc, commented that he had seen a mad dog going down the road that morning so Doc would know to be on the watch. Doc told Charley he didn't think the dog had rabies, and kept on hoeing the young tomatoes.

"I'm sure he was a mad dog," Charley said, lounging on his saddle. He told Doc how the dog had been trotting along with his head down, not looking right or left.

Doc, out of sorts, leaned on his hoe and replied, "Well, Charley, you'd be mad to if you had High Life rubbed on your ass."

Charley bid Doc a good day and rode on.



Charley Vincent and his horse.

The war was almost over before Charley was drafted. Sent to Jacksonville, Florida, he served in a Medical Corps Demobilization Group throughout his tour of duty.

Ollie Raymond Calvert, son of John G. and Junia Townsend Calvert, was around 15 when the Calverts moved to Pine Springs. He went to school and worked in the woods with his brothers splitting spokes and cutting logs to be hauled to the mills.

When the World War came, Ollie was drafted into the US Army where, after a brief training at Little Rock, Arkansas, he was sent to New York to await a troopship bound for France. Before he was shipped out, the Armistice was signed and overseas orders were canceled; some ships already at sea turned back. After being in the army 99 days, Ollie returned home and went back to work.

Home again.
Pfc. Ollie R.
Calvert, 1918.



On August 28, 1920, Ollie married a schoolteacher, Miss Bessie Pace (Mr. Albert and Miss Bettie Pace's oldest daughter). They rented a house a mile south of the community until Mr. Pace's tenant house could be vacated. When Pace's sharecroppers left that fall, Ollie and Bessie moved to her father's farm to live in the little house.

There were other young men from the area who became soldiers but none others from Pine Springs. Thelma Bounds White, in recalling the war years, said local citizens were not greatly affected by the war. Before the days of radio, all news was "second hand" and remote to the rural people. There were few war rallies. One D.C. Hull of Meridian schools came out to speak on what Miss Thelma calls "War Propaganda." Sent to sell Victory and stir up patriotic spirit, he told of atrocities being done by German soldiers.

Miss Thelma remembers that at one end of a school day, November 11, 1918, students were dismissed as usual. Rev. Eugene Stephens had just come from town and stopped by Ratcliff's store to tell them the war was over. The children reported home and did their evening chores.

14/ SUNSHINE DAYS, "MOONSHINE" NIGHTS
1920 - 1930

After the early Methodist families moved away, Methodism in Pine Springs had gone into a decline, leading to the death and decay of old Poplar Springs Church. The Vincents, descendants of Rev. Jones, were among the few faithful Methodists adherents left in the community. New life came to the sect after 1910 when new Methodist families moved in. The John Whites, Mr. and Mrs. Ratcliff, Downeys, Calverts, Lovetts, the Wolfes, and perhaps others, were Methodist.

Dan R. Yeager, Methodist lay preacher from Meridian, came out upon request to hold services in the Union Church. Born in 1870, he was a son of Methodist minister Daniel W. Yeager and wife, Lucinda. Originally from Alabama, the Yeagers had moved to Lauderdale County in the late 1800's. Their graves can be located in the old Marion Cemetery.

The 1910 census shows Dan (the son) as being a 40-year-old widower with three daughters, ages 15, 13, and 11. They lived on College Road in Meridian, and Mr. Yeager's occupation was listed as laborer on a truck farm. He was gardener and groundskeeper at Beeson College. The girls, Effie, Ora Ree, and Belle, were listed in a roster of students in a 1913 Beeson College brochure now found at Lauderdale Co. Dept. of Archives & History.

Mr. Jake Smith, when asked about the early Pine Springs Methodist Church, replied:

Miss Amanda Vincent had him [Dan R. Yeager] out. He had three daughters at the Beeson College down there, he worked for that. Of course, all the Vincent boys were there, then. They were kind of sweet on them gals. Miss Nannie [Vincent] was struck on the preacher. Course, him and her never did marry 'cause she got crippled up with that arthritis.

That was the first Methodist preachin' down there [at Pine Springs] that I know, or can remember. Course, you know, we had all preachers, Methodists, Adventist, and everything else. Mostly Santified, Holiness Santified, 'cause that's what Mrs. Bozeman was and seemed like they just turned out preachers (or they turned themselves out)

in droves. They'd just come over here and find out what he [Sammy Bozeman] had left his wife, and so forth.

Yeager drove two little ole - I don't know whether it was horses or mules - to his buggy, there. He had them three daughters, Miss Effie, Ora Ree and Belle. I think it was Ora Ree that Frank [Vincent] was going with before him and Miss Edna married.

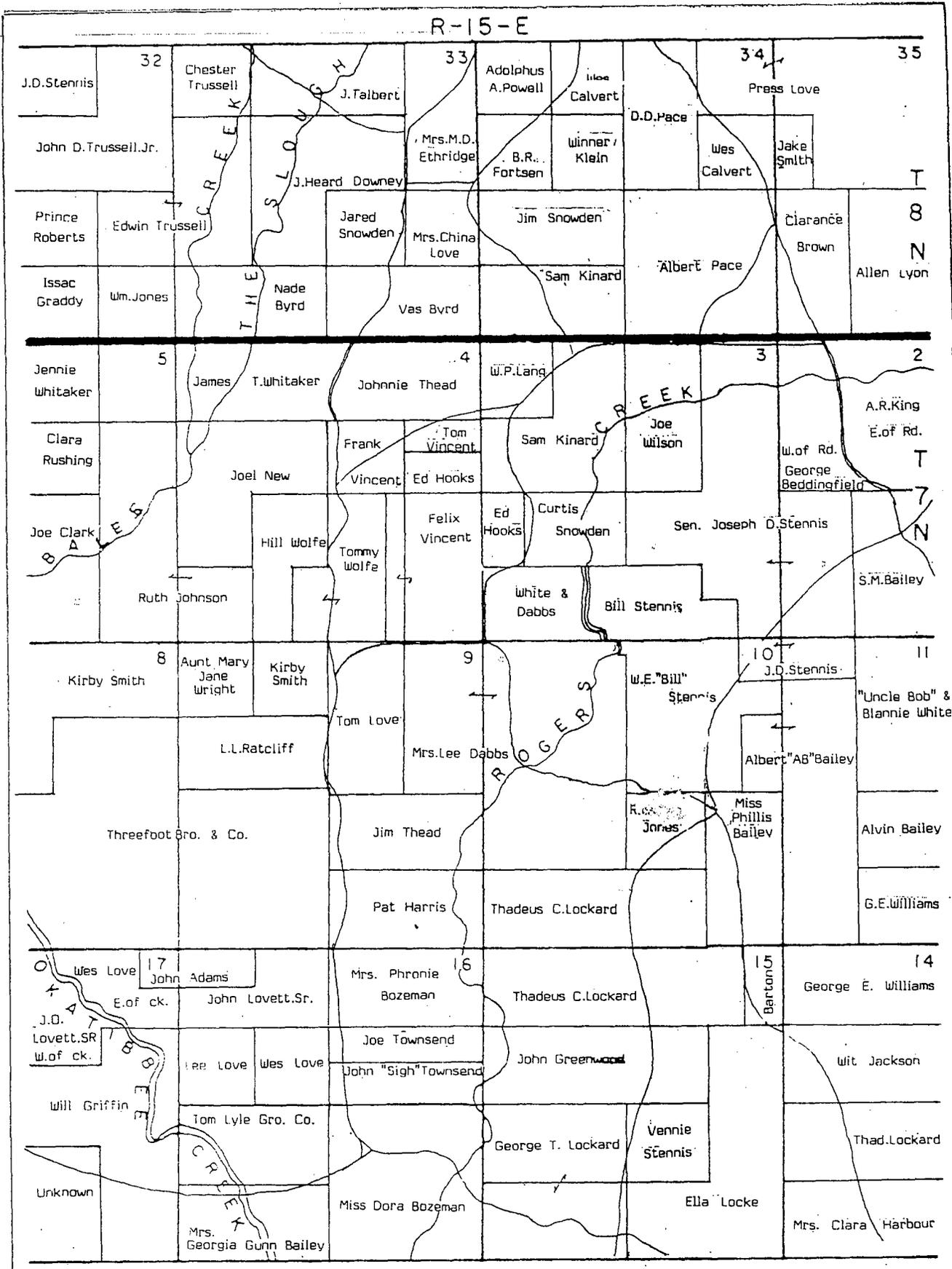
We didn't have no regular [Methodist] preacher. Bro. Dan Yeager wasn't no conference preacher at the time that he was here. Now, he had a brother, George Yeager, that was a conference preacher. And then Bro. Snellgrove come in after the Yeagers quit preachin' here.

The people of Pine Springs began to tire of the parade of Holiness preachers that came so often. Pine Springs had never had a large group of Holiness and even this number decreased in time. There were always a number of Baptist families, but they seldom brought preachers to the community because of the nearness of two firmly established Baptist churches. Instead of depending upon first one and then another preacher, the community came to feel they should have one church to watch over its spiritual welfare.

In the early 1920's, a group of citizens met at the home of Tommy Wolfe to set about organizing a local church to be THE church of the community. At the meeting were Tommy Wolfe and his wife, Julia, John White, the Vincents, and Mr. and Mrs. Joel New. There may have been others present but any record they made has been lost. The group agreed that a religious census must be taken of local residents, with the denomination with the most adherents determining which faith the new church would be. The census proved there were more Methodists than anything else, so Pine Springs Methodist Church was organized.

The new Methodist church met in Union Church. After Bro. Dan Yeager left, Bro. J.H. Cochnell(?) was the minister for a time until Bro. Olen Snellgrove came to be the regular pastor. Like Bro. Yeager, Bro. Snellgrove was not sent from

1920 LAND OWNERS
(From Tax Roll)



the Mississippi Conference. He was ordained and could preach and perform weddings, but was classed a 'local' or 'lay' minister. Jake Smith said:

We didn't have no regular preacher. Bro. Snellgrove couldn't accept a [Methodist] Conference preacher's job 'cause he worked down at that warehouse on the railroad there...he had a good job there. He wanted to preach and he'd go out and preach on his own. If he'd have went on the Conference, why then, he'd have to had throwed everything else down and let them look after him...He went up that church at Shucktown and preached at what was a schoolhouse up there, over a garage, a long time, and he preached down here.

The formal dedication of Pine Springs Methodist Church was held at the old Pine Springs' Union Church on November 10, 1924. They held an all-day program with "dinner on the ground". It was a big day, with the Presiding Elder, Frank L. Sharp, on hand to give the dedication sermon, assisted by the well-loved lay preacher, Olen Snellgrove.

That afternoon, T.L. (Lee) Crenshaw from up around Fellowship Church, drove up in a fancy rig (some say it was a surrey) with his intended bride, Miss Amanda Morgan. He said he heard there would be some Methodist preachers there that day and requested that one of them perform his marriage. Bro. Snellgrove, out of deference, stepped aside to let Rev. Sharp do the honors. The Crenshaws were married but immediately after the ceremony, they hopped into their buggy (surrey?) and drove away, forgetting to pay the preacher. Bro. Snellgrove, who always enjoyed a good laugh, had a lot of fun teasing Bro. Sharp. He said Bro. Sharp was all set to collect a big fee, seeing the fellow drove such a fine rig, but instead got nothing for his trouble. [Lee Crenshaw became a Methodist minister in the Louisiana Conference but did not preach in Mississippi. His sisters, Velma and Nellie, moved to Pine Springs after they married.]

The original list of the first members of the local Methodist church has been lost but, fortunately, Mrs. Jacque Miles (daughter of Lawrence and Lorena White) copied the list while preparing a home-coming program in the 1970's. Since that time the records have disappeared. The list, as copied by Mrs. Miles, appears on the following page. It is not clear if all these 60 names were written on the same date, it being possible that some were added later as new members joined.

Olen Snellgrove was a close friend of John White and most of the Sundays he preached at Pine Springs he went home with John to eat some of Lidie White's

cooking. He was a neat, slender man whose hair was white white, not at all gray. He wore his hair parted on one side and had a habit of stoking his hair in the direction away from the part toward his forehead, which made a single white curl across his upper brow. He loved a good joke and he, John, and John's other guests would laugh away the lazy Sunday afternoons as they exchanged the latest bit of humor they had heard. Bro. Snellgrove's philosophy, which he often stated, was that being a Christian did not mean wearing face as long and as solemn as a mule's. He thought one could be happy and enjoy life while doing good.

It was long remembered when Ollie Calvert joined Pine Springs Methodist Church. The Methodists were having a big revival meeting and it was well attended - the old Union Church building was packed. After a rousing sermon, Bro. Snellgrove had a prayer group kneeling about the alter and asked those that wanted to accept Christ to step forward. Ollie stepped forward. Just as he reached welcoming hands, the whole floor gave way and the congregation crashed four feet to the ground. Utter pandemonium! After the excitement it was found nobody was hurt. With the added weight the floor joists had pulled loose from their moorings and the floor had gone down like a giant elevator. Ollie took a lot of teasing about causing the church to fall in when he joined.

When one joined the Methodist, they had a choice of whether to be "sprinkled" or baptized. Sometimes a convert preferred baptism, in which case a meeting was called on a creek bank where converts could be immersed.

Pluto Townsend got religion and was 'saved' at one of the protracted meetings when he was a boy. (This was Aaron Elbert, oldest son of Joe and Minnie Townsend; don't ask why his friends called him Pluto.) The Sunday after the revival, the community, converted and sinners, met at Mr. Lee Love's wash-hole on Okatibbee Creek for the baptizing. Pluto was one of the first to be immersed while spectators watched from the sandy bank about five feet above the water. The preacher finished dunking Pluto and began baptizing the others as Pluto scrambled up the steep bank.

As soon as the last convert was dipped, Pluto, for reasons known only to himself, let out a whoop and took a running jump to dive back into the creek. He landed near the group about to step out, giving them an unexpected splash as well as those watching from the bank. It is supposed that Pluto thought it was a good chance to take a swim, seeing as how he was already wet. Some of the faithful clicked their tongues, but others got tickled and went to tell those at home what a

Members of Pine Springs Methodist Church November 10, 1924:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Claudia Adams Doerner | 21. Joel New | 41. Miss Nannie Vincent |
| 2. Ollie Calvert | 22. Mary [Lynch?] Brown | 42. Miss Lela Vincent |
| 3. Mrs. Bessie [Pace] Calvert | 23. R. L. Love | 43. Mrs. Felix Vincent [Amanda] |
| 4. J.O. (D?) Calvert | 24. Mrs. Joel New [Ellie] | 44. Stacy Snowden |
| 5. Miss Minnie Ora Calvert | 25. Joe New | 45. Mrs. Stacy Snowden [Leana] |
| 6. Joel New | 26. Miss Susie Mae New | 46. John L. ["Bud"] Brown |
| 7. Mrs. H. E. Hooks [Ida] | 27. Herman J. New | 47. Cliff L. Glaze |
| 8. J. Heard Downey | 28. Mrs. Alma Saddler | 48. E.L. Townsend [Elliot?] |
| 9. Mrs. Nolon Hodges [Lillie] | 29. Jake B. Smith | 49. Mrs. Charley Vincent [Adele] |
| 10. Miss Aida Downey | 30. Miss Roxie Saddler | 50. Mrs. Ernest White [Minnie] |
| 11. W. F. Kinard [Willie] | 31. Mrs. J.B. Smith [Ebbie] | 51. Clarence E. Thead |
| 12. John O. Lovett | 32. Lawrence L. White | 52. Lewis R. Lovett |
| 13. Mrs. J.O. Lovett (Eliz.) | 33. Mrs. Leorna [New] White | 53. C.O. Love [Charles] |
| 14. Roy L. Lovett | 34. Ernest White [Doc] | 54. Mrs. Grover Townsend [Flavia] |
| 15. Herbert Lovett | 35. Miss Louise White | 55. Mrs. Ruby Branning |
| 16. Mrs. C. L. Love [Myrtie] | 36. J.W. Wilson [Joe] | 56. Mrs. Joe Townsend [Minnie] |
| 17. Miss Nora Love | 37. L.L. Ratcliff [Lee] | 57. Otto Wilson White [Billy] |
| 18. Mrs. Wes Love [Mary/Molly] | 38. Mrs. Juel Ratcliff | 58. Miss Jerusha Mae Spears |
| 19. W. W. Love | 39. Mrs. Nade Byrd [Virgie] | 59. Mrs. Effie [Downey] Trussell |
| 20. Mrs. R. L. Love [Allie] | 40. Charles B. Vincent | 60. Mrs. Victor Townsend [Maude] |

good time they had missed.

The number of Church of God (Holiness) preachers slacked off after a time and, in the last half of the 1920's, only one Holiness minister held regular services in Union Church. A kindly, un-assuming man in his thirties when he began preaching at Pine Springs, Bro. Jesse Cleveland Hearn did not preach hell-fire and brimstone sermons. He did not adhere to speaking in "unknown tongues" but chose to give something to the congregation they could use in their everyday lives.

Rev. Hearn drove from his home in Cuba, Alabama each month to hold a morning and evening service. He and Pat Harris were cousins, as Bro. Hearn's mother, Mattie Harris Hearn, had been Pat's aunt. Usually Rev. Hearn ate Sunday dinner with either the Harris' or at Sis. Phronie Bozeman's. Sometimes he was invited to eat with some other family, but not often.

In the late 1920's, Bro. Hearn was preaching on a warm summer evening and the old Union Church was packed. Miss Minnie White, Doc White's wife, was there with her third youngster, little James. The only seat Miss Minnie found was near the front of the church, but it was next a window. (For some reason, nobody liked to sit down front.) Minnie had her card-board fan (the funeral homes passed them out as advertisement) and she sat her small son in the open window so he wouldn't be hot and restless. After a while the sermon got under way and everybody was fanning, eyes

intent on watching the preacher as he led to a serious point.

Suddenly, little James went to sleep and fell out the window, falling five feet to the ground. Awake by the time he hit, he landed on his feet like a cat and hit the ground screaming and running. The engrossed congregation jumped as the most God-awful sounds that ever came from a pair of lungs shattered the quietness.

"MAAA-MAAA! MAAA-MA!", James screamed, racing toward the steps of the church and then up the aisle, wailing every breath, his bare feet sounding like horses' hoofs each time they hit the floor. When he reached Miss Minnie his screams suddenly stopped as he hopped back into the window to sit quietly, looking out at the people as if nothing was amiss.

After the first shock, folks realized what had happened began to laugh. The preacher had stopped in mid-sentence at the first blood-curdling shriek and then his mouth, like the others, began to twitch. The sermon did not last much longer; nobody was in the right frame of mind to have his soul saved so Bro. Hearn just gave up.

In 1918, the office of Home Demonstration Agent was established in Lauderdale County. Nobody remembers when the Pine Springs chapter of the County Home Demonstration Club was started, but it was holding lively meetings in the early 1920's. Miss Katherine Staley was the first agent remembered, meeting with the Pine Springs ladies until Clara Jean Clearman took her place in the late 1930's.

[A 1924 state law authorized county supervisors



1923? Refinishing furniture for the new church. Standing l to R: Andrew, Laura Mae, and Miss Ollie Cunningham, lady and small boy? Minnie Townsend, Aunt Juel, Edna Wilson, Luna Brown (front) Minnie Snowden (rear) Velma Brown. Seated ____?, Bessie Calvert, Ebbie Smith. The unpainted building is the Union church.

1930? Rug making class in front of Ratcliff home, store in background, school across the road. Back Row, standing L to R: Girl Stella Harris?, Phronie Bozeman, Pearl Harris, Adele Vincent, next five ladies unknown. Seated in front. L to R: Minnie White, Mrs Spears?, Minnie Townsend, Vira Foster, Mazelle White with baby, Velma brown with baby, two little girls unknown. Squatting in front are believed to be Miss Staley and Edna Wilson?.



The Home Demo. Club often met at Ratcliff's when school was in session.



1936? Home Demonstration Club on steps of Ratcliff home. Front row L to R: Ada Townsend, Bess Carpenter, Uncle Lee, Maebelle New, Luna Brown. Next step L to R: Mamie Pace Burkett, Edna Wilson, Pearl Harris?, Lela White. Across top: Mazelle White, Aunt Juel, Ms. Townsend?, Ebbie Smith, Myrtie Love, Minnie Snowden.

to establish a Department of Home Economics headed by a woman "well qualified in scientific and home economics" to work under an agricultural agent. Federal aid for agricultural and home economic agents was accepted by the state in 1916, leading to the county's first Home Demonstration Agent two years later. Her duties were to "disseminate useful information among farm women" and to "organize and supervise canning and poultry and other projects for the improvement of the home". The county departments led to the Extension Department of Mississippi State College.]

The Pine Springs Home Demo. Club met first at the school and then later at the church or in the Ratcliff home. They were taught to can vegetables by the water-bath method and later, by steam pressure. Miss Staley guided them in raising chickens, sanitary methods of handling milk, and how to plan and cook nutritious meals. She taught sewing and home-making crafts and a good-sized segment of local ladies came and enjoyed it.

While the "Roaring Twenties" did not exactly roar through Pine Springs, the Twenties did bring changes in the young folks' attitudes. Ladies skirts and hair were shortened. (Miss Ebbie, it is believed, was the first local young lady to dare to bob her long hair.) Dancing and cigarettes became acceptable among polite society, although a girl that smoked was considered on her way to ruin. Young men were less willing to spend long hours in the fields and, more and more, left home to find paying jobs in town. The rising economy brought on by the recently ended war resulted in more money (to some) and a more relaxed attitude about spending for pleasure. With the coming of the automobile and better roads, young people were more mobile and less influenced by their elders. They depended less upon home entertainment and were more willing to find places that were given to dancing, dining, and drinking.

Some Pine Springs youthful married couples often got together to have a good time. They kicked over their traces, danced the "Charleston", and were carefree for a while, but settled down as they began to raise families. There was no significant uprooting of family life; the home still kept the clan together.

On January 16, 1920, a new amendment to the United States Constitution went into effect which prohibited the sale of intoxicating liquors. Suddenly, many of the farm boys who had always played around with making un-taxed moonshine whiskey for their own enjoyment, found it most profitable to increase their still's output to

supply the depleted market. Several "respectable" fathers had sons who, with or without their consent, played around with making, selling, transporting or drinking home-made corn whiskey. Most of the neighbors knew, or suspected, what was going on in the deep woods or deserted barns, but they kept their mouths shut. The neighbors had been brought up to look out for each other; what one did on the backside of one's pasture was between him, his God, and the G-Men. They'd never tell. Let us hasten to say that a majority of the farmers had nothing to do with moonshine, but for a while, a surprising number did.

Jarrit Snowden's two youngest sons became adults in the 1920's. Everett (called Jack) sowed wild oats along the way and his older brother, Slim, became a folk hero, with legends akin to those of Paul Bunyan.

Slim, who insisted he was no different from anybody else, had so many tales and stories told on him that it is hard to tell what is fact and what came from somebody's fertile imagination. Like the tale told about the time Slim was incarcerated in the Kemper County jail.

Some say the charge against him was robbery, although some say it was for having a merry time on a drinking spree. Anyhow, the story goes that in the cell next to Slim's were jugs of moonshine being held as evidence on another case. After supper, the jailer made sure Slim was secure in his cell, locked the jail, and went home for the night. With the jailer gone, Slim got to studying about how he could get some of that 'shine from the other cell. He had a tin of Prince Albert tobacco they had let him keep. He twisted and bent the tin until he fashioned a key, of sorts, and opened his cell. He sampled all he wanted and took one of the jugs and locked himself back into his cell. The jailer found Slim in no condition to stand trial the next morning...

Another story has Slim, in trying to get home, "borrowed" a car. Two, possibly three, sheriff's cars were chasing him. In the dark, Slim managed to get around behind the caravan. There they went, law officers chasing their quarry down the gravel road as fast as they could with Slim in his borrowed car bringing up the rear. That may have been the time Slim didn't know how he could get home as they were all after him. He left the stolen car on the other side of the Okatibbee and walked home to Pine Springs through the swamp. Nade Byrd said Slim came up to his house with the sheriff hot on his trail. Nade took Miss Virgie's quilts out of her quilt box and had Slim get inside, then piled the quilts on top and went outside to wait for the posse'. The deputies were sure Slim was there

somewhere but they couldn't find him. (Another version has Slim peeking through the cracks of a cotton house watching the deputies' hounds bypass the cotton field to go out of sight.)

Everybody liked Slim Snowden. He was a quiet, well-mannered fellow, always polite. It was generally thought Slim had a whiskey still and made eluding the sheriff a game. His antics were a source of amusement for the community, all having their favorite tale to tell about Slim. Considered smart, he had an inquiring mind and enjoyed "figgerin' out" how everything worked. One time he figured he could grab a whirling saw mill blade and force it to stop. Warned it couldn't be done, Slim quickly grabbed the spinning blade before the sawyer could prevent him. The saw ripped the meat between his thumb and first finger but he withdrew so quickly the blade stopped before reaching a bone.

The sawyer tossed Slim a rag and told him to go see a doctor to get himself patched up. Next time he looked, Slim was sitting against a tree, messing around with his cut hand. He went to see what was going on and found Slim with a needle and thread, suturing his own hand. Slim did a neat job of sewing but confessed his calculations might have been a little off about the saw as he had been drinking a little.

Someone said Slim got bored with life and tried to kill himself. Slim said what he was trying to do was see if dynamite caps would hurt if they went off unexpectedly. He had fastened caps on his chest and set them off.

"Hell, yes!", Slim said. "Dynamite caps hurt real bad!"

To the best of anybody's knowledge, Slim Snowden didn't spend much time in jail. He was never known to carry a gun. The only thing he was known to steal was cheese and crackers when he got hungry and broke into some store, and a car "now and then" when he found himself too far from home to walk. He never took the borrowed cars home but left them out near Pine Springs so the sheriff's boys could easily find them. He was thoughtful; he didn't want to cause "the boys" any more trouble than he could help.

Slim lived out his life in Pine Springs. Never married, he was in his 80's when he died in 1989.

* * * * *

Vas and Rossie Byrd had a problem trying to get along. Or maybe their problem was in not trying to get along. Mr. Vas slept on his side of the hallway and Miss Rossie slept on hers, trying to not meet as they went about the house. Self-willed,

unwilling to give ground, the old couple went about the house for days without speaking.

Vas rented his farm to a sharecropper, Andrew Jackson Harris, who lived in the old Phillips house and raised cotton. He was called Jack, but none recall his wife's name. The couple had three children. They were both somewhat deaf and they were always grousing at each other about something. One day Mrs. Harris approached their wagon from downwind just as Jack let fly a shovelfull of dry manure he was spreading in the field. Upset, she gave him the dickens, cussing loud so he could hear. Jack told her to hush or he would give her another load. She kept on and, sure enough, he hit her with another shovelfull, right in the kisser!

Mr. Vas had trouble getting about on his worn-out knees but one day he hobbled out to check the cotton Harris was raising and noticed something amiss. That night he quietly tipped to the field again and found Harris with his wife and all three kids, snatching out cotton by moonlight. They were slipping all they could before Vas got his share.

Vas lost his temper. Vas was onto Harris before the family knew the old man was around. Vas beat the surprised man with his stout hickory walking stick and left him with a broken arm.

In 1922, Vas was about to lose the old Phillips place because he could not (or would not?) pay the taxes. He was so secretive about his business that one never knew. Nade talked his old man into giving him the place to keep from losing it. Vas agreed, and the "Phillips place" was put in Nade Byrd's name and Nade kept the taxes paid. A couple years later (1925), Nade sold it to the tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Harris.

Bud Byrd, ready to try anything at least once and unopposed to making quick money, began making moonshine with his buddy, Johnny Thead. Miss Annie was dead set against the venture. It wasn't right, what Bud was doing, and she had trouble holding her head up when she took their young children to church. Bud promised he would quit the business, got himself a job, and they moved off up the country. Bud borrowed Mr. Vas' mules when they moved and, when he brought the team home, he stopped by to see his former business partner.

Johnny Thead, former neighbors tell us, apparently did well with his whiskey still. He bought a fancy buggy to match his natty new clothes and, when he came home late, they heard him shooting his new pistol as he rode up the road. (The cause of his shooting was never clear; maybe he was practicing his aim or maybe he was afraid of boogers. All they knew was he made a ruckus at night when working folks were trying

to sleep.) Most didn't think well of Johnny because he spent money on himself and let Rosie and his children do without. And there was, too, the business of how he shot his first wife.

It turned out that Bud Byrd had quit the moonshine business none too soon. Johnny told Bud, that day, that prohibition agents had raided his still. As Johnny and Bud talked, two of Thames Gunn's boys (young men) came to purchase a jug of 'shine and they all shared some drinks.

On toward dark, Johnny said he would give Bud a ride home. Bud said twarn't no need, he would hitch a ride with the Gunns. He got into the buggy between the two young men and Johnny stood talking as they said their farewells. Johnny suddenly asked Bud had he been the one that had turned him in to the law.

"Why, no, Johnny. You know I'd never do anything like that!"

"Shit!" Johnny said. Pulling his pistol from his belt, he began shooting...

Bud Byrd, with two bullets fired into his chest from close range, jumped from the buggy and ran down the road. Thead, thinking Bud wouldn't get far, slowly followed to finish the job. The Gunn boys, unhurt, made haste to vacate the area.

Miss Ellie New had suffered a stroke which left her partially paralyzed. She and her mother, old Mrs. Mary Pratt, were alone when Bud stumbled onto Joel New's porch. When Johnny turned up moments later, Grandma Pratt went to the door and ordered him to go on home. Johnny, brought up to be polite to old ladies, did as he was told. Joel New got on his wall phone and had Dolph Hughes summon the sheriff and an ambulance from town.

Aubrey Smith, 14 that year, recalls he was at Wednesday night prayer meeting that night. His mama, Miss Lizzie, got him word about the shooting. (Johnny Thead was Lizzie Smith's nephew.) She told Aubrey to go find out what was going on and to see if any help was needed. Mr. Jesse Foster lived in the old Bob Stone house and farmed the Threefoot place. One of the first to show up when neighbors had trouble, he took his lantern and walked Aubrey to Joel New's. Mr. Luther, a farmer from The Lane, was also at prayer meeting and walked along with them.

None of the officials had come when Aubrey and the two men arrived at New's. Somehow Miss Rossie had heard her son was shot and she and Grandma Pratt were applying camphor to stanch Bud's bleeding when Aubrey got there. They weren't doing much good. The men were busy talking so the two women had young Aubrey help them with the wounded man. Grandma Pratt scolded Bud as

she worked.

"Now, Abraham, I told you to stay away from that whiskey makin'! I told you you'd jes' get in trouble!"

It was one of the few times that Aubrey had heard Bud Byrd called by his real name.

The Model T Ford ambulance came and Aubrey and Miss Rossie climbed in to ride with Bud to the hospital. Where the New driveway turned into the 'big' road, they met Deputy Sheriff J.W. Wells who crawled into the ambulance to get Bud's deathbed statement. Aubrey heard Bud say it was Thead who shot him, but requested they go easy on his friend. It seemed to Aubrey the deputy took a lot of time.

The driver said, "Hey, Sheriff, you'd better let me get this man to the hospital else he'd gonna bleed to death!"

Having had time to think about it, Aubrey told Miss Rossie they shouldn't go to the hospital 'cause they wouldn't have a way to get home. Mrs. Byrd hesitated and then, kissing her son good-bye, the proud old lady stepped down. Bud died in the Mattie Hersee Hospital a little after midnight on Friday. [A complete account of his murder appeared in The Meridian Star on Sept. 6th and 7th, 1923.]

A year earlier, Jake and Ebbie Smith had bought Frank and Edna Vincents' house in Sec. 4 and were living across the road from Joel New. Jake met Humpy (Lawrence) White as folks began to collect at New's when they heard about the shooting. Wondering what had become of Johnny, they walked off up the road to Theads and found Johnny sitting on the steps of the old vacant Spinks Jones store. Johnny appeared calm and the three men sat and talked until Sheriff John M. Martin, his deputy (Wells), and Constable E.E. Mosby came make his arrest. Then Jake and Humpy had it put on them to go tell Miss Annie and the children that Bud had been shot.

Bud's family always waited for Papa to get home before they ate supper. They wondered why he was so late this time.

"We're goin' to stand Papa in the corner and whup him with the broom, ain't we, Mama?", one little boy said.

The little ones were too hungry to wait longer and Miss Annie had let them sit down at the table when Jake and Humpy came bringing bad news.

Johnny Thead, found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment, was sent to Parchman. His children were farmed out to Pine Springs neighbors and kinfolks because Rosie had no way to feed them. Jake and Miss Ebbie took two boys, Jesse and John Wallace. In 1925, Johnny sold his farm to Simon Williams of Kemper County. Later, because Johnny's lawyer said he would have a better chance at parole if his wife kept a home, Rosie rented a house

on The Lane and collected their five children. She did whatever she had to do to make a living.

Bud and Miss Annie Byrd's children, at the time of his death, were Stanley, 10; Claudine, 8; James, 5; Talmadge, 3; and Virginia, four months old. Not long before Bud's death, Joel New had bought the Hill Wolfe farm next to his place from Tommy Wolfe. The log house on this land was vacant and he offered it to Bud's widow and children. Mrs. New, confined to her bed, needed more care than Grandma Pratt was able to give. In exchange for rent, Miss Annie helped Grandma Pratt nurse Miss Ellie. She put in a small crop the couple years she lived on the place, with her brother, a Woodall boy, staying with her during plowing season.

Mrs. Rossie Byrd, a liberated woman ahead of her time, left Vas to his own devices, declaring she and Vas were henceforth separated. She moved a few steps up the road to live in a wee tenant house and left Vas to batch for himself. Rossie meant what she said and never went back. She hoed out her own little garden, raised chickens, and kept her own cow.

With Rossie gone and all the children married, Vas didn't do well. Nade and Miss Virgie moved back to Pine Springs to see after the old man. The last of their children were born in the old Byrd home. Those born before 1930 were Corbert, Vivian, Roscoe, Melvis, Teenie (Christine), and Ruby.

In July 1925, Nade sold the old Phillips place to the tenant, Jack Harris. Harris kept the 80 acres [$S\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}, S-33$] until he lost it for taxes during the depression in the early 1930's. Nade was able to buy it back from the Federal Land Bank. Nobody seems to know where the Harris family came from nor where they went when they left.

In 1926, Mrs. Mary Byrd Pratt was concerned about her aging parents, Vas and his independent wife. She and her husband, Ellis Pratt, moved to Pine Springs so Mary could keep an eye on their welfare. Mrs. China Love was about ready to give up living in the country and agreed to sell her house and 40 acres to Ellis and Mary on credit. The house, built earlier by Jeff Brown, was just up the road from the Byrds, across the road from Jarrit Snowden. What Ellis had not taken into consideration was that the once rich fields were gone. Red clay showed on the tops of the rolling hillside fields and deep washes were everywhere. Ellis Pratt was a good farmer but nobody could make that worn-out farm produce. Ellis was unable to pay Miss Chinie so, after a year, she foreclosed on his mortgage. The Pratts stayed on as renters until 1930 when Miss Chinie sold the place to Jarrit Snowden.

The Pratts' six children, when they came to Pine Springs, were Walterine, 1914; Preston, 1916; Estelle, 1917; O.V. (Owen Vastine), 1919; Thusline, 1921; Roy, 1922; and Clifton, 1924. In 1927, while they lived on the China Love place, they had twin boys, R.L. and C.L. They did not give the twins names, just initials, a fad at the time. (In later years, when C.L. joined the army, he had to have a full name so he named himself Charles Larry.) In 1933 the 10th and last Pratt, Robert Earl, was born after the family moved away.

Mary Byrd Pratt, like her brothers, was a yarn-spinner. After supper when they sat around the fire, her children enjoyed her telling them tales. She was especially good at telling "little ghostie" stories, and sometimes the kids were too scared to go to bed. But they always begged for more.

A steady worker, Mary worked in the fields alongside Ellis to help with the crop. Sometimes she was too tired to tell bedtime stories. Ellis was a fiddler and some Saturday nights word was passed that all young folks were to meet at Pratts for a dance. A crowd would show up some Saturdays when the Pratts wouldn't know they were coming but they would be welcomed. They squared-danced to the tunes of "Old Dan Tucker" and "Under the Double Eagle" while Ellis played fiddle and Nade "beat the straws". When Ellis tired, Nade took over the fiddlin' while Ellis beat the rhythm. Those were happy, carefree times. Nobody had money in their overall pockets but it made no difference.

After the Pratts left they sharecropped a year on the place Bill Cunningham bought near Gumlog. They 'cropped here and there until 1935 when they were able to buy a 240-acre farm east of Mt. Carmel Church at Obadiah. With better soil their hard work paid off and their standard of living increased. [After Mary Pratt died in 1955, Ellis sold the farm to Dr. Leslie Rush of Meridian and it became part of his "Sunshine Farm" near Lizelia.]

* * * * *

Another Williams family came to live in Pine Springs when Simon Alexander Williams (Jr.) bought a farm from Jim Thead. [$N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}, S-4$] After Johnny was sent to the pen, Mr. Thead sold the 80-acres where Johnny and Rosie lived to Mr. Williams on November 9, 1925.

Simon Williams, Jr.'s grandfather had settled in Neshoba County before the Civil War. He, old Simon Williams (I), and his wife, Penelope, came from Alabama with fourteen children to settle in the Java community (now Herbert Springs). One son, Alex (Simon Alexander Williams, Sr.), too young to be a Civil War soldier, married a Neshoba

girl, Margaret Pilgrim. Four of their children died, but Simon A. (Jr.), 1978, Edna, 1881; and Annie Belle, 1886, grew up near Antioch. Simon (Jr.) married Ira Belle Downey, daughter of J. Heard Downey, in Neshoba around 1904-1905.

Simon and Ira Belle had remained in Neshoba when the Downey's moved to Pine Springs in 1912. Their children, born in Neshoba, were Eva, 1906; Robert, 1909; Aubrey, 1914; and James, 1925. They also had a foster son, James Smith, Simon's nephew.

[The Smith boy, born 1919, was a son of Simon's younger sister, Annie Belle, who died when he was born. The boy's father, Baston Smith, worked in the Meridian railroad shops and could not take care of the little fellow, so Simon and Ira Belle took him. James Smith thought more of his Uncle Simon than the did his real father.]

The Neshoba schools were poor. When Ira Belle's folks told them about the Pine Springs farm being up for sale, they came to buy it. The Williams children rode Joel New's school bus to the new Center Hill Consolidated School.

Before they moved, eight-year-old Audrey Williams fell from a peach tree and injured his spine. A nerve was pinched which eventually caused paralysis. A bright boy, he studied at home and kept up with his school work.

Simon Williams was a good man, a quiet man; he was one of those people who did well whatever came to hand. The old house they bought, built earlier by Spinks Jones, was not very good to begin with, so Simon set to work right away to re-build. He replaced the original gable roof with a more "modern" hip-roof, and made other improvements, doing the work himself. He had a black-smith shop on his farm where he took care of all his own smith work. He could cut hair and knew how to make fields produce. He enjoyed tending crops and he enjoyed his family. Something only a few people knew about Mr. Simon was that he liked to raise flowers.

Every year, Simon set aside a couple rows in his vegetable garden to plant and grow flowers. He grew marvelous Dahlias, some with blooms 8 to 9 inches across. Ira Belle enjoyed them and picked bouquets for her neighbors. Everyone raved over "Ira Belle's Dahlias", never thinking it was Mr. Williams that tended them so faithfully. He was a gentle, loving man, happy enough if his Ira Belle got the credit.

* * * * *

Fred Johnson's orphans did well. All the 1920's they were helping each other get educated, and they did it so well they had more education than

most Pine Springs youngsters of their generation had who had both parents.

Ruth, after working her way through school to to become a nurse, returned to Pine Springs with the idea of opening some kind of health clinic on the Johnsons' farm. She worked as a nurse and spent her earnings on beginning a small hospital. Impressive from the outside, its inside remained unfinished. When the depression came there were no more funds to be found. The clinic, after its brave start, slowly rotted away. Ruth entered the Seventh Day Adventist Church foreign mission field. She remained in Africa, except for sabbaticals, until she retired. She never married.

Long-Bell Lumber Company of Purdue, Mississippi, sent Martha Johnson to nurses' training. After she became a Registered Nurse she worked at their dispensary at Philadelphia (Miss.) until her debt was paid. She then entered the Chicago School of Nursing and earned a BSN.

The Johnson boys went to high school at Madison College and Academy in Tennessee, an Adventist boarding school. Reuben Johnson recalls that Adolph, the biggest, weighed 108 pounds, and he weighed in at 52. They didn't have money for a room so one of their teachers put down blankets and let them sleep on his floor. At times they didn't know how they were going to get through the next step, but somehow things worked out. Dr. Reuben says one winter he stayed at Pine Springs and rode to Meridian High School every day on his bicycle.

While at Madison the boys all learned to play musical instruments. Reuben played violin, Adolph and David the trombone. Home for the summer, they picked up money playing at Union Church as well as at Fellowship, and at anybody's home where invited. They didn't set a fee but took whatever was collected when they passed a hat.

In the 1930's, Reuben and David entered Loma Linda School of Medicine and became doctors. David specialized in Psychiatry. Rex, the brother who returned from Sweden, earned a degree in Horticulure at LSU at Baton Rouge and taught at Washinton State. Joe, with his out-going personality, married and became a salesman and did not finish college.

Adolph studied Agriculture at Madison College until the depression came. Unable to find a job, he returned to the Pine Springs farm to work and save. At home he married Miss Jerusha Mae Spears.

Jerusha Mae was the oldest of the seven children of William T. and Josie Drake Spears. The younger Spears children were T.J., Etta, Christine, Grady ("Toddy"), Jack and Marium. After losing their Kemper County farm, the family moved from place to place. They came to Pine Springs around 1923 and rented the house on the Threefoot place, next

to Ratcliff's grist mill (the old Lockhard home) where they remained for several years. The children went to Pine Springs School and they all attended the local church. They farmed on the Will Griffin place the year before they moved to Obadiah.

Adolph built a tiny rough-sawn, two-room "doll house" on the Johnson place where he and Jerusha Mae lived. They lived frugally, saving every penny for school and literally lived on peanuts. Miss Jerusha Mae said she concocted all sorts of ways to cook peanuts. In 1933, they returned to Madison to continue Adolph's education. He did not stop until he earned his Ph.D. in Agriculture and Miss Jerusha became a Licensed Dietitian.

[they returned to Mississippi in 1949 to build Pine Forest Academy and Sanitarium, and Adventist institution near Chunky. Adolph, called Prof. By his students, headed the institution and aided many children, over the years, who needed a boost over the rough spots in their lives. He was later joined by his brother Reuben, the sanitarium's physician. Dr Reuben also operated his private practice on the grounds and was the family doctor of many of his old friends from Pine Springs.]

The Johnsons amply repaid society for the helping hands that reached out when Mr. Fred Johnson's death made them orphans. They held a warm spot in their hearts for their "family", the people of Pine Springs.]

Mr. Hill Wolfe died following a stroke in 1922. Cas, Hill's closest brother, had already died, and the rest of his brothers that were still living were in Texas. Tommy sent word that Mr. Hill was gravely ill to old Henry, Tommy's grandfather's former slave who was still alive in Kemper. Henry, feeble, had someone drive him down in a wagon to visit. Mr. Hill could no longer speak, but his old friend sat quietly by his bed one last afternoon. As the sun went down, Henry bid his boyhood companion a last farewell.

Hill Wolfe died two weeks before Christmas and was buried beside Miss "Luly" and his brother Casswell at Pine Springs Cemetery. Before the year was out, Hill's only heir, Tommy, sold his father's log house and 60 acres of land in Sec. 4 to Joel New. Tommy and Julia Wolfe moved to Meridian with their four sons to live in the Oakland Heights section until they bought a house on Royal Road (Today's State Blvd. Baptist Church parking lot now occupies house site.) Mr. Tommy Wolfe worked for years for W.W. Denton, the tax assessor. The

Wolfe moved their church letter to Poplar Springs Methodist Church, which had no connection with the former Poplar Springs Methodist Church of Pine Springs; the old church was long gone when the Meridian Church was organized.

The family left many good friends in the community. Roy, the oldest boy, graduated from Millsaps and became a Methodist Minister. He was welcomed back several times when he returned to Pine Springs to preach. Aubrey, the only Wolfe son remaining, retired from the postal service, now lives in Tennessee.

After the Wolfe family moved to town, Tommy Wolfe sold his Pine Springs farm. [w ½ Se 1/4 (80 acres) & E ½ Se ½ (20 ac), S-4] The buyer was William Preston Love and wife Myrtie Temple. Pres, oldest son Frank Love, had grown up in Pine Springs. He was in his 50's in 1928 when he bought the Wolfe farm. He already owned the old John Portwood Smith farm on the east side of the community where he and Myrtie lived since their marriage. Their sons were Temple and Othel.

Pres sold Wolfe's land a year later (1929) to Allen White of Obadiah. Love sold White the 80 acres east of the main road but kept the 20 acres on the west side of the road for his son Temple.

Temple Love built a 1920's- style 4-room bungalow on his 20 acres, celiied, painted, and with a block front porch. He did not have a well at first, but carried water from Mr. Kirby Smith's, his near neighbor.

Just about the time Temple built his house, the stock market hit bottom and the economy went haywire. Temple didn't live in his house very long before he had to rent his new house and leave home. He never moved back to Pine Springs. Humpy and Lorena White were his first tenants (some say) to be



1927. Temple Love house.

followed by a long succession of families.

The established, well-built Tommy Wolfe house and barns were on the east side of the road on

the land Allen White bought from Love. In the fall of 1929 when Allen and Gladys Stephens White moved to Pine Springs, they had four children, Mildred, 1919; Frances, 1921; Rita Nell, 1925; and the baby, James Eddie, 1928.

Allen, born 1896, was son of Greenberry Barney Franklin (Frank) White of Obadiah, and nephew of John White and Mrs. Juel Ratcliff of Pine Springs. (Frank White was the oldest son of J.J. White of Obadiah.) Allen's mother, Mrs. "Necie" Rodgers White, born 1861 in Pine Springs, had been the infant daughter of James Rodgers and Martha Sanderford when they died during the Civil War.

Allen and Gladys already knew the biggest part of their new neighbors and they were welcomed to the community. Their older children enrolled in the local school.

* * * * *

In 1925, Mrs. Ellie New had a second stroke. Ruth Johnson, fresh out of school and living in the old Johnson home, nursed Miss Ellie. Miss Ruth felt the News were like family and asked no payment, but Joel gave her 20 acres of land directly west of Temple Love's rental house in the southwest corner of Sec. 4. This land was a part of the Hill Wolfe farm Joel had bought from Tommy Wolfe which bordered the Johnson land.

Herman New had graduated but Joe, Susie Mae, and Irvin were students at Center Hill High School when Miss Ellie died on October 13, 1926. Through the years the Johnsons had learned to love Mr. Joel and Miss Ellie and offered special music for her funeral. The boys played an old hymn on violin and horn as family and friends filed past the casket. The music was so moving the mourners went to pieces and sobbing from the congregation sounded like doomsday. The boys said never again would they play for another funeral.

Mr. and Mrs. New were both members of Pine Springs Methodist but Joel buried Ellie at Pace's Fellowship church next to the tiny grave of her first baby.

John Aubrey Wolfe said all the Wolfe boys went to school at Center Hill on the original school wagon driven by Herman New. Mr. Aubrey went to Center Hill only half of first grade before they moved to town, but Chestine Wolfe, being older, recalled crossing Bales Creek in high water. The big kids carried the small ones over and then everybody got back into the wagon after it went through empty. Ralph Snowden, Joel New's first grandchild, recalls when he was a beginning schoolboy at Center Hill, the owners of school

wagons built a row of stalls, or pens, where their teams could be unhitched during the day to await the trip home.

"Granddaddy New," Ralph said, "was the first to have a motor school-bus that parked among the horse-drawn wagons. He was so proud of his bus he built two 'ge-rages' for it - one at home and one at school. He didn't want his fine bus left out in the rain! His first school bus was small, held about 20 kids if the were all jammed in. It was a Ford Model T with a factory built body. They gave a choice of colors; black, or black."

"The second bus [that Granddaddy had] was a Ford Model A that had four cylinders. It came as a strip-down with only two seats and a windshield. I believe he had Odie Snowden build the wood-frame body for it. It was bigger than the old bus, held about 40 kids. It had a sweet-running engine. Granddaddy used to take fishing trips in that bus. Herman or Joe were Granddaddy's drivers."

Joel New was not what you'd call a big drinker, but he did enjoy a toddy at bedtime to help erase the cares of the day. In times past he had ordered his whiskey by the gallon, sent through the US Mail. After prohibition stopped the sale of whiskey, Joel had to find a new source of supply.

Thus it was that Joel began having his boys drive him down to Cow Creek in the Tallahatta Hills west of Meridian to visit his brother, Lige New. Lige said the pure clear water from the Artesian well near his home made the best kind of sipping whiskey and he kept a still operating. (Lige also found eager customers in nearby Meehan, a rough-and-ready saw mill town.)

Lige (Elijah) New, two years older than Joel, was a large man, tall as well as just naturally big! One would not think, looking at the two men, that short little Joel New and big Lige were brothers, although they shared the same sense of humor and enjoyed laughing. Joel was lonesome after Ellie's death and went more often to visit his New relatives, made possible as transportation was quicker and easier with his Ford school bus.

Upon occasion, Joel and his boys took friends with them in the bus to go fishing. One time Ralph Snowden remembers in particular was when Granddaddy New took John White and the older White boys, Ralph and Mr. Curtis Snowden, and Mr. Lee Ratcliff to seine the Chunky River. Most folks thought of Mr. Ratcliff as being a quiet fellow, but on that day he was "one of the boys" and laughed and joked and had as much fun as anyone. Ralph said Mr. Ratcliff had such a good time he wanted to go again.

"We went by to pick up Uncle Lige at Cow Creek and each of the men got a pint of corn liquor to tuck in his back pocket," Ralph said. "We had a



1922. NEW FAMILY GATHERED FOR GRANDMA PRATT'S BIRTHDAY. Front, L to R: Ina Pearl White, Elaine Pace, Mamie Pace. Second Row: Irvin New, Grandma Pratt with Edward Earl White, Ralph Snowden. In Rear: Mrs. Marie New Pace with son James Andrew, Joe New, Herman New, Mrs. Minnie New Snowden, Susie Mae New (dark dress), and Mrs. Lorena New White.

200 foot seine along and we got into the river, overalls and all, to catch the fish. Mr. Ratcliff, for some reason, wore his good shoes and clothes so he didn't get int o the water with us."

"We pulled a seine full of fish up to the edge and M. Ratcliff helped us get the fish out of the net. He didn't want to get his shoes muddy but got closer and closer to the water. He reached out farther top catch the nice fish we bringing in. One of the Whites, I think it was Uncle Humpy grabbed Mr. Ratcliff by the leg and pulled him in. After his clothes got wet, Mr. Ratcliff just stayed in and had more fun than anybody."

As the day wore on, the pint bottle got lighter and began to float out of the men's hip pockets. Ralph said the men thought this a joke and went into gales of laughter each time they spotted another bottle bobbing off downstream they brought home over two washtubs of nice fish to divide among the party. Those that had been along all grinned when Juel reported that Lee complained of a "sick headache" and didn't go to church the next morning.

Ralph said most of the men of the community made plans to get their Christmas whiskey each year like the women made plans to bake their fruitcakes. It was part of the Christmas holiday. Granddaddy New went to get Uncle Lige one year to come help him make Christmas whiskey.

Lige, who had experience at that sort

of thing, helped Joel set up a still down the hill behind Joel's farm blacksmith shop, something like 200 yards from the house. They were working like beavers when Ed Hooks and two young sons came up through Joel's pasture from fishing the old Slough. Ed thought it was funny, Joel going into the whiskey-making business, and his blue eyes twinkled, but his presence made Lige, who didn't know Ed. "Kinda narvous." Lige, used to the sparsely settled Tallahatta Hills, was concerned about the proximity of strangers. Accustomed to watching for "revenoorers", he made trip after trip up the hill from the spring to see if anybody was coming. Lige was about to wear his legs out but Joel, sampling the squeezin's, didn't care. He just sat around, relaxed and happy, and let Lige do the worrying. Lige helped get Joel about two gallons run off but said he "warn't gonna hep Joel no more."

"I don't think my po' ole legs would hold out," he said.

Joel, seeking companionship as he got older, began walking through the woods two or three evenings a week to visit his young friend, Doc White. Doc and Minnie, having moved home from Lena, were 'cropping for Uncle Lee. They lived in the little house Jimmie Wright had built west of the store. Doc's son, James, then a small boy, remembers when Mr. New came at the end of the day, the men squatting around the yard to talk. They wouldn't let Doc's young'uns close enough to listen. James thought his daddy and Mr. New must have been taking a drink and telling funny stories 'cause they sure laughed a lot. He remembers Mr. New as being "short up and tall around," a squatty man with a little round belly." Mr. New was "slew-footed", walking with his toes pointed outward, his tracks easy to identify in the sand. James said Mr. New always had some humorous saying to make, and he never saw him wear anything but blue denim Bibbed overalls.

Herman New married at Christmas in 1929, having chosen Miss Hettie Jane White for his bride. Het's father was John White's younger brother, Mart (David Martin). Her mother was the former Miss Sarah Brett. Mart and Sarah lived in the old White home in Obadiah, the former home of J.J. White.

[It has been told that the early years of John and Lidie White's marriage, John was going to town and Lidie gave him instructions to bring her goods for a dress and a new pair of shoes for herself and the b aby, little Ernest. In town, John ran across Mart who said he was about to get married and wanted to borrow money. John, to help his brother, loaned Mart the money he had for Lidie's dress and shoed. Lidie was fit to be tied when

John returned without the things she ordered.

Family and friends showed up for feasting and frolicking at Mart and Sarah's wedding. Miss Lidie came in the faded dress and dirty shoes she kept for the cow-barn. Little Ernest was barefoot. Lidie told folks that was all she had to wear as her husband wouldn't buy them clothes. John didn't find it amusing.]

Herman and Het moved to an Obadiah farm near her father. In a few years they leased a Shell Service Station on Poplar Springs Drive in the edge of Meridian. Herman put in a counter for Het to sell hamburgers while he pumped gas. They knew half the folks in town, and those who were not relatives for friends, Het soon called by first name. As "New's Cafe" grew they took out the gasoline pumps and added home cooking, peas and cornbread type food to their menu. They never had children. [After Herman died in 1951, Het operated the cafe' until she retired. She sold the establishment but it continues to be operated as "New's Cafe".]

* * * * *

Kirby and Miss Lizzie Smith's sons both became young men in the days of prohibition. After they got out of school they left to go to Akron, Ohio with a friend, Roscoe Pace (son of Andrew P. Pace), to make tires for B.F. Goodrich Rubber Company. Pace came home only long enough to marry his sweetheart, but the Smith brothers came home to stay.

At loose ends, the brothers began to make and sell moonshine. Bennie, who did not have the personality, was not as well liked as Aubrey. He began to hang out in town. Known as "Babe" to his "modern" friends who frequented the speak-easys of the day, he went to work in a gaming establishment. It was suggested Bennie join the peacetime US Army. It did not take long for him to know it was definitely not the place for him and he prevailed upon his father to help him get out. Mr. Kirb somehow managed to effect Bennie's release but he never came back to live in Pine Springs.

Aubrey stayed closer to home. Taught by Bob Stone, he became a house-painter and built a modest home on land next to his father. Later, when Mr. Kirby's farm sold for taxes, Aubrey bought it in his name. He let Babe have the part on which the old homeplace was located. Aubrey, like Mr. Kirb, raised cattle on the back portion of the Smith land along Okatibbee Creek.

Aubrey had two unhappy marriages with a daughter from each (Billie Joyce and Lula Jean). Then

he had the good fortune to meet and marry Miss Evelyn Kinard near the beginning of the second World War. (Miss Evelyn is unrelated to the Kinards that lived in Pine Springs.)

[Mr. Aubrey and Miss Evelyn have two daughters, Margaret Ann and Ginny (Virginia Dale). Mr. and Mrs. Smith, older now, are presently "at home" in Pine Springs.]

On December 6, 1926, Pine Springs was shocked by another local murder. This time the victim was Joe Smith, Mr. Kirb's younger brother, youngest of the eight sons of the late "Jackie" Seaborn Smith. Joe was 39 when he was killed and his death left his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Calvert, with seven young children.

According to Jake Smith, Joe's nephew, Joe liked good times and he was often seen at clandestine cock-fights with unsavory company. The chicken fights, illegal then as they are now, were held in secluded woodland hang-outs where men got drunk, bet on the roosters, and fought amongst themselves.

Mr. Jake said "Uncle Joe's chicken" beat Clyde Brown's best fighter and Brown, who reveled in a scrap and was "handy with a knife", picked a fight with Joe. According to Jake, "Uncle Joe knocked the fire out of him" and ended the fight almost before it started. It caused "bad blood" between the men, and Clyde vowed to get even.

Joe and Miss Lizzie living, that year, on a narrow, muddy stretch of road (now Windsor Drive) that crossed from the Bailey Road (Hwy. 493) westward toward Pine Springs. There was a deep mud-hole just off the Bailey Road where the side road crossed a branch that was hard to get over in an automobile. [Today's Windsor Dr. is paved and a culvert runs under the road where the branch crosses.]

Joe worked in town with Vance Foreman and the two men rode to work in Vance's truck. One evening, Joe and "Van" met a bunch of the Browns as they turned onto the crossroad and slowed the truck to ford the branch. The Brown group included Clyde and Tobe (Rufus), brothers, and their sons Vernon (18, Clyde's son) and Reon (17, Tobe's son). Clyde and Rufus were sons of Albert Gallatin Brown, son of early settler David M. Brown who had carved a plantation in the wilderness near Drip Off Spring. Albert G. Brown raised his family on his farm adjoining the east side of Albert Pace.

The account given in The Meridian Star is a little different from the story as told by Jake Smith, who was around when the story broke. According to Jake, one of the Browns shot Joe in the arm as he and Van left the truck and tried to get away. They headed south toward town. The land had not been cleared back then; a jack-rabbit would have a bad time trying to get through the thicket. Van

Foreman laid low in the bushes but Joe half-crawled nearly a mile before he angled back to come out on the Bailey Road. The Browns were waiting for him.

Jake Smith said, "The Browns were known to be handy with their knives and they gashed him [Joe] up and left him there to die on the side of the road."

The account reported December 7, 1926 in "The Meridian Star states Clyde Brown and his son, Vernon, came to the Meridian police and turned themselves in. Vernon said Joe Smith and his father were fighting and, seeing his father getting the worst of it, he shot Joe with his shotgun to save his father. The paper also stated Smith's body bore "several cuts" in addition to the gunshot wound, although there was no mention of any wounds being received by Clyde Brown. The following day, so stated the newspaper on December 8, Rufus and Reon Brown were arrested following an investigation. The four Browns were tried and were found guilty of manslaughter. Vance Foreman, Jake said, made a poor witness because he was afraid of the Browns and could not, or would not, testify in Joe Smith's behalf...

The state supreme court reversed the lower court's decision and the case was returned for retrial in August, 1929. In the second trial the case against the four men were dropped.

"One of them jurors told Uncle Kirb, after it [the trial] happened, said there wasn't a way in the world to convict them," Mr. Jake stated. "He said they had a man on there [the jury] that voted not for conviction, didn't make no difference what happened. He [the juror] was already bought before he ever went in there [to the trial]."

Jake and Mr. Kirb Smith both claimed to have information that the judge and one of the District Attorney's were bribed \$5000 but they did not have money to pursue the matter.

Lizzie Smith took Joe's insurance money and, under the advice of Sam Kinard, bought 80 acres and a mule. Kinard sold her an old two-story house and land near Fellowship Church which she made her home. She and her children (Minton, the oldest, was 13) went to farming to make a living. They had hard times, as did all who lived during the 1930's depression, but Miss Lizzie held her family together and they survived. She regularly took them to the nearby church. She wasn't afraid of whipping them soundly if they needed it, and the close-knit family became caring, law-abiding adults. The children, after Minton, were Asalee, Everdean, Beatrice, Odell, Stennis, and Jacob. Miss Lizzie's aging mother, Ida Junia Townsend Calvert, came to live with the Smiths and was living

with them when she passed away. Odell and Stennis Smith served in the South Pacific in World War II, and Stennis received the Purple Heart for a serious head wound.

* * * * *

Mart Brown was the first that lived in the Stone's house on the Threefoot place after Bob and Miss Velma left the community. Mrs. Cola Brown Ross says her father first rented a house on The Lane but later rented the Stone house in the "big road" across from Mr. Jim Thead's. Mr. Arnholt was the manager when the Browns came, she says, but after Arnholt left, Mr. Jerald B. Coffee was the next manager. It appears Coffee was hired by the new owner who bought out the Threefoots.

On December 30, 1919, Louis Threefoot, Jr. sold F.C. Doty the big farm. Doty, like Threefoot, was an absentee owner who did not live in Pine Spings but hired Jerald Coffee to run the operation. Some older residents say Doty was a doctor, although this may be hearsay. Evidence points to the fact that he did have money.

Experienced farming hands tried to tell the new farm operator he was having them do the plowing all wrong. Somewhere Mr. Coffee had picked up the notion that the mark of a good farmer was how straight he plowed his furrows.

"You'd best go 'round these hills," old hands told him, "else you gonna wind up with all yo' fields down in yo' hollers."

But Coffee, proud of his straight rows, didn't listen. Sure enough, with the heavy rains, all his freshly plowed fields eroded. He lost a lot of topsoil and gullies began to appear on the hillsides. Coffee didn't last for over one season, perhaps two, as manager. Then Dr. Doty turned his farm over to his new son-in-law, Lloyd Hunter Gates.

Lloyd Gates, a real cowboy, was from Tyler, Texas, we are told. He had a custom-made roping saddle with his name on the hand-tooled leather. He and his wife were a young couple, not long married. Their baby, a daughter, was born while they lived in the big house. Miss Ebbie Smith said Mr. Jake did some work on the place for Gates after they moved in, and found the couple to be friendly, "ordinary folks".

Gates, as Mr. Jake recalled, placed more emphasis on raising cattle than on raising cotton. It is believed he was the one who introduced Brahma Cattle to the neighborhood, although the breed was not as popular then as it became later. While it is not known where got Gates got his big Brahma bull, evidently it came from where there were no wildent

thunderstorms. It was told that when the enormous bull heard his first loud clap of Mississippi thunder he took out running. He ran nearly a mile, leaving strands of barbed wire behind as he crashed through every field and pasture fence along the way. He did not check until he reached Okatibbee Creek.

"Mr. Lloyd H. Gates was there the last year before we left," Mrs. Cola Ross said. "He had a wife that was pretty. She had been raised with money and had nice things. She had a pretty cape with a lot of handwork on it she wore when she combed her hair. I thought it was so pretty. She had a precious little girl. They were not poor like we were, but when they came to eat with us Mrs. Gates commented on how good everything was. Of course, we did like we all used to do, we cooked a table full of all kinds of things. She said she had never seen so much to eat. I don't remember what Mrs. Gates's first name was."

The Brown family left Pine Springs in the fall of 1922 and Miss Colie married David Marshall Ross in 1924. They were together 65 years before his recent death. Before the Browns left, young James Roy Thead already had his eyes on Miss Nonia Brown, Mart Brown's second daughter. James Thead and Nonia Brown married around the time the Brown's moved away.

The year 1923 was a bad year on the farm for Dr. Doty and his son-in-law. Gates was not doing well with his cattle and farming and Doty mortgaged the farm to the Federal Land Bank. Kutcher Threefoot redeemed the land from the chancery clerk (for taxes) and Dr. Doty had to give Threefoot another mortgage to reclaim the farm. In an attempt to get back his investment, Doty determined to lease the land for cash.

We do not know where the Gates went but, in 1924, Doty rented the farm to a local farmer, Pat Harris. Harris was not a manager but leased the farm to work himself.

Mr. Pat had been farming his own place (between Jim Thead's and Mrs. Phronie Bozeman's), which was a good bit smaller than Doty's. After he leased the bigger place, Pat rented his own land to Cliff Harris, Pat's nephew from his hometown in Alabama. Cliff and Alpha Harris moved into the house on the Harris farm where the Huffmasters had lived, and Pat moved his family to Doty's big farmhouse at the head of The Lane. He and Miss Pearl had two children by that time; in addition to young Lloyd they had welcomed a daughter, Stella, in 1920. Joe Harris was born in the "big house" in 1925.

Cliff and Alpha Harris had two or three young sons when they came to farm



Mr. and Mrs. E.L. "Pat" Harris

for Pat Harris. One of the boys, about ten, came down with Typhoid fever during the time they lived there. The County Health Department had Mr. Pat install a septic toilet with a lime pit at the house where his tenants were staying and, also septic toilets had to be dug at Pine Springs School. In the past the school had on surface privy which was used mostly by girl students as the boys generally used the bushes. With the outbreak of Typhoid, however, two septic toilets were built. The girls' new toilet was outside the southeast corner of the graveyard near the site of the old privy, while the boy's toilet was dug closer to the road between the graveyard and the schoolhouse. After the school became a church the boy's toilet was taken down and the pit filled in [When James White was a beginning student at Pine Springs, one small student fell into the new toilet and had to be fished out. James is not certain which child it was, but if his memory serves him well, the little kid was Toddy Spears.]

Times were good in 1924 and 1925 and Pat Harris was a progressive farm operator. While he lived in the big house, he had working tenants along The Lane whom he insisted tend their crops as they should. In addition to the Ford family car, Pat was able to buy a new Model T truck for farm use. He raised a lot of cotton and cattle as well as sweet potatoes which he spread out in the big barn to cure. They were picking up potato in the fall of 1925 when a calamity happened.

The families were in the field and a boy was sent to the house to fetch fresh water for the hands. On the way, the boy stopped by the big barn to play

with matches. He set the barn afire.

Lloyd Harris and his younger sister, now Mrs. Stella Snowden, well remember the terrible fire. Lloyd says the barn loft was filled to the rafters with loose hay and the end of the lower hallway was stacked with hay that had been baled. Cecil Townsend remembers the smoke was seen from the schoolhouse and the school bell was rung. Folks showed up from everywhere. Mabra Townsend said schoolboys chased down and caught the shoats from the pigpen, attached to the barn, and shut them up in the brick silo where they were saved. Some of the bigger hogs, too large to catch, were lost. The men pushed the new Model T truck out of harm's way and then carried out baled hay. Only three or four bales were burned. Sug Thead was there, helping carry out bales of cotton.

They tossed corn from the cribs into the two wagons. They had trouble keeping the wheels straight to roll it out until one of the bigger boys grabbed the wagon tongue to guide it. They did not have time to get the brand-new wagon. It, loaded with corn, was lost.

The horse barn, across the lot from the big barn, showed signs of catching fire. Somebody, Mabra thinks it was Adolph Johnson, turned the horses out of their stalls. The horses were turned into the barn lot and escaped to run to freedom. Others got excited and, confused by the smoke, ran to the wrong end of the lot and died in the fire. Minnie White (Mrs. Ernest White) was there and told her children how horrible it was to hear the screaming of the trapped horses.

Lloyd said they lost the sweet potatoes that were already stored in the barn, along with about 1000 bushels of cotton seed, about that amount of cotton seed meal, and a large part of the corn that was already gathered. The barn, made of heart pine, burned fast and it is a wonder they saved as much as they did. Mr. Pat was the only one injured. He was badly burned about his face and arms, fighting the fire. It was some months before he could work again.

After the fire, Mr. Pat did not lease the farm from Dr. Doty again. He and Miss Pearl moved into the house with Pearl's mother, Mrs. Bozeman, where they lived for several years. In 1927, the Harris' second daughter, Mary, was born. Their last little blue-eyed cotton-headed baby, Dorothy, was born in 1933. (All the Harris children were cotton-headed blonds with bright blue eyes.)

In 1926, Mr. Pat needed a second tenant to help him farm his place. He built a new tenant house on the east side of the main road across from the big house on the Doty (or Threefoot) farm. Painted green, it was a small house, not more than four

tiny rooms, but it was new and clean. Somewhere he came in contact with a Whitlock family and had them work his farm as tenants.

The Whitlock and Galyean plantations were the only two on Valley Road south of Meridian at the time of the Civil War. Of Scotch-Irish descent, the grandfather of the Pine Springs Whitlock family was Rev. John Whitlock, an evangelist preacher, who was born during the Civil War. Rev. Whitlock believed in arranged marriages. He and Mr. Galyean arranged for their children, James Robert Whitlock and Irene Galyean, to marry. James Robert, called Bob, was born in 1875 and was 21 years older than his appointed bride. He was a handsome man and, although Miss Irene was as beautiful as he was handsome, he objected to his forced marriage. Taking money that came from his father, he left his bride and "went west" to remain for some time.

At length, Bob returned home with his money gone. He had been in San Antonio when his luck at the card tables ran out. He never recouped his fortune and spent the balance of his life as a sharecropper.

As a child, Bob Whitlock had what they called "white swelling" in his foot and a bone had been removed. Although his crippled foot caused a limp, he walked with no problem and plowed a mule as well as anybody. He was still good-looking, for a 50-year-old man, when the Whitlocks moved to the Harris farm. The four daughters they brought with them were as pretty as their mother.

The oldest of the Whitlock girls was Millie Belle, who married Clifton Glaze (Mrs. Allie Love's oldest son) in 1928. Millie Belle and Clifton lived in Lee Love's tenant house on the Okatibbee on the back side of his step-father's farm. Cliff worked at a gasoline station when they married, and later became an auto mechanic. They had two little girls when they moved from the community.

Cecil Townsend recalls he was pretty sweet on the second Whitlock girl but, in 1929, young Miss Winnie married his cousin, R.L. Love, Jr., (Cliff Glaze's half brother).

The youngest Whitlock girls were Glemar and Willie Mae. Willie Mae was three when they came to Pine Springs in 1926; the Whitlocks' only son, James Othell, was born in 1928 while they lived in Mr. Pat's little green tenant house.

* * * * *

After the barn fire, Dr. Doty gave up on his Pine Springs farm and, in 1925, surrendered the deed. When Louis Threefoot took the farm back, he hired Willie Kinard (William Franklin, Sam Kinard's oldest boy) to be his farm manager.

Willie and Miss May Belle moved into the big house in the spring of 1926.

The stock market on Wall Street was high and going higher and, in this healthy business climate, Louis Threefoot invested capital on improving his big Pine Springs farm. Threefoot had Willie get a carpenter to replace the burned barn and Willie hired his friend, Odie Snowden. (Odie was a son of John W. "Buddy" Snowden of Center Hill; Mr. Buddy was an older brother of Curtis Snowden who lived in Pine Springs.) Odie also built four tenant bungalows for Mr. Threefoot, one on top of each rise along The Lane as it left the big house to trace its way back to Okatibbee Creek. The new houses all had the same floor plan; four rooms that included one used for a kitchen/dining room, and a front and back porch. Stained barn red, the houses had a solid board banister around each front porch, and each had its own well, privy, vegetable garden, and small barn. They were small houses but a far cry from the shacks to which 'croppers had been accustomed.

To get a cash crop other than cotton, Mr. Threefoot hit on the idea of raising pecans. He bought 600 Stewart pecan seedlings from Bass Nursery of Hattiesburg and Willie hired Leo White, his unmarried brother-in-law, to set them out. They bought 60% dynamite from the DuPont Company, who sent trainers to show Leo how to use it. A hole was made with a hand wielded post-hole-digger as deep as they could reach (young Howard White and Raymond Foster were among the crew that helped dig) and then Leo dropped a stick of dynamite into the cavity. The resulting explosion loosened an area of soil that would allow new tree they planted to put forth roots. The trees covered several hundred acres of pasture as well as parts of fields. Today's owners of the farm are harvesting and selling pecans from the trees that were planted over 65 years ago.

Mrs. Mazelle White, widow of the late J.L. White, recalled that she and J.L. were a young married couple in 1927 when they moved into one of the fresh red houses that her brother, Odie Snowden, had built on The Lane. The house, their home for several years, was on the left side of The Lane on top of the first rise. Their son, Lewis Ray, grew up there. J.L. (another son of John and Lidie White's) farmed at first, although he later worked with Odie as a carpenter.

Miss Mazelle said once she ran over little "Tooker" (Lewis Ray) with their Model T. Tooker was swinging on the board gate at the beginning of The Lane as she was driving through. The little fellow fell and she ran right over him before she could stop. He was not injured.

The tenants in the second new house, who did not stay long, were named Price. In the third red house were Bill (William E.) and Miss Ollie Cunningham with their children, Laura Mae, Andrew, and R.T. In the late 1920's, Bill bought part of the old John P. Smith farm up in Sec. 35 and they moved to the crossroad now called Blind Brown Road. A last son came whom they named George Ray.

The final red-stained house was rented to Bud (John L.) and Mary Catherine Lynch Brown. Bud Brown was a son of Robert Ridley Brown and sister of Mrs. John Lovett of Pine Springs. When they moved in, their children were J.D., Robert, Mack (Malcolm), and baby Preston Lee, born in 1926. Their younger children, born in Pine Springs, were Rita, Wilford, Norris, and David.

The Browns were living on The Lane in 1930 when Preston Lee, a four-year-old, developed a "risin'" in his nose, took "blood-poisonin'", and died. The child was buried at Pine Springs Cemetery.

When the Mart Brown family moved away, Jesse Foster moved into the "Bob Stone house" on the Threefoot farm. He was new in the neighborhood when he lighted Aubrey Smith up the road the night Byrd was killed. That was typical of Jesse - he liked people and was one of the first to offer a helping hand.

Jesse Foster and Miss Vira, the former Vira McCall of Martin, moved to Pine Springs the year their oldest son, Raymond Earl, (born in 1919), began school at Pine Springs. They stayed until 1938, when Raymond graduated from High School at Center Hill. Their younger son, Jesse, Jr., was born in Pine Springs in 1927. "Junior" Foster had thick, dark curly hair that Miss Vira couldn't bear to have cut. He was a good-sized kid before she allowed his ringlets to be shorn.

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Mr. Jim and Miss Beulah Thead lived out their years on their farm in the house he had built. Miss Beulah did not go to social functions and not many ever saw her unless they made a special trip. Some said her husband wanted her to stay home, and she did. When neighbors stopped by, she was welcoming and friendly. Her yard under the surrounding oaks was immaculate, always appearing freshly swept. One wondered when this was done, as she was rarely seen about the place. Mr. Thead walked up to the store most every afternoon to buy himself a "Coke-Coler". The older gentleman would sit and visit with whomever happened to be there, and then he would walk on home.

[Mr. Thead was 75 when he died June 16, 1942. He had requested they bury him in Alabama near his

birthplace. His body was transported in Snowden's school bus and those who wished to attend the funeral climbed aboard. The funeral was in the little town of Silas, followed by burial in Black Creek community, somewhere in the wilds between Silas and Blandon Springs, Alabama. Those who went reported that Black Creek graveyard was on the far side of nowhere, the school bus bumping over narrow rough roads that would have to be seen to be believed. When Mrs. Thead's time came, she was buried beside her husband.]

Johnny Thead did not serve out his sentence at Parchman. A model prisoner, he was made a trusty. John's record there has been sealed, but the family says that while John was there a prison break-out occurred and Johnny, a trusty, was given a gun and told to bring the escapee back, dead or alive. Johnny returned him dead.

Following this episode, Johnny was paroled on November 27, 1933. On November 22, 1935, he received a full pardon, his record erased.

Mr. Sam Kinard sold Johnny land from the upper portion of his farm in Sec. 34. The land was sold on credit, as Mr. Sam had more farm than he could manage and Johnny needed help. The Theads and their children (then nearly grown) settled down to farm quietly. They were left alone as many were skittish about having dealings with Johnny, a little afraid of what he might do.

Mr. Jim Thead's daughter Mattie had a hard life after she married Rush

Bradley contrary to her father's wishes. The Bradleys left Pine Springs and. After a dismal marriage, they eventually separated. Aubrey Smith, who was close to his Thead cousins, said Mattie and her small sons were away from home, deserted, and destitute.

"She didn't have nothin' to eat and Uncle Jim [Thead] went to get her and brought her home," Mr. Aubrey said. "He fixed up his ole cotton house so she would have somewhere to live."

Mattie Bradley's boys were Carbin, 1918; Wallace, 1921; and Wilmer Lee, 1927. When they returned they slept on piles of cotton in Thead's cotton house and depended upon the kindness of others for the food they ate. The two older boys picked up jobs from neighbors at times, and were paid in food or token wages. They took whatever was offered. Later they moved to a shack on the far side of Threefoot farm to live in a 'real' house.

James White remembers the two older Bradley boys who came often to play or go fishing. Carbin Bradley was near the age of James' brother Howard and Wallace Bradley, near James' age, was his friend. The Bradleys often ate with the Whites but James remembers going home with Wallace only once. As they went by an abandoned apple tree where the Whites lived, the boys gathered a sack of scrubby apples. Miss Mattie was glad to get the sorry apples and cooked them at once. James said stewed apples was all they had for dinner - no sugar nor butter, no milk or cornbread, just apples.

Clarence and Miss Lottie Thead lived in the community not far from the Lovetts. They farmed Miss Dora Bozeman's place for some time. Mr. Clarence wanted to build a house on his father's farm but Mr. Jim didn't want any of his children to build on his land, saying there were enough Theads living there already. (After Mr. Jim died, Miss Beulah let Clarence build a little house next to hers.)

Clarence and Lottie's third daughter, Mary Edna, was born in 1922, followed by three sons, Edwin, 1926; Jimmie Lee, 1929; and Billy (William Davis) 1932. Jimmy Lee, developed a tumor when he was quite small and died following surgery. The family was living at Miss Dora's when the little boy died.

The older children, influenced by their mother, took pride in making good marks in school and graduated with honors. Billy, the youngest, was interested un playing his guitar and never put much stock in school.

James Roy Thead was able to buy the small John Adams farm in Sections 16 and 17 after old Mrs. Martha Adams died. Miss Ida Adams was away



Johnny and Rosie Thead, 1930's.

teaching in 1926 when her 68-year-old mother died. Miss Claudia Adams, married to William Thomas Doerner, lived at Martin. The Adams grandchildren, Ola Mae and J.D. Martin, were grown and had gone their own ways, so it was that the old gentleman, John Adams, Sr., was left alone in his old age after his wife died. The old fellow wanted to stay in his home, but then he was crippled by his rotting well shelter falling over and Claudia insisted he come live with her. Mr. Adams, nearing 80, died at the Doerner home and was buried beside his wife at Gumlog Church in December, 1932.

James Thead bought the Adams farm (in NW quarter of Sec. 16) from John Adams, Jr. and settled, with his wife, Nonia Brown, into the weathered log house that had been built by John B. Collins so many years before. James Roy and Miss Nonia (they called her Nonie) had three sons, all born in Pine Springs. The boys were Hall (Melvin Hall), 1926; James Willard, 1931, and Robert Earl, 1934.

Sug Thead (George Lee), youngest of Jim and Beulah Thead's children, married Olean Calloway of Meridian. Sug held jobs in Meridian, but he and Olean lived sometimes in town and sometimes in Pine Springs. They never had children, but enjoyed a tempestuous and stormy marriage that lasted, through divorce and re-marriage, through the years.

* * * * *

John and Elizabeth Lovett kept up their home across the road from Phronie Bozeman but left, at intervals, when John's railroad job took him away from Meridian. For one period, he and Ches Love both worked out of New Orleans. Lovett kept his fields rented but did not usually rent his home.

For some reason, the three youngest Lovett boys, Lewis, Little John, and Herbert, did not finish school at Pine Springs, preferring to graduate from Suqualena. The boys had twice as far to walk but they cut across across Okatibbee swamp. As the crow flies, it was not over 3½ miles from the Lovett home. Aubrey Smith said he stopped going to the Pine Springs school, too, and finished his schooling at Suqualena with the Lovetts. Aubrey said Little John had a horse and buggy they drove at one time.

Lottie and Alma, the two Lovett daughters, were the first of the children to marry but Roy, the oldest boy, was the first son to take a wife. Using his father's influence, Roy found a job with the railroad like his dad and, around 1920, he and Miss Ethel Allen, from the other side of the Okatibbee, were married. From his parents,

Roy bought a lot on the main road next to their home. Mr. John helped Roy build a small house where Roy and Ethel's two older children, Hazel and Durwood, were born.

Roy learned to be a machinist in the railroad shops and often made, or improved, anything mechanical.

Albert Lovett, Alma's twin, married Miss Lula Walker, also a twin. The Walker twins, daughters of Elias Walker, had played with Bessie and Ebbie Pace and Luna Kinard when they were girls and Miss Lula remembers making playhouses with them at an old saw mill site. Lela (who later married Claude White), the more dominant of the twins, was prone to "boss" Lula around. The Walker children, living on the Joe Wilson place on the east side of the community, went to Drip Off School instead of Pine Springs. (The Walkers also had a son, Odessa.)

At age 15, Miss Lula became ill with "Brain Fever" and nearly died. She recovered but lost all her hair. It grew back.

The Walkers moved to Lee Ratcliff's tenant house next door the Union Church near the time of World War I and were living there in 1922 when Albert and Lula married.

Albert, like his father and brothers, was a railroad man. He, like other employees, was laid off periodically until he gained job seniority. He and Lula had two little girls, Doris, 1923; and Merelene, 1925, when Albert built his small house on his father's farm, a greater distance from the road than Roy's. By 1930, Albert and Lula had two more little girls, Bobbie Walterine, 1927; and Betty Jo, 1929.

When Albert finally got a steady job on the railroad, it turned out to be in the Birmingham railroad shop. He kept hoping he could be transferred home to Meridian, but had to await an opening. For over ten years Miss Lula, an unsung heroine, alone took care of her house and small children during the week, seeing Albert only on weekends when he used his pass to ride the train home. During this trying time, Lula Lovett grew in maturity and strength, while maintaining her quiet dignity. The time came when Lela, Lula's domineering twin, complained, "You don't do what I tell you any more!"

In 1931, Miss Lula was preparing to scrub her wooden floors and had her tub of hot sudsy water ready. Four-year-old Bobby fell into the hot water and was scalded and died from burns. [Bobby was the third child buried at Pine Springs Cemetery within a two year period. Besides Bobby's death, there had been Preston Lee Brown and Jimmy Thead. The three children were cousins.]

Albert and Lula had more children. In 1933,

Donald Lee was born and, in 1937, O.E. (Oscar Elias). Their last child, Bertie Lou, was not born until 1945.

After commuting to Birmingham over ten years, Albert gave up hope of being transferred to the Meridian shop. He had Lula and the children moved to Birmingham so they could be together. It was ironical that, two weeks after the family moved to Birmingham, Albert's transfer to Meridian came through. They were hardly unpacked before they repacked for the trip home!

After Lewis Lovett took a course on how to cut hair in New Orleans, he and Little John both became barbers and both worked at City Barber Shop in Meridian. Lewis married Viola Roberts, daughter of Jesse Roberts of Center Hill, and Little John married Mary Lee Thompson of Suqualena. Both lived in town and both had three children. The brothers returned to Pine Springs to visit their folks, and sometimes visited Pine Springs Church, but their children were not well acquainted in the community. [After World War II, these Lovett brothers relocated in Albuquerque, New Mexico.]

The youngest of the Lovetts, Herbert, married Willarene Stephens, daughter of Benny Stephens of Suqualena. Herbert, in Lovett family tradition, was a railroad man. A delightful young couple, Herbert and Willarene lived in the community in the 1930's before they moved to Meridian. They had only one child, Sandra Nell.

* * * * *

Wes and Molly Love lived on their 16th Sec. farm throughout the 1920's and 1930's. All their children, except Nora, left the farm for life in the city. Miss Nora, except for a brief, unhappy marriage in 1927, always lived with her parents.

Ches, a farmer at heart, remained involved with his railroad occupation. It paid good wages (when he wasn't laid off). Ches and Myrt moved around a lot, experiencing both lean years and good times. In lean times they returned to Pine Springs to rent whatever tenant house happened to be vacant. Finally, in the 1930's, Ches was transferred to the railroad shops at Birmingham where he moved his family. They remained there until Ches retired, then returned to Pine Springs to farm and raise horses and cows.

Leora Love had a problem when her husband, Shelby Hudson, developed "Jake Leg" from drinking Bay Rum. Jamacia Gin, it was called, an antiseptic with a high alcohol content, which came into use during prohibition when "good" whiskey was illegal and folk had to improvise. They did not know, until too late, the antiseptic could cause paralysis

or even death. Those whose legs were permanently affected were said to have Jake Leg.

Faced with making a living for her invalid husband and two children, Leora opened a tiny grocery on Asylum Road (now State Blvd.) on the northern edge of Meridian. Selling loaf bread and candy bars, Leora didn't even break even. Then a friend told her to start selling beer and liquor, which she did. Business improved and Leora's 'speak-easy' opened in 1927. Her new building, made of logs, suggested the name of her establishment, The Log Cabin; Pine Springs friends just called it "Leora's place".

Church folks would not step foot into Leora's place, those that did not drink nor dance. However, most of Leora's former classmates at about her age were her regular customers. Among this "modern" group (the ladies were called "Flappers") that partied together were Leora's sister Lillie and her husband, Nolon Hodges, Willie and May Belle Kinard, Odie and Julia Snowden, Humpy and Lorena White, J.L. and Mazelle White, Sug and Olean Thead, and others from her generation. With the coming of the automobile, they reveled in their new freedom. These youthful couples of the Jazz-age, kicking over their traces, furnished preachers new topics for sermons. The more conservative Pine Springs citizens shook their heads, thinking this "rowdy bunch" were all going to hell in a handbasket.

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Two of Mr. Sigh Townsend's sons, Joe and Grover, traded farms, tit for tat, in December, 1923. Joe and Minnie Townsend had lived next to Mr. Sigh in the house Joe had built when he married, which fronted the main Pine Springs Road. Grover and Flavia had bought the old Aaron Rodgers homeplace on Allen Swamp Road. No clear reason for the swap is now known but they both seemed satisfied.

John Greenwood, a black that lived on Barnhill Road in the hills east of Rogers Creek, was a good old fellow. His wife, Daisy, preached "as good as a man" in Oak Grove Baptist Church near the top of Bozeman Hill. Much of their run-down farm was hilly and, unable to make a living at farming, John began to make whiskey. The sheriff got wise to the operation and began watching for John to place him under arrest. Grover had let John sleep in his barn in case the law came looking for him in the night.

Grover and Joe Townsend had different personalities. Grover was more relaxed and tolerant whereas Joe was more businesslike and tended to worry. After they traded farms, John showed up

to sleep in the barn as usual and ran into Joe, the new owner. Joe was all for turning John over to the sheriff, but Grover talked him out of it. Grover said John had been sleeping in the barn for two years and there was no need to turn him in at that late date. Joe fretted about it but let it ride.

Six years after Joe and Grover's land swap, Grover got tired of paying lease money on the 16th Section 'school land'. He went to Jesse Bounds, former state representative, to see if there was any way to get a clear title to his farm. Bounds advised Grover to buy another farm.

Bounds helped Grover buy back the farm that had belonged to Robert Ridney Brown, his wife's father. Grover, Miss Flavia, and their children moved to the Brown farm up on Gin Creek on the west side of the Okatibbee near today's West Lauderdale School. To Miss Flavia, who had been raised there, it was like going home.

(Old Robert Brown, to please his children, had given up his farm around 1920 and rented rooms for himself and his wife, Miss Alice, from Dora Bozeman in Pine Springs. Their children, Elizabeth, Tom, Dink, and Bud Brown, had all settled about the community. One daughter, Ethel, or "Effie", lived with the Browns at Miss Dora's until, late in life, she married Albert Hopkins and moved away. Jake and Ebbie Smith rented a tenant house from Miss Bozeman for three months in 1920. Miss Ebbie recalled, "A sweet old couple, the Browns, came to visit us while we lived there. They had a grown daughter they called Effie.")

In 1930, after Grover and Flavia moved, Grover sold his lease on the 16th Sec. farm to Willie Kinard. Willie, involved in operating the Threefoot farm, installed tenants on the place.

Grover went to work for the county under the Beat 3 Supervisor. In 1933, Grover was clearing the way south of Lauderdale for Highway 45 when he was injured on the job. He was helping pile and burn logs as they cleared the roadway when a log fell on him. A snag, a broken limb, gored Grover in the abdomen as it fell. He died following surgery on November 30, 1933, and was buried at Pine Springs Cemetery.

The oldest Townsend daughter, Sarah, had married Arnold Brown and lived near Suqualena, but Elliot Townsend, 19, was still at home with five younger children when Grover died. The youngest child was Everett Lee, about 10 years old. Miss Flavia raised the children on the farm and remained there the rest of her life. Her younger children stayed close to home when they married.

After Grover moved from Pine Springs, Joe

and Mrs. Allie Love were the only two children of John "Sigh" and Sarah Townsend's that kept close ties to Pine Springs.

Joe Townsend was always in a hurry. Young Raymond Earl Foster, on occasion, slept overnight with Joe's boys, Pluto and Mabra, and remembers how Mr. Joe would wake the family in the mornings.

"Come on, come on, come on!" he would go down the hallway shouting, "Everybody up! Let's eat breakfast!"

Joe stayed ahead of schedule so he wouldn't risk being late. He hurried everybody to get everything done each day. On Grover's old farm, he developed his herd of cows and got a dairy into operation. His industriousness paid off, it seems, for he and his boys made a good living.

All of Joe and Minnie Townsends' children were born before they moved to the old Rodgers place in 1923. Some went to school across the swamp at Suqualena. In the late 1920's, Joe had a school bus route to Suqualena but, during wet weather, the only way to get across the swamp was by mule and wagon. Mabra recalls times, when the water was high, the mules had to swim over the deep places. After Pine Springs School was consolidated with Center Hill in 1931, Joe's children, Sadie, Pirl and Howard, rode Mr. Pat Harris' school bus to Center Hill. The Harris bus, sometimes driven by Mr. Pat or young Lloyd, sometimes driven by Lewis Lovett, came down the road to turn around in Townsend's yard, the end of the line. Going back up the road to turn east at The Forks toward Center Hill, it picked up children on the east side of Pine Springs. Mabra also remembers when Taylor's old store, vacant for years, was finally torn down. He was a kid then, but remembers what a gold-mine the youngsters found when the old flooring was ripped up. As the wide planks were pulled, one noticed a coin in the dry sand underneath. They had struck it rich! They got scraps of screen wire and began sifting, Mabra said, and retrieved a "pocket-full" of old coins that had rolled through the cracks. Sadie Townsend (now Mrs. Jesse Baker) tells stories her brothers told when growing up. They laughed about how they had mixed all the babies at a black church meeting. Pluto and Mabra, with friends, were looking for something to do one Sunday evening when it occurred to them it might be interesting to go hear the Negro preachin' at the Pine Grove Church up on Bozeman Hill. Sometimes congregations at country churches, white or black, were caught up by the Holy Spirit and put on a show.

The preacher was in good shouting form when the boys arrived and moans could be heard from saints and sinners, caught up in ecstasy. Around the church yard were various teams and wagons, hitched

while church was in progress. In several, the boys noticed, babies and tots were sleeping while their parents were inside. What would happen if the boys switched them around, they wondered, and Mamas found out they had the wrong chill'un? The culprits eased around and switched the babies, but got cold feet and left before the service ended. They never heard if the parents went home with the wrong young'uns.

Mabra remembers that, after Threefoot took over the Lowe farm, the bridge over Rogers Creek fell in. Threefoot had 100 sacks of fertilizer hauled to his farm in a big freight wagon but the loaded freighter was more than the bridge could take. Wagon, fertilizer, and two teams of horses all went into the creek. The teamster asked around to enlist the neighbors' help. Mabra said his Dad, along with others, went to the collapsed bridge with their own teams. The teams, strangers to each other and unaccustomed to working together, became excited, floundered about the water and wouldn't pull together. Some horses got loose and headed for their barns. Nothing more could be done that night, so they waited until morning to try again. Working together the next day, they got the wagon back on the road.

In the early 1920's, the Okatibbee bridge, on the other side of Townsends on the Swamp Road, fell in. Mabra Townsend said a load of logs had entered the bridge from the west when a piling gave way. He, a youngster, was present when the second bridge was repaired, as were his Uncle Grover's boys, Elliot and Cecil.

The county hired Mr. Kirby Smith and Mr. Lee Love to replace the rotten roadway with new timbers. There were several men working, or standing around watching. (It was said Lee Love did the hardest part of the watching.) Among the watchers were the Townsend boys, Jesse Thead, and young Aubrey Smith.

Mr. Kirb, with Cecil Townsend and Mr. Lee Love following, walked out onto a rotten timber. Suddenly, the wooden member gave way and Mr. Kirb fell into the creek. Cecil and Mr. Lee, closer to the bank, jumped to safety. The timber, with a rusty spike stuck into its end, fell on Mr. Kirb's head, the spike striking him at the hairline and peeling his forehead down to rest on his nose. Blood, everywhere there was blood! The men got Smith out of the water but he was on the wrong side of the creek. He couldn't see so they guided him up the creek a ways to walk him across on a footlog. They sent Aubrey Smith back to the main road to try to flag somebody down that could help.

With Mr. Joe Townsend walking before and Mr. Lee walking behind, Mr. Kirb was guided across

the log. Mabra Townsend and Jesse Thead waded across on each side to catch him should he start to fall. Poor Mr. Kirb could not see at all and was weak from loss of blood.

Aubrey ran as fast as he could to the big road and the first one by was Mr. Ratcliff, coming from town in his Model T. (Ratcliff's Ford was an older model that had to be cranked to get started.) Flagged down, Mr. Ratcliff turned toward the creek to rescue Mr. Kirb, Aubrey riding the running board.

Aubrey said the timber had peeled the top of his Papa's head and folds of skin covered his eyes. Dr. Pace was summoned to Smith's home and arrived quickly in his Model T. (Dr. Pace's was a later model than Ratcliff's and was a self-starter.) He proceeded to take needle and thread from his bag and sewed Kirb's face into place. Young Aubrey watched, fascinated.

"God damn, Kirb," Aubrey remembers Dr. Pace saying. "Your hide is tough as an ole mule's!"

The old country doctor did a good job, and Mr. Kirb's face healed quickly. (Dr. Pace died March 14, 1932, and was buried at Pace's church. He was sorely missed by his patrons and friends in Pine Springs.)

Aaron Elbert Townsend, Joe's oldest son whom the boys called Pluto, got tired of working so hard on the farm and left home at an early age. He just got tired of being pushed so hard and one day, when he and his papa were in the field plowing corn, he and Mr. Joe got into a wrangle. It is not known what was said, but Pluto got angry and threw his plow stock down. He left the field and never looked back. He went to the house and got his "other shirt" and left, walking, for Meridian. It is doubtful he even knew the thrown plow stock had broken Joe's arm.

It was some time before they heard from Pluto. He wrote he had joined the army. [He was in the Army Regulars when World War II began and remained after it ended. Making the army his career, he was a Sr. Warrant Officer when he retired. He married Ruth Wilkes, an Alabama girl, and they made their home in San Carlos, California.]

Miss Allie Townsend and her second husband, Lee Love, lived in the old Love home throughout the 1920's. Allie and Lee had another child, a little blonde-headed daughter with big brown eyes, named Ruth. Ruth, born in 1930, was several years younger than her brother, R.L.

R.L. was admired as the best swimmer of the lot when the neighborhood youngsters swam in Lee Love's wash-hole on Okatibbee Creek. He married one of the pretty Whitlock girls, Miss Winnie, in 1929. Hired by his cousin, Leora Hudson, he

tended bar at The Log Cabin.

Will Griffin didn't farm much; he was in the timber business. He worked for himself buying hardwood he sold to Bostick Lumber Company for the manufacture of wagons. He hired neighbors for crews to cut and haul. Cecil Townsend said his father, Grover, worked for Griffin when they cut tall stands of long straight Oaks and Hickory from the Ponta Hills. Will traveled to places as far away as Memphis to sell timber, and Cecil said his Dad was glad to see him go; it meant more work for them to do.

Will and Clara Griffin had an unusual relationship for that time, although it would not seem strange today. Will was content to live on his Pine Springs farm but Miss Clara, a business woman, traveled to work at The Vogue (a better dress shop) each day in her little Chevrolet automobile. Peggy Jean Griffin was too young to go to school but the Griffin boy, Billy Sam, went to Pine Springs School in his younger years - until Miss Clara moved to a house in town. She took the children with her.

Glenar Whitlock (now Mrs. Culpepper) tells she and Billy Sam Griffin were childhood sweethearts. Every day Billy Sam rode his bicycle up to her house and then, putting their books into his bike basket, they walked on to school. Billy Sam had coins to spend whereas other kids didn't. Mr. Ratcliff kept a jar of candy kisses in his store and, most every day, Billy Sam crossed the road to buy Glenar a little bag of the chocolates. Glenar remembers being so proud of having a boy friend that gave her candy. When Miss Clara had the boy start school in Meridian, the young sweethearts thought the end had come.

Miss Clara, looking like a fashion model, brought the children out to visit her husband in summers. The children learned to love "Aunt Dora" Bozeman who lived nearby. Sometimes singer Jimmie Rodgers brought his wife and daughter to camp on the Okatibbee, roughing-it with their Bailey and Griffin cousins. Mr. Griffin put his farm in Clara's name so she not only owned the Griffin farm, but part of her family's Bailey farm, too. She had sharecroppers that worked her land.

Ollie and Bessie Pace Calvert lived in a tenant house on her father's farm when their children, Clarise and Raymond, were born in 1921 and 1923.

Ollie farmed summers, cut staves and did carpenter work in winter months.

In the spring of 1929, Bessie was admitted to Anderson Infirmary where they found she had a brain tumor. They knew but little about brain surgery then and lacked today's sophisticated x-ray equipment. As the tumor progressed they relieved her pressure headaches by removing a piece of bone. Her death came in August. The Pace family gathered around to help Ollie with the youngsters.

Ollie bought five acres from Mr. Albert Pace and made plans to build a home. Later, he bought 40 more acres west of the land he had, with a narrow strip of ground connecting the two parcels. The little frame house he built is at the crossroad of today's Pace Road and Hwy. 495 (in Sec. 35).

Buck, eleventh of the Albert Paces' children, had come lustily crying into the world in 1921. Their twelfth and last child, Martha Isabelle, was born the last day of December in 1923, but lived only three days.

Even before Bessie's illness, Mr. Albert and Miss Bettie Pace were concerned about their 18-year-old son, Jack (Leroy, Miss Ebbie's twin). He, while in good health, began to experience muscle weakness. Dr. Dee Pace could do nothing for his nephew but suggested a chiropractor might possibly be of some help. By horse and buggy, Mr. Albert took Jack to a clinic for treatments, which proved to be fruitless. Jack's muscle weakness progressed and, near the end, he was bed-ridden and had to be spoon-fed. He was 26 when he died in 1930.

The Paces experienced trying times throughout the 1920's but met their troubles with fortitude and kept going. Grandma Pratt tried to help with the family's illnesses but, in her 80's and becoming feeble, she needed care herself. All was not sickness and sorrow, however, as good things happened along with the bad.

The oldest Pace daughters, Bessie and Ebbie, had married good men and each had two sturdy children. In 1928, Barney Pace married Margaret Thersia Clay and had a job with a road-building company in Durant; his son, A.C., was born in 1929. Maye, Pat and Belle were healthy and doing well in school. Buck was growing into a fine little boy.

Through the years, Sam and Laura Jones Kinard had, by dint of labor and careful expenditures, increased their holdings and lived comfortably. Gone were the days when, freshly married, they worked side by side to harvest their cotton because they could not hire pickers. (Laura said, after her children were grown, she had not eaten a meal she

had not cooked herself in over eighteen years. By 1930, they owned 777 acres of land, lived in a not fancy, but a commodious farm home, and kept their savings in an old rusty safe. Good Baptist, they attended Pace's church on a regular basis and, being good neighbors, were always ready to help when their friends were in trouble.

Their oldest son, Willie, was in charge of the Threefoot place, the largest farm in the community, but their second son, Burton, was sent, after graduating from Center Hill, to Mississippi Southern College and became a teacher. When Ralph Snowden asked how he liked being a teacher, Burton must have been jesting when he drawled, "We'll, it beats working for a living."

Luna Kinard married when she was quite young. Miss Luna and Walter Weldon Brown slipped away on February 20, 1921 to be married at the home of Preacher Brice Stephens. Weldon, who everyone called Chuck, was son of John D. and Marcella Williamson Brown, and was working at a sawmill when they married. Mr. Sam let them build a house on forty acres of his farm, which they completed in 1925. Their only child, Jack (Walter Jackson), was born in 1922.

Sam and Laura's second daughter, Virginia (called Jennie, or Jen), married William Wesley Calvert, Jr. in 1926. Known as Willie, W. W. Calvert, Jr. was son of Wes (William Wesley Calvert, Sr.) and his first wife, Mamie Anthony. Willie, grandson of John Greenlees Calvert, was born in Pine Springs. Willie and Jinnie lived near Fellowship Church until their children, Rubye Lurlene (1929) and Billy Sam (1930), were grown but removed to Alabama in later years.

By 1930, only three of Sam Kinard's children were left at home, all students at Center Hill.

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After Mr. Jim Snowden was too old to work, his son James Edward moved his family from Martin to look after his parents and run the Snowden farm. It must have been in the late 1920's that Ed built his little house in the northeastern corner of the farm. [The Ed Snowden house, in a bad stage of deterioration but still standing, is on the southwest corner where today's Fellowship and A.G. Brown Roads intersect. At the time when the house was built, the original road had not been moved.]

Ed and Myrtie Phillips Snowden's three oldest children, David, Lester, and Norma, were already married when the move to Pine Springs was made. (Their fourth child, Tommy, had died young when a horse, turned out to pasture, felt frisky and

kicked up her heels for a run. Little Tommy, in the way, was run down.)

The younger of Ed's children, Odell and Jewell, came to Pine Springs with their parents. Mr. Jim sold Ed the northern half of his 80-acre farm, but sold the southern half to Mr. Sam Kinard.

Mr. Jim and Miss Anne Snowden were in their twilight years when they both died in the early 1930's. Miss Anne was active until her last illness; a neighbor said that at age 81, Miss Anne was helping drop Irish potatoes in her garden the evening she became ill. She was sick a-bed two weeks before she died. Neighbors flocked in to "sit up" with their old friend and asked Mr. Jim to rest while they watched through the night. He refused to lie down but sat by his old sweetheart's side. She died in his arms that night on January 14, 1934.

Jim Snowden lived two years longer, laying down his burdens at age 84 on the day after Christmas of 1936. Mr. Snowden, dedicated to his family and his farm all his life, he hardly ever missed going to Fellowship Church as long as he lived. He is remembered as being a tall, thin man, who always wore a mustache. He was friendly but more reserved than his wife. Miss Anne was more out-going and friends responded to her more than to her husband. Stacy Snowden had a personality more like his mother's; young people often came to him with their problems.

The Snowden house, built of logs, had long past seen its better days. After her parents' time, Sid and Miss Bessie Smith built a modest house under the same aged Oaks that shaded the original homestead. They did not enjoy their home but a few years before Miss Bessie found she had cancer.

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It was in September, 1920, that Curtis and Minnie Snowden's two-year-old son, Raymond, was buried at Pace's Fellowship Church. Minnie was worried about their remaining boy, Ralph, who was "scrawny" and had no appetite. (It used to be thought that an overweight child was a healthy child.) Miss Minnie asked Uncle Dee Pace for a tonic to give her son. Dr. Pace said to have Curtis make home-brew and give the boy one or two bottles every day. Before long, he said, little Ralph would be in fine fettle.

With prohibition the law of the land, many Pine Springs families (and elsewhere across the nation) made home-brew to take the place of the illegal beer. To make home-brew, all that was needed was a churn or two, sugar, malt, brewer's yeast, and water. A five-gallon churn would make 40 or 50

bottles to be capped for future enjoyment (after taking care the yeast was through "working" so the caps wouldn't blow off). This home-made beer could be pretty potent.

Naturally, the churches condemned this form of alcohol along with the rest, but only the more straight-laced adhered to this part of the preacher's sermon. Pine Springs remained a church-going community but times had changed. The more relaxed post-war Jazz Age of the 1920's caused conflict, a period of adjustment, between old and new morals.

Apparently, Dr. Pace's home-brew remedy helped, as Ralph grew into a sturdy boy. His closest playmate was his young uncle, Irvin New, and the pair visited back and forth. The Snowden home on Fellowship Road was a quick hop, skip, and jump through the woods to Joel New's on Pine Springs Road.

On the farm just south of Snowdens were the Hooks, whose boys, Lester and Louie, were near Ralph's age. Ralph recalls one occasion when he ran down to the Hooks to play, he found things in an uproar. When he arrived at their picket fence and entered the gate, he heard some kind of commotion going on behind the house. He went around back to see what was going on. Miss Ida was in a frenzy, running about, looking under the house, calling for Lester. Les had disappeared and she couldn't find him. They all started looking and checked the barn, the crib, chicken house, everywhere, but Les was not to be seen.

Someone went in to call the neighbors on the old wall telephone and folks showed up from all directions. By this time, Miss Ida was convinced her son had fallen into the well. It was a deep well, its curbing built high enough to reach the back porch and so dark inside they couldn't see anything. Someone suggested they lower a lantern on a rope to see if they could spot Les' body. Poor miss Ida was having "conniptions."

A crowd had gathered around the well when someone called, "Here he is! I found him!"

It had been a balmy day and Miss Ida had put her featherbeds on the front porch to air. Les had come by and stretched out in the warm sun. A fresh breeze was blowing and Les, growing cold, had snuggled underneath the mattress and had gone to sleep.

Mr. Ed thanked the neighbors for coming and they returned to their chores. That was the way it was. Neighbor helped neighbor, whether it be rolling logs, burning a field, making molasses, or finding a lost child.

Curtis and Minnie Snowden's only daughter, Earlene, was born in April, 1923. By this time the Snowdens' farm

was doing well as the post-war prices stayed up following the recent war. Curtis bought a 1925 Ford Model T, a double-seater touring car which had a canvas roof and isinglass windows that buttoned on for inclement weather. It cost \$275 brand new. Around 1927-1928 they remodeled the ramshackled log house where they lived.

The house, built in the 1850's by Rev. Jones, they completely did over and finished, inside and out, and painted it white. Cud'n Charley New came and stayed with the family to help do the job. The time-worn logs were removed from the front rooms and the area made into a parlor and a wide enclosed hallway and a large front bedroom on the north side. Behind the front bedroom were two smaller bedrooms for Ralph and Earlene. Down the hallway was the door to a formal dining room, which opened into the kitchen. The family mostly ate in the kitchen unless they had company. A country-seized back porch provided ample space for preparation of vegetables for cooking or canning. Miss Minnie kept out the hot afternoon sun to make the front gallery cool by planting English Ivy on each side of the wide front steps. The Ivy grew lush and, in time, formed a breeze way where one could sit to cool off in the porch swing.



Contemporary picture of former Curtis Snowden home on Fellowship Road in Sec. 3. The original log home, remodeled by the Snowdens in 1927, has since undergone further renovations. The back porch is now enclosed and the lush Ivy across the front is gone.

The Hooks children continued at Pine Springs School until it closed, even though they could have transferred to Center Hill. Ed Hooks wanted his children enrolled in school closer to his home. Miss Ida and the children, like their Vincent relatives, were faithful members of Pine Springs

Methodist Church, although Mr. Ed never thought it important enough to join. He was an upright man but did not care for organized religion. He was a good neighbor and stood for anything that bettered the community. He was proud of his children and gladly took his turn at being trustee of the local school. Although Mr. Ed was not normally a "joiner", he, surprisingly, did become a Mason, a member of the Longstreet Lodge at Shucktown.

Ralph Snowden tells that one day when he was a boy, he cut through a small copse of woods that separated the two farmhouses, on his way to play with Lester and Louie Hooks. The woods bordered a field where Mr. Ed had his mule hitched to a distributor to put out fertilizer. Mr. Hooks, busily engaged, did not see Ralph but as Ralph neared the field he could hear Mr. Ed talking to his mule and stopped to listen.

Mr. Hooks had placed bags of fertilizer at intervals along the ends of the rows so he could refill the distributor whenever it became empty. He had come to the end of a row with his load nearly gone and was preparing to refill the hopper. The sack of fertilizer was just far enough away from his hand so he could not reach it without turning loose the handles of the distributor.

Mr. Ed seriously told his mule, "Now, you see here, I'm goin' to have to turn these handles loose and you can move on a little and turn this whole thing over. But I'm a-warnin' you now, if you spill this fertilizer, I'm gonna come up there and knock hell outta you."

He let go the handles and took the two necessary steps to pick up the bag of fertilizer. Sure enough, the mule spied a morsel of grass and took a step forward to reach it with his tongue. The distributor fell and dumped fertilizer onto the ground.

Mr. Ed had picked up the new bag of fertilizer and stepped back over to right the machine. He emptied the bag into the hopper, all except about 10 pounds. Knotting the top of the bag, he walked to the head-end of his mule.

"Now, I told you what I was gonna do if you made this thing fall over," he said, and swung the almost empty sack in an arc.

The knot of fertilizer hit the mule right between the eyes and the mule dropped to the ground like he had been shot. Mr. Ed just stood there and looked at his dead mule a minute as Ralph watched from the trees, his heart in his mouth. Mr. Ed slowly walked around the mule, just sort of looking and scratching his head as if wondering what to do now that he had killed his animal. In a few moments the old mule raised his head and

looked up at Mr. Ed as if to say, "Ha Ha! Fooled ya!"

Ralph thought it best not to say anything and eased back into the woods to go find Louie. He left Mr. Hooks helping his mule onto his feet and back into the traces.

[In later years, Howard White raised cows and had a pasture across the Ernest White Road from Mr. Hooks' pasture. One day Hooks bull got out and came to visit Howard's heifers. Howard's bull, who was pretty big and as mean as the devil, attacked the visiting bull and broke his neck. Howard was sorry about it, although it couldn't be helped. He went to Mr. Hooks to tell him his bull had been killed.

"Well," said Mr. Hooks, "like the old woman said when her youngest baby died, 'I'll jes' hafta git me another'un.'"]

The Vincents, Mr. Felix and Miss Amanda, had grown old but had their middle-aged children, Tom and Miss Lelia, to care for them and their invalid daughter, Miss Nanny. Charley, their youngest boy, married and left home in the early 1920's, but lived on the next hill and across the Ernest White Road from the Vincent homestead.

Charley married Miss Adelle Walston, daughter of Ben C. and Nannie Walston. The Walston farm was located on the King Road north of Meridian (now inside the city limits). [Mrs. Walston's parents, Adelle's grandparents, had been Hack and Nanny Chandler Warren who had lived in Pine Springs.]

Tom Vincent had bought the north forty of the Thomas Love farm from W.P. Lang in 1921, and sold it to his younger brother when Charley got married. Charley and Miss Adelle made their home in the house that Love had built, and farmed the land to earn money to repay his brother. Tom signed the deed over to Charley in 1924.

Charley and Adelle were busy farming and raising children during the next few years, although they hardly ever missed church. Miss Adelle went to the community Home Demonstration Club meetings when she could get away. Charley could always be counted upon to help the other men whenever a grave was to be dug, (it was the custom for neighbors to dig the graves at that time), and his strong bass voice always rang out at community singings.

The Vincent children born in the 1920's were Dorothea, 1923; Nannie Claire, 1926; and May Delle, 1929. In the 1930's, three more came; Charles, Jr. and Charlene (twins), and Mable.

By 1920, the older of John and Lidie White's children (Myrtie, Doc, Leana, Humpy, and May Belle) were married and gone, but this still left a 'passel' of kids to get grown. Uncle Lee Ratcliff, JP, performed the wedding of Claude White and Lela Walker (Lula's twin) in 1921. The new couple moved into John White's tenant house in the field behind the White home and Claude worked with his father in the fields. Claude's two children, Dessa Lee and Walker, were born in 1922 and 1924. Uncle Lee married J.L. White and Mazelle Snowden in 1924. They moved to the Threefoot Lane when their son, Lewis Ray, was small.

This left only Algie, Leo, Billy, Louise, Perry and Imogene at home to get into trouble. With John White's large farm and many mouths to feed, all the children, girls and boys, worked the fields. Fights and scuffles often came about among the lively kids as they played pranks on each other.

One day they were all chopping cotton when it was Leo's turn to make rounds with a bucket of cool drinking water. Leo played around and was late getting back. Claude groused at him about it; hoeing in the sun was a thirsty job. Leo didn't take kindly to being corrected.

Next time around, Leo let Claude drink before he taunted, "Ha, ha, ha! I gave all the niggers a drink first and 'sides that, I peed in the water!"

Leo threw the bucket down and took off running, knowing Claude would be at his heels. Claude overtook him near a blackberry patch and they wallowed it down. When it was over they were so scratched they looked like they had been fighting wildcats.

It was not all hard work as the children had good times, too. The father, with vigorous enthusiasm, made every-day living a party. Humpy, working for the railroad, brought home sticks of dynamite to blow out a deep wash-hole on Rogers Creek. Louise White (Mrs. Buck Gipson) remembers how good it felt to go to the wash-hole with a rag and a bar of soap to get a bath. They all went in naked when they were small, she said. Sometimes, when they were drying off, someone would start slinging mud. Then there would be a free-for-all mud fight. When watermelons came in, they had fierce watermelon-rind fights and followed by swimming in the creek to clean up. Mr. John had a goal each year to have the first watermelons ripen by the Fourth of July.

In 1926, John bought a Chevrolet touring car which cost \$495. The three littlest young'uns wanted to drive, but Mr. John said they were too

short and put them off. Left alone, Louise, Perry, and Imogene solved the problem. Louise sat on the floorboard to work the pedals while Perry turned the steering wheel. Perry couldn't see over the dash but this left a job for Imogene. They slit the canvas roof for Imogene's head to poke through as she stood behind Perry to tell him which direction to steer. Now they were ready to travel. John came back about that time and looked in dismay.

"Lidie!" he finally wailed, "Come see what the babies have done to my new car!"

The young'uns found it fun to climb to the top of a tall young Pine sapling, making it bow over to give them a ride down. Little Margaret, Stacy and Leana's daughter, was the smallest in the group and couldn't climb. Margaret was lifted, pushed, shoved up the Pine, but her weight was too light to bend the tree. She was afraid and the bigger kids were faced with the problem of how to get her down. After a conference, one was sent to bring an ax and they chopped down the tree with Margaret clinging to it like a baby 'possum. She wasn't hurt (much) but squalled all the way home to tell. They all got into trouble.

Country folks had no refrigerators before electricity came, so they used milk coolers, enamel pails with tight lids, to lower on a rope in a corner of the well to keep the milk sweet. Sometimes, if the rope broke or if someone got careless and tipped the cooler, the well would have to be drawn dry. Rog Darden, a black from up the hill on the other side of Rogers Creek, was the man sent for to do the job. (Rog was the husband of Nancy Jane Bailey, daughter of the former slave, Rufus Bailey.)

Miss Lidie wanted a new well closer to the kitchen at the back porch, so John sent for Rog. Rog came and commenced digging but, as the hole got deeper, he needed someone top-side at the windless to empty buckets of dirt as he, in the hole, pulled them up. Mr. John first sent Algie and Leo to help, but the bigger boys were needed elsewhere and the smaller kids, Billy, Louise, and Perry, were left to take turns emptying the heavy bucket. To make the job more interesting, the "helpers" began dropping clods of dirt down the shaft. Rog, showered with dirt, told the kids to be more careful. Inspired by the black's reaction, Louise caught a rooster and threw him in the well.

The resulting commotion caused them to stop throwing dirt, but Billy got the idea to swing from one side of the hole to the other. Perry was to hold the rope taut. Perry, not strong enough to hold Billy's weight, lost his grip and Billy tumbled into the opening to fall on Rog. Nobody was hurt but Rog had about had enough.

"You better b'have yo'self, you rotten scan'el,

you!"

By noon the hole was so deep the boys had to heave on the rope with all their might to pull Rog out to go eat.

"Y'all better get someone else to hope me this afternoon," Rog told Mr. John. "Dem chilluns is playin' around too much and I's a-feered one of dem chilluns is gonna git hurt."

Mr. John was tied up on another task but he told Rog's young helpers to be more careful and to stop throwing things into the well.

Back at work, the afternoon dragged on until Billy thought of something to ease the tedium. The Whites' had a blind ox that wore a bell around his neck. Billy got a cow bell and approached the well slowly, his bell tinkling, pawing around like a bull and making noises like the ox snorting as he neared the hole. Rog, inside the well, knew the sound of the ox bell and had an overwhelming feeling that the blind ox was about to walk in on him. He left the hole.

They said Rog didn't need help this time but emerged without anybody tugging on the rope. He "clumb right out, not touching the curb in no more'n three places" and went straight-away to find Mr. John.

"Now, Mr. John," Rog said, "You knows I wants to hope you wid dis well, but I ain't a-goin' back in dat hole lessen you gonna git me mo' hep. Naw, sir, I jest ain't gonna go back down dere. Dem bad chillun done messed wid me enough. You git me some hep and I'll finish dat well, but I ain't gonna go back dere iffen y'all don't get me mo' hep!"

He meant what he said so John got him more help. They all had fun that night when the kids told about the way Rog had run out of the hole. Mr. White laughed and laughed.

Rog Darden believed in 'haints' and at mealtimes the kids would hardly let him eat as they gathered around to hear his ghost stories. Sometimes at work, Mr. White would have to chase his "chilluns" away so Rog could get his job done. He always carried a plug of tobacco in his pocket, and one time Doc asked him for a chew.

"Say, Uncle, your tobacco is sorta wet," Ernest said, biting off a chew.

"Yassah, Mr. Ernest," Rog replied. "I's been havin' a leetle trouble holdin' my water, now I's gettin' older."

"Mama dressed us girls in boys' clothes as soon as we were were were out of diapers," Louise says. "We girls hoed and chopped cotton dressed like boys, and saved our dresses for church or school. I didn't have to plow, 'cept one time when Billy conned me into it. 'Just plow a couple rounds

for me,' he said, 'so's I can go check my hooks.' Papa saw him going along with his bait bucket and asked why he wasn't in the field. When he found out I was stupid enough to let Billy get away with it, he made me plow the rest of the day. I sure got tired, clumping along over the rough plowed ground and trying to make the mule turn around."

"Course, being dressed like a boy was handy the time we went to the fair with the boys. Papa gave us a little money to spend but we didn't want to waste it, so we crawled under the fence to get in."

When Louise was growing up her best friend was Mary Stone, Bob and Miss Velma's daughter. One Saturday, Leo and Little Joe Wilson were going to a dance. The girls wanted to go but the boys had dates and didn't want the young girls to interfere. Louise had made herself a pretty new dress and was disappointed. She was mad with Leo and, after he left, she stitched the legs of his overalls together so he couldn't get them on.

Came Monday and time for Leo to go to the field, Leo couldn't get his legs into his breeches and went to Louise to ask her help. She had done a good job on his pants and refused to help him get them undone.

When Louise went on about her business, Leo went to the girls' room and found Louise's new dress. It was a pretty blue, bound with ribbons, with the back cut low and filled in with lace. Of a formal length with a full skirt, Louise had spent hours getting it made.

Leo, wasting no time, got into Louise's new dress. She was shorter than Leo and the long skirt struck him just below his knees. He hitched up his plow and went to plow the field beside the house. It was a breezy day and, as he plowed along, the wind caught the full skirt and made it billow out behind.

Mr. Gunn, the postman, came along and saw Leo plowing in the pretty blue dress and stopped to get a closer look. He came by the house laughing about the pretty plowgirl he had seen. They said he laughed at Leo for six months or more.

Perry got his nickname one day when he and the girls were hoeing the potato patch. He was giving the girls so much devilment they called him "Boots" and chased him from the field. The reason for this name is now obscure, but Perry was called Boots long after he was grown.

John White loved baseball. His ambition was to have a team of his own and, with his eight sons and a son-in-law (Stacy Snowden) making the ninth, his team was complete. Calling their team "White's Special", they began playing in the level pasture in front of their house. The younger boys were

small, at first, but that didn't stop them from playing. Soon they were challenging other local teams, most of whom had big and little players like the White's.

Humpy and J.L. were considered the best pitchers, although Doc pitched some, too, when he wasn't fielding. First one and then another would play the bases, although they changed around a lot. Stacy played 2nd base, and Boots played center field and Algie was short-stop. Billy played outfield, but Leo was usually the catcher. John White seldom played, but shouted instructions from the sideline.

Around the last of the 1920's, neighbors came to watch the games and other players joined the team. Pete Cross, from the edge of Meridian on the Asylum Road, came to play 1st base. Nade Byrd made a good catcher. Jake Smith played, but thought it was serious business and was often good for a scrape. Ellis Pratt and Cud'n Trick Talbert from Gumlog played. When they started challenging bigger teams, it did get serious. For a while they had a problem getting an umpire, as so many arguments erupted. They played a team whose home base was Duckpond up at Cud'n Benny Rogers gin at Center hill, and the Blackwater Team, and there was one team that came from Topton.

Needing a place to store gear and hold meetings, they cut trees from John's farm for Stacy to saw at his mill for a clubhouse near their baseball diamond; roughsawn lumber, one-roomed,

unpainted. Sited on the flat meadow where the diamond was located, it is believed to have been on the former site of the ancient Stokes racetrack. The team dug a well near the clubhouse for thirsty players.

To buy uniforms, the players put on blackface minstrel shows. They gave annual performances for several years at the Pine Springs and Center Hill schools, and perhaps at others, as well. The shows, with Doc playing Mr. Bones, were always a hit. Humpy would bring down the house with his buck-dance. One line that is remembered was when Leo looked upward and remarked that he saw the Mail plane flying over.

"Naw," said Mr. Bones, "That's just his landing gear hanging down."

Sometimes, after they won a big game or had completed another smash minstrel performance, the team celebrated in Meridian. In happy-go-lucky exuberance, they had a great time. They would stop at Joe Bozeman Café for a free soda pop. (They had their own moonshine in their hip pockets.) The police force knew them and laughed at their antics; they would see Detective Tal Rodgers, who had grown up in Pine Springs. Officer "Uncle Dick" McWilliams (Jimmie Rodgers' brother-in-law) followed them, laughing, about his beat. They had a little ditty they sang

Clean out the jailhouse,
Clean it up right,
All us ole White boys
Are stayin' there tonight!



Recent photograph of the John White home as it looks today. Built to replace the home burned in 1918, it is now the home of Mrs. Myrtie Love, John's oldest daughter. The bricks and screens have been added to the porch since the days when the large White family called it home.

1930 - 1935

The decade of the 1920's had been a time of peace and plenty. The local landowners, their farms well established, had offspring that lived nearby and the many grandchildren they produced showed bright promise that the family would continue. They raised corn, sweet potatoes, peanuts, hogs and cattle, milk cows, chickens and sugar cane, but cotton remained their major cash crop. Most of their available land was under cultivation; it was possible to stand in Sam Kinard's or Curtis Snowden's fields on Rogers Creek and gaze southward across nearly two miles of plowed ground to see traffic entering the community from down Bozeman Hill. With no trees to obstruct the view from Johnson's house on the high hill west of the main road, one could see who entered Ratcliff's Store a mile away. The population had increased until almost every farm had at least one or two tenant house, thrown-together shacks of rough lumber put up when saw mills had made lumber so cheap, and these housed a number of transient workers, sharecroppers, that worked for the landowners. The 'croppers were made up, mostly, of the sons that had stayed behind to farm when their brothers left home to work for the railroads or to find jobs in Meridian's mills. There were fewer saw mills around in the 1920's as there was not enough local timber to interest the lumber companies. Only a few men remained in the community who preferred working in the woods, making their livelihood by cutting spokewood and barrel staves.

Few in Pine Springs noticed, or even heard about, the stock market crash on Wall Street in October of 1929. New York was far away and those that read about it in The Meridian Star wondered at such goings on when rich folks started jumping from tall buildings. They were likely more concerned with getting the last of the cotton harvested and the late corn picked and into cribs.

The import of the total collapse of the business world began to sink in when local banks began closing and the price of cotton plummeted to 5¢ a pound. Railroads began laying off their employees and sons that had left the farm for the factory came home when they lost their jobs.

The Great Depression had arrived.

Four Threefoot sons, Sam, L.M., and Ketcher (sons of Kutcheu) and Louis Threefoot (son of H.M.), made the third generation of the Threefoot cotton firm. Business was good in the 1920's and the Threefoot Cotton Brokers had added the Dodge and Chevrolet automobile dealerships to their hardware store. Early in 1928, L.M. and Louis Threefoot represented the family on the Board of Directors that built a 15-story office building, the Threefoot Building, Meridian's first "skyscraper". Other members of the board were Paul Chambers, Irving Rothenberg, E.A. Morrison, F.J. Hughes, and Simon Marks. According to the bronze plaque in its foyer, the Threefoot Building was completed in 1929, but descendants of the family say it was not completed until 1931. A modern building at that time, it was to cost \$700,000 but had cost \$4,000,000 by the time it was finished. With the failure of the economy, the stockholders sold, or lost, the building to their bond holders when it was completed. Because of the general business failure during the early years of the depression, few of its new offices found tenants.

With sale of cotton at a standstill, the Threefoot Company, whose main business was cotton, lost their shirts. To add to their loss, their warehouse manager, hurrying to take in cotton while it could still be sold, had bought wet cotton. By the time they sold it, its dry weight was a lot less. With cotton mills closing, there were few that were buying cotton. In 1932, Louis Threefoot did not have money to pay the taxes on the Pine Springs Threefoot farm and the place sold for taxes.

When farmers went to sell their cotton they couldn't get back the money they had spent to produce it. Afraid and worried about what was going to become of their farms, they made jokes to each other to keep up morale. One joke involved the Threefoot family. It was passed around that when Threefoot needed money to finish his new building, he went to the local banks. They didn't have money to lend so he tucked his blueprints under his arm and went to see a financier in New York City.

"Hello, I am Threefoot from Meridian," he said

as they shook hands, "And I am here to get money."

"Well, I don't give a damn if you are Six Feet from Hell," he was told, "I can't let you have any!"

The Whitakers was another family that quickly went broke when the depression hit. The Whitaker Spoke Mill had expanded during World War I when they had wartime contracts with England to make spokes for cannon and wagon wheels. After the war, they had contracts to furnish buggy and farm wagon companies, and wooden spokes for the wheels of early automobiles. Their saw mill at Suqualena was alongside the railroad track where they collected spokewood from local woodcutters to be shipped by rail to be finished at their Meridian mill. Around 1926, they began manufacturing chairs and kitchen cabinets, with F.A. Hulett & Sons, a local furniture company, being one of their best customers.

After 1930, few could buy wagons and cars and the Whitaker industries floundered. Although no records have come to light, in 1931, the Whitaker brothers lost their spoke and lumber mills to the local Citizen's Bank, but kept some of their furniture-making machinery. The bank take-over included 250 acres of land in Pine Springs the Whitakers rented to tenants. Eighty acres of the Whitaker land adjoined the north boundary of Joel New's farm, but reached farther west over Bales Creek to include a black village called Shiloah where the Grady and Hunt families lived. [This high ground between Okatibbee and Bales Creeks now forms a peninsula in Okatibbee Lake and is a public campground.]

After they lost their big factory, the Whitakers built a modest business, Porch Furniture Company, on B St. and 11th Ave. They manufactured chairs and turned out broom and mop handles until the death of James Whitaker in 1957. His brother John died in 1962.

Jake and Ebbie Smith lived on their farm across the main road from Joel New. Jake and Mr. Joel together rented the flat Whitaker land near the Slough to plant a good-sized oat field. Miss Ebbie was pregnant with their second child and her doctor told her to do more walking. Jake, Miss Ebbie, and 4-year old Talmadge Smith strolled off down the hill to the Slough to see about their oat crop. Little Ida Beth Smith was born on January 14, 1928, that day after.

"I used to work that place down



Recent photo of the Jake Smith home in Sec.4. The house, begun by Frank and Edna Vincent in the 1920's, was finished by Mr. Jake. Miss Ebbie still calls it home. (Screens and awnings added later.)

there, me and Herman [New]. We used to cut the oats with a cradle," Mr. Smith recalled. "Jake Kynard [cousin of Sam Kinard of Pine Springs] was the cradle man - I don't know what happened to him. Anyhow, we had oats, me and Mr. New, and we were figgerin' on Mr. Jake [Kynard] cutting them. Something happened to Mr. Kynard and Herman and me cu those cock-eyed oats. We had a real pretty patch of oats down there that fall."

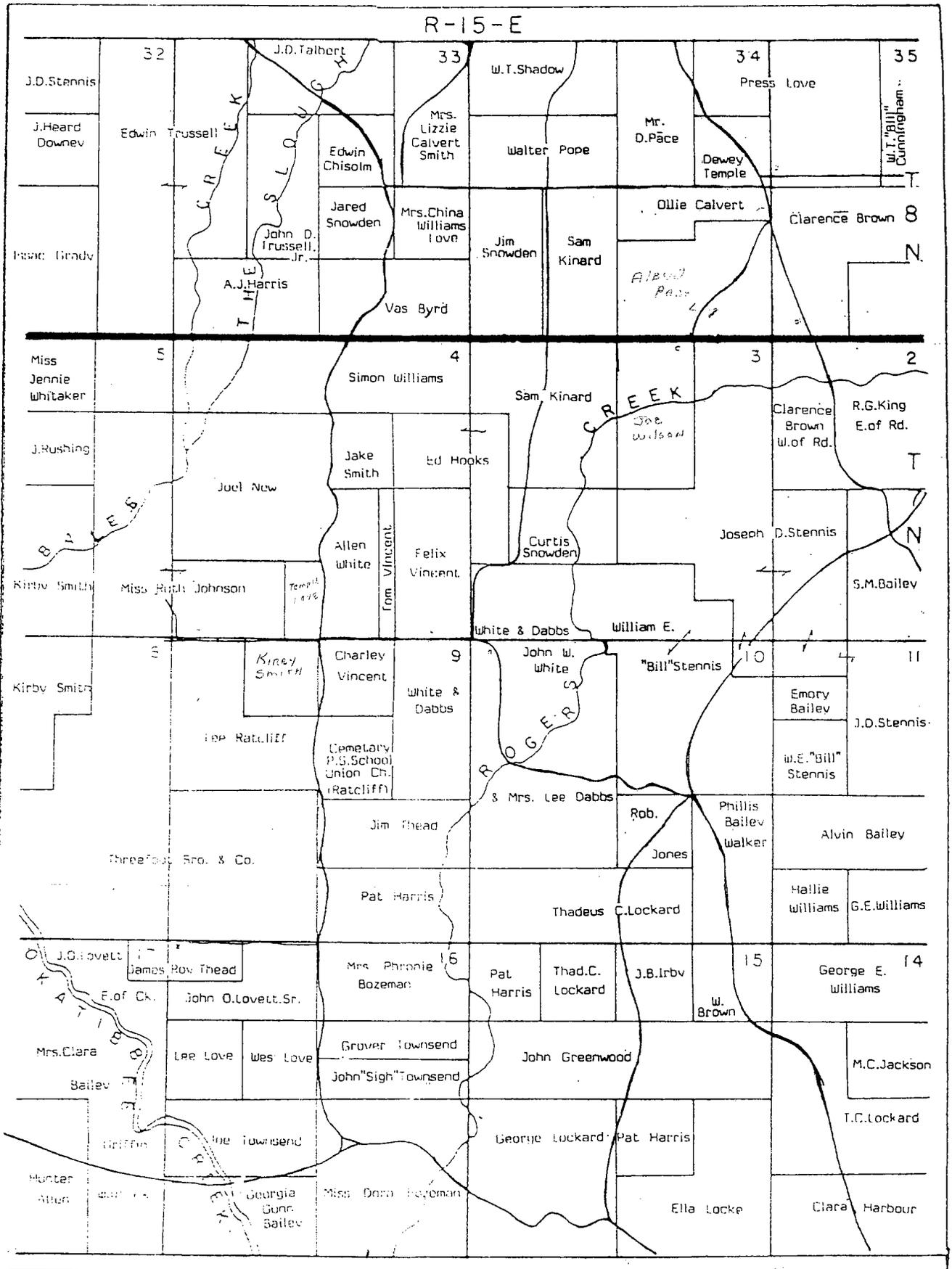
The Whitaker spoke mill, purchased from Citizens' Bank by P.I. Halbert and C.P. Renfro, was moved to the site of that oat patch in 1930.

Mr. P.I. Halbert had formerly managed the saw mill and had been in charge of collecting spoke wood at Suqualena for the Whitaker Company. A bachelor, he lived in Meridian with his sister (Miss Ida Halbert?) But boarded with the James I. Blanks family in Suqualena during the week. Halbert and Mr. Renfro, who owned a hardware store in Meridian, bought Whitaker's spoke mill as joint owners. When they set up the mill in Pine Springs they built Halbert a small one-room office on the premises where he acted as business manager. Renfro sold the finished spokes.

The spoke mill was powered by a large wood-burning steam engine. The engine could be heard for some distance five days a week, making background music for the communities activities. (CIR-cum-stances, CIR-cum-stances. CIR-cum-stances!) Its five o'clock whistle told playing young'uns it was time to run home to start getting in stove wood and filling the water buckets for Mama.

"Ya'll come on home when the spoke mill blows, you heah? Don't you be late, now!"

1930 LAND OWNERS (From Tax Roll)



John Shepherd, who had worked for the Whitakers, followed the mill to Pine Springs to be plant foreman and operate a lathe. He commuted from his home in Suqualena. His two sons, just boys, worked around the mill but were not regular employees.

The mill, with its woodyard of stacked spokewood and finished spokes waiting to be hauled away, was at the center of a wee village. Located west of Pine Springs Road in the northwest quarter of Sec. 4, its private road led down a steep rain-washed red clay hill to the level ground below. Its workers, who changed from time to time, lived in three board shacks clustered about in openings in the woods around the operation.

In the first house at the bottom of the hill lived Rufe Calvert (son of John and Junia Calvert) who operated the lathe. His wife had been buried at Pine Springs in 1927 and his daughter, Martha Lee, had married Bryant Stephens, so he and his son, Jack, a boy of 11-12 years, lived alone. Rufe later took a second wife, Mary Salter of Alabama, and had three more children. [Young Jack Calvert married Belle Pace, Albert Pace's daughter, in 1945.]

Ab Stephenson continued to haul spokewood to the mill, his mules having been replaced by a beat-up log truck that had seen hard times in the woods. He had married again; his second wife was Miss Eula Mae Harrison of Suqualena and they had young children. The Stephensons moved into a two-room shack whose tiny porch connected with Mr. Halbert's office. Later, when Halbert moved his office to town, the Stephensons added the office to their domicile and Miss Eula Mae made it her kitchen. Their oldest boy was Moody, followed by Beatrice, 1925, and Dot (Dorothy), 1928. In 1932, Charles Lindburg Stephenson was born. (He came in March when everyone was talking about the kidnaping of the son of the world-famous aviator, which may have had something to do with Ab's giving this son, Lindy, such a famous name.) Ab and Eula Mae's last child, Peggy Joyce, was born in 1934. Other employees came and went, but the Stephensons lived at the spoke mill throughout the depression.

Mr. Ab's youngest sister, Neva Stephenson, lived at the spoke mill for a while with her husband, Otto Poole, until they bought a farm near today's Northwest Lauderdale School.

Joe and Miss Birdie Hodges lived at the spoke mill in a small rough-sawn house at the edge of the woods around 250 feet north of the Stephensons, their house shaded by a dense growth of young trees. They and the Stephensons both fetched their drinking water and washed clothes

at a spring near their house.

Joe B. Hodges was the youngest son of John Wesley Hodges, and grandson of Amos and Nancy Jane Radford Hodges. Amos had moved the family from Choctaw Co., Alabama to Lauderdale Co. in the late 1850's to settle near Martin on 664 acres in Sections 1 and 2 of Township 8, Range 14E. After Amos was killed in the Civil War in 1862, his widow married Edward King of Lizelia.

John W. Hodges married a girl named Mary Etta who had nine children before she died in 1892. Joseph Nolon Hodges, married to Lillie Love of Pine Springs, was one of Mary Etta's children.

John's second wife, Della Ethridge, had two children before she died in 1900. His third wife, Mary Jane Moore, had two sons, bringing the number of John's children to thirteen. Joe Hodges, born 1904, was John's last child and was eight years old when his father died.

Joe's mother, Mary Jane, known by all as Macie, was a daughter of Walter Moore of Collinsville. She was a beautiful and talented girl with a crown of dark red hair, and was a gifted pianist. Joe inherited her love of music and had learned to play "by ear" most any musical instrument he picked up. He could play piano, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, guitar, anything he could get his hands on. Often his mother accompanied him at her piano. Macie Hodges died in 1929, near the time Joe and Birdie moved to Pine Springs.

Joe's wife, Miss Birdie Kittrell whom he had married in 1921, was a descendant of the Nathaniel Kittrell family (q.v.) who had settled, in early times, near Hickory Grove Church on the farm next to Rev. Richard Weatherford. Joe and Birdie, a young couple with no children, moved to the spoke mill when it first came to Pine Springs.

There were other workers at the mill, from time to time, who lived in Pine Springs. Both Claude and Humpy White worked there upon occasion; at one time Humpy was hired as the fireman and stoked the steam engine with scrap-wood and sawdust to keep up steam. Wages were low and sometimes the mill shut down from lack of business, but it helped out during the time of depression.

* * * * *

Another joke made the rounds, which was half true, was that the State of Mississippi was so broke they had turned off the lights in the Governor's Mansion in Jackson because Gov. Bilbo couldn't pay his electric bill. The part about the state going broke was indeed true.

M.M. "Cotton" Lockard, Jr., grandson of Edward and Amanda Lockard and a nephew of George and Albert

Lockard, told about when his father, Mark (Marcus Milton) Lockard, went broke when the state ran out of funds.

Mark Lockard, starting out with a brick kiln at Bonita outside Meridian, had progressed to contracting the brickwork on buildings. Mark became good at it and as his company grew, he acquired the contract to construct eleven new buildings at Whitfield, the state mental hospital near Jackson. Lockard had a few of the buildings done, the walls up on others, and on still others he just had the forms poured when the state ran out of money. Mark couldn't get money from the state to meet his payroll so he had to let all his men go. It was four years before he collected anything from the state but, by then, his construction company had folded. He never did collect but 10¢ on the \$1 of what the state owed him.

Mark had to make a living, so he moved to his father's old farm at Pine Springs (atop Bozeman Hill) and started a dairy. His brother, Jim Lockard, then owned the farm but wasn't using it. Mark bought 20 head of milk cows and started peddling milk about Meridian.

Cotton, Mark's son, recalled that one of the cows was mean and bad to kick. One morning Cotton was milking her when she knocked over the bucket of milk. Mark came by and had something to say about it, and told Cotton to move aside, he would show him how to do it.

Mark walked with a cane as he was having an attack of gout in his knee. Cotton got out of his way and Mark eased himself down and began to milk. About then, the old cow kicked again, striking Mark on his sore knee. Mark screamed in pain and jumped up and began beating the cow with his walking stick and calling her all sorts of ugly names. Young Cotton got tickled but discreetly withdrew outside the barn to laugh.

Cotton said the first year they had the dairy, they raised a hog and, at hog-killing time, they ground up a bunch of sausage. As Mrs. Lockard cooked the sausage, Mark said they would sell half the sausage to their milk customers. He sampled some and said it was pretty tasty - maybe they should just sell a fourth of it. He took another bite. They hadn't had much meat on the table lately and that sausage tasted real good.

"You know," he said, "we've got a good-sized family. I don't think we will sell this sausage. We might need it all ourselves."

The Lockards remained in the country for several years until better times came. They became friends with the Pine Springs boys, although they went to school in Meridian. Cotton Lockard (Marcus, Jr.) sustained a knee injury playing school football

and was not called into service in the up-coming World War II. His younger brother, Edward, serving with the Army in the South Pacific, was killed by an enemy hand-grenade.

* * * * *

With the depression there was not enough money to keep the local school open and plans were under way for Pine Springs School District to be consolidated with Center Hill. Members of Pine Springs Protestant Church, unhappy because they couldn't get a regular preacher, voted to enter the Methodist Episcopal Church Conference. Although the Methodists held services in the Union Church, the Conference said in order to get a regular minister, they had to have a permanent church building of their own. With the closure of the school, the congregation saw a way to make this happen.

The Weatherfords had deeded the land for the school years before so, to get a clear title, the Methodists went to the Weatherfords to have the deed changed. Upon the advice of Rev. T.J. O'Neal (Presiding Elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South), Uncle Lee Ratcliff made a trip down to Laurel to see the Weatherford descendants. On 29 August, 1930, the trustees of Pine Springs Methodist Episcopal Church, South, paid Charley and William G. Weatherford \$1 for a new deed to the schoolhouse. [$\frac{1}{2}$ acre, part of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9]

The Methodist continued to meet in the Union Church until the schoolhouse was vacated. The term of 1931-1932 was the last taught in Pine Springs School. Bro. Olen Snellgrove, an old friend, preached through the year 1930, the first hard year of the depression. In a taped interview, Mr. Jake Smith said:

"Now, Bro. Snellgrove, I know, used to come out here when the roads were so bad you couldn't get across Bozeman Hill...You couldn't get up the hill. Bro. Snellgrove would leave his little Ford over there and walk up to the church to preach. I remember one year [1930] he got \$4 for the year. That was what he was paid. Nobody didn't have no money and he didn't ask for no money if you didn't have any. If you had anything like eggs, meat or so forth that he had to buy, then he'd take that and give the church credit for what he'd have to pay for it if he had bought it out of the store. I thought a whole lot of times that that man really wanted to preach! He wasn't doing it for what he got out of it."

The school term of 1931-1932 was the last taught at Pine Springs before the students were bussed to Center Hill. A married couple, Mr. and Mrs.



PINE SPRINGS SCHOOL 1931-1932

TOP ROW: Mr. and Mrs. Keller with Baby Neil.
 BACK ROW: Edna Hooks, (?) T>J. Spears, Lamar Snowden, Lester Hooks, Hazel Lovett?, Carbin Bradley, Glemer Whitlock.
 MIDDLE ROW: Helen White, Andrew Cunningham, Mildred White, Laura Mae Cunningham, Ina Pearl White, Christine Spears, Margaret Snowden, Etta Spears, Louie Hooks, Howard White.
 FRONT ROW: Frances White, Toddy Spears, Willie Mae Whitlock, Alwena Brown, Edward Earl White, C.L. Love, Jr., Wallace Bradley, Durwood Lovett?, R.T. Cunningham, Onida Love.

Keller, were the last teachers and had little pay but were furnished an apartment in the school where they lived with their little son. Little Neil Played about the schoolroom while his parents taught. In the fall of 1932, the students went to Center Hill and Pine Springs School became Pine Springs Episcopal Church, South.

As the old school heater was inadequate to heat the entire auditorium when it was full on preaching nights, the church ladies thought of ways to get a bigger wood heater. They cooked up a big supper and called a "Weighing Party." After feeding the crowd a big meal, everybody was asked to weigh in on cotton scales that had been bought. Each was assessed 1 cent per pound, and the money collected went towards the new stove.

They could not take the pump organ

from the Union Church with them, but Ches and Myrtie Love loaned the new church their upright piano. The church kept Love's piano two years while the ladies worked at projects to buy a used piano of their own. In 1934, an election year, they held a picnic on the church grounds where they sold plates to the crowd that came to hear the candidates speak. The long tables the men put up between the Oaks were spread with a variety of delicious home cooked foods. The money they made went to pay the preacher for the year, but proceeds from the lemonade stand was earmarked for their piano.

As far as can be determined, it was in 1931, that Pine Springs was assigned a part-time conference minister with Pine Springs Church being placed in Tuxedo Circuit (Charge) along with Wesley Methodist Church of Meridian. Rev. Rutledge, an

older man, was already known in the community; he was the minister who married the Vincent daughters, Ida and Minnie, in 1912 and had been a guest preacher at Union Church upon occasion. While R.E. Rutledge was pastor, the following names were added to Pine Springs list of members:

Miss Edna Hooks	Mrs. Tom Brown [Velma]
Miss Imogene White	Miss Christine Brown
Miss Margaret Snowden	Miss Hazel Lovett
Miss Clarice Calvert	Miss Alwena Brown
Miss Gladys Vincent	Frank Vincent JR.
S.W. Brown	Stennis Lonnie Branning
Howard White	J.K. Sanders

In 1933, Pine Springs church was placed on the Tuxedo Charge along with Bonita Church, with Rev. W.H. Lane being the new pastor. Under Bro. Lane's ministry, the following new members added:

Raymond Calvert	Lester hooks
Miss Hortense Harvey	Talmadge Smith
Leon New (by letter)	Miss Edna Mae New
Mrs. Maebelle New (letter)	
Miss Mary Ellen New	Miss Vivian Byrd
Lamar Snowden	James Andrew Pace

While Bro. Lane was pastor of Pine Springs and Bonita Churches, a young married man, Waddell Roberts, joined the Methodist Church at Bonita. He was sincere about his new-found religion and had determined to dedicate his life to preaching the Gospel. Bro. Lane brought Waddell out to Pine Springs to preach his first sermon. Bro. Roberts, with no education or training, had conviction and sincerity. With his first sermon, Pine Springs adopted him into their hearts and lives.

Waddell had a tiny wife, Guila, and a 1 ½ year-old son, Morris, that was cute as a bug's ear. When Waddell started back to school in 1934, he was assigned, by popular request, to Pine Springs Methodist Church as a student minister. His ambition was to go into evangelical service when he could be ordained.

Waddell Roberts was pastor of Pine Springs for eight years while he went to school part time. He had other churches on his charge, but it seemed as if he felt that Pine Springs, where he had started out, was always "home". He had great appeal to the younger generation as well as to the older folks, to whom he seemed another son. Guila, who "wasn't as big as a bar of soap after a hard day's washin'", had a vulnerable quality about her that made the ladies want to mother her and her little boy. Pine Springs kept asking him back each year and, as he was doing such a good job, the conference let him stay.

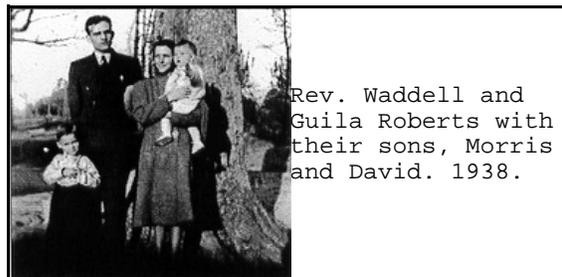
While he was pastor, Pine Springs was placed on the Andrew's Chapel Charge, and he and Guila moved into the parsonage there. When Waddell was placed on the Pleasant Grove Charge, Pine Springs Church transferred to the new charge with him. None of these churches could support a full-time preacher; they shared a preacher, each paying a part of his salary. With hard times, the combined income of three churches was still not a decent wage for a man with a family.

New members who joined Pine Springs Church under Robert's ministry were:

Miss Mamie Pace	C.L. Love Jr.
Miss Elaine Pace	Ms. Mattie Sue Snowden
Mrs. Ab Stephenson[Eula Mae]	
Miss Mildred Warren	Miss Nettie Ingram
James M. White	Miss Dorothy Stephenson
Robert Lee White	Miss Ida Beth Smith
Junior Warren	Miss Melvis Byrd
Darryl Hudson	Miss Helen White
Mrs. Maggie Warren	Miss Beatrice Stephenson
Miss Merlene Lovett	Mrs. Lewis Lovett [Viola]
Mr. Dave Ingram	Louie Hooks
Miss Dorothea Vincent	Miss Ruth Marie Pace
Nannie Claire Vincent	Miss Christine Byrd
Miss May Delle Vincent	Miss Dessa Lee White
Yeager Hudson	
Mrs. Dan Hudson [Effie] (letter)	

When Rev. Waddell Roberts entered college at Scooba, he was assigned the Porterville Charge and moved to the parsonage there. He served in the army in World War II while he finished his education. After a long hard row to hoe, he was ordained and served in Korean War as an Army Chaplain. He was killed in helicopter in crash in Korea.

[While Bro. Waddell was pastor at Pine Springs, he introduced his younger brother Wallace Roberts. Wallace, a young teen-ager, also preached his first sermon at Pine Springs. He, too, went on to school and became a well-known Methodist minister. Rev. Wallace Roberts was in charge of the "Mississippi Methodist Hour", a weekly TV broadcast, for several years before his death in the 1980's.]



Rev. Waddell and Guila Roberts with their sons, Morris and David. 1938.

The old Union Church was still in service after the Methodists moved into the former school house. In 1932 when the Methodists moved, Union Church was used mainly by a small Holiness congregation led by their faithful minister, Rev. Jesse C. Hearn. The church-going community, whether Holiness, Methodist, or whomever, still went to hear preaching.

As the Methodists shared a preacher and with others on their charge, their ministers held services at Pine Springs only twice a month. Bro. Hearn came one Sunday each month to preach at Union Church when no Methodist preaching was scheduled. It was the practice for the Methodists to have Sunday School in their church, then cross the parking lot to hear the Holiness sermon at Union Church. It was bothersome to kindle fires to warm both churches, or to cross during rainy weather. Eventually, it became the habit for Rev. Hearn to preach his sermon in the already warmed-up Methodist church. The old Union Church gradually fell into disuse.

Rev. Hearn's oldest son, Jesse Cleveland Hearn, Jr., called J.C., began to come over from Cuba to take his father's place. J.C. was not ordained but gained experience at Union Church. The Hearn's, as Jake Smith said of Bro. Snellgrove, "certainly weren't preachin' for the money". During the darkest of the depression they drove from Cuba when it was hard to come up with gasoline for their car.

Young J.C. had only one suit he wore when he came. The seat of his trousers had worn so thin a cat could fall through. One Sunday, Mrs. Pearl Harris got up to announce that J.C. was going off to a seminary to become a "real" preacher and he didn't have clothes to wear. The folks liked J.C. and his need was obvious, so they gave what they could to get the man a new suit.

[J.C. Hearn, Jr. went to school and became a Presbyterian minister. He was pastor of the Faith of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in New York, although he later was Dean of a boy's school in Pennsylvania. He died in Pennsylvania when he was in his 50's. Rev. Hearn's second son, Malcolm, not as well known in Pine Springs, also made a preacher. He is presently pastor of Countryside Methodist Church in Kansas City.]

The senior Rev. Hearn's wife had died after J.C. and Malcolm were born. He married again and had raised seven more children. He died in 1958 at the age of 69 years.

[In 1945, Pine Springs Methodist Church, thinking of building a parsonage, bought the dilapidated Union Church with its 1 acre of land from surviving members of the church's trustees.

The only ones left were Mrs. Sophronia Bozeman and Mr. E. Kirby Smith, who sold it to the Methodist church for \$1. (The deceased trustees were Joe Wright, Uncle Jimmy Wright, Albert Lockard, Felix Vincent, Spinks Jones, W. Thomas Love, and Jim Thead.) The old building was sold to one of John Lovett's sons, who tore it down and cleaned the site, taking salvaged lumber as payment.]

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Among the families who returned to Pine Springs to weather the hard time after being laid off their jobs were the Frank Vincents, the Gordon Saddlers, and the Ches Loves.

Chester and Myrtie Love, with their three children, rented one of the little red houses on The Lane from Myrtie's brother-in-law, manager of the Threefoot farm. Frank and Edna Vincent were not as lucky. Finding no vacant house for rent in the community, they camped on the Felix Vincent farm. They cleared out the smokehouse where they cooked and ate, but they and their five children slept in the house with Frank's parents. As soon as a house became available on The Lane, they moved onto the Threefoot farm.

James Oliver Vincent, Frank's son who was born in 1926, has fond memories of the times they spent in Pine Springs. He says:

"Nobody had any money then, but we [the community kids] were together all the time. We got together at each other's houses but sometimes we just built a fire in the middle of the road. Nobody had a car."

"I remember playing with ole C-Bo Love [C.L.], the Townsends from down the road, and the Lockard boys from down on Bozeman Hill. I was just a little fellow, but it seems there were some Lovetts that played with us [Durwood?] and our cousins, Les and Louie Hooks. I remember Joe Harris and the Foster boys, and more that I can't call by name."

"I started to school in first grade at Center Hill [1932] and rode Herbert Lovett's school bus. One day Aunt Ida [Hooks] stopped the bus as it came by her house and sent a settin' hen home to Mama. What a time we had with that chicken! 'Course, we were always fighting on the school bus, anyway."

"When we moved back to town my brother [Frank, Jr. or John Morris?] wanted to stay in the house with Willie and May Belle Kinard. They liked kids and they put him up in a back room where he and Billy White shared a bed. Willie bought him a pet goat."

When the economy eased a bit, Frank Vincent and Ches Love both returned to their railroad jobs.

Gordon and Alma Saddler rented the fairly new

house near The Forks from Temple Love. Their daughter, Goldie Mae, was several years old when they returned. It is not remembered what kind of work Gordon had been doing; some said he received a pension for his service in World War I.

Gordon had a strange little thing he did to entertain and amuse people. He chewed up razor blades and glass to the amazement of his friends. As far as could be seen, he swallowed what he crunched, suffering no apparent ill effects. Word of his unique ability got around, and some remember that, in 1932, he put on a performance at Center Hill School before its body of students. On the stage, he drank a "Coke-Coler" and then proceeded to bite off and chew up the top of the bottle, reminiscent of one crunching on ice after finishing off a glass of tea. While children watched with awe, it appeared that he swallowed what he chewed. It spoke well for of his strong teeth, not to mention his cast-iron stomach.

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The old timers, grandparents, were growing old and one by one they began to die out. Mr. Lee Love, after being bedridden two years, died on December 19, 1931. His son, R.L. (Jr.), was married but his daughter, Ruth, was fifteen months old when he died. Mrs. Allie Love had him buried in the Pine Springs Cemetery. Not long after his death, his 22-year-old step-son, Clifton Glaze, died of an illness and was buried near Mr. Love. Clifton's widow (Millie Belle Whitlock) and his two little daughters relocated in Coker, Alabama.

Mrs. Allie Love hired a Mr. Oxner to work her farm. Oxner had worked for the railroad but quit his job because he wanted to farm. His full name was Simon Austin Oxner, but everyone called him Tobe. He was a gentle, good man, and before anybody thought twice about what was happening, he became Miss Allie's third husband.

Nobody seems to know where Tobe Oxner was from, but he farmed the Lee Love place and made a good father to Allie's little daughter, Ruth. In his 60's when they married, he was still vigorous and able to put in a good day's labor. He was a Southern gentleman with traditional manners, and he dressed for church in clothes that would have been stylish in the 1890's. He wore high-topped tan-yellow shoes, arm garters on his long-sleeved shirts, suspenders to hold up his striped pants. He always tipped his flat-topped straw skimmer to the ladies and made polite conversation about the weather. Most importantly, he treated Allie and her young daughter with kindness and respect, though it has been said that Miss Allie could be

snippish with him at times.

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In 1930, Joel New, his health failing, still had his three youngest children, Joe, Susie Mae, and Irvin, left to finish high school and be able to make it on their own. That year, Susie Mae kept house while Joe and Irvin put in a crop to keep the farm in operation. Joel sent for his oldest son, Henry, who was living in Dallas with his Russian wife and their two little daughters. Henry and Ola, with little Lorena and Louise, returned to Pine Springs to live with Joel. Old Joel made a deal with Henry; he would deed his farm to Henry at his death if Henry would operate the place and make a home for his younger three children for as long as they needed a place to stay. Henry agreed, and Joel signed a deed to the farm to Henry, which was to be recorded at Joel's death. Henry took over the management of the family farm, and the operation of Joel's school bus route.

In all fairness, let it be said that it was a terrible time for farmers and for everybody else, the worst years of the depression. However, Joel's agreement with Henry did not work as had been anticipated. Henry was an indifferent farmer and Joel's younger children, accustomed to cribs filled with corn, barn lofts piled high with peanuts and hay, racks of wood cut and ready for stove and fireplace, saw their supplies dwindling and not being replaced. Henry handled the money from the cream they sold and from the school route, and the others assumed he was paying the land taxes and other farm expenses. When Joe found that the farm had been sold for taxes, he conferred with Susie Mae and Irvin, and the three then talked to their sick father one night after supper. Old Joel left the room and came back with the agreement he had signed with Henry. Not saying a word, with a heavy heart he ignited Henry's deed over the Kerosene lamp and tossed it into the fireplace. Soon Henry found a job as barber in Meridian and rented a house in Shucktown. Later, he and Ola moved to McComb, Mississippi.

That winter, Joel New died on February 18, 1931 in the old Meridian Sanitarium Hospital. Lacking money for a hearse, the family brought his body home in his school bus, and he was laid to rest beside Miss Ellie at Pace's Fellowship Church.

Lee Ratcliff, John White, and Ed Hooks were appointed to inventory and appraise the New estate but no auction was held because the minor children still needed a home. Nobody had the where-with-all to buy anything, anyway. Curtis and Minnie Snowden

Joel New returning from the mail box with his newspaper shortly before his death in 1931.



paid Mr. New's hospital bill and other expenses, and took the school bus as payment of what the estate owed them.

Susie Mae was later to say that Joe kept her and Irvin hopping the summer after their father's death, as he planted corn, cane and peanuts. She said he planted large vegetable garden and "worked her tail off" keeping it picked and canned until all their fruit jars were full. On May 29, 1932, she found out why when Joe announced that he and Miss Ruby Chisolm were married were married and took a share of the canned goods. She said she was glad that Joe married but was a little hurt because he had not told her about it when she was doing all that extra work.

Joe and Ruby rented a wee apartment in Meridian and Joe became a taxi driver. The fare was 10 cents to be driven anywhere in the city, but they pinched pennies and got by until Joe was finally hired at the Meridian railroad shop.

Joe's wife was a daughter of William Edwin Chisolm, a native of Neshoba County. Her grandfather had been Leonard M. Chisolm (b. 1834, Ga.) And his second wife, Julia Kilpatrick Taylor. Leonard was a younger brother of the William Wallace Chisolm (q.v.) Of Kemper County. He was married and had several children when he was drafted into the Confederate Army in the final sad days of the Civil War. Knowing the South was defeated, he told his commanding officer the war was over and could see no reason to get shot and was going back home to his wife and kids. The officer didn't try to stop him, so he returned home. In the later years they tried to get him to apply for pension, but Leonard refused, saying he had not fought and had not earned it. He died at age 90 in Neshoba.

W. Edwin Chisolm, Leonard's eleventh and last child, was born near Antioch Church in Neshoba County in 1882. He had married Miss Sadie Downey in Neshoba

County before her parents, heard and Agnes Downey, moved to Pine Springs. The Chisolms had two little girls when they moved to Meridian where Edwin worked as a carpenter. In December 1928, they bought a farm in Pine Springs from John Trussell and moved to the country. The farm, in the northern end of the community in Sec. 33, had once been Sadie's father's, and they lived in the house that Mr. Downey had built. The Chisolm daughters, Ruby and Edwina, transferred to Center Hill School where Ruby met Joe New.

Susie Mae New graduated from high school in 1932. She and Irvin lived on the farm alone that summer after Joe married. Accustomed to working on the farm, the teenagers eked out a living. Their older sisters, Minnie Snowden, Lorena White, and Marie Pace, each wrote their brother Leon to plead him to return from Texas to make a home for Susie Mae and Irvin. Curtis and Minnie had a farm of their own to keep going and the others, in those mean times, could hardly take care of their own families. They promised to sign over their interest in the New farm if he would come home, redeem the farm by paying back taxes, and provide a home for their younger sister and brother.

Leon and Maebelle Burnham New were then living in San Antonio where Leon had a job, of sorts. He had been getting a pretty good salary but, with the depression, his company was having a serious cash-flow problem. In lieu of his salary, Leon had agreed to accept stock in the company, some months instead of a pay-check. This made for a skimpy living. It was too late in the year to start a crop, but he sent Maebelle on ahead with their young daughters so they could begin school that fall.

Arriving by Greyhound Bus the week before school began, Edna Mae, 7, and Mary Ellen, 6, entered Center Hill School at the fall term of 1932, where Irvin New was in the eleventh grade. Leon New remained in San Antonio to save as much cash as he could before he came to Mississippi in time to start spring plowing in 1933.

Christmas that year was a fun time for Edna Mae and Mary Ellen. Irvin went to woods to bring a Cedar tree they decorated with what they had. They looked for foil chewing-gum wrappers to cover Sweetgum burs for shiny Christmas ornaments and strung seeds from the Mimosa tree growing near Grandpa's old cane mill to make ropes to drape along with strings of popcorn. Remembering the electric Christmas lights they had in Texas, they got Mama's supply of used birthday candle stubbs to

attach to the boughs, but that proved unsuccessful. They wondered how candles in the picture books stayed in place. Edna Mae said they didn't need lights, anyway, 'cause they wouldn't burn without electricity. "Oh," thought Mary Ellen, who hadn't yet noticed their lack of electricity. Edna Mae must be pretty smart she thought.

Christmas morning, they made a dash to the tree and found two baby dolls big enough to fit into one of their small hands. Naked except for tiny three-cornered diapers held in place with a wee gold safety-pin, Mary Ellen thought them cunning. (Cunning was a word she read in her Reader about some kittens.) The girls spent the morning raiding Mama's quilt-scrap bag to get scraps for swaddling cloths. Susie Mae gave each girl a compact with a mirror in it, and with their first initial on front so they could tell them apart. (Edna Mae explained what an initial was to Mary Ellen.)

Santa also brought home-made dolls that Christmas; two dolls made of flour sacks stuffed with cotton, big and fat, an armful for people with short arms. Edna Mae's had a scrap of black fur sewed to its head for hair, but as the fur had run out, Mary Ellen's was bald as an egg. Mary Ellen said her doll looked like Alice, the Goon Gal, in Popeye in the funny paper, and she would name her Alice. (While Daddy wasn't around, Edna Mae had taken over reading Mary Ellen the funnies and could read almost as good as he.)

They failed to notice how few their gifts were that year until they found Mama crying. Edna Mae confided that Mama was crying because she didn't have much to give them that year. They didn't know how meager their gifts were until Maebelle's tears called it to their attention.

One spring morning, Leon came driving in from San Antonio. Maebelle burst into tears when she saw him. "You're so thin!" she wailed.

Leon had driven his 1927 Overland "Whippit" automobile all the way from Texas, bringing the household goods he thought would be needed on the farm. The small dark-green two-door sedan was squarely built with straight-up sides, its fabric top coated with some kind of black water-proof material. Smaller than the touring cars, it was littler bigger than a coupe'. Leaving room for the driver, the inside of the car was filled to the roof and the running-boards were loaded with tied on boxes. Car trunks were not yet invented but Leon had taken 2x4 lumber to build a flat luggage rack bolted to the back bumpers. On this rack he up-ended

Maebelle's enameled-top cook table and, using its legs for uprights, he carried parcels of goods on the back end. With this tarp-covered bundle the small car looked something like a tumblebug traveling backwards.

The family was delighted when familiar treasures were unpacked. Maebelle exclaimed over her Japanese tea set the Leon had bought home from his army days, and went into ecstasies when she glimpsed her, wedding-present silverware. (She hated the News' old black-handled three-tined forks that allowed peas to fall off. A city girl, she had adjustments to make when she first came to live in the 'country.') Edna Mae was thrilled when she saw their string of Christmas lights. "We can use them next year," she said wisely nodded to her little sister, "and play-like we turn them on."



Edna Mae and Mary Ellen with their maternal grandmother, Harriet E. Burnham, when she visited from Texas in 1933. She didn't want to be called "Grandma" so the girls called her Bigmama. Ruler, Irvin's dog, ran away that fall when Irvin took him to see the circus.

Ralph Snowden, in his senior year, began driving the bus to Center Hill after his father took over New's school route, and he lengthened the wood body 5 feet to accommodate the 41-43 passengers. Mr Curtis had won the bid on the Pine Springs route for \$70/month with him to furnish the gas and oil. When the state ran out of money, they went for three months without any pay at all.

When school funds were gone, Ralph recalls, the Chancery Clerk issued the teachers warrants, or voucher, for their salary in lieu of money. Banks honored the warrants at first and would cash them for 50 cents on the dollar. Then the banks,

too, got low on cash and would not honor the warrants at any price. Mr. Sam Kinard helped out some of the teachers by going to the rusty safe in his bedroom to cash what he could, as long as his savings lasted. He kept the vouchers until times were better to cash them at a bank. Mrs. Siddie Clayton Wedgworth, then first grade teacher at Center Hill, said that, in 1932, some teachers were able to cash their vouchers from Morris Pigford of Meridian. County schools shortened the school term a month and Mrs. Wedgworth said her monthly salary was cut from \$90 to \$60. Ralph Snowden said that, suddenly, money had simply vanished. Nobody had any.

"If someone did manage to get a-hold of a dollar bill, he was so proud of it he wanted to take it around to show his neighbors," Ralph said.

The Snowdens made six or seven bales of cotton that year but, when Mr. Curtis went to sell, the price had plummeted to 5¢ per pound. This was less than it had cost him to grow and get it picked. Rather than giving it away, he stored it and waited to sell when times got better. (The government made arrangements to store farmers' cotton at a compress in Meridian, for a small fee, to wait for a higher price.) The Snowdens had a little cash and could afford to wait, but share-cropping farmers had to sell right away so they could settle with their landholders. Ralph remembers one 'cropper had worked for halves on the farm he rented. At settle-up time, the poor man's share was just enough to buy a new shirt and a can of Prince Albert tobacco.

Ralph said the chemical analysis of the cheapest kind of fertilizer everyone used then was 4-8-4, which was printed on the sacks in bold black letters. Farm wives made cool, comfortable work shirts for their men from empty cotton fertilizer bags. J.L. and Mazelle White worked as hard as they could one year and, at cotton pickin' time, they "figgered" they could buy J.L. a badly needed Sunday shirt. The store clerk in town asked what size he wanted.

"Well, I don't know," J.L. replied, "The one I've been wearing is size 4-8-4."

The farmers appeared to be in uniform as they all dressed in blue denim overalls and fertilizer sack shirts. Few had warm winter coats but wore denim jackets to matter how cold the weather. Some went barefoot in the summer, although most had high-topped plowing shoes.

Fertilizer sacks were prized for purposes other than shirts. Sewed together, they made bed sheets or, bleached out and embroidered with flowers, they made table cloths for when the preacher or other company came for Sunday dinner. String

unraveled from the sewed ends of the sacks was carefully rolled into a ball to be crocheted into edgings for tablecloths and dresser runners. Flour sacks, made of finer material, was cherished for ladies under-garments or made into soft baby dresses. Often, as they played, small girls leaned over to display "Red Bird Flour" across their little rumps.

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Mrs. Drucilla Phillips Stephenson, 84, died on December 4, 1932 and was buried at Pine Springs. All her children were grown and had left the community except for Ab, who lived at the spoke mill. Her brother-in-law, Vastine Byrd, died the following year on October 8, 1933 at the age of 81. He was buried at Gumlog Baptist Church.

Vas and Miss Rossie Byrd, though still married, had not lived together for some years before his death. Nade and Miss Virgie took care of him in his declining years. Old and feeble, Grandpa Vas could still strike fear into the hearts of his grandchildren. Nade's kids and their young friends tormented the old man, grabbing his cane so he could not walk. He retaliated by grabbing their skinny little legs in the crook of his stick when they came too near his chair. Sometimes he would catch one and drag the terrified youngster to his side.

Mostly Vas just dozed in his chair in the warm sunshine. One time the old man "came up missing" and a quick search was instituted. They found him under a bed where he had taken refuge from houseflies that annoyed him as he tried to nap. The "kivers" hanging from the high bed made an effective 'mosquito net'.

Nade Byrd had bought Mr. Vas' farm before Mr. Vas died, just as he bought the Harris farm across the road from the Federal Land Bank when it sold for taxes in 1932. (The Federal Land Bank bought up a good many farms in those years when there was no money for taxes; some bought them back, but others, not so fortunate, lost their farms.) Nade managed to save the farm but, as there was no profit in farming, his land largely sat idle. He sometimes worked at cutting spokes but generally raised a patch of sweet potatoes that went a long way toward feeding his family. He made pocket change cutting his neighbors' hair and it was not unusual on Saturday morning to see a gathering of men "shooting the bull" in Byrd's front yard while waiting for a 10¢ haircut.

The Byrds led a lackadaisical life but all appeared healthy and the girls grew pretty. If Mr. Nade worried about their poverty he didn't appear overly concerned and made no public display. Thinly clad, they hovered around their one fireplace

trying to keep warm. Not keeping an abundant wood pile cut, Mr. Nade sent out one of the young'uns to find a "lightered knot" when the hearth died low. Nine times out of ten, their water bucket was empty as each waited out the rest to see who would get thirsty enough to bring water from the spring. Nade still spun tales, but talked to his kids and listened to their replies, giving value to what they said. His children grew up independent. Through all their hardships, Miss Virgie remained cheerful and happy and kept her ready smile.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt became president in 1932, part of his "New Deal" was federal programs designed to help the poverty-stricken country back on its feet. In March, 1933, Congress established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a program to put young men to work on conservation and rural improvements. The young men recruited to the CCC received a small salary which was sent to help their family back home. They were fed and clothed and given a monthly stipend for personal expenses while they worked on building federal parks, national forests, and soil conservation. Nade's oldest son, Corbert, joined the CCC along with other young men from the community, Carbon Bradley, Howard White, Mabra Townsend, James Andrew Pace, others, and added much needed income to the family. Corbert was sent Camp Shelby at Hattiesburg.

Corbert loved music and with his fiddle, never far from his side, he could have made a living playing country music. Far outstripping his father's playing ability, Corbert's natural talent led to offers to play on the Saturday night "Grand Ole Opry", a program becoming popular on the new radios. But, back then, there was little money locally for a fiddle-player and Corbert went on to other occupations, keeping his music a side-line. (In later years, he shunned electric instruments and stuck by his old-time blue-grass tunes.)

Miss Vivian Byrd had a sweetheart, neighbor Simon William's son. Neighborhood kids usually walked to church as a group on Sundays and were fascinated by the courtship of Vivian Byrd and Robert Williams. Noting how Robert and Vivian walked so closely arm in arm, they thought it was the thing to do to emulate the older couple. Too young to have a beau, little girls played a game, "Robert and Vivian", and walked along the road in pairs. It was a wonder the silly girls weren't chased down the road, but the lovers didn't seem to notice. When Vivian and Robert married they moved to Collinsville and the little girls found another game.

Roscoe, Melvis, Teenie, and Ruby Byrd were in school in the early 1930's. Roscoe was an

intelligent boy who thought a lot about many things. While growing up he developed an ambition to get a degree in agriculture but, alas, this was not to be. Not much more than 20, he was thrown from a horse and died. His grave is in Pine Springs Cemetery.

Nade and Miss Virgie had another son, Roger, born in 1934. In 1938, their last child, Leonard, was born. [Roger Byrd is now a successful building contractor and Leonard is a Psychologist.]

By the 1930's, Rossie Byrd had become a sprightly old lady and could often be seen about her cabin up the road on the Byrd farm, weeding her garden or tending chickens in her old-timey long dress and homemade sunbonnet. She grew herbs, or collected them wild, and was consulted when one needed a tonic or a balm for everyday aches and pains and could not afford a doctor. Whether by applied psychology or if her concoctions had medicinal value, her "doctoring" often worked. One personal recommendation can be given by Edna Mae New Shields of Pine Springs.

Young Edna Mae had an aggravating seed wart on her knee; with a slightest bump it would bleed a bright streak down her leg. Needless to say, this became tiresome. Edna Mae took advise from all in her efforts to make it go away. Aunt Minnie told her to keep it wet with fig-leaf juice but, after denuding a fig bush with no results, she went to the next prescription. Making her wart bleed, she bloodied a grain of corn and fed it to a white rooster. (Luckily, Miss Maebelle favored White Leghorn chickens, so a rooster of the required color was easily found.) Edna Mae's wart still thrived.

When burying a dishcloth under a kitchen step that faced north brought no relief, Edna Mae gave up until Teenie Byrd confided that her Grandma could take her wart off. Edna Mae and Mary Ellen had never met Teenie's Grandma Byrd but Teenie told them how Grandma could do lots of strange things, like getting baby chickens in the winter by carrying eggs in her apron pocket. A mission of mercy, made up of Mary Ellen, Bea and Dot Stephenson, and Teenie, walked up the road with the afflicted girl to visit Grandma Byrd.

Miss Rossie was hoeing her flowers and met the delegation in the dusty road in front of her cabin. The gentle stooped old woman in the long dress and faded bonnet, bright eyes peering from her wrinkled face, awed Mary Ellen. She looked strangely like the witch in Handsel and Gretel. Her nose nearly reached her chin and a snuff brush, hanging from her empty mouth, added to the illusion.

Upon hearing their request, Grandma Byrd said they must leave her alone with her patient, so

the girls walked back down the road, leaving Edna Mae and her wart. The benign old lady was harmless but Mary Ellen, fearing for her sister, hesitated as they went around the bend. She couldn't leave Edna Mae in the clutches of a "witch"! She talked Dot into circling through the woods with her to come up behind Miss Rossie's. They shinnied up a tree and flattened out on the roof of a chicken house to watch what happened.

Edna Mae was holding up her knee to Miss Rossie's hand. The spies were too far away to hear what was said but to whatever it was, Edna Mae listened intently. In a few minutes it was over and Edna Mae trotted back down the road to catch up with her companions.

As the observers scrambled down the tree, Mary Ellen noticed what a strange tree it was. When Dot said it was a Coffee tree and Grandma Byrd parched the berries to grind coffee, Mary Ellen, convinced more than ever they were dealing with a sinister witch, left Dot behind to run to her big sister. Edna Mae wouldn't tell what had been said, but in two days her wart was gone.

Rossie Byrd was very old when she died in 1940. Accustomed to calling her Rossie, the family ignored her pretty name, Rosalyn, and had "Rossia P. Byrd" etched on her tombstone in Gumlog Cemetery.

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David Marion Snowden was the 12th of the 13 children of Lauderdale County pioneers, James and Mary Margaret Snowden. Born in 1840 after the Snowdens settled at Shucktown, Marion lived with his widowed mother until he was drafted into the Confederate Army in 1864. Captured by the Yankees, he remained a prisoner until his health became so bad they sent him home to die. Recovering, Marion was baptized by Rev. A. Winstead when he joined Pace's Fellowship Church in 1867.

In 1877, Marion Snowden became postman of Ft. Stephens, north of Shucktown. About 1882, he moved to Jasper Co. to go into the mercantile business, opening a store beside the railroad in the town of Vossburg. He later returned to Shucktown where he died in 1921.

Marion had married Agnes Perkins and had been blessed with six children. Their oldest child, John Thomas Snowden, born 1871, came to live in Pine Springs in the early 1930's.

Living in town, Mrs. China Love, after she foreclosed on Ellis Pratt, had rented out her house (that Jeff Brown had built) across from Jarrit Snowden. The soil on her farm was too depleted to attract farmers and she was having a time keeping tenants. In 1930, she sold out

her 40-acre farm back to Jarrit Snowden and Jarrit, in turn, rented it to John Thomas Snowden of Shucktown. Thomas Snowden was Jarrit's cousin.

Thomas Snowden, married to Daisy Lilly Hale, had developed Jake Leg and, when he moved to Pine Springs, he wobbled about using two canes to walk. As farming was out of the question, he followed Mr. Heard Downey as local salesman for Raleigh Products. Tom's cousin, Thomas F. Snowden of Center Hill, politician and member of the state legislature, was also called Tom Snowden. Our Tom was called "Raleigh Tom Snowden" to tell them apart.

The Raleigh Tom Snowdens had three boys before they came to Pine Springs; Marion, 1916; Tom Lyle, 1918; and Ray (Albert Ray), 1924. Marion, affectionately called "the Pup" by his father, due to the lean times, had to drop out of school before he graduated. He entered the CCC program and no doubt his contribution to the family income in the 1930's made it possible for his two younger brothers to graduate.

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Mr. Simon and Miss Ira Belle Williams' invalid son, Aubrey, an inspiration in spite of his affliction, was eighteen when he died with a heart attack in 1933. The Williams buried him at Pace's Fellowship Church. With deep feelings, the Williams had them etch the simple words, "Our Boy" on Aubrey's stone above his name. Their faith in God never wavered.

The Williams led simple uncomplicated lives. Their needs were few and they weathered days of the great depression. Several years after their son Robert married Vivian Byrd, Eva Williams married a local boy, Odell Snowden. (Odell's parents, James Edward and Myrtie Phillips Snowden, lived on the northern end of the land that had been Mr. Jim and Miss Annie Snowden's farm.) James, the youngest Williams, left home to go to the army when World War II began.

Mr. Simon Williams lived to be 70, but Miss Ira Belle lived to be 102.

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Allen and Gladys White, by very careful management of their scant income, just barely met their payments to Pres Love for their farm at The Forks of the Pine Springs Road. Miss Gladys said that Allen, needing all the barnyard fertilizer for his fields, couldn't spare her chicken droppings from her henhouse for her flowers. With the prospects of a good crop coming on, they had hopes of making their 1931 fall payment.

To add to the tight money problems, the Whites had unplanned medical expenses. Until a health nurse called it to their attention, Allen and Gladys hadn't noticed their son's back was growing twisted. After being checked, little James Eddy was sent to Memphis where he was treated for seven months and came home to wear a back brace for some time.

One summer evening, Allen needed to talk to Pat Harris about some matter. Gladys said that while he was gone, she would take the children and walk over to visit the Vincents. Charley Vincent lived just across the field from the Whites' and Gladys and Adele Vincent had become friends. Gladys quickly threw a cloth over the remnants of their supper, turned down the kerosene lamp, and they set out.

At the Vincents, Gladys and Adele talked while their children played. They had not been there long before someone looked out and saw a bright red sky. The White's house was on fire!

Allen had walked past the store and was nearing Pat's when he glanced back and saw the bright glow. He immediately knew a house was on fire and, judging from the direction, he had a sinking feeling it was his own. He ran the three-quarters of a mile to his home.

The framed house, the one Tommy Wolfe had built, was a good size and made of pine. It made a magnificent fire. Neighbors arrived from everywhere but the flames had already engulfed the house. The White's old Model A Ford Roadster was parked in a shed nearby and the men got scorched when they rolled it out and down the hill. Allen singed his arm reaching into a window to grab his new overalls.

Their clothes were gone save the every-day things they had been wearing. It being summer, the children were all barefoot so their shoes were gone. Charley and Adele Vincent cleared a room of their home for the Whites to sleep. Soon neighbors began to come by to share whatever they had in the way of quilts, pots and pans, and outgrown clothes for the children.

Stacy Snowden set up his portable saw mill down the hill from the pile of ashes. Jake Smith, with others, helped Stacy saw Allen's timber into lumber for a new house. When Stacy finished the sawing and a make-shift kiln had been built to dry the green lumber, he moved his mill on to his next job and the new house was started.

With helping hands, construction proceeded rapidly. With half the house finished, the Whites moved in. But then, another mishap happened; the kiln caught fire and the lumber to finish out the second half was lost. The unfinished half was little more than a shell and remained so for several years.

That fall, Allen couldn't make his mortgage payment and Pres Love foreclosed on the farm. Allen moved his family to a tenant house on his father's farm near Mt. Carmel Church in Obadiah. Trouble followed them there. In February, 1934, a killer tornado came one Sunday afternoon and blew them away.

It was a sultry day, warm for that time of year. Allen had just gone to the door to look out when he saw the funnel approaching. He slammed the door and grabbed the water bucket to douse the fireplace, shouting for the others to get to the back room. Rita Nell (now Mrs. Talmadge Smith), then a second-grader at Center Hill, recounts her experience when the house flew apart around them:

I must have been knocked unconscious. When I woke up all I could see was shucks. Shucks were everywhere. I was blown into the barn lot and corn from the barn was all around. My leg was broken. Somebody took us to the hospital but none had any serious injuries. One of Daddy's fingers was mashed and had to be taken off. Mildred's ankle was hurt, or broken, and Frances had been knocked out and had a gash on her hand. Mama and James Eddy were not hurt, other than bruises - Mama was conscious through the whole thing and saw what happened. She said the house just came apart with boards flying everywhere. She was blown out to the well - it was a wonder she hadn't gone on in.

The storm had first passed across Okatibbee swamp and had touched down at Trusselltown just north of Pine Springs. Dr. Ernest Hudson's house, across from today's Okatibbee Water Park entrance, was turned two-thirds around, left standing awry from its concrete porch. [After the tornado, Dr. Hudson, a veterinarian, moved the family to The Lane in Pine Springs. A couple years later, they bought Ratcliff's tenant house next to the church and the Hudson children, Wilson, Darryl, Ernestine, and Yeager, grew up in the community in the 1930's. Mrs. Effie Hudson, a graduate of Beeson College, was the oldest girl of Methodist preacher Daniel Yeager who had once preached at Pine Springs.]

Traveling northeast, the storm next crossed the road above Fellowship Church and blew Richardson's house away. The real tragedy occurred that Sunday afternoon near Richardson's where the Calverts were at home except for one son who was out visiting. The remaining five family members were killed when the tornado exploded their house. [This Calvert family was related to the Pine Springs Calverts and were buried at Mt. Zion Church in Kemper among older Calvert generations.]

Allen White's in Obadiah was the next house hit, followed by his father's. Mr. Frank White was at home alone and was crossing the hall from one side of his house to the other when his log home was demolished. The old gentleman, uninjured, was deposited across the road.

On Monday, school children on the Pine Springs bus passing through Trusselltown stared bug-eyed at a stiff-legged heifer that had landed in a ditch with a piece of 2x4 sticking from its bloated belly. When they arrived at school they were sent back home.

After their run of bad luck, Allen and Gladys White, unbeaten, bought another farm near the Kemper-Lauderdale Co. line where their children grew up and married without further mishap. Their recovery from their early experiences gave testimony to the resiliency of the Southern spirit.

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Ernest (Doc) and Minnie White had moved to Uncle Lee Ratcliff's farm after Doc gave up his saw mill job in Lena. When Willie Kinard bought the Grover Townsend place in Sec. 16 in 1930, he had Doc and Minnie (his "in-laws") to move there to farm on shares. Doc had learned farming from his father, John White, and if anybody could make land produce, it was Ernest. In the spring of 1931 when they moved to Willie's farm to live in the house vacated by Grover Townsend, their children's ages were Howard, 13; Helen, 9; James, 8; and Dusty (Robert Lee), 2.

Willie Kinard, who loved children but had none of his own, enjoyed time spent with his young nieces and nephews. He stopped by Doc's on his way to town one day and young James, happy to see his uncle, climbed over him like a puppy. Willie asked James if he would like to ride to Meridian and, of course, James hopped into Uncle Willie's shiny auto. (Willie liked automobiles and somehow managed to keep a nice car even during hard times when most folks walked.)

After Uncle Willie took care of his business he took the boy to the banana house, the depot where banana cars from the Gulf Coast unloaded. Knowing his little friend liked bananas, Willie bought a whole stalk and gave them to the youngster. James still recalls that trip home in Uncle Willie's car with his stalk of bananas:

Daddy usually bought us bananas at Christmas, but I had never had a whole stalk before. I rode home in the back of Uncle Willie's car, just me and my 'nanners. I'd throw one skin out the window and grab and shuck another. Uncle Willie may have been

worried after I ate so many - when we were getting close to home he turned around and asked me wasn't I going to save some for the others. I hadn't thought about it, but I slowed down eating and spared them about three 'nanners apiece. Mama and Daddy laughed when Uncle Willie told about me riding along and eating. It's a wonder I hadn't busted.

Willie and May Belle Kinard hosted the wedding of Edna Kinard and Joe Johnson at the Threefoot "big house" in 1931. Edna, daughter of Sam Kinard, was Willie's sister. Joe Johnson, one of the youngest of the orphaned children of Fred Johnson, was born with energy and had an out-going personality. He found his niche as a salesman. Working for one company and then another, he would attempt to sell anything and usually could.

Edna and Joe made their home on the Johnson farm up in Sec. 4. On Sunday nights when there was no preachin' and the community gathered at the church just to sing, Joe's high clear tenor voice brought life to the old songs in the Cokesbury Hymnal. Who could ever forget Joe carrying the lead on "Rocking on the Ocean Waves" and the sprightly "Awakening Chorus". Edna's uncle, J.D. Jones, then living with her older sister, Mrs. Luna Brown, had a deep base voice even lower than Charley Vincent's. Together, Joe and J.D. made the Sunday night singings something one didn't want to miss.

Joe was not a family man. He didn't seem to understand babies and, when he and Edna had a daughter (Ruth) born in 1932, he became nervous. When his second daughter (Laura Alice) came in 1935, Joe took off. After their divorce Edna made a life of her own. With her father's help, she went back to school and graduated from Livingston College in Alabama with a degree in Sociology. From a later marriage to Jesse Thead (q.v.) she had one son, David.

Land taxes were not paid on the Threefoot Brothers Farm in 1932. In March 1934, Kutcheu Threefoot (Sr.) died and, in April, Louis Threefoot redeemed the farm from the Chancery Clerk. Throughout this trying time in the Threefoot family, Willie and May Belle Kinard remained on the Threefoot farm as managers. Louis Threefoot made frequent trips to see what was happening on the property and became a good friend of Willie's. On one visit, Willie and some local "boys" were on their way to Rogers Creek to "grapple" a mess of fish. Mr. Threefoot went along to watch in his "city" clothes. He couldn't get into the creek but spent a happy, relaxing day and took fish home.

Trying to making a living, the tenant farmers on The Lane planted all the cotton they could manage. Knowing they wouldn't get much per bale, they tried

to grow more to make up. Making a living had become a grim task and often families went without actual necessities.

When Roosevelt was elected and took office as the US President on March 4, 1933, one of his first "New Deal" programs was to institute the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) which Congress passed two months later in May. Under this act, agreements were made between the Secretary of Agriculture and the farmers in which the latter agreed to reduce the size of their major crops (corn, cotton, wheat, tobacco) in exchange for various benefit payments.

Local farmers responded enthusiastically. One feller said he had just planted all his cotton and corn fields and had to go back and plow them all up. He wasn't complaining later when he got his government check and wondered how much Roosevelt would give if he stopped raising pigs.

Under this new measure, cotton slowly began to be worth more and, by 1935, the price had risen 50% higher than it was in 1932. Farm income advanced slowly but steadily under the AAA and other farm acts that followed, but it was not until America started gearing up for World War II that our farmers showed any real prosperity.

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Harve and Ada Townsend and their children, Roy, Gladys, and Ernest Lavell, 'cropped on the Threefoot place where they lived in the old "Lockard" house. Harve never accumulated money even in "good" times, but he remained carefree and enjoyed life. At one of Suqualena's annual Fourth of July picnics, a rowdy group of fellows were riding horses and kicked up a stir of dust that settled in the potato salad on the picnic tables. Then Harve Townsend, always the comic, came riding through the dust. Feeling no pain, he was sitting backwards on his old mule. Only the worst spoilsports remained angry after his performance.

Harve's father's home, next to Willie Kinard's farm where Doc White was living, had become dilapidated but Mr. Sigh and Miss Sarah, grown old like their home, still lived there in the early 1930's. Able to get about and care for themselves, they lived alone after their children married. While the Whites lived next door, Doc's children were waiting for the school bus one morning when, suddenly, Mrs. Townsend came out to her kitchen porch and rang her plow. In those days, when one heard a plowpoint ringing and it wasn't dinnertime, you dropped whatever you were doing to run to help. It meant someone was in trouble.

Looking across the field toward Mr. Sigh Townsend's, the children saw flames dancing from the roof of the old log kitchen and ran to help. Howard climbed to the roof to pull out burning wood shingles which he tossed to the ground. Mr. Sigh drew water from the well to be carried by Helen and James to douse them as they hit the ground. The fire hadn't much start and was out when others hurried up to help. The kitchen was not sealed and overhead the sky showed through a hole about the size of a wash tub. The kids went off to school and left the men to patch the roof.

Miss Sarah took sick that year and the doctors told her she needed some sort of treatments in Jackson. Mr. Townsend, having no car, asked Willie Kinard for help. Willie made several trips to Jackson with Miss Sarah, but her treatments were of no avail. She died in March of 1934 and was buried in the Pine Springs cemetery.

Mr. Sigh was 79 when Miss Sarah died. His children didn't want him to live alone so, that August, he sold his small farm to Willie Kinard and left Pine Springs to live with his son Victor in Meridian's South Side. Victor and Miss Maude were having a tough go at making a living themselves, but they welcomed the old man to their home. Mr. Sigh Townsend lived eight years after Miss Sarah's death.

The Grover Townsend farm that Kinard already owned, and the adjoining John Townsend farm that he bought, together made 80 acres. Doc White took over both places to farm for Willie.

It came as a pleasant surprise when Miss May Belle Kinard found she, at last, was going to have a child. When Wilma Jean was born in 1938, Willie built his daughter a doll house before she learned to walk. Soon after the baby came, Willie and May Belle moved to Meridian and bought a home on this side of town near Highland Park.

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Odie and Julia Snowden moved into the "big house" on the Threefoot place following Willie and May Belle's departure. They were the first in a succession of couples that lived there to collect from the Threefoot renters. Beautiful Miss Julia was a grand-daughter of W.G. "Dock" Weatherford who had given the land for Pine Springs church and school, and daughter of Charley Weatherford and his first wife.

The Snowden's had three children, Fred, Ruth, and Charles, who were nearing teen-age in the 1930's when they lived on the Threefoot farm. Odie was gaining a reputation as a craftsman and usually

found houses to build despite the crippled economy. There wasn't much farming going on at that time, and much of the rents he collected for Threefoot were for the houses only as many tenants had gardens but few fields planted to crops. More and more, the fields between the pecan trees went into pasture as raising cattle was a more profitable use of land.

[Odie Snowden and Sons, a building contracting company, grew when his sons, Fred and Charles, joined him after World War II. Odie is gone now but his sons still build expensive homes and contract commercial buildings.]

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Tom and Velma Brown had lived in Pine Springs almost from the beginning of their marriage in the early 1920's. They lived for some time in a shack house on the back side of the Threefoot place and their babies Alwena (1922) and Christine (1924) were born there. Around 1930, the Browns moved into one of the houses on The Lane until Doc and Minnie White vacated Lee Ratcliff's tenant house to the west of his store. The Browns farmed for Ratcliff during the years their daughters were growing up.

Tom, born 1905, was one of the nine children of Confederate veteran Robert Ridney Brown and his wife Alice Ethridge, and was among the Brown children that lived at one time or another in Pine Springs, i.e., Elizabeth Lovett; John (Bud); Flavia Townsend (widow of Grover); Issac Andrew (Dink); and Miss Ethel (Effie), who lived with their old parents in Miss Dora Bozeman's home until her marriage in 1910. The older Brown children, Kate Coughlin, Jimmy, and Sally Rawson, did not move to the community.

When desperate times came, old Robert and Alice Brown could not longer care for themselves and none of their children, with families of their own to support, were in a position to take them into their homes. Mrs. Elizabeth Lovett was their only child that owned land in Pine Springs. Without money, the old couple was placed in the county poor farm to be cared for at public expense.

Old Robert hated the poor farm; he had a horror of dying in the place. Their children visited when they could, and Miss Pearl Harris, on occasion, had Mr. Pat drive over with a group of youngsters from the community for prayer and singing. As soon as hard times eased a bit, Flavia Townsend took them to live out their remaining years in her home near Pine Forest Church. Her children would listen to their old grandfather for hours when he told of olden days.

Robert R. Brown died in 1937 at the age of 87 and Miss Alice died three years later. They both lie buried in Pine Springs cemetery.

Tom Brown's wife was Velma Crenshaw who grew up near Center Hill. Miss Velma's brothers were Rev. Lee Crenshaw (qv) and Venten Crenshaw who raised a family on his farm near Fellowship Church. Her sisters were Vester who became the 2nd wife of Marcus Hawkins in the 1920's after Miss Lily Hawkins passed away, and Mrs. Nellie Ingram who moved to Pine Springs in 1934.

Tom and Velma's girls began school in Pine Springs but transferred to Center Hill when the local school closed. They grew up living on the Ratcliff farm, part of the youngsters that abounded in Pine Springs in the 1930's.

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Mrs. Nellie Ingram, sister of Mrs. Velma Brown, moved to Pine Springs with her husband and two young daughters, Nettie (1926) and Margie (1930). Mr. Dave Ingram never spoke of his folks and nothing is known about the Ingram family. A short plump man with black eyes and a dark complexion, he was an avid sportsman, quickly becoming a fishing and hunting buddy of Humpy White's. He was not a farmer but worked as a shoemaker in Meridian.

The Ingrams rented the Ratcliff's newer tenant house located on the main road between the Union Church and Mr. Jim Thead's. Eight-year-old Nettie Ingram had studied beginning piano before they moved and she took turns with other budding pianists who played for the services of the Epworth League, forerunner of today's Methodist Youth Fellowship. Nettie's black hair and dark eyes caught the attention of several young men in the community. Her younger sister, Margie, short like Mr. Dave, was a petite little girl and was called "Pee Wee" when she was a kid.

The Ingrams lived in Pine Springs throughout the depression years but returned to Meridian after both daughters were married to local boys and times were better. The Ingram's last child, David, was born in Pine Springs and was too young to serve in World War II, but was in the Korean War and in Viet Nam.

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The worst drought in the nation's history began in the Great Plains of the mid-west and, in 1934, it produced the dust-bowl. Farms were blown away by dust storms and farmers took what they could when they left the area for other parts, leaving their livestock behind to perish on the arid land.

The US government, in a measure to salvage horses and cattle, shipped the starving animals back east to be pastured on more verdant farms.

Mr. Pat Harris took a small shipment of western Mustangs to pasture on his farm. For a while he had 15-20 horses, wild as rabbits, on his place. Young boys of the neighborhood saw this as a great opportunity to play cowboy with the untamed animals. They would meet in the Harris pasture on Saturdays after their fathers set them free from their plowing chores and spent afternoons roping and catching the animals. Several young boys, Joe Harris, Durwood Lovett, James White, Roscoe Byrd, and others, would hold a horse with ropes while a brave lad mounted up. Not bothering with saddles, they would place a halter on the mustang, have the others get out of the way, and the 'cowboy' would ride until he was tossed off. After a while the horses were tamer but, as far as is known, the breaking of the horses to the plow remained incomplete.

James White recalls one day Mr. Pat had Joe and himself breaking up a field with a steady older horse hitched in tandem with a half-broken wild horse. The old horse was easy to manage but handling the mustang was a chore. James was guiding the plow while Joe had a hold on the lines to direct the team. When they stopped to blow at the end of a row, James spotted a sawbrier leaf that had turned red. The horse was standing on the leaf and, for a moment, it appeared as if the mustang's hoof was bleeding. He asked Joe to check the hoof to see if the mustang had hurt himself. Joe went to the horse's head to raise its hoof.

"I never saw anything like it," James said. "Joe was up at the horse's head and when he touched its knee, that rascal, I swear, switched ends in that short harness. Quick as a wink, WHAM, he reached out his hind leg and kicked ole Joe in the stomach. Knocked the wind right out of him! Soon as Joe caught his breath he tore out and went squalling to his mama that I had made the ole horse kick him. I just went on plowing and, 'fore long, Joe came on back and helped me finish up."

One day Lloyd Harris was plowing one of Mr. Pat's skinny mules out along the road. Ed Cunningham happened by - they lived somewhere around the neighborhood for a while - and asked Lloyd did his mule kick much.

"What do you mean?" asked Lloyd.

"Did your mule kick much when you pulled his guts out?" Cunningham said.

Leon New was another farmer that took a shipment of cattle to graze for the government during the dustbowl years. It is not remembered how the deal was worked out, but apparently those that pastured the starving cattle were paid so much per head

to keep them alive until they could be sold through regular channels. What a flurry of excitement it was when Leon was notified when his shipment of steers was expected in Meridian.

Mr. Leon organized a western-style cattle drive to herd the cattle from the railroad and on out to Pine Springs. He took along his young nephew, Edward Earl White, to saddle up and ride old Dixie, the short-of-tooth plow horse that was way past her prime. Leon's daughters, Edna Mae and Mary Ellen, were chagrined and jealous that Edward Earl was going along while they had to stay home. Edward Earl was to ride ahead to each crossroad to head the herd in the right direction as they passed. Miss Maebelle, at the wheel of the Whippet, was bringing up the rear of the 25 to 30 head of steers, with Leon and Irvin riding on the car's rear platform. (The platform, built by Leon to transport their belongings home from Texas, had proved so handy to haul sacks of fertilizer or cottonseed meal that he had left it in place.) Leon's and Irvin's jobs were to jump from the platform to chase strays that wandered off the road from the main herd.

They got home with the entire herd of longhorns and turned them loose in New's pasture. As they had entered Pine Springs, the cattle drive was joined by a contingent of would-be young cowboys who thought the whole thing a lark. Edward Earl played Tom Mix, lording it over the other boys from his vantage on old Dixie's back. The only casualty of the long trip from the train had been when Leon had pounded on the car top for Miss Maebelle to slow down. She though he meant for her to stop and slammed on the brakes. Leon had tumbled from the platform to the graveled road and wrenched his wrist.

Along with the western cattle came Screw-worms, and soon local cows became infected. Screw-worms were the larva from flies that got into each scratch and injury to lay their eggs. The larva were a menace and, if not treated, would cause the animal's early demise. The scrawny cattle were fattened up on the green Mississippi pasture and were sold off a few at a time, but Screw-worms were around the community for several years. The only thing that would stop them was eternal vigilance to keep all sores clean, and by application of ether to their larva. It was said that, at times, Screw-worms were known to bore into the cow's tough hide to lay their eggs, and they were murder when a cow doffed a calf. The county agent visited to teach the farmers how best to get rid of the worms and, eventually, the "foreign" flies were eradicated.

Mr. Leon sold old Dixie not long after the cattle

drive and Edna Mae was heartbroken. She loved that old horse and cried when Dixie left. So many cattlemen had lost their shirts due to the drought that western horses were cheap. It wasn't long before Leon bought her a pony.

Very gentle, Tiny was a small dark red horse that had been trained as a quarter-horse to cut cattle. Edna Mae knew joy the first time her daddy sent her to bring cows home to be milked.

"Tiny knew what I wanted her to do before I told her," she said. "She cut from side to side to guide the cows without me having to do anything. She was so gentle I could walk up to her in the pasture and she would stand still for me to get on. I rode her around without even so much as a bridle. She knew she was my horse."

Tiny had to work for her keep and she, along with the mules Mack and Lucy, made up the plowing stock on the New farm. The little girls were assigned the task of taking water to the field workers, and sometimes would stick around to ride Tiny and the mules home at dinnertime. Most every Sunday there would be little girls invited home from church, and the horse and mules would be called upon to take the children for a ride. They rode bareback all over the pasture, many times two to each animal, as it would be too much bother to saddle up. The New farm sported two saddles; a worn saddle that had seen better days, and a newer World War I army saddle that Leon had brought home with him when he was discharged. If saddles were used, they were put on Tiny and Mack when the girls learned Lucy had a trick of blowing up her stomach when a saddle was girded on. When the rider mounted, Lucy would suck in her gut and the loosened saddle would keel over. Lucy had raised too many younguns not to have learned how to keep kids from getting the upper hand.

Old Lucy kept working on the New farm even after her death. Leon skinned her carcass when she died of old age and sent her hide to the prison at Parchman to be tanned for leather. Thus, Lucy was useful for years, serving many times when strips of leather were needed for new wagon reins, and for various other uses such as soles for worn-out shoes. It sorta made one sad to think about it, walking about on old Lucy.

Mattie Sue Snowden caused quite a stir one afternoon when she rode her horse up to New's to go riding with the girls. Changing their mind about riding, the group shut Mattie Sue's horse in the rickety old barn lot and went off to the Slough to take a swim. Left alone, the strange horse broke the half-rotted boards of the lot fence and went home to her own pasture.

When the riderless horse arrived at Mr. Stacy Snowden's, pandemonium broke

out. Thinking Mattie Sue had been thrown, a group went on a search for her broken and bleeding body. Miss Maebelle had not seen the girl when she came and did not know that Sue had joined the group of swimmers. A couple hours later when the swimmers returned, they could not understand why the old folks were so excited.



1939. Mattie Sue on her horse in front of the Stacy Snowden home. This house has since burned.

*

The young couple, Joe and Birdie Hodges, lived in the shack at the spoke mill, but Joe hardly made enough for them to get by. Business was poor and the spoke mill ran out of spoke orders and closed from time to time. The Hodges were popular with the young people that lived in the upper end of the community. Hungry for recreation but having nothing to spend, they often gathered on the steps of the Hodges shack where Joe played and sang for their enjoyment. It was pleasant way to spend Saturday evening.

Pres. Roosevelt preferred to offer help in the form of jobs, as did most Americans, rather than doling out Relief". Many, of necessity, lived on the dole at first, which was offered by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA).

The Public Works Administration (PWA) was established in 1933 to prime the pump of private enterprise. Joe Hodges got a job operating a bulldozer on one such federal project.

In 1934 when Joe quit the mill, the Hodges moved from the mill to rent the little Temple Love house at The Forks. In a short time they rented the house across and up the road, that Pres Love had foreclosed on Allen White. It is believed Joe finished off the two bedrooms which had never been done. They lived at Pres Love's several years where their only child, JoAnn, was born in 1938. [Joe finally got a job on the railroad and they bought

a lot from Ratcliff next to the store where Joe built them a permanent home. It is still there.]

* * * * *

When the Works Progress Association (WPA) was instituted by the government in 1935, it spent billions to hire people on stopgap enterprises such as junior colleges, theater groups, orchestras, to working on highways, hospitals, and bridges. (One such group worked on copying and preserving the Lauderdale Co. public records.) Mrs. Mavis Harbour, wife of Tom Harbour from north of Shucktown, had given private piano and elocution lessons at Center Hill School in better times. In the depression, her private pupils vanished. She was hired by the WPA to teach chorus and piano lessons to the deprived farmer's children, which she began. Her piano classes were four pupils at a time, with each pupil required to pay a token amount of \$1 a month for the weekly lessons.

Maebelle New was determined that her girls learn piano. She had been taught music when she was young and, although she had not gone far in the field, she could play well enough for the singing at church.

"I'll take in washing if I have to!" she told Leon when he wondered how they could afford the \$2 monthly fee for Edna Mae and Mary Ellen's lessons.

Somehow the money was found for the girls to take piano without Miss Maebelle having to become a washer-woman. Edna Mae learned to play simple music but Mary Ellen didn't learn much. The younger sister learned to fake her piano lessons "by ear" and hardly learned to play "by note".

Other of Mrs. Harbour's pupils from Pine Springs were Stella and Mary Harris, Earlene Snowden, and sometimes Nettie Ingram. It was easy to get out of regular class to take music during winter, but summer vacations presented another problem. It was solved by car-pooling, with Stella Harris and Miss Maebelle alternately driving their family cars. None of the young musicians went far with their efforts, but played with varying ability for their own amusement (amazement?). The best "piano thumper" in the community at that time was Mr. Jarrit Snowden's daughter, Annie Lee. It is not known where she took lessons, but she could make a piano "rise up and walk". Annie Lee played for church at Fellowship, where she was a member.

* * * * *

Willie Joe and Miss Betty Hatcher moved from

Martin to live and work at the spoke mill after the Hodges moved out. He was William Joseph Hatcher, born in 1898, great-grandson of Samuel C. Hatcher who had settled in Pine Springs in 1835. Willie Joe's pa was Samuel W. Hatcher, a younger brother of Nancy Ann Hatcher, wife of James Snowden, who had lived in Pine Springs.

Willie Joe Hatcher was a gaunt man with a pendulous abdomen that caused consternation in some quarters. ("I declare, I don't know whether to keep watching or to look away!" said one lady, wondering at what moment Willie Joe's pants, riding low on his hips under his fat belly, were going to fall off.) As far as is known, his pants won out over gravity.

Miss Betty Hatcher loved to fish. She often took the Stephenson girls along to "wet their hooks" and keep her company when she fished the Slough behind the spoke mill. Bea Stephenson said the fish bit better when Miss Betty spit snuff juice on the worms.

The Hatchers had a fine battery-operated floor model radio and, for a while, neighbors gathered at their home on Saturday nights to listen to the Grand Ole Opry broadcast from Nashville. Radios were fairly new and not many in Pine Springs owned one yet. Sometimes there would be a dozen or more neighbors sitting around on the splintery wood floor of Hatcher's bedroom-sitting room, listening to Grandpa Jones and Minnie Pearl. Little Jimmie Dickens was one of the favorites when he sang "Take a Cold 'Tater and Wait" or "Out Behind the Barn".

About a year after Leon and Miss Maebelle New moved back to Mississippi, Susie Mae got her first job in town. She went to work frying hamburgers at George Shepherd's greasy 'hole-in-the-wall' on 9th St., across from a brown rock building that stretched between 20th and 21st Avenues. (The red sandstone building first housed a car dealership, but few had money for cars and soon the Union Bus Station took over the space.) Shepherd's Cafe' was next to the Help-Yourself Grocery on "Avery's corner", named for a farm supply store on the other side of the grocery on 21st Ave. Avery's corner was a place well known to country folks from Pine Springs who parked there when they went to town. One could meet most everybody one knew there on Saturday afternoons. Those that needed a lift home waited there to catch a ride.

Shepherd sold two hamburgers and a glass of milk for 15¢ and made hamburgers the way they were meant to be, with lots of onions and pickles and globs of mustard - he didn't mess up his 'burgers with cheese or tomatoes. He used big fat buns and he never even heard of a lettuce leaf.

Miss Maebelle sewed up some print dresses to get Susie Mae ready for work, as about all Snooks had to wear were the overalls she wore about the farm. While she had her sewing machine revved up, she made Susie Mae some blue-satin step-ins with a brassiere to match, all trimmed in lace. This was the first grown-up lingerie the girl had. This, with the other attentions Maebelle gave to the young girl, caused Susie Mae think of her sister-in-law as a close friend and confident. With some of her first pay she bought Leon and Maebelle an inexpensive table-model battery radio.

Leon always shouted "You babies be quiet!" when the news came on. When an election was held he was apt to stay up until nearly morning when the winners would be predicted. (Of course, one wouldn't be sure of the outcome until the final vote was counted well into the next day.) The little girls kept up with Little Orphan Annie and The Lone Ranger's adventures, and the whole family gathered to hear Fibber McGee, and laughed at Lum and Abner in their "Jot 'em Down" store.

Aunt Lee Dabbs bought John White's children a radio. Before long other families bought radios and Pine Springs came to have a source of information, other than The Meridian Star, from the outside world.

Old Sam and Miss Laura Kinard remained in good health in the 1930's. Their youngest daughter, Ina Marelle, married Leon Cunningham of Bailey, and the Cunningham children, Leon, Jr. and Frankie, were born in that community. They moved to Pine Springs after Mr. Sam divided his land among his children.

MR. Kinard, noting the trouble Joel New had with his place when it came time to die, said he would divided his land early so each child would have it when they needed it most. Sam Kinard had more land and less children than Mr. Joel had; his land afforded each child enough land to do some good.

The youngest and last child to marry was George J. Kinard who married Mary Manez Snowden in 1936. Manez was the oldest daughter of store-keepers Jim and Agnes Pope Snowden of Shucktown, more descendants of county pioneers James and Mary Margaret Snowden.

George built his home at the forks of the Fellowship Road where it branches to the east to be called the Hooke-Brown Road. He and Manez had two children, Carol (1940) and Kendall (1942).

[The Sam Kinard home, on Hooke-Brown Road, was taken down after Sam and Miss Laura's deaths by their schoolteacher

son, Burton Kinard. Burton built his home just west of where the old house had been built.]



Sam and Laura Kinard with daughters, (L to R) Lois Ethridge Kinard (Mrs. Burton Kinard), Luna, Edna, and Ina Marelle. Late 1930's.

Edna, Lester, and Louis Hooks were young adults during the depression. They endured the hard times and continued to go to church and took part in the community activities, although they were not allowed to go to dances. They held their share of "Socials" at the Hooks home where games were played in Mr. Ed's level pasture beside their home.

Edna Hooks McDonald remembers that a moon eclipse occurred one night when they were hosting a Social. The boys lighted a brushpile in the pasture and the teenagers were playing games in the firelight underneath a full moon. It began to grow dark and somebody noticed the moon was going away. The moon was in total eclipse and, as night closed in, some of the girls began to be scared. Of course, the young men were glad to place a protecting arm close around their girl-friend's shoulders as they huddled by the fire. All too soon (for the boys) the moon came back and the games resumed.

Mrs. Ida Hooks wore the trail slick between the hooks and Vincent homes as her elderly parents health began to fail, helping Miss Lelia care for Mr. and Mrs. Vincent and their arthritic daughter, Miss Nannie. Lelia and Tom, never married, were getting on in years themselves. After Mrs. Amanda Vincent died in 1933, they hired help due to the housework. [Mr. Felix Vincent died in March 1940 and his daughter Lelia died that same year in November. Miss Nannie died a year later in 1941 and was buried beside the others in the abandoned

Poplar Springs graveyard. Bachelor Tom Vincent died in 1978 at age 102.

* * * * *

Grandma Pratt, living with Albert and Miss Bettie Pace, died on October 7, 1936 as she approached her 86th birthday. Mary Pratt had never given up her widow's weeds since Joseph's death over thirty years earlier. Steadfastly present when her daughters needed her for births, deaths, and raising children, it had seemed as if she, like mother earth, would continue forever.

She had grown feeble; when she went to the stove to pour coffee, her palsied hands shook, her cup being empty when she returned to her rocking chair. It didn't seem possible that she was gone, leaving nothing but a time-worn spinning wheel and loving memories.

After Maye Pace married Albert Ivy in 1934, Mr. Albert and Miss Bettie's children remaining at home were their over-thirty-year-old "boy" Cecil, J.B. who had been laid off from his job, and their three younger children, Pat, Belle, and Buck, finishing up high school. The young folks regularly went to Pine Springs Methodist Church and to neighborhood dances and socials. They also enjoyed the baseball games held in John White's pasture where four Pace boys became "regulars" on the team.

Cecil was not capable of playing ball but was eager to do any job when asked. He was proud when Stacy Snowden (team manager after Mr. White was put on the bench) made him bat boy.

J.B. was epileptic but that didn't stop him from playing ball. Often victims of epilepsy are feared and shunned by ignorant people, but to Pine Spring's credit, this was not the case with J.B. He was well-loved and was treated as everybody else. It didn't occur to his friends that he had medical problems.

One Saturday J.B. was at bat when he was struck with a seizure. Pat and Buck were close and knew how to help him. Without commotion, his brothers handled the situation and spectators continued watching the game. No big deal.

At that time, effective medication to control seizures had not been developed. J.B. died one night in 1938 while walking home alone from a church singing. He had a seizure and fell into a ditch of running water. He left many friends.

White Special Baseball Club reached its zenith near the mid-1930's with its second generation of young players. As the original team became older and developed family worries, their sons took over. Perry, John White's youngest son, still played

but young Howard played in Doc's place. Claude White still played sometimes but his son Walker was a regular. Two Snowdens were on the team; Lamar, son of Stacy, and Charles, son of Odie. Mr. Stacy Snowden would "go to bat" to fill in wherever needed.

Mr. Jake Smith remained vitally interested in the game after his son Talmadge took his position. Mr. Jake still became excited about the umpire's calls and could be heard shouting above the crowd's noise. He didn't drink nor curse but could hurl epithets for ten minutes without uttering a single "cuss" word. Other fans also became overly excited which made it hard, sometimes, to keep an umpire.

Les Hooks didn't play but his brother Louie was on the team. Mr. Nade Byrd had given it up but his son Roscoe played, as did Mr. Ellis Pratt's boy, Roy. Howard, A.G., and Buddy John (Clarence Brown's boys from the other side of Mr. Albert Pace's) became team members. Shorty Short came out from Meridian to join the club.

When the team traveled to challenge other teams they were sometimes transported in Ralph Snowden's and in Tom Richardson's school busses. Desperate for equipment, they began holding dances in the clubhouse and many came. No admission was charged (few had money) but a hat was passed and those with change chipped in. Stacy Snowden began selling lemonade to thirsty game crowds. Hawking his wares, he sang,

"Ice cold lemonade! Made in the shade!
Stirred with a spade by a nice old maid!"

The biggest part of Pine Springs, as well as folks from Center Hill and Obadiah, turned out when the game was held at home. The highlight of the opening game one year was when Leo White tossed out the first ball of the season from an airplane. Years later, Leo told of the event:

"We got a new ball that was still in a box and made a little parachute for it from a red bandanna handkerchief. They had a big game scheduled with the Obadiah team and they told us what time to fly over. [James] Keeton flew with me and we thought we'd put on a little air show to add to the excitement."

"We 'showed out', making loops and turns, and once we went straight up and dived for the field. Wit Wilson [of Obadiah] was just laughing with me about that the other day. He said a flat-bed truck was parked next to the diamond that was full of folks waiting to see the game. When we dove it looked to them like we were going to hit the truck, and Wit said you should have seen the folks scrambling to jump off!"

"We came back low over the tops of the trees and threw the ball out. We aimed for the middle

of the diamond. We went back [to Key Field] and landed and drove back out in time to see the last of the game."

The ball, with its little red parachute, drifted slowly downward to the playing field. Amidst a cheering crowd, Perry White caught the baseball as it came to earth near second base.

* * * * *

Leo White had early developed an interest in flying and, when a boy, he made a wooden plane that could have caused him to break his neck. He designed the plane but it had no motor. He enlisted his brothers to help hoist it to the top of his father's barn. When he gave the signal, they turned him loose and he went rolling down the tin roof, expecting to glide to the ground. It didn't happen that way. His aircraft left the edge of the roof and plummeted to earth in a heap. No bones were broken.

Leo's first job was with a gas station in Meridian where he earned enough to take flying lessons from James F. Keeton at Meridian's new airport where Algene Key was manager. He and his instructor flew over the White farm on one of Leo's lessons. John White and his mule were laying-by a pea patch when the plane came over. Seeing his papa, Leo flew low over the field to buzz his old man. The mule went wild and ran away with the plow, cutting a fair-sized swath through the pea vines.

"Don't you ever fly over my house with that damned thing again!" Mr. White told Leo when Leo got home.

Leo's second job was with I.C. Garber and Sons, a construction company from Jackson. In Meridian, he helped build the 11-story Hotel Lamar (now the Courthouse Annex) and then the 15-story Threefoot building. Leo said he and another guy had the job of moving the scaffolding up each night, keeping one floor ahead of the bricklayers. When lack of money put an end to new construction, Leo went to work for Southern Bell Telephone Co.

Keeping alive his interest in flying, Leo hung out at the airport and was allowed to go up on two trips with James Keeton to refuel the "Ole Miss", a small monoplane, when the Key brothers, Al and Fred, broke the world endurance record. Leo said they used an ordinary garden hose for the in-flight fueling to prove the untried method of refueling during air-to-air continuous flight feasible. This method, with improvements, is used today by military aircraft.

Aviation was still young and each flight over a house would bring all inhabitants out to see

the aeroplane go over. John White, hearing news first-hand from his flying son, took a great interest when Algene and Fred Key made attempts to set a record of sustained flight. John always stopped what he was doing to see the brothers fly over. Their first attempt, started June 26, 1934, ended in mechanical failure after 123 hours and 6 minutes in the air; their second flight was halted by bad weather. John White did not see their third try that set the world record of continuous flight. It began June 4, 1935 and lasted 653 hours and 34 minutes (27 days).

John White developed prostate problems and Dr. Klein of Meridian had him wear an in-dwelling catheter. Undaunted, John continued his farmwork and his usual action-filled life. His grandson, James White, remembers when John and his boys were going to walk to Okatiabee Creek to spend a night fishing. James longed to go, but Doc said he was too little and couldn't keep up.

"Oh, let the boy come along," Grandpa White said. "I'll take care of him."

John reached down and put the boy astraddle his neck and walked the three miles to the creek - and carried him home the next morning.

All the grandchildren loved Grandpa White. Mattie Sue (Snowden) Brown remembers how she would sit in Grandpa's lap while he sang her silly songs in his off-key voice - "Liza Jane went up the stairs, I went up behind..."

John kept a bottle of 'shine on the mantle and toward bedtime he would take a nip. Mattie Sue started saving pennies and told Miss Leana that she was going to buy her Grand-daddy some "toddy".

When John walked through the woods to visit his son Doc, James would hang around and grin, waiting for Grandpa to go home so he could go with him. Usually when John noticed the boy's grin, he would ask James to go along to spend the night. Over Doc's objections ("Papa, you don't feel like foolin' around with him - he'll be too much trouble.") John would walk home with the happy boy at his side. Grandpa would be James' horse and, on his hands and knees, kicked and bucked as James rode up and down the wide hallway.

John entered the Meridian Sanitarium in early 1935 with a bladder infection which lasted nine weeks. His children all came to visit and once his boys put a red ribbon around the neck of John's favorite hound and brought him in to see his master. They had given Ole White Foots a bath and his black and tan coat shone. In a record-breaking cold winter with the roads covered by six inches of snow, Doc walked the ten miles to town to see his father and best friend.

John Wesley White died at the hospital on February

23, 1935 when he was 62. He was buried near his ancestors at Mt. Carmel Church cemetery in Obadiah. He had loved life and was mourned by all; by neighbors who had found him honest and fair, and by friends, black and white, who had always been so welcomed at his home. His widow and children mourned him most of all. The sunlight went out of their world when his death marked the end of an era.

In 1936, Leo White married Willie Mae Grisson, an Obadiah girl. (They had four children, Patricia Ann, Robert, John and Etta Teresa.) With her boys gone from home except young Perry, Lidie White had little help to run the big farm. Perry quit school to get a job, finding work at the ice house in Meridian. Louise also dropped out of school to become a waitress. After talking to Algie Townsend, owner of Townsend's Beauty School (cousin of the Pine Springs Townsends), she trained for cosmetology. With the help of the older White children, Imogene White graduated from Center Hill.

John White had promised his daughter Leana that he would sell part of his farm to her and her husband, Stacy Snowden and the Snowdens started a small house next to Leana's parents. The Snowden children, Lamar and Margaret, were already in school and Mattie Sue entered first grade when they moved to their nearly-finished home in 1931. After John died, Mrs. White, not knowing what her future held, refused to make out a deed to Stacy and Leana. The Snowdens moved to a farm nearer town on King Road and Mr. Stacy continued to move his mill around to saw lumber.

Mr. Stacy used mules to handle heavy logs. Sometimes the mules knew their jobs better than their handlers. One mule, a patient animal, would stand harnessed with its back toward one side of the log wagon. Two log chains, hitched to the mule, crossed over the wagon bed to be hooked to logs on the opposite side. As soon as a log was fastened to the chains, the logger yelled and the mule walked forward to pull the log onto the wagon. When the mule heard the log drop into position, he stopped pulling and turned back to wait for the next log. He did this time after time, day after day, without being instructed. Mr. Stacy valued his mules.

In 1935, Miss Lidie White sold Stacy and Leana the 80 acres promised by her late husband [E¹/₂ NE¹/₄, S-9] and the Snowdens returned to Pine Springs. Stacy completed the small home he had begun, adding an attractive concrete and native sandstone front porch that lent much to its appearance.

The Snowden children grew up in Pine Springs. Mr. Stacy, enjoying baseball and young people,

restarted the Pine Springs ball club, which had faltered after John White died. The team played in the level pasture behind Snowden's home and continued at their new diamond until most of his players were called to serve in World War II. Not being outdone by the Nazi's, Stacy started a girls softball team during the war after the boys were gone. [In later years, after the war, Stacy retired and moved to Meridian. He formed a baseball team from boys in his neighborhood and they played in Highland Park. The baseball field they made is now used by Little League.]

J.L. and Mazelle White were living on The Lane when John White died. J.L. had given up farming to work as a carpenter with his brother-in-law, Odie Snowden. Cotton-headed little Tooker (Lewis Ray) entered Center Hill School in 1932 when he was six.

Algie White had married Eula Mae Cunningham, a local girl. Their first home was the former baseball clubhouse on the White farm. When Stacy and Leana moved to King Road, Algie moved to the house Stacy had started. While in the Snowden house, they gave a party, complete with store-bought invitations, for their wee daughter's first birthday. When the Snowdens returned, they moved to Meridian. Algie worked at installing power poles for the REA (Rural Electric Assn.). After little Billie Joyce White died at age five with Scarlet Fever, Algie and Eula Mae had no more children.

Billy White married Luene Thompson of Meridian and the first of their three children (Jack Wilson White) was born in 1935. They had two more children, Peggy and Donald "Duck", before their marriage ended in divorce.

Claude White, one of John White's older sons, lived in White's tenant house with his wife, Miss Lela. Dessa Lee and Walker White were born in that house, and Walker remembers starting to school when first Arnold Brown and then Tom Richardson had the bus route that took the children from the east side of the community to Center Hill. [Herbert Lovett and Lloyd Harris, in turn, later took over that route.]

Miss Lela, a meticulous housekeeper, kept the aging tenant house spotless, even putting down newspapers to keep gritty shoes from tracking her scrubbed floors. Excitable Lela laid down the law to Claude, a slow-talking sort who did as she said until she got out of sight. He knew how to farm but he was never motivated to make a big crop. When he hoed their garden and scratched up worms he would, like as not, toss his hoe into some weeds and head through the woods to go fishing.

Claude White did love to fish - and bird hunt and fox hunt and squirrel hunt. He liked to go grappling for fish, sticking his hands in the muddied creek into under-water holes that would make hackles rise on his buddies' necks. Not knowing what he would bring out - snapping turtles, snakes, crawdads - one time he grappled a 40 pound spotted catfish and got his hand stuck in its mouth. The fish swam off down the creek, Claude hanging on. Those watching said they could see Claude's head bobbing around until the fish reached shallow water where Claude landed him.

Claude always had some tale to tell but the biggest fish generally got away. Somebody told that they went bird hunting with Claude and Claude hunted out of sight beyond a copse of trees. A covey of quail flew over and Claude's gun sounded off, Blam! Blam! Blam!

"Did you get him, Uncle Claude?"

"Naw, I missed him. But did ya see all those feathers flyin'!"

Claude started his whiskey still when he was young to supply his brothers with "Panther Piss". When times became hard, he used his still to supplement his income. Prohibition ended in 1933 with the repeal of the 18th Amendment, but Mississippi, with the help of the religious sector and the "moonshiners", voted to keep the state dry. Most of the stills shut down with the end of prohibition, but Claude was one of the two or three "wildcatters" who kept their operation going. He found a good sale for his product among his neighbors who "did but said they didn't" drink. His family, who laughed at his side-line, started to call him Zeke.

Claude was not a lazy man, although to look at him one would think he wouldn't move over if he were standing on a coal of fire. It took effort to haul heavy sacks of sugar over to the swamps on his back, and to scramble his equipment around playing cat and mouse with the sheriff. Most sheriffs (of that time) could be paid to look the other way, but if hunters or kids stumbled onto his still, it had to be moved quickly.

Claude was a simple man with simple taste. He did not try to become wealthy but just aimed to keep his family fed and clothed. He wore blue denim overalls and feed-sack shirts like other farmers but usually kept a cache of hidden bills set aside for emergencies. It is not known if it was true, but one of Lela's sister-in-laws told that Miss Lela came to visit all hot and bothered because her money had been stolen. It was told that she had placed her money in a can and buried it in the dirt floor of their privy. Of course, the tale bearer, perhaps a little

envious, found Lela's story funny and couldn't wait to tell her friends.

To Claude's credit, he never let his son get involved in his clandestine occupation. The community knew, or suspected, what he was doing, but kept a covenant of silence. He and young Walker planted crops and raised a big garden and, to all appearances, lived as other families that came along at that time.

James Monroe White tells of how they weathered the depression years while his parents, Doc and Minnie White, lived on his Uncle Willie's 16th Pine Springs farm:

We didn't have it too bad, I guess. We never had any money but there wasn't a time when Mama couldn't go to the kitchen and put two or three dishes on the table. Daddy always planted a big pea patch so we had peas and sweet potatoes, and he always had a big Irish potato patch that lasted us most of the year. Mama was big on making Chow-Chow, and that tasted pretty good in the winter with a big plate of peas and cornbread. We ate cornbread and milk, most times, for supper. Daddy planted a big cane patch and cooked molasses at Grandpa White's syrup mill. He tried to make enough for nearly 200 gallons a year. In the summertime we always had watermelons. He had the 4th of July as a target date to have the first melons ripe.

Mama raised a mixed lot of chickens, but mostly she liked Rhode Island Reds. We butchered a hog or two every year, and I was pretty good at catching fish. I didn't play ball on weekends, as I was off catching fish. I caught brim, bass, and spotted cat in the creeks and after I was big enough to not be afraid of the dark, I set out hooks at night. One time I lucked up and caught a 8-10 pound spotted cat.

Daddy couldn't furnish us with any [shotgun] shells but me and my friends became deadly with out sling-shots. In the winter I was always bringing home squirrels. One winter I had five rabbits at one time hanging in "cold storage" out in the smokehouse. A few times I brought home a wild duck.

James took his job of providing fish for the family seriously. Once he went to Rogers Creek to find his set-hooks tampered with. At a distance he saw Joe Harris and Durwood Lovett, his best friends, leaving the scene. Angry and frustrated, he took the stout line with its heavy sinker he had in his hand and, winding it over his head, he let it fly in their direction. To his surprise,

Durwood keeled over as if he had been shot. The sinker had landed on Durwood's head and Durwood was out cold. James said he had no idea the missile would have traveled so far.

Miss Minnie canned everything she could get her hands on. She canned from the garden in the summer, and the few peaches from an old tree and also a few knotty apples that grew near the barn. She took the children to the swamp behind the poke mill (where there were not cows) to pick blackberries - she must have put up ten gallons each year. It took a lot for a working family.

Canning was done in fruit jars with the type of glass-lined lead lids that used a rubber sealer ting. The filled jars were covered with water to process on the cookstove. The stove used piles of split stovewood and, in summer, produced exhausting heat in the kitchen. [One conversation remembers was "Ya'll doin' alright?" The housewife, fanning her dripping clothes, replied, "I vow, I'm plumb give out. I jest put up eighteen quarts of peaches, and hit a-rainin'!"]

In the early 1930's, Miss Staley, county home demonstration agent, sponsored a canning school held behind the church. Three or four instructors came to demonstrate how to use the new National Brand pressure cookers to preserve farm produce. Most of the community came with their vegetables and were shown the correct way to prepare them and fill the jars. A long bench, much like the tables at church picnics, was set up and they cooked outside, using charcoal for fuel. Some ladies were a little skittish around all that steam under pressure, expecting to be blown sky-high any minute. There was a minor casualty one canning day; Mrs. Alma Saddler suffered a mild scalding.

It was made possible for poor folks to buy a pressure cooker and Miss Minnie got one, making her canning chores quicker and with less spoilage.

Another government project provided mattresses for qualifying low-income people. Many had never owned a decent mattress in their lives, having used ticks filled with hay, straw, or shucks. One of the workshops was held at Center Hill School but did not have enough material for all who qualified. Names were drawn and the lucky ones met to make their own mattresses.

"We were lucky enough to get two mattresses," James White recalls. "Mama, Helen, and I went to the school and were shown how to tie the cotton inside the ticks. We used needles about 8 to 10 inches long to draw heavy thread through from front to back and tied it to keep the cotton batting from slipping around."

Doc wasn't well and had to leave much of the farmwork to Helen and James for the 1933 and 1934 crop years. He was weak from poison caused by rotting teeth which he had no money to have repaired. Howard had entered the CCC program and was not around, but Willie Kinard put up a two-room shack near Rogers Creek for Doc's black friend, Prince Johnson, to live to help with the plowing. Doc recovered after his teeth were pulled but, without dentures he "gummed" his food the rest of his life.

Prince Johnson had taken a wife since the days he and Doc had worked together on the horse drawn road machine. Prince and Martha were treated like family. On evenings when they saw James going to set out hooks, Martha would spread him a quilt beside her bed. When the boy came in late from his hooks he would crawl onto his pallet. Miss Minnie didn't worry when James didn't come home, knowing Martha would give him breakfast.

Sometimes James would go to their church. Prince would see that James used his manners. Once, when Prince wanted to go visit his folks up at Corinth, Doc loaned him the Model T. They took James along on the trip and James had a goof time playing with new friends.

Mr. Joe Townsends had the first "big" truck in the community and he made money hauling their cotton to the gins. It was Chevrolet he bought "used" in 1934, the last model that came out before duel wheels came into use. It had a Drexel axle so it could be shifted down to a lower gear. He traveled along about 30-35 miles per hour but worried because the tires got hot. To save the tires he would stop to splash the wheels on the way to town to cool them off after traveling at such high speeds.

James White recalls, " I went along with Mr. Townsend on a load of cotton and he let me work the pipe that sucked up cotton from the truck. As the pipe was sucking I got to playing with my cap to see how close I could get it to the tube without getting it caught. I got too close and it grabbed my cap and snuffed it away. Man, I was off that truck like a streak and ran to the second floor where the cotton came out. I found my cap in the hopper - it hadn't reached the knives yet. I tried to act unconcerned when I came down to the truck. Mr. Townsend teased me every time he saw me after that, telling everybody how I shot up the stairs to get my cap before it had the "seeds" taken out."

Howard, in the CCC's, was sent to help build



James White

Big Sur Park on the California coast. When that project was completed he was sent to make improvements on Yellowstone National Park and then to a project in Death Valley. Using some of the \$25 monthly allotment the government sent home, Doc bought Uncle Lee Ratcliff's used Model T truck. The truck was useful to haul wood and things but, saving gasoline, Doc's family still walked to church and everywhere they wanted to go.

A first-aid course was held at the church one night a week for six weeks. Miss Minnie, Helen, and James took the course, but they had to walk. It was cold weather but, as James didn't have a coat, he wore one of Helen's outgrown sweaters. The instructor gave them a lift home on his way back to town, and the rest of the time he picked them up for class.

Dusty was a 'little shaver' and did not have to work as hard as Doc's older children. He was playing in the sandy road with his handed-down red wagon when the postman came and handed him the mail. Seeing that free samples of Eli Garret Snuff were being passed out, Dusty pulled his wagon to the neighbor's mail boxes and helped himself to two more free samples.

"When I came from the field, Dusty told me about his snuff," James recalls. "We hid out on top of the garage Daddy built for the Model T, and started dipping. We worked out a contest, the game being to see which could have his spit run down the corrugated tin roof first to drip off the eaves. We stayed there dipping and spitting and got sick as dogs. When they found us we had to be helped down. I don't mind having a chew of tobacco now and then but to this day I have never had any use for snuff."

Another story that has been told on Dusty was that he got into the old apple tree and Doc caught him eating green apples. Doc told him he better not be caught picking any more apples. The next time Doc came by he found a number of cores hanging where apples had been. Dusty had obeyed. He hadn't picked any more apples.

James, at about 10 or 11, became friends of Mr. Jesse Foster, who sometimes took him and other youngsters to walk to town at night "just for fun". Sometimes they walked in to Highland Park to hear some roving evangelist hold a tent revival. Once they walked down to see a boxing match. James said Mr. Jesse liked to have someone go with him but he was a hard fellow to walk with.

"We'd be walking along, one in one rut and one in the other. Before long, Mr. Jesse would be walking right up under you. You could switch over to the other rut and in a minute he would

be walking right up under you. You could switch to the other rut and in a minute he would be right back, pushing you toward the ditch. I don't think he was scared of the dark. He just liked to be near somebody."

One night as they walked home, Mr. Foster said for James to come on up to his house; he had something he wanted him to see. As they neared Foster's driveway, James was told to get into the ditch behind the roadbank. As they hunkered down, Mr. Foster tossed a handful of gravel onto his porch. In half a minute Miss Vira threw open their front door and fired a pistol into the darkness.

James was startled but heard Mr. Jesse laughing fit to kill. It was a game the Fosters played. Whenever Jesse came home, Vira always threw open the door and fired. Jesse knew what was coming and hid behind something and laughed. James said Miss Vira laughed with Mr. Jesse, so he guessed everything was all right.

It was in the fall of 1936 that the Whites moved away. They had worked "all out" that summer to try to get ahead. They had made eight bales of cotton on seven acres, while most farmers were more than happy to have one acre produce a whole bale. When Doc counted up after his cotton was sold, he found, after expenses, the net pay for their year's work was \$30. That fall Doc gave up farming Willie's place and moved the family to south Mississippi.

Duthel W. Fortenberry in Meridian, head of the local Civilian Conservation Corps (which became the Soil Erosion Service in 1935), was impressed with Doc White's farming methods. Fortenberry owned a 640-acre farm near Prentiss, down in Jefferson County. He had a number of acres in cultivation but pastured 20 horses and 150 head of cattle on most of his land. He offered Doc the job of managing his farm and Doc was in a mood to listen.

Doc engaged Ab Stephenson and his 2½-ton truck to transport the White's possessions to their new home. What a trip that was! Ab's truck was loaded with a milk cow, the year's crop of corn, Miss Minnie's chickens, and all their household goods. The family rode in Doc's Model T truck over the graveled main highways.

As they rode, Miss Minnie looked out and exclaimed, "Look at that tire running along the road!" The tire was their own. They finished the trip riding on the rim.

Howard was discharged from the CCC and had gone back to Pine Springs to work at his Uncle Stacy's sawmill while the Whites lived in south Mississippi. The younger boys adjusted well to the new place; fighting with new friends at Oak Vale School, riding Fortenberry's horses, hunting Pearl River swamp, they made out all right. It was Doc and Minnie,

homesick for Pine Springs, that were ready to come home. After a year they returned.

Doc, burned out on farming, took a "public" job. With his earlier experience at scraping roads, he was hired to drive a motor-grader for the county. [Doc White was good at what he did. After years of driving a grading machine, he retired as Road Foreman of Beat 3. Today's Ernest White Road in Pine Springs was named for Doc White.]

Lawrence White worked in the supply room in one of the Meridian railroad shops until the depression caused so many railroad employees to be laid off. Humpy did not have enough seniority to be among the first hired back; by the time his turn came the Meridian supply room had been eliminated and he was never able to go back. Humpy and Lorena remained in Pine Springs and rented one house and then another about the community.

Humpy and Lorena, with their children Ina Pearl and Edward Earl, moved to the log "Wolfe" house on the New farm when Leon returned from Texas. As food was somewhat scarce, Leon proposed to kill the oldest milk cow on the place to provide meat for the table. His sisters, Lorena and Minnie, hooted at the idea of butchering old Elsie, saying her meat would be so tough you couldn't stick a fork into the gravy. It wasn't the right time of year anyway, as it was warm and everybody knew that you waited for a freeze to butcher. Seeing Leon was serious, Lorena and Humpy came over to help with the slaughter.

Leon, Humpy, and Irvin did the skinnin' and quarterin'. Lorena and Susie Mae helped Maebelle cut up chunks of meat for fruit-jars to be processed in Maebelle's pressure cooker Leon had brought from Texas. That night they all ate their fill of "Nigger Steak" (beef liver) smothered by gravy and onions. When the jars were opened later, the roast beef inside was deliciously tender.

The Snowdens, Curtis and Minnie, came over and Edna Mae, Mary Ellen, and their cousin, Earlene Snowden, went to the pasture to play and found where the pile of cow innards had been dumped. A flock of buzzards was all around, cleaning up what was left, so engrossed with their meal they didn't fly away. The girls had never seen buzzards up close and they thought they would just kill one of those nasty birds. They found a stick and took turns beating on one unfortunate bird until he succumbed.

Feeling remorse for taking the poor bird's life, they compensated by providing it a Christian burial. One ran to the house to get a shovel to dig a shallow hole in the sandy wagon road rut where there was no grass to get in the way. Ina Pearl, about 13, came to play about then and was

recommended by Earlene to preach the funeral. (Ina Pearl had been a cute little tyke and, for a laugh, grown-ups encouraged her to give droll little sermons.)

Ina Pearl preached her heart out, the sermon sounding more like camp meeting than a funeral. Nevertheless, the three mourners sobbed over the grave and, in agonies of grief, rolled in the grass.

A day or two later, Uncle Humpy found an addled buzzard roaming in the pasture. He made mention of it, saying he had never seen a buzzard behaving like that. When he left, Edna Mae and Mary Ellen shot out to see if it was their buzzard returned to life. After its soul-wrenching funeral, they had developed a warm regard for the bird. They never found its body.

Edward Earl, Edna Mae, and Mary Ellen had an on-going game of "Bob Steele and the Bad Men". Sometimes the white-hatted cowboy would be Ken Maynerd. They didn't have cap pistols but found a bent stick served as well. Edward Earl was determined to out-draw and out-shoot the girls. The girls could never win. If they planned to hang him, he declared the rope broke as he mounted his horse (a stick) and galloped away laughing. When cornered and disarmed, he had a spare gun in his boot (he was bare-foot) and got the drop on his captors. The story continued whenever Edward Earl came to play. When it was time to go home, he would go to lengths to get the Last Look. The Last Look was the prized last glimpse of parting companions before they went out of sight behind a bend in the road or a clump of bushes overhanging the cow trail.

Bottle cars was another pastime popular with the younger set. Dry sand underneath the house became a network of roads that curved through hills and depressions. Landscaped with green twigs, they were graded and maintained by a flat turpentine bottle road machine. Empty vanilla flavoring or Raleigh's liniment bottles made satisfactory cars that traveled the sandy roads, their owners lips numb from making engine noises.

Ina Pearl was always welcomed. She was bigger and practice had made her an expert on making playhouses. She knew how to mold piles of pine straw into overstuffed chairs like those seen in the Sears catalogue, and knew how to pick Careless weed seeds to cook for peas in jar-lid pans on a board n' brick-bat stove. Sometimes she and Earlene got yams from Uncle Curtis' sweet-potato house to slice and fry on the bottom of an upended molasses can over a hot fire of pine kindlin'. She didn't play with the little kids often but spent more time with big girls like Margaret Snowden and Evelyn Graham. Once Margaret (six months older)

hurt Ina Pearl's feelings when the 'big' girls prepared for a school picture by combing their hair and dabbing powder on their noses in the privy. The outhouse was crowded and Margaret insisted Ina Pearl was too young to join the 'ladies' and wouldn't allow her inside.

Ina Pearl was sixteen and was beginning to date young men (Wafford Graham, Buster Rasberry) when Humpy and Lorena's third child, Mable Jacqueline "Jackie" was born in 1936.

* * * * *

Money was non-existent in 1933, the year Leon New returned to Pine Springs. When they had to eat cornbread for breakfast instead of biscuits, Leon suggest to Maebelle she should pedal their surplus butter and eggs to Meridian housewives. As their garden came in, they could also sell vegetables. He took her to get her started and, thereafter, for several years, Maebelle drove the Whippit to town every Friday to sell her wares. She developed regular customers and soon had more than she could supply.

"Hello! This is Maebelle!" she would call in her happy bird voice, "Do you need butter today? I'm all out of eggs but I do have some lovely bell peppers I know you'd like!"

Maebelle found it easier to sell to stores than making stops house-to-house. Molding her butter into half-pound squares and wrapping it in waxed paper, she sold to small markets on the north side of town. She was mortified one week when two packs were returned to a store because a shopper complained the butter was rancid. She knew her butter was fresh; the stale butter had come from another source. Leon carved an "N" in Maebelle's butter mold and housewives came to ask storekeepers for "Big N" butter, knowing it was consistently sweet and good.

Maebelle stopped by the Meridian Public Library every other week to check out books for her girls. She generally brought six books, three each for Edna Mae and Mary Ellen. Before next Friday, both would have finished all six and waited for the next supply. They read the complete sets of Motor Maids and The Bobbsey Twins, and anything else Maebelle brought home - Pollyanna, the Glad Girl, Black Beauty, Anne of Green Gables. During school Maebelle limited them to one book each so they would spend time on lessons.

Some Saturdays when Leon and Maebelle went to town, they took the girls to go to the picture show. Each was given a quarter. Dressed alike and often mistaken for twins, they walked from where Leon parked at Avery's corner to the Strand

Theater where for 6¢ they saw the main feature (usually a cowboy movie with Bob Steel or Tom Mix), a "Movie Tone" newsreel, an episode of a serial movie with a perilous ending (to be continued next week), and two or three cartoons ("Krazy Kat", "Betty Boop", or "Mickey Mouse"). After the long show, they walked back to Avery's corner to have hamburgers and milk (15¢) at Shepherd's before waiting in the car to go home. Sometimes the New girls met Earlene Snowden and they went to the show together.

One Saturday Miss Minnie went to the show with Earlene and Curtis' niece, Mary Helen Snowden. One movie scene showed a locomotive, black smoke belching and drivers pounding, coming directly at the camera. It was too real for Mary Helen. Heads turned as she shouted, "Duck, Aunt Minnie, it's a-comin'!", and dived beneath her seat. Miss Minnie teased Mary Helen about being run over by a train for some time afterward.

Leon New, raised on the farm, knew how to produce crops but, being a dreamer, his mind was often on other things. A great talker (Maebelle said he should have been a lawyer), he was well known at the Soil Erosion office, keeping up with what went on in farming circles. He applied for help from the Soil Erosion people, who sent CCC boys to trim trees and cut bushy undergrowth in his woods. He got help building terraces to keep his fields from washing. When he worked his crops, he was always ready to take neighbors who needed transportation to town; Maebelle would become provoked with Leon when they would go to the field with a request and Leon would turn his mule loose and take the fellow on some errand. (Maebelle didn't get angry, or mad, - she just became "provoked".)

Soil Erosion people tried out a new kind of grass from China on one of the lower cuts on the Sand Hill on the New farm. The new Centipede grass choked out Bitterweeds and unsightly tall Cypress weeds and, quickly, with the cow's assistance, took over the entire New pasture. Centipede became popular as a lawn grass and Leon was one of the first in the county to sell sod for lawns.

Leon also let the Soil Erosion people plant the upper cuts of Sand Hill in Honey Locust trees to grow and be cut into long-lasting fence posts. On the top of the hill they tried out a vine, also from China, to be used for cattle feed. Called Kudzu, the vine grew three feet in a day's time and got to be a nuisance - witness the enveloping Kudzu vines along today's country roads!

Mr. New applied for a job as railway mail clerk. He easily passed the Civil Service test but so many had applied that his name was way down the list for those to be called. Meantime, he took another exam and was hired by the Census Bureau to keep

tabs on the number of cotton bales ginned each month in the county. It amounted to a part-time job as it didn't take but three or four days to visit all the gins in the county. It did, however, put a little money in the family's coffers.

There had been talk of bringing electricity to farm communities and, in May 1936, the REA (Rural Electricity Asso.) was created. Leon New volunteered to canvas the surrounding neighborhoods for people to sign up for power. Seeing the benefit of electricity, he was discouraged when some neighbors wouldn't sign. The cost was \$5 per household and, to hard-pressed farmers, it seemed a lot for something they didn't even know they needed. Some were afraid that power lines would attract lightning. Nade Byrd offered a somewhat different excuse. He told Leon he couldn't see the point of getting electric lights as it would just waste when it went through the cracks in the house! [It was just before World War II when Pine Springs at last got electric power. It was the farm wives that signed up first when it was pointed out that they could have electric irons, washing machines, refrigeration, and well pumps. They saw, before their husbands, what electricity would mean to their lives.]

When Leon New became a trustee of Center Hill School he caused some consternation among the white community. He said that whatever they worked to get in the white school, they must also work to get for the black school in the district. Since 'separate but equal' was the rule, New felt equalization must be carried out. While he was trustee he worked to get typewriters for a typing class, and Center Hill bought its first motion picture projector while Leon and Mr. George Temple were trustees.

Leon New was a moral man, keeping the tradition of chivalry he had learned at his Grandmother Wellborn's knee after his mother died. He didn't drink, at least not to Miss Maebelle's knowledge. (Knowing her firm stand against alcohol, she might have been "provoked" enough to have shot him!) Being strictly honest himself, he thought all men lived by the same code of ethics.

Once Mary Ellen was sent horseback to bring the cows home from the canebrakes in Bales swamp where they found good winter grazing. Other cattle were there with the herd and Mary Ellen asked about the strange cows she had found. Mr. New told her that they were the Grady and Hunt cows that came down from across the creek for winter forage.

"But those are Negros' cows," Mary Ellen said, "Aren't you 'fraid they will take our cows with theirs?"

"No," was Leon's answer. "We don't bother their cows and they don't bother ours. The men across the creek are honorable and we have a gentlemen's agreement."

It was against Leon's principles to buy on credit; he saved for what he wanted, saying the good of today must be sacrificed for the betterment of tomorrow. He treated ladies, including his young daughters and their friends, with respect. He never cursed, not when ladies were present.

One evening, Leon and one of his tenants were coming in from the field when Edna Mae, Mary Ellen, and Bea Stephenson were over the path in a tree up which they shinnied to pick wild "Musky Dimes". Hearing the men approaching, the little girls thought they'd play a trick. They thought to surprise the men by pelting them with grapes when they passed under the leafy branches. The men were talking, unaware of the girls presence.

"By God, you can cuss all you want to," Leon was earnestly saying, "but you, by God to hell, aren't goin' to cuss in front of my wife and babies!"

Taken aback by their father's angry tone, the girls forgot to toss the grapes and remained very quiet until the men had gone. It was the first time they had heard their father 'talk ugly'.

Leon and Miss Maebelle had started going to Pine Springs Methodist Church when they first came to the community. Short of having both legs broken, Edna Mae and Mary Ellen were expected to go, too. Miss Maebelle taught the young people's Sunday school class and Mr. New taught the adults. He also, enthusiastically led the singing. His voice was mediocre but he stayed on key. His vigorous singing was easy to follow as he stood before the crowd in his worn blue serge suit, rocking on his toes. One of his favorites was "Jesus Calls Us".

"Jesus calls us [up on toes]
O'er the tumult [back on heels]
Of our life's [up on toes]
Wild restless sea. [back on heels]"

Mr. Jim and Mrs. Evie Graham lived about the community with their children, Wafford and Evelyn. Miss Evie (sister of Iulus and Hunter Allen from across Okatibbee Creek) played piano for the singing. Mrs. Pearl Harris filled in when Miss Evie wasn't there. Gradually Miss Maebelle became the regular pianist until some of the younger players (Nettie Ingram, Edna Mae, Mary Ellen) were pushed to timidly take over the task. Miss Maebelle was all for youngsters getting involved in church activities. She said she'd rather train young people; old people had had their chance.

Maebelle, raised in the Methodist Church, was familiar with Epworth League, a Methodist youth

organization, and became active in getting a chapter started in the local church. With the church already meeting to sing on Sunday nights when preaching was not scheduled, Pine Springs Epworth League began to meet every Sunday before adult services. Louie Hooks was nominated its first president and presided over the program. Miss Maebelle; along with Stacy Snowden and Adolph and Jerusha Mae Johnson, acted as counselors. (The Johnsons were back in Pine Springs for a while, saving tuition to finish college.) Other adults came on preachin' nights, but mostly they left it to the young people and their counselors to hold their meetings. Uncle Lee and Aunt Juel Ratcliff always came; one could count on their being there every time the church doors opened. The old couple didn't have a lot to say, leaving it to the youngsters to carry on.

On Mission Sunday the League program guide told that all people were God's people. Little kids sang, "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight..." They discussed how black people sang spirituals so pretty and someone suggested they have some blacks come the following Sunday to sing on the program. One volunteered to invite the Negroes that sang for Grandpa (John) White to come and sing, and it was settled.

The crowd was bigger than usual the following Sunday evening, coming to be entertained. The Negro quartet from "across the creek" arrived and respectfully went to the back door to enter. Gordon Saddler's family was there that night; perhaps Mr. Gordon had not been told what to expect and was caught unaware when the four black men filed in to sit in the corner. At first sight of the men, Saddler jumped up as if his seat was on fire to make his feelings known. Shouting that he was not about to let no blankety-blank niggers in his church and that he was going home to get his gun and was comin' back shootin'.

Miss Alma and young Goldie Mae, embarrassed, followed Mr. Saddler out. Miss Maebelle, flustered, didn't know what to do. The black men told her it was best if they just left. With apologies, she followed them to the door, telling them she was so sorry this had happened.

"That's all right, Missus," one of the men was heard to say, "It's jest like that piano yonder. It has black keys and white keys, and by theyself they don't sound lak nuthin'. Ya hafta play all them keys together to make pretty music!"

(The Saddlers moved to Meridian around 1933-34 when Goldie Mae was about fourteen.)

Aunt Juel taught the intermediate Sunday school

class where many youngsters learned the Bible by answering her roll with a Bible verse. For years, Uncle Lee Ratcliff was the Superintendent of Pine Springs Church. Some didn't like the way he kept church books but had too much respect to ask him to step down. A man of few words, he kept the records at his home and just grunted that they were "doing all right" when asked about the treasury. Was there enough to buy new Sunday school literature? How much did they have put aside to pay the preacher? It was like pulling hens teeth to get a straight answer.

Sunday evening services didn't start until Uncle Lee and Aunt Juel walked across from their house with their gasoline lantern. All the kids would stand around in awe, expecting to be blown up at any moment as Uncle Lee made a ritual of pumping up his lantern. Looking about, he would caution all to stand back before striking a match to the mantles. Little children caught their breath and shaded their eyes as the mantles caught and dazzling white brightness made the dim kerosene lights fade into darkness. Sometimes, if the preacher talked too long, the mantles grew dim and Uncle Lee would ease out of his pew to "pump 'er up again". No one else dared to do this because NOBODY touched that lamp but him.

Uncle Lee was often called upon to pray and his prayer always ended with the same words, "Now forgive us our sins and lead us all to heaven where we will meet again without the loss of a single one. Amen!"

The Ratcliffs grew old in Pine Springs, yet they never changed. Kids grew up, left home, went to war, came back with kids of their own, but the Ratcliffs seemed the same. Well, just a wee bit older, perhaps.

[Mr. Ratcliff's final illness came in 1950. Aunt Juel buried him in the cemetery across the road from their store and home. She installed a double headstone with both names engraved so it would be ready when her time came. She had cement curbing placed around their plot and filled over the gravesites with white stones. A white iron filigree bench was at Lee's feet, a place to rest her old bones when she visited him in the cool of the evenings. Somebody took her bench away after her death in 1967.]

* * * * *

In the 1930's, young people were entertained, often at the church, with ice cream suppers or socials. Someone would bring a block of ice from town and those who had freezers brought them along. Most had milk and eggs and those that could spare

sugar brought along a jug of ice cream custard. Some said the cooked custard, scorched just a little tasted best. Mr. Stacy supervised the big boys' cranking the freezer handles while smaller kids played in the churchyard. Adolph Johnson was good at making up games - until the call sounded that the "cream" was ready.

There was an abundance of young people in Pine Springs in the 1930's. Each household contributed its share of kids to add to the juvenile throng. It was a time of worry and hardship for parents, but depression children could not have grown-up at a better time. There was no self-consciousness about their mean clothes; all wore hand-me-downs, re-soled shoes, and twice-patched overalls. Having never known better, they accepted their condition as normal.

Store-bought toys were rare. Boys used ingenuity and were adept at making playthings. For a while it was popular to roll a salvaged metal hoop down the graveled road with a piece of wire, bent just right, to guide the ring. It was common to see young chaps trotting along behind their ever-present hoops. A peashooter with a whittled wooden plunger was the rage for a while. Aimed right, green Chinaberries drew blisters on naked skin.

A dart, made rom a matchstick and a needle pilfered from Mama's sewing basket, was the fad for a time. A discarded wooden spool, ends notched and with a rubber band to wind it up, made a self-propelled caterpillar that would climb over low obstacles.

A battle that lasted a long summer afternoon was fought at Raymond Calvert's on Sunday. While the men lounged on the porch to talk crops, politics and hard times, a full war raged in Mr. Ollie Calvert's barn. Guerilla troops, with strong throwing arms, loaded their pockets full of corncobs and stalked each other through stalls and cribs, up and down haylofts. It was every man for himself. A neat pile of cobs in a corner

of Mr. Ollie's barn were, by dark, strewn all over the barn and cow-lot battlefield when bruised and weary combatants left with parents to go home.

Throughout summer months, socials were given at the drop of a hat - no invitations necessary. These affairs usually began with two or three houses of kids meeting to play in the road after their evening chores were done. One would suggest they go by and pick up another batch of kids from the next house, and away they'd go. Sometimes they were offered popcorn or peanuts but mostly, they just drank well water when they got thirsty. Parents didn't worry if they stayed out after dark. There was nobody to harm them and they all looked out after each other.

It was more formal during winter when they got together to pull molasses taffy or make peanut brittle. Indoor invitations were fewer as it meant someone would have to spend the next day heating water on the stove to scrub pine floors to get the sticky off. Most weekends they built a brushfire in some pasture where they ran and ripped, playing games.

As Teenagers grew old enough to marry, the younger set came along to take their places. James White became president of the Epworth League when Louie Hooks got a job and left./ In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and Epworth League became the Methodist Youth Fellowship. The Pine Springs group began attending quarterly meetings with other chapters on their charge (Andrew's Chapel, Bonita, and Frazier Grove). Sometimes they rode in Lloyd Harris' schoolbus but, more often, they piled into two or three cars. Hard times were easing a bit by then and cars were more common. [During the last years of racial conflict in the 1960's, the Methodist of Pine Springs Church voted to make the church affiliated with the Southern Methodist Church.]

The youth Fellowship remained active

Edward earl White gives his friends a ride in his "new" Model A Ford. Onof the roof is Tooker White, the owner is driving, and James White Rides the front fender. In late 1930's.



Sunday afternoon in the late 1930's. Bea Stephenson with pet rooster, Margie Ingram on Tiny, with her sister Nettie holding her goat. The New girls, Edna Mae and Mary Ellen, are holding the cat and their dog, Toby.

until 1941 when World War II called so many sons for military service. With the young men gone and girls getting jobs or getting married, the community fountain of youth seemed to dry up. With the advent of war, a more prosperous Pine Springs entered a new chapter. Quite a few of the older men found defense jobs. The small farmer passed as farm life was set aside.

Railroad men were called back to work when war-time traffic picked up and steamed ahead full throttle. The Lovetts (father and sons), Ches Love, Joe and Nolon Hodges, and Joe New, to name a few, worked overtime for the busy railroads. Leo White was working for the Southern when he got his call from the draft board. When he reported to the induction center, he found his employer had got him a deferment as an essential worker. He spent the war years teaching GI's to operate trains, back and forth, from Tennessee to Florida., teaching soldiers to operate any enemy train the Army might capture.

Older men got jobs as carpenters and worked building barracks at new military installations. Jake Smith, Ollie Calvert, and Robert Williams helped build Key Field Air Base in Meridian before going to Hattiesburg to enlarge Camp

Shelby. J.L. White worked with builder Odie Snowden on war contract job s. Leon New got a desk job with the Civil Service where he procured equipment and supplies for the new Greenville and Greenwood Air Bases in Mississippi before being sent to Birmingham. [During the war, Leon and Maebelle had two more daughters, Constance Amelia, 1942, and Mabel Sue, 1944. Mabel Sue died of burns when she was a child.]

Chuck Brown, Aubrey Smith, Susie Mae New, went to work in the shipyards at Mobile. Irvin New, turned down by the army because of a heart murmur, married Louise Harper of Oak Ridge Tennessee. Later he was surprised to find he had been working on an atomic bomb.

Young Pine Springs men became adults in the armed forces. Returning after the war to a new era of prosperity, the depression children were better off than their parents had been. More educated, many did not return to Pine Springs but settled in far-away places. It would take time before some of the descendants trickled back to the place of their ancestors. Many never came back. Once-tilled fields of Pine Springs, uncultivated, grew thick with scrub brush and new Pines, once more a waiting wilderness.

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A P P E N D I X

ROSTER OF US MILITARY FROM PINE SPRINGS WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II AND KOREA

Most of the boys who played together in Pine Springs in the 1930's went off to war in the 1940's. The government has not released a roster of the men who fought in World War II and Korea. The following list is compiled from personal knowledge and interviews with those who served. There may be some that are inadvertently overlooked. If any are omitted it is by the compiler's ignorance or oversight. Certainly no slight has been intended.

Bounds, James W., US Navy; PTO.
Bounds, John Rufus, US Army; Puerto Rica.
Bounds, Walter M., CPO, US Navy; PTO.
*Branning, Ervin Lonnie, 2nd Lt, USMC; Pilot, crashed Dec.22,1944.
Bradley, Carbon, US Army; PTO.
Bradley, Wallace E., Pfc, US Army; 85th Div., 339 Inf.; ETO.
Byrd, Corbert D., M/Sgt, US Army; Co.I, 405 Inf.; ETO.
*Byrd, James M., Pfc, USMC; 27th Div.; South Pacific/ KIA Feb.19,1945.
Byrd, Talmadge A., Cpl, USA Air Force; 153rd Div.; Louisiana (Instructor).
Calvert, Jack R., Cpl, USA Air Force; 488 Bomb.Sq.,340th Group; ETO.
Calvert, Raymond J., US Army, Balloon Barrage Bttn.; ETO.
Cunningham, Andrew V., Cpl, US Army; 336 Inf.Tank Div.; Purple Heart/Oak Leaf Cluster/Anzio.
Cunningham, Robert T., Sgt, US Army; Quartm'str Corps; ETO.
Epsey, Grover T., Pfc, US Army; Hq. 4th Maj. Port; Normandy.
Espey, Johnnie R., 1st Sgt, US Army; Military Police; ETO.
Espey, William Pete, Sfc, US Navy; DE, 5rd and 7th Fleets; Iwo Jima & Okanawa.
Foster, Raymond E., Carp.Mate 2/c, US Navy; 24th Seabees; PTO.
Foster, Jesse, Jr., Seaman, US Navy.
Hooks, Charles Lester, Pfc, US Army; Field Artillery; N. Africa/Italy.
Hooks, Louie V., 2nd Lt, US Army Air Force; San Antonio,Tx.
Hudson, Linwood Darryl, Sgt, US Army; ETO; Purple Heart/Germany.
Hudson, Walter Wilson, US Navy; South Pacific.
Ingram, David L., M/Sgt, US Army. (Korea)
Johnson, David F., Maj, US Army; M.A.S.H. Unit, Medical Corps; Belgium.
*Lockard, Edward, Lt, US Army; Infantry; KIA 1943/ Guam, South Pacific.
Love, Chester L., Jr., Cpl, US Army; Signal Corps; PTO.
Love, Mack W., Gun/Mate, US Navy; USS LST 1060, Amphibious Force; PTO.
Lovett, Durwood, US Navy; Seabees; South Pacific.
Lovett, John O. "Littlejohn", S3/c, US Navy; Shore Patrol; Great Lakes.
New, Mary Ellen, Cadet, Cadet Nurse Corps; San Antonio, Texas.
Pace, James Andrew, SWO, US Army; WW II ETO PTO, and Korea.
Pace, Marcus C."Pat", S/Sgt, US Army; 28th Infantry, 8th Div., ETO.
Pace, Millard L. "Buck", 2/Lt, US Army; Infantry; France.
Pratt, Roy E., Cpl, 81st Wildcat Div., US Army; PTO
Pratt, Charles L., Pfc, US Army; Ammo. Transport Div.; (Korea)
Pratt, Robert L., Pfc, US Army; Engineer Bttn.; (Korea)
Raspberry, George E. "Buster", T/Sgt, US Army; 302 Coast Art, Trip.A Gun Bttn.; Aleutians.

*Roberts, Waddell, Chap, US Army; (WW II & Korea) KIA/Korea.
 Smith, Edgar Talmadge, US Army; 446 Engineer Base Depot/ India.
 Snowden, Charles L., Sgt, US Army Air Force; 8th Air Force; England.
 Snowden, Fred L., T/Sgt, US Army; 114th Field Art., 31st Dixie Div.; PTO.
 Snowden, Lamar, Pfc, US Marines; 2nd Reg't; Purple Heart/Saipan,,S.Pacific.
 Snowden, Tom Lyle, Cpl, US Army.
 Snowden, Albert Ray, Pvt, US Army.
 Spears, Grady (Toddy), Pfc, US Army; 98th Div, 389 Inf.; PTO.
 Stancil, DeLeon, US Army.
 *Stancil, James P., Pvt, 46th QM Truck Regt, KIA/Germany.
 Stancil, Jerry, US Army.
 Stephenson, Moody D., Pfc, US Army; Bat.A, 32nd Bttn., 8th Inf. Regt.; ETO.
 Stephenson, Charles Lindburgh, US Navy; (Korea)
 Thead, Edwin C., Pfc, US Army; Infantry, 5th Army; Italy.
 Thead, James Henry, US Army; PTO.
 Thead, John Wallace, US Army; ETO
 Thead, Melvin Hall, S/2c US Navy; Pensacola.
 Thead, Willie Mack, US Army; PTO.
 Thomas, Harold, WO, US Army.
 Thomas, William Alexander, Sgt, US Army.
 Townsend, Aaron E. "Pluto", SWO, US Army; 29th Inf.; Ft. Benning, Ga.
 Townsend, Everett L., S/Sgt, US Army; 28th Inf. Div.; Purple Heart, Oak Leaf Clus, /France.
 Townsend, James Howard, Sgt, US Army; 728th Engineers, PTO.
 Townsend, Prentis M., Pfc, US Army; 81st Chem. Mortar Bn.; ETO, Normandy Beach.
 Townsend, Thomas Mabra, Cpl, US Army; 172 Chem. Warfare Div.; N.Africa/Italy.
 Vincent, Charles B., Cpl, US Army; 24th Signal Corps Div.; (Korea)
 Vincent, Frank A., Sgt, US Army; 16th Field Art., 9th Arm. Div.; Merit Award/Normandy.
 Vincent, John Morris, Sfc, US Navy; Armed Guard; ETO & PTO, (WWII & Korea)
 Vincent, James Oliver, ARC/3c, US Navy; Sub.Patrol Bomb.Squad. VPB 209/ Equador.
 Vincent, Raymond L., Sfc, US Navy.
 White, Algie L., US Navy, PTO.
 White, Robert L. "Dusty", Sgt. US Air Force; (Korea)
 White, Edward Earl, Pfc, Army; 104 Timber Wolf Div.; Purple Heart/Germany.
 White, Howard E., S/Sgt, US Army Air Force; 153rd Sqd. and RAF, 2911 Bomber Grp; Air Medal/ 13 Oak Leaf Clusters; England.
 White, James M., SWO, US Army Tran. Serv.; Water Div., SS C.W.Pasley; PTO.
 White, Lewis Ray "Tooker", Sfc, US Navy; USS Bon Homme Richard; PTO.
 White, Walker D., Pfc, US Army Air Force; 1361 Military Police; India.
 White, William Perry, Cos'n, US Navy; Hawaii
 Williams, James H., Pfc, US Army; Medical Corps.
 Wolfe, Chestine, US Army; Gen. Clerk.
 Wolfe, John Aubrey, US Navy. (WW II and Korea)

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The factual information in this text was easily found in the original records of Lauderdale County stored in Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History. These official records, dating from 1836, include marriage licenses, deeds, tax rolls, court records (Probate, Chancery, and Circuit), minutes of the Board of Police and School Board, school records, and records of Confederate soldiers pensions. The Archives also has a collection of local church histories and lists of early cemeteries that have been inventoried.

Additional information on deeds and transfers

of land was found in Chain of Ownership records located in the Chancery Clerk office. The Chancery Clerk also has a book of original land patents.

The complete US Census of Mississippi is on microfilm in the Meridian Public Library, as is the 1860 slave schedule. Both library and archives house various histories of local families in their genealogical sections.

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