

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

"The Druid City"

A Brief Sketch of the History Back of
This Thriving City



Capitol of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, 1826-46

OCCUPIED BY THE
Alabama Central Female College 1857 to 1923, at which latter date
the building was destroyed by fire.

WRITTEN BY H. G. DOWLING
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*"Whatever is in any way beautiful hath its source
of beauty in itself, and is complete in itself."*

—MARCUS AURELIUS.

FIFTY-SIX MILES southwest of Birmingham on the elevated left bank of the Black Warrior River, is situated one of the most beautiful smaller cities of the South, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Four main lines of human interest have led to its development into the present thriving community of twenty-five thousand inhabitants, with an additional ten thousand neighbors within the next mile or two just outside the city limits. The first of these interests began to operate when the Creek Indians pushed the Choctaws back and established a town at the head of navigation on the Warrior.

Tuscaloosa started as a trading center, a point from which canoes in times of peace could paddle off for long journeys to the Gulf, for exchange of products with Indian villages along the river course and from which war parties could also launch their raids down the prosperous river valley to the South. With the coming of the white man, three other persisting urges made themselves felt—a definite concern about education and institutional development, a desire for adequate industry, and an abiding belief in agriculture as the basis of a happy life in this region. These are the old threads woven into Tuscaloosa's community fabric—trade activity, public institutions, industry, agriculture—and the modern city now existing can be understood only when the sources of her present spirit are studied.

Tuscaloosa today is really a beautiful city, a place of attractive homes, flowery lawns and gardens, substantial public buildings, broad and well-kept streets, and everywhere the trees! Those towering oaks, famous for a hundred years, shading all sections, have given the town its name of "Druid City." Serene, peaceful, hospitable, incurably social is Tuscaloosa. Even the industrial establishments which have been part of the community almost from its beginning have failed to disturb the even tempo in any noticeable degree. An unusual proportion of gentle-folk are here—people who were bred on the great plantations south of the town or who came from distant parts to live in an educational center or who brought in their keen intelligence to help establish needed local manufacturing establishments; and all of them have been captured and molded by the spirit of the location. A beautiful place to look at, and a more beautiful one after its inner spirit is comprehended.

"In the brave days of old"

—MACAULAY

The name of the town and of its river comes from two ancient Choctaw words, Tuska meaning "Warrior" and Lusa meaning "Black". The Choctaws owned the region and made a settlement at Tuscaloosa, but the

fighting Creeks kept pushing them westward and trying to possess this shipping point at the head of navigable water on the river and just below the impassable shoals. The region and the river probably got their names from that gigantic and powerful warrior, Chief Tuscaloosa, whom DeSoto tricked and defeated so cruelly in 1540. The Creek Indians in their language called the river Petka Hache, "River of Canes."

A Creek Indian town at Tuscaloosa is shown on a map published about 1720 by Guillaume de Lisle, geographer for the King of France. The first white person known to visit Tuscaloosa was a Mrs. Crawley, seized after a massacre at Duck River, Tennessee, and brought here in 1812 by her Indian captors. She was terribly abused and partly lost her reason before being rescued by a white trader who heard of her plight and who spirited her away to Mobile. General Coffee of Tennessee with a force of volunteers came down to punish the Indian raiders in October of 1813, found their village deserted and burned dwellings and crops. In December following, the Choctaws attacked the Creek trespassers and killed a considerable number together with some renegade Choctaws who were living here. A month later Colonel John McKee, with a force of Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian helpers, made a third invasion of the Tuscaloosa area, drove away the Creeks and burned two villages.

In 1815 the famous "Long Hunter", Davy Crockett, passed through this country and reported in his writings "nobody living at Tuscaloosa."

THE WHITE MAN COMES

*"For we by conquest, of our sovaine might,
And by eternall doome of Fate's decree
Have wonne the Empire of the Heavens bright."*

—EDMUND SPENSER.

In 1816, the entire area became the property of the United States by the Treaty of the Trading House, which was a deal between the Choctaw Indians and the government. White settlers began coming in at once. Thomas York of Tennessee was probably the first settler, arriving in 1816. A marriage record, the ceremony being performed by the village blacksmith, John Barton, in 1816 adds these names to the list of first settlers: Josiah Tilley, Patrick Scott, and children of these families. John Wilson, Isaac Cannon, and John G. Ring are said to have settled here very soon after Thomas York. Joshua Halbert became famous for owning the first farm wagon in the community.

A town was laid out with large lots and broad streets by order of the Surveyor General; and land began to sell. Col. John McKee was the first land agent. The County of Tuscaloosa was created in 1818; and, by act of the territorial General Assembly, the Town of Tuscaloosa (population about 600) was incorporated on December 13, 1819. On the very next day, Alabama was admitted to the union as a state. Thus, as a city, Tuscaloosa is one day older than the state of Alabama. The city has through its history served as the county seat of government for Tuscaloosa County, the second largest county governmental unit in Alabama (area 1346 square miles).

The town grew rapidly because of the rich farm lands nearby, the plentiful supplies of game and fish, the apparently endless store of timber, the desirable home sites, and particularly because of the open river from

this location to salt water. It became one of the chief shipping and trading points for west Alabama and for the entire hill section of the state. Products of the territory now occupied by Blount, Jefferson, Walker, Fayette, and Bibb Counties, in addition to those of extreme West Alabama, flowed into Tuscaloosa for processing and shipment to the markets of the world. The Huntsville Road, the Greensboro Road, and others became important trails of trade. The city is at the southwest edge of Alabama's great coal, iron and limestone district, and this fact influenced growth.

When Alabama became a state in 1819, Huntsville served as temporary capital; but a more central location was desired. A site near Selma, known as Cahaba, was finally selected; and temporary state buildings were erected there. River floods, malaria, and other conditions brought a change. In 1825 a hot contest was on between Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, Cahaba, and five other towns for the capital location. Tuscaloosa became the capital in 1826 and held this distinction until 1846. The Bell Tavern (which stood on the present Post Office site) served as temporary state headquarters while a two-story wooden statehouse for the legislature was built on the northwest corner of Broad Street and Twenty-fifth Avenue. In this frame structure the legislature of 1827-28 did its work.

The Bank of the State of Alabama came to Tuscaloosa with the capitol and was located on Broad Street between Greensboro and Twenty-fifth Avenues. Branch banks were located in several towns of the state. Between 1827 and 1829 a very substantial and artistic capitol building was erected on the block now known as Capitol Park. This building served as state headquarters for seventeen years and was then occupied by a school for women for sixty-six years. It was destroyed by fire in 1923.

By act of the legislature, the University of Alabama was located at Tuscaloosa on December 29, 1827. For a building site, a level tract of land about one mile east of the business section of the town was purchased. The school opened for actual work in 1831.

In 1829, Daniel Cribbs opened a jug factory two miles south of Tuscaloosa where he had noted a deposit of clay excellent for this purpose. This establishment furnished many sorts of earthenware containers to a wide area of the South until 1827. In the early 30's Oliver Keene operated a coal mine six miles out of the city and supplied fuel to a considerable trade. Through most of the early years there was a great deal of "ditching" of coal, mining at the surface where the coal outcropped.

In 1836 a large body of Creek Indians passed through Tuscaloosa on their way to the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi. They had, after a final uprising, been forced to submit to the power of the white man; and they camped for several days on the University grounds and on both banks of the river while they looked over the capital city of their white conquerors. Tuscaloosans were much entertained by the wild riding of mounted Indians through the city streets and by the skilled swimming of naked Indian children in the river. Old records show something of the bitterness these Indians felt as they were driven from their age-long hunting grounds.

The general panic of 1837 caused the state bank and all its branches to fail and brought to light many fantastic tales of crookedness and mismanagement of these institutions. The proceeds from sale of lands and also other funds of the University of Alabama were involved in the bank crash; and the University lost about \$500,000. The state never made good

this loss. Years later, the legislature scaled the debt down to \$300,000 and the state treasury has since paid to the institution an annual interest on the indebtedness. Some very bleak years, with low salaried instructors and few students, followed this disaster.

Another fight for the removal of the state capital developed in 1845. Montgomery, Wetumpka, and Tuscaloosa were leading contenders, though five other cities were considered. After a long-drawn struggle, Montgomery won on January 26, 1846. Within a year the records were moved to the new location on "Goat Hill."

Governors who served in Tuscaloosa were as follows: John Murphy, 1825-9; Gabriel Moore, 1829-31; Samuel B. Moore, March 1831 to November 1831; John Gayle, 1831-5; Clement C. Clay, 1835-7; Hugh McVay, July 1837 to November 1837; Arthur P. Bagby, 1837-41; Benjamin Fitzpatrick, 1841-5; Joshua L. Martin, 1845-7.

Three "governors' mansions*" still stand in Tuscaloosa—the Deal home in which Governor Bagby lived, the Marlowe home in which Governor Martin lived, and Mrs. P. H. Whitt's home which was the residence of Governor Henry Watkins Collier, a Tuscaloosan who served as governor immediately after the seat of the government was changed to Montgomery.

The fine old oaks of Tuscaloosa are partly due to plantings started by private persons in the 1830's, Thomas Maxwell being the leading spirit. The city government took up the planting program in 1842; and both city and citizens have continued their efforts up to the present time.

"Let us then be up and doing."

—LONGFELLOW.

A cotton mill was built at the foot of River Hill in 1846 by a company of which Dr. John R. Drish was the leading spirit. This factory, among its products, made great quantities of rough osnaburgs which were sold to be made up into clothing for slaves. In the early forties, Charles Foster was operating a tannery and work-shoe factory near the river front. An interesting fact about this plant is that the shoe department gave employment to no one except one-legged or badly crippled Negroes. Mr. Foster brought together Negroes disabled so far as farm work was concerned and developed a prosperous business through their labors. Two years later, Leach and Avery started a machine shop which for decades turned out plows, farm tools, industrial machines, and other items. One of the founders, Daniel H. Avery, was a nephew of the patentee of the famous Avery plow and had authority to use the special designs of his uncle. Tuscaloosa plows were famous. These manufacturers turned out a special brand of fire grates and stoves which had a wide sale. Connected with the main foundry building were a grist mill and a flour mill. During the War Between the States, this foundry made a number of cannons for the southern armies. In connection with the foundry, strange to say, a hat shop was operated, which during war time, made gray army headgear. It is said that General Lee at his surrender wore a hat made in Tuscaloosa by this company. A paper mill operated between 1858 and 1865. Many lesser industries—sawmills, grist mills, etc.—suited to the life of the community—had existed from the earliest years.

Some idea of the farm production of Tuscaloosa County for the year 1850 may be gained from these figures: 626,452 bushels of Indian corn;

* Deal home, 421 18th Ave.; Marlowe home, 816 22nd Ave.; Whitt home, 905 21st Ave.

50,271 bushels of oats; 114,035 bushels of sweet potatoes; and 73,561 (400-pound) bales of cotton, the largest cotton crop produced by any county in the Union for 1850. (*New American Encyclopedia, 1863*)

In 1860, there were five tanneries, two cotton factories, one paper mill, three newspapers, fifty-three churches, and 404 pupils in public schools in Tuscaloosa County. The population of the city of Tuscaloosa was 3,989. The county had 23,206 people, of whom 10,145 were Negro slaves. (*From the New American Encyclopedia, 1863.*)

During the administration of Governor Henry W. Collier of Tuscaloosa, a noted philanthropist, of New York, Miss Dorothea L. Dix, paid a visit to Alabama and called attention to the pitiful condition of insane people, confined in jails or private rooms in most communities of the state with little skilled care or attention. Her visit started a movement which resulted in the establishment at Tuscaloosa of the state hospital for the insane. The institution was formally opened in 1861, though some patients were admitted for treatment in 1860.

THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

*"When the scourge
Inexorable and torturing hour
Call us to penance."*

—MILTON

Tuscaloosa has been rather a conservative community, not given to hasty decision or action. When Lincoln was elected in 1860, and when a secession convention was called to meet in Montgomery the city favored peaceful settlement of the differences between North and South. Tuscaloosa's representatives in the Secession Convention, Robert Jemison and William R. Smith, supported a plan for reconciliation and co-operation and voted against the secession resolution. After the decision for withdrawal from the Union was a fact, these men and their home community were warm supporters of the southern cause. Both Mr. Jemison and Mr. Smith helped to organize the Confederate armies; and both served as members of the Congress of the Confederacy.

Through the years of nearly the entire war, Tuscaloosa was fortunate in escaping the worst effects of the conflict, for the actual fighting did not reach the community. Even the Battle of Shiloh, the raids around Florence, and the fighting across Mississippi from Corinth to Vicksburg sent no northern raiders into Tuscaloosa. Many residents of northern Alabama and of Tennessee sent their families here for safety; and the city gained some valuable and permanent residents from this movement. In April 1865, however, Croxton's Raiders were detailed by General Wilson to march from Elyton (now Birmingham) to Tuscaloosa under orders "to destroy the river bridge, the factories, mills, military school (University), and whatever else might be of benefit to the rebel cause." The three hundred boys in the University cadet corps were entirely unfitted to repel the fifteen hundred seasoned northern soldiers; and, after a brief skirmish near the river bridge, Croxton carried out his orders thoroughly. Tuscaloosa industries and the University were left in ruins.

This blow was even worse for the city than the loss of the capitol had been. It was six years before the University opened again; and the terrible days of Reconstruction delayed for a long time any renewal of trade or industry.

Through the difficult period following war and reconstruction, the University struggled along with a handful of students, usually seventy to a hundred per year. Senator John T. Morgan waged a fight through several years demanding that the government of the United States repay the University for the destruction of her buildings; and in 1884 he prevailed. Congress granted to the institution 46,080 acres of public land in restitution, a grant exactly equaling that originally made for the establishment of "a state institution of higher learning."

The first railroad came to this section when the Alabama and Chattanooga (now the Alabama Great Southern) was completed in 1870. The road had been built from Chattanooga to Attalla by 1856 when financial troubles and later the war stopped the work. The federal government deeded all odd-numbered sections of land for fifteen miles on each side of the right of way as public aid in the construction of this railway. The State of Alabama loaned the railroad \$2,000,000 to help get it completed. A great development followed the opening of this line of traffic and the sale of its valuable lands.

"We build the ladder by which we rise"

—HOLLAND.

Gradually Tuscaloosa climbed out of the despair following war days. The spirit of the people was not broken; and the resources were still present. By 1887, many small businesses were again fairly prosperous; and a prospectus issued by the Tuscaloosa, Coal, Iron and Land Company listed the following as successful industries: two cotton mills employing 420 hands and turning our cotton yarn, plaids, and "checks and stripes" in quantity; two brick yards; two foundry and machine companies; a yarn mill; a street railway; a brick and tile company; a cottonseed oil company; a grist mill; a suspender factory; and a wool carding plant. There were under contract to be built: three railroads, Friedman Furnace, Merchants National Bank, electric light and ice company, a public school, a cottonseed oil gin company, two brick companies, a building and loan association, a new four-story hotel nearly complete, and many residences.

An old newspaper shows that in 1899, Tuscaloosa had industries as follows: two railroads, and another partly completed, two ice factories, four cotton mills, six livery stables, one trunk slat factory, two marble works, two machine shops, three candy factories, one cottonseed oil mill, one wadding factory, one carding mill, one grain elevator, one lumber mill, six liquor saloons, nine newspapers—one morning, one evening, five weeklies, and two monthlies. The University of Alabama was boasting that enrollment had climbed to 200 from an average of 70 to 100 for many previous years. Things were "looking up."

Tuscaloosa newspapers recorded a great celebration on May 12, 1898, when the Mobile and Ohio railroad was completed, connecting the rich Middle West with the Port of Mobile through this city. Greensboro Avenue was decorated with the triumphal arches, garlanded with flowers, and with a real novelty, "colored electric lights." The whole town met the president and other officials of the railroad at the new station. There were speeches and cheers and band music. Miss Kate Jemison drove the silver spike which completed the years of construction and brought into reality a long dream of citizens of Black Warrior Town. A parade, a dinner and numerous dances wound up a great occasion.

Soon the lumber business became a tremendous industry with many small mills turning out rough lumber and finally with great finishing plants shipping building supplies to all parts of the country. Several coal and iron mining companies began buying lands and extracting the rich mineral wealth of Tuscaloosa County soil. A branch of line of the Louisville and Nashville Railway came to Tuscaloosa. A period of considerable industrial growth affected life in the city.

INSTITUTIONS

"Individuals may form communities, but it is institutions alone that can create a nation."

—DISRAELI.

From early days a desire for good schools and for welfare institutions was evident. Many small private schools were taught in homes by tutors and governesses. Sims Female Academy became well known, as did that boys' school advertised as "Price's Thrashing Machine for the Devil's Unaccountables." A news ad of the early days reads, "Price's Thrashing Machine. Send me your devils and incorrigibles and I will make good boys of them." The Tuscaloosa Female College, started about 1834 by the Baptists, and operated later by the Methodists, served long and well under several changes of management. The Alabama Central Female College occupied the old capitol building from 1857 until its destruction in 1923. Several other private schools were distinguished. The public schools began the operation of a graded system in 1885 with Professor Carleton Mitchell as the first principal, and have had a steady growth until there are now twelve public schools with an enrollment of 5,340 pupils and property worth more than a million and a quarter dollars.

The city still has a number of excellent private schools. Stillman Institute, a school for Negroes supported by the Presbyterian Church, has 218 students in Junior College and 50 in high school. The Catholic Church maintains a kindergarden, elementary and high school for whites and an elementary-junior school for Negroes. The Lutheran Church supports a high school for Negroes. There are three privately operated kindergardens for whites. With federal and city support, three nursery schools operate, two for white and one for colored. These special institutions train about a thousand pupils.

THE UNIVERSITY

*"Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,
To teach the young idea how to shoot."*

—JAMES THOMPSON.

The University of Alabama has, for more than a century, been the center of Tuscaloosa's intellectual life. The influence of a number of great personalities has operated through this institution. The first president, Dr. Alva Woods, graduate of Harvard, post-graduate student in European institutions and specialist in mathematics gave the University a good start by impressing the value of deep learning upon the first group of ninety-four students who enrolled in 1831-2. Dr. Henry Tutwiler, Professor of Ancient Languages, began his services at the same time and lived to become one of

the best-known and most valuable educational figures of the South. Michael Tuomey, the geologist, revealed to Alabama the mineral wealth of the Birmingham District and of other sections. Fredrick A. P. Barnard contributed through his extraordinary talent and scholarship and then moved on to become president of Columbia University, New York. President Basil Manly, skilled executive and business man, guided the struggling institution through the dark days of panic and bankruptcy that followed the downfall of the state banks in 1837. Through all the long years when the institution was small and struggling for existence, there were great souls on the campus to guide and preserve. The work of Dr. John W. Abercrombie as president from 1901 to 1912 is notable for the fact that he made the University a leader in all types of education in Alabama, insisting that it establish summer courses to build up the training of teachers for high schools and elementary schools, and that it take the lead in gaining a complete educational system for the state. He urged that county high schools be established, and employed Professor Joel C. DuBose to tour the state pleading for secondary education. In 1907, a law providing these schools resulted. The influence of Miss Julia Strudwick Tutwiler was felt through the University, when she (in 1892) succeeded in securing the admission of women students. A few local young women enrolled between 1893 and 1898. Miss Tutwiler entered the first group of girls from her school at Livingston in 1898 and seemed justified when the first ten girls carried off 60% of the University honors, though in competition with 200 men students.

Dr. George H. Denny gave twenty-five years of amazingly effective service, building up the endowment of the institution and erecting, with negligible aid from state tax money, most of the major buildings now in use. He found a small institution when he came to Tuscaloosa in 1912 and retired from active service in 1937, leaving one of the best known universities of the country with 5,000 students.

At present the University, under the leadership of President Richard Clarke Foster, is giving training to 5,500 students. The institution consists of twelve colleges and schools. There are more than 85 imposing buildings—instructional buildings, dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses, many smaller structures, a large athletic field, a stadium seating 17,000 people, and one of the most beautiful campuses in America comprising 60 or more acres of level land. In 1939, a considerable construction program to catch up with growth is under way.

The University has become an institution of national standing and draws in large numbers from distant states. Scholastic requirements upon professors and upon students are rising each year. All factors point to a continuous and increasing growth.

All these great persons have affected the life of Tuscaloosa. They have built and strengthened the educational urge and have helped make this a community that values high things and that is conservative in the scientific sense, in that respect that causes the city to look carefully before it does any leaping.

BRYCE HOSPITAL

"Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased?"

—SHAKESPEARE.

Dr. Peter Bryce served as superintendent of the hospital for the in-

sane from its beginning in 1860 until 1892. The hospital was among the first to abolish handcuffs, straightjackets, and such devices of former years and to attempt mental healing by the "non-restraint" and activity plan. Dr. J. T. Searcy succeeded Dr. Bryce and served until 1919. He prevailed upon the legislature to establish an asylum for Negroes at Mount Vernon, near Mobile; and this branch of the state service began receiving patients in 1902. This institution has been named Searcy Hospital. From 1908, Dr. W. D. Partlow had served as assistant to Dr. Searcy; and he was elected to the head position in 1919. His long and successful service, his development of buildings and farm lands with the labor of inmates, and his contributions to the care and study of mental abnormalities has become of the outstanding achievements of the South. The labor of the patients, between 1919 and 1933, added \$1,349,000 to the value of the buildings.

Partlow Home for the feeble-minded started operation in 1923. At present there are 660 inmates of this home.

The entire system of hospitals for mental deficient is now serving 4174 white patients and 1849 Negroes, or a total of 6,123. More than 6000 acres of farm land in Tuscaloosa county help largely in supporting this population. At present a building program is in progress involving major additions to cost above \$1,000,000.

VETERANS FACILITY

The United States Veterans Facility was established in 1932; and is one of the most modern of federal hospitals. It has a bed capacity of 346, employs 316 people, and serves more than 2000 war veterans each year.

CHURCHES

Tuscaloosa has always been a city of churches and churchgoers. The Baptist denomination organized a church in Tuscaloosa in 1816; the Methodists in 1818; the Catholics in 1819; the Presbyterians in 1820; and the Episcopalians in 1828. The story of the organization and growth of all these congregations is one deserving great attention. In 1939, the denominations named above, and also the Christian Church, the Jewish Church, and other faiths in addition have one or more places of worship each in Tuscaloosa. Some of the buildings are substantial and artistic, and church membership and attendance are high.

NEWSPAPERS

The powers of the press has been felt throughout Tuscaloosa history. Beginning with *The Tuscaloosa Republican* published in 1819 and *The American Mirror* which appeared in 1820, there has been a succession of weekly, monthly, and finally daily publications. *The Tuscaloosa Times*, claiming descent from *The Flag of the Union*, founded in 1830, served as a leading publication until 1903, when the editor and owner, Mr. Richard H. Little combined *The Times* with *The Gazette* then being published by Mr. Tom Garner. *The Times* had been organized under that name in 1870 when *The Flag of the Union*, *The Independent Monitor*, and *The Observer* were merged. *The Tuscaloosa Sun* was purchased and combined with *The Times* in 1901. *The Gazette* had been organized by Mr. M. I. Burton in 1875 as successor to *The Tuscaloosa Blade*.

In 1939, the community has one newspaper, *The Tuscaloosa News*, which has succeeded all combinations, mergers, and failures of past years. *The News*, under the editorial guidance of Mr. Bruce Shelton, is one of the most vigorous and clean-cut of Alabama dailies. It serves a large list of readers in Tuscaloosa and West Alabama; and its striking comments on current affairs are widely quoted over Alabama.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Through the whole history of Tuscaloosa, the city government has been active and effective. The aldermanic system was succeeded by the commission form of government in 1911. In 1939, the city commissioners are Messrs. Luther Davis, W. H. Nicol and Frank Livingston.

POPULATION

*"The time demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and willing hands."*

—HOLLAND.

Tuscaloosa has been fortunate in the type of citizens drawn to this center by its location on the river, by the University and other institutions, by the agricultural possibilities, and by the industrial resources. The educational influence has been particularly helpful, since the people who seek university training for their children are usually of high mental and moral caliber.

Growth has been steady, but never rapid. The figures below show the gradual increase.

Population, City of Tuscaloosa

1819 -	about 600
1850 -	2600
1860 -	3989
1900 -	6271
1910 -	8256
1920 -	11,995
1930 -	20,695
1939 -	25,000 (estimate)

(5500 students and 5000 patients in hospitals are not included)

RECENT WARS

Tuscaloosa sent her full quota of men and material to aid in the Spanish American War in 1898. Major William Wadsworth Brandon, who was later to become governor of Alabama, served with distinction. Again in the World War, 1917-18, the city and county of Tuscaloosa were fully represented in the armed ranks in France. The Farley W. Moody Post of the American Legion, named for one of those who died in service, and a local unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars keep alive the memories of those conflicts. Both wars had one good affect; they eased the old strain of division between North and South and brought a fuller appreciation of our united nation.

MAJOR CELEBRATIONS

Tuscaloosa's centenary was celebrated in 1916, a grand pageant depicting the chief events of local history. In 1931, the hundred-year history of the University of Alabama was represented in another extensive piece of pageantry. Visitors from all parts of the country attended these great occasions.

AGAIN THE INDUSTRIES

*"There is always work,
And tools to work withal, for those who will;
And blessed are the horny hands of toil."*

—LOWELL.

The Tuscaloosa Times-Gazette lists the following industrial activities in 1907: large blast furnace at Holt, 95 sawmills in county, three planing mills in the city, two machine shops, M. and O. shops, 3 cotton mills, one cottonseed mill, one foundry, two cotton compresses, one salt factory at Northport, one rope mill, one hoisery mill, great activity in the lumber business, 1,041,182 tons of coal produced, 36,242 tons of pig iron, 319,692 tons of coke, and 25,740 bales of cotton.

Thus, changing in strength and in type of activity, industry has run its thread through the fabric of Tuscaloosa history.

In 1939, Tuscaloosa has a considerable number of industrial establishments suited to the region, though the depression closed several mines and other businesses. The Gulf States Paper Corporation produces paper from pine wood, using the sulphate process. This plant employs more than 850 people and turns out 200 tons of paper and 10,000,000 bags per day.

The Central Foundry Company at Holt is the largest individual soil sanitation pipe plant in the world. It employs more than a thousand men.

Nestle's Milk Products, Inc., is the only establishment in Alabama making condensed milk. It has a capacity of 200,000 pounds of milk per day.

Morgan Packing Company, Perry Creamery, Hulsart Veneer Company, Horne Veneer Company, Tennessee Corporation (making fertilizers), Tuscaloosa Cotton Oil Company, Southern Manufacturing Company (pre-fabricated houses), Tuscaloosa Compress, Tuscaloosa Heading Mill, lumber mills, bakeries, railroad shops, etc., are among other important industries. Stores and other business houses, some of which do a large business, are too numerous to mention.

Tuscaloosa's new municipal airport, Hargrove Van de Graaff Field, promises to become one the greatest industries of the region. Already student pilots are receiving training in the University School of Aeronautics combined with the government course afforded through the Alabama Institutes of Aeronautics, a branch of the Parks Air College of St. Louis, Training of army men begins in July of 1939; and soon this will be one of the busiest airports in the South. An ample landing field, the second largest hangar in the state, classroom and shop space, and other facilities make possible a great development of flying.

Farm production has fallen off seriously from the figures of the old years. For instance the annual cotton crop is eighteen to twenty-two thousand (500 lb.) bales as compared with 73,561 four-hundred pound bales

in 1850. The loss is due to soil erosion and leaching, to the development of the system of tenant farming, and, to the changes in world market. Most of the wild life has been slaughtered. A new program of conservation is a necessity.

THE RIVER

*"Rivers are highways that move on, and bear us
whither we wish to go."*

—BLAISE PASCAL.

The river, the shoals in the river, the bridges across the river, the locks and dams, the traffic tows bellowing in the night for passage, the fair coded and handsome men students who used to row canoes along our water front, the speed boats of today, the fishing facilities, the occasional flood seasons, the fights for river improvement are part and parcel of life in Tuscaloosa. Since long before Tuscaloosa was born, the Black Warrior has influenced local life and history. The Indian town was established because of the river, the whites settled with water transportation in mind, and the stream with all its associations is an integral part of Tuscaloosa's story. Navigation by cargo boats in the early years was possible for about six months in the year.

Improvement of the Warrior began with a small congressional appropriation in 1875. These first government funds were used to remove snags and other obstruction from the lower river. Citizens of today will never realize how much hard work of Tuscaloosa citizens and Alabama congressmen preceded this first governmental grant. In 1888 work was started on three locks at Tuscaloosa, Warrior Locks Nos. 1, 2, 3, (now Nos. 10, 11, 12) to make a part of the upper river navigable and particularly to reach the coal fields. Due to inadequate appropriations the construction proceeded very slowly; and each advance was made only after failures and prolonged struggles.

The three locks at Tuscaloosa were completed late in 1895; and on January 13, 1896 the first steamer, the tugboat Baltimore, passed up-river through the locks carrying a jubilant group of notables. Speeches and news items of the day called attention to the fact that Tuscaloosa would soon surpass Pittsburgh as a coal shipping point, since this city would have an all-year open river while Pittsburgh's river could serve for only five months. These three locks were the most economically built of all on the river system.

The dates and costs shown below suggest something of the long battle for a navigable Warrior:

Lock No.	In operation since	Cost	Location (Nearest town)
1	1908	\$560,290	St. Stephens
2	1914	560,114	Pennington
3	1914	609,622	Oakchia
4	1908	479,000	Demopolis
5	1908	501,000	Cedarville
6	1908	443,000	Sawyerville
7	1903	225,600	Wedgworth
8	1903	212,000	Akron

9	1903	202,000	Powers
10	1896	244,500	Tuscaloosa
11	1896	170,000	Tuscaloosa
12	1896	160,000	Tuscaloosa
13	1905	203,200	Tidewater
14	1910	414,714	Searles
15	1910	430,233	Kellerman
16	1915	520,853	Kellerman
17	1915	3,174,070	Kellerman

These seventeen locks cost the government \$9,067,356 for construction; and additional expenditures for maintenance, operation, dredging, etc. run into large figures. Iron and steel, coal, sand and gravel, forest products, and other materials have since 1924 moved along the river in amounts exceeding a million tons annually; and the traffic is increasing in 1939.

Oliver Dam and lock at Tuscaloosa is nearly complete in 1939. Built at a cost of \$3,700,000 it will speed navigation by eliminating locks 10, 11 and 12. An additional high lock and dam at Demopolis will replace three other locks.

BANKING INSTITUTIONS

*"We've got the ships, we've got the men,
we've got the money too."*

—G. W. HUNT.

Banks and building loan companies have had a substantial part in the development of the city and county. The Alabama State Bank which operated from 1826 to 1837 has been mentioned. The J. H. Fitts privately owned bank served Tuscaloosa for many years. It was reorganized and became the City National Bank in 1902. The Merchants National Bank built a handsome new building in 1887. The First National Bank under the guidance of the Moodys has been a financial force since its founding in 1871. On March 29, 1939, the two banks of Tuscaloosa showed resources as follows:

	First National Bank	City National Bank
Capital, surplus and undivided profits	\$ 643,799.76	\$ 595,054.93
Deposits	6,228,558.03	4,859,559.12
Total Resources	6,872,357.79	5,454,614.05

"The best of prophets of the future is the past."

—BYRON.

This abbreviated sketch of Tuscaloosa history must come to a close. A modern, thriving city stands where the Creeks and Choctaws once clashed for the desirable location. The river, the farm lands, the forests, and the minerals are still here as sources of possible wealth, in spite of incredible wastage. The institutions are more powerful than ever before. Industries still prosper. The river, as Bill Brandon used to put it, still "bears on its bosom the commerce of a happy people." The population is increasing in number, in educational standards, and in possibility of achievement. The trend of growth indicates that by 1950, Tuscaloosa should be a city of

forty-five to fifty thousand. Scientists prophesy a great industrial development when chemical establishments begin to transform the soft coals into dyes, tars, artificial gas and motor fuel, and into other modern essentials. The people may someday cleanse the river front of the industrial refuse and sewage from Birmingham, Holt and from local homes and establishments; and planned efforts may give Tuscaloosa again the sparkling river that the Indians knew. The University seems destined for continued growth and influence.

Many idle talents and unused resources await development. As always throughout its history, the community has an active working body of citizens who study the meanings and possibilities of local resources and who try to plan and act wisely for the days ahead. This body in the records has been called by various names—the Civic Association, the Board of Trade, the Community Development Association, the Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron and Land Company, etc.; but, still dedicated to the long task, it now respectfully signs itself

THE TUSCALOOSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
H. G. Dowling, President
1938-9

H. K. (Tom) Callahan

In 1926 when I began practicing law in Tuscaloosa, after having just graduated from the University of Alabama Law School, the local Bar, as I remember it, contained some of the State's most notable and possibly most able lawyers.

There were three or four main, what I call "important" law firms; but before I get to that, and more or less out of order, I would like to mention the names of the lawyers now living, who were here then. Besides the writer, there are only three now living: Supreme Court Justice, Judge Bob Harwood, Leigh Clark, and John Pearson, the latter whom I might mention did more to get me started than anyone else, and I shall ever be grateful to him.

But getting back to the law firms as I remember them, not in point of importance by any means, but as I remember them. Foster, Rice and Foster. It consisted of J. Manly Foster, a great lawyer who came from a family whose name is tied in with the history of Tuscaloosa County long before Alabama became a State and who was considered one of the outstanding lawyers of the State, Fleetwood Rice, also a great lawyer, who was born and raised in Northport, and whose name has been associated with the history of Tuscaloosa County for hundreds of years and of course Richard Foster, who was the son of J. Manly Foster and was an outstanding lawyer in his own right, but cultivated friendship with the public more than either of the other two. Dick Foster, as he was generally known, was later chosen President of the University of Alabama, where he served with distinction until he was stricken with polio and died while still President of the University, and while quite young.

Then there was the firm of Harwood, and McQueen, widely known and highly regarded all over the State, and if my memory

2

serves me correctly, both Judge Bernard Harwood and John McQueen came to this county from Greene County. They tried cases in this county and four or five counties surrounding Tuscaloosa. Mr. McQueen, his wife and two sons all died within a period of just a few years of each other. Bernard Harwood had once been Circuit Judge but that was before my day. He was the father of Supreme Court Justice, Bob Harwood, and grandfather of Bernie Harwood, a present member of the Tuscaloosa Bar and certainly a credit to their name. Both the above firms were highly regarded in this State and tried many cases in the surrounding counties.

H.A. and D.K. Jones was a father and son partnership. They worked from daylight to dark and then carried work home with them. They opposed closing for holidays and never engaged in any frivolity. They were quite a successful law firm and had many corporate clients. So far as I can learn Devane was an only child. When he died he left one or more daughters and they live in Tuscaloosa, but I do not know the name of but one. She is Alice McLean Stewart. A very fine and likable lady, who is quite evident in the social life in the City of Tuscaloosa.

There was a firm of Brown and Ward, consisting of Robison Brown and Tom Ward. Robison Brown came from one of the oldest families in the county, a man of small stature, but a spitfire lawyer. He had a high temper, was fast on his feet, and never at a loss for words. Sometime after I came on the scene he retired from practicing law and took the position with the University of Alabama, as land commissioner and secretary to the Board of Trustees, which position he held with distinction until he either retired or died some years later. He left a son, Robison Brown,

Jr., who was a distinguished naval officer and a daughter who became the wife of a local minister, Rev. W.K.E. James, a local Baptist minister. Tom Ward, Sr., the other member, continued to practice law until his death. He had served as a member of the legislature and later served a few years as Circuit Judge but never ran for a full term. He was a distinguished lawyer, and a non-quitter. He would argue before the Judge until sometimes the Judge would order him to sit down. Once a Federal Judge informed him at the end of trial, "Mr. Ward, you have five minutes to address the jury". He arose to his feet and addressed the Judge, begging him for more time, informing the Judge he could not do justice in five minutes. The Judge replied, "Mr. Ward, one minute of your five minutes has already gone". Mr. Ward left two sons and one daughter. His son Tom B Ward, Jr. continues to practice law in Tuscaloosa. His daughter married a lawyer in Birmingham. If my memory serves me correctly his name is Joe Wallace. Tom Ward and his younger brother, J. Monroe Ward never went into practice with each other, although their offices were always very close. Monroe Ward later became prosecuting attorney for this Circuit. Monroe left a son named James, who worked many years at the Tuscaloosa News, and I do not know if he is still there. He also left a highly talented daughter, who married the son of another lawyer, later mentioned. Her name is Amanda, and she is a teacher of piano at the University School of Music. She is very talented and highly regarded in music circles. Her husband is the son of Clifton Penick, an attorney.

The law firm of Clarkson and Penick was here when I entered and was together until Mr. Clarkson died. Edgar Clarkson was

4

4

a great lawyer and a very powerful prosecuting attorney. He was prosecuting attorney for many years. At that time a prosecuting attorney also engaged in private practice and he and Penick practiced for many years together and were highly regarded by other lawyers and the general public. Edgar Clarkson left two daughters; Sue, who married Reese Phifer, who at the time of their marriage was a lawyer and is now the owner and manager of Phifer Wire Products; the other daughter married the son of Tom Beauchamp, former manager of Alabama Power.

Mr. Clifton Penick was more of an office lawyer than a courtroom lawyer and he did a great deal of title work and practiced real estate law. He was quiet, polite, easy going, and highly educated. If my memory serves me correctly, his father was an Episcopal Minister of quite some repute. Some time in latter years, Mr. Penick wrote a very interesting and entertaining column for the Tuscaloosa News, called "Entre Nous". I have probably spelled it wrong, but it was a french phrase meaning, "between ourselves". On one occasion, he looked out of his window, from the Alston Building, across Greensboro Avenue, and noticed a swarm of bees had settled on the electirc wire running down the middle of the street. He wrote his entire column that day, concerning the activities of those bees. It was one of the most interesting and widely read columns that he ever wrote.

E.L. Dodson, sometimes referred to as Lee Dodson, was here when I came and as far as I remember he never had a law partner, although at one time it is possible that he had a partner by the name of Trawick. Mr. Dodson at one time served as City Judge and served one term in the State Legislature. He came from Fayette

5

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County, Alabama, where he grew up in Mt. Vernon, the same place where my mother-in-law grew up and they had some "dates", but it never developed into anything serious. As I remember, Mr. Dodson practiced alone and went along in his quiet way and was more or less successful but was more widely known as a "Baptist" than as a lawyer. Mr. Dodson lost one son in the war, and as I remember it, he had one or two sons survive him and also a daughter, but I have no idea where they are.

The next lawyer I remember is a man close to my heart and the finest, knock down, drag out, lawyer at the Bar, who everybody loved; a gentle, kind, sweet man and as mean as a snake, all wrapped up in one, was John R. Bealle. He could use twenty-nine curse words in thirteen seconds, and would do you a favor at the drop of a hat, a little favor or big favor, it made no difference to John. He was Assistant Solicitor, claims attorney for M & O Railroad for many years and got along well with everyone. He was referee in Bankruptcy and later became the first Judge of the Inferior Court of Tuscaloosa, which is now known as District Judge. He truly was the most unforgettable and most lovable character I've ever known. He was a natural lawyer, and he was a great lawyer. He could come into Court without any preparation and beat the lawyer on the other side with the use of the other lawyer's witnesses and law books. He was really that good. He would hobnob with congressmen and senators in Washington, D.C. as readily and as easily as if he were hobnobbing with a Justice of Peace in Beat Four. He left one son, Rufus Bealle, who served at the University of Alabama many years and at one time was Assistant Solicitor and who is now practicing law in Tuscaloosa.

6

he has a grandson to whom I am very partial because he is a fiddler of quite some excellence. His name also is John Bealle.

The above mentioned John Bealle had a brother-in-law here when I started out. Although John Bealle and Liston Bell were close friends they never became partners. Liston was easy going and filled with laughter and worked hard. He was strictly honest and straight in every way and he knew a great deal of law at his fingertips. On many occasions the Judges would seek his opinion. As far as I know he left no children.

I've already mentioned John Pearson, who was here when I came, and I would like to add about John that he was and is one of the finest gentlemen I've ever known. He was helpful to me and secured me a connection with a firm (not a law firm) that paid me a salary for many years, which I might add kept me eating. One day I was in his office and he said he wanted to give me some advise, "Don't ever get married and don't ever get into politics". In less than six months, John had not only gotten married but he was engaged in a redhot race for City Commissioner against a political ring, which had been in power for many years. He was elected and made one of the best City Commissioner's we've ever had. John is still living and is still married to that same beautiful wife, however they have no children.

John Pearson had an older brother, who was a lawyer, who did not engage in general practice, but confined his practice to savings and loan and Duckworth Morris Insurance, Spencer Pearson died unmarried, many years ago.

I've already mentioned Bob Harwood, but only in passing.

7

job graduated a few months before I, due to the fact that he went to summer school. He went into practice with his father, and John McQueen, but only remained there a short while after which he set out on his own. He ran for the Legislature and was elected and later ran for Attorney General of Alabama and was elected and the war came on and he served in the Armed Services for the duration and when he returned, or shortly thereafter, he was appointed to the Court of Appeals and later to the Supreme Court. Both positions he filled with honor and distinction and until his retirement and now he and his wife reside in Tuscaloosa. They are the parents of Bernard Harwood, local attorney, Bernard being the third generation of lawyers, with the same name, and I might add, carrying on the tradition in a fine manner.

R.C. (Red) Price had only been practicing one or two years when I came, and somewhere down the line he became City Judge. When he and Judge W.C. Warren were returning from a hunting or fishing trip, they apparently ran out of gas. Judge Price stood on the gas tank which was attached to the back of the vehicle, and jumped up and down to see if he could hear any gas in the tank. While doing so, the vehicle was struck in the rear by a speeding vehicle with such force that his lower limbs were mutilated to such an extent that both had to be amputated. He called in a secretary, dictated his Will, attended to some other personal matters and told the people around him he did not wish to live without legs, and calmly died. He left no children.

When I graduated in 1926, Gordon Madison and W. Charlie Warren had been out of law school only a few years and they practiced law together. Shortly after that Warren was elected to

8

8

he State Senate and he and Gordon Madison separated and went their respective ways. Gordon joined Foster, Rice and Foster, and Warren joined with the attorney, Reuben H. Wright. Later, Madison served in the State Senate one term and then joined the staff of the Attorney General and remained there until he reached the age of retirement, after which he returned to live out the remainder of his life. Gordon left several sons, most of whom are now in Tuscaloosa and one daughter, whose name is Martha, and who is now married to a Commander in the Navy and they are stationed somewhere in Virginia. During his tenure in the office of Assistant Attorney General, he represented the State in all its civil rights litigation. Although Gordon gave the State able representation, it was mostly without avail as the outcome was almost a foregone conclusion.

W. Charlie Warren had worked in the post office during the entire time he was at the University of Alabama and supported himself and wife and some children and went to school and with all the work load that he carried he managed to make extremely high grades, both in college and in law school. After he left the practice with Gordon Madison, as I already said, he continued to practice with Reuben H. Wright until a few years later and he was elected to the State Senate and served two consecutive terms, after which he was elected as Circuit Judge in Tuscaloosa and served until he passed the age of retirement. He was very patient and kind as a Judge as long as the lawyer tended to treat him right, but if any lawyer attempted to "put something over on him", he would show his temper and give such a tongue lashing that it would not soon be forgotten. Judge Warren left some daughters, but

9

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10 sons. Judge Warren boasted that he came from "up on Sand Mountain" and he very often mentioned the fact that he did not come to the University until he was thirty-five years of age, but that he came as soon as he heard about it.

Jim Rice was not a member of Foster, Rice and Foster, but his brother was Fleetwood Rice, a great lawyer in his own right. He was the type of lawyer that Jim Folsom was a politician. He knew a folksy tale to tell to fit every occasion and he always kept the jury in the palm of his hand. He was tall, uncouth, lean and lanky, "smart as a whip", and was well versed in every "trick of the trade". When he and his brother tangled in Court the fur would fly and both could be heard all over the Courthouse. The country people all loved him and the City people all respected him. When he addressed a jury he would quote poetry and tell tall tales and when he got through it was too wet to plow for the other side. Later on in life he was appointed to the Court of Appeals and remained there as long as he lived. Whenever he heard of anyone being in Montgomery from Tuscaloosa, he would insist on their coming by and chatting with him at length. So far as I know he had no children.

F.F. Windham and William Adams. They were not partners, but I lump them together for the simple reason that they were both very, very colorful characters.

Festus Ferdinand Windham, although a school teacher, who taught school in the summer, in order to go to law school in the winter, and should have known better, "butchered the Queen's English". He used big words and got them so much out of place and mispronounced them so badly that no one could tell what he

14

was talking about. On one occasion in addressing the jury, he wanted to describe a lady's waist, as being "crepe de Chine", but he kept on calling it "crepe machine". He tried more cases than any five lawyers at the Bar combined. He won about one out of twenty, but it did not phase him a bit. The most famous criminal case he ever tried was his defense of Doc Bigham, a man tried for murder for having killed P.M. Watts, who was sheriff of Tuscaloosa County at the time. Doc Bigham was the last man ever hanged in the Tuscaloosa County Jail. Windham migrated from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham, where he practiced law for a few years but returned to Tuscaloosa where he remained until he died. He left surviving him a daughter. I do not know her name.

William Adams was a little wisp of a man, as I remember him. He weighed possibly 125 pounds wringing wet, had a red moustache, which he kept very red by virtue of the fact that he kept a chew of tobacco in his mouth at all times and the juice not only spilled on his moustache but onto his necktie and vest. Never a session of court came but what he tried one or two cases, and always for the same client. His client was Mr. Tillery, who was a dealer in junk and who loved to litigate and it was his fees that probably kept Mr. Adams going. Mr. Tillery and his wife were getting a divorce and Mr. Adams tried that case for months and months, maybe even years, but every court session, Mr. Tillery and Mr. Adams would show up. He was the father-in-law of Cade Verner, a long time prominent citizen of Tuscaloosa.

Adrian Vandegraaf was an unmarried man, the end of the line of a long line of wealthy, southern aristocrats, who had about run out of money and prestige. Adrian was smart as could be,

11

out so far as I remember, never tried a case. He practiced alone, knew more law than most any lawyer at the Bar, he helped other lawyers to try cases, and worked up law for others. Lawyers and Judges alike sought his advice and opinion on intricate legal questions, but he didn't care too much about working or appearing in Court. He drank excessively and kept a bottle at his desk at all times. He was finally found dead at his desk. There were rumors of suicide but they never got beyond the rumor stage and no one knows the exact truth.

Edward deGraffenried and W.J. (Bill) Foster formed a partnership shortly after I came on the scene. Ed deGraffenried was the son of a great lawyer who had been practicing law in Eutaw and Greensboro, most of his life, and spent his latter years engaged in the law practice in Tuscaloosa and passed away on the steps of the Greensboro Courthouse, after having delivered a great oration to a jury there. "Mr. Ed", as I always called him, was a brilliant lawyer, the best dressed lawyer at the Bar, always immaculate in his appearance. He developed a reputation as being the best orator before a jury at the Tuscaloosa Bar. He had a very keen mind and as I said about Judge Bealle, he could take the other fellow's books and beat him in court and as one defense counsel expressed it, "He was like a cat with nine lives". You would think you had him out of court when he would come up with something new and give you a licking of your life. He was elected prosecuting attorney and served several terms and he very seldom lost a case that he was prosecuting. Later he served two terms as a member of Congress from this district, after which he returned to Tuscaloosa to the private practice of law where he

remained until his health failed and it was necessary for him to retire. When he passed away he left surviving him four sons and one daughter. Two of his sons were gifted lawyers. One son, Ryan, served two or three terms in the Legislature and was a very formidable candidate for governor of Alabama when he was killed in an airplane wreck while campaigning. His other son, Jeff, was a prominent lawyer, but died quite young. His son, Christopher, lives in Birmingham and his son Ed deGraffenried, Jr. lives in California and is a writer. His only daughter's name is Grace and she is married to a man by the name of Baswell and they live in Huntsveill, Alabama. At one time he was a law partner with this writer and later became a partner with E.W. Skidmore.

We now come to William J. (Bill) Foster. I just recently finished reading a seventy-one page book by Dr. L.O. Dawson called, "A State, A Father, and A Son". The dedication is "To the Tuscaloosa County Fosters and may their tribe never grow less". I have read this book several times, and the more I read it the more fascinating it becomes. It is the complete history of the Foster Family from Tuscaloosa. Bill was the son of Judge Henry Foster, who was the only Circuit Judge here in 1926, and was the only one for quite a few years after. Bill became the partner of Ed deGraffenried and took the position as Assistant Solicitor and prosecuted all the cases in the Inferior Court and assisted Mr. Ed in the prosecution of all cases in Circuit Court. They made an unbeatable combination. Bill was honest, hard working, and straight, but he was easy to settle a case with. He was always courteous to other lawyers and they all loved him. Although he was successful as a lawyer, times were pretty hard and he took

the position as attorney for the Department of Agriculture under the Roosevelt Administration and remained with it, with honor and distinction, until he reached the age of retirement after which he returned to Tuscaloosa and became Assistant Solicitor again, a position he held with Fred Nicol until he passed away. His beautiful and charming wife still resides in Tuscaloosa. Bill left some sons but I never met any of them and they haven't lived in Alabama since they became grown.

Herbert Findley was the first lawyer with whom I was acquainted. He more or less, having been raised across the field from my home at what was known then as the "Findley Place", but now is known as "Woodmont". Herbert practiced law alone and did quite well as a lawyer until he became the Judge of the Inferior Court, a judgeship which he held until he resigned to take a position teaching at the University of Alabama. Judge Findley was small of stature, but had a smart, quick mind and was frequently called in by other judges on questions of law. He was highly regarded by other members of his profession, but was not very aggressive in the Courtroom. He was, however, considered successful as a lawyer and as a judge. He loved the outdoors. He loved to hunt and fish and had many friends among doctors, lawyers and others among the fox hunters. He left one son, Dr. Lyman Findley, and one daughter, Ann Shores, who is a registered nurse in Birmingham.

The next lawyer I will mention only remained in Tuscaloosa for a short while and spent most of his time trying cases and fighting with the City Judge. His name is Leigh Clark, who left Tuscaloosa, went to practice in Birmingham and soon was elected

Circuit Judge there and was re-elected many times until his retirement. He still resides in Birmingham.

The Livingston Brothers, Ed and Frank, were here when I started and they practiced together, Frank fulltime and Ed parttime. Ed spent parttime teaching at the law school and he would stop and have "bull sessions" with bunches of the students where ever they were gathered and always kept himself on the same level with the students. Everywhere you go in Alabama, you come in contact with one or more of "his boys" and they tell you they learned more from Ed Livingston than any teacher in school. After a few years of this, he became a candidate for the Supreme Court. Is it any wonder that he carried every county in the State. Need I say more about Mr. Ed? He continued to serve with great distinction, both as Associate Justice and Chief Justice until he passed the age of retirement. He became famous as an after dinner speaker and was sought after constantly by many organizations. He left two sons, both of who are distinguished lawyers in Alabama.

Frank Livingston, the younger brother of Mr. Ed, continued to practice law alone after Mr. Ed became a Supreme Court Justice and later was elected to the office of City Commissioner, where he served with honor and distinction until his death. He left no children.

W.T. Smith was with the Livingston Brothers for a short period, but all I remember about him is that for a while he was a City Judge, after which I believe he moved away from Tuscaloosa, and possibly went to practice law in Montgomery.

Mr. Sam Henry Sprott from the time of my graduation in 1926

10
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15

until his death a few short years ago, was attorney for the City of Tuscaloosa, both civil law as well as being prosecuting in City Court. In addition to this position, he was, during most of that time a United States Commissioner, which as he explained to me, was to the federal system the same as Justice of the Peace, in those days, was to the state system. He issued federal warrants, held preliminary hearings, fixed bonds and approved bonds in federal cases. Ninety percent of those cases had to do with liquor in some way. Mr. Sprott was the son of the former Circuit Judge, who is long since deceased. Mr. Sprott himself had at one time been mayor of the City of Tuscaloosa. He knew more municipal law than probably any other lawyer in the state. He was much of a gentlemen, kind, gentle and patient. He was especially kind to the poor and ignorant. Many times I have seen him let prisoners go on their own bond just so they could be with their families for Christmas - mostly whiskey runners and distillers - he knew they would appear in court and the Judge would probably put them on probation. Mr. Sprott was a great man and had the respect of every member of the local Bar and many times I've seen Judges and other lawyers call him in on questions of municipal law. When he passed away he left no sons or daughters.

REUBEN H. WRIGHT:

The last lawyer that I will mention in these "thumbnail sketches", is Reuben H. Wright, "of whom", to use a phrase coined by Henry Vance, "there is no whomer". In my estimation he was the best all around lawyer at the Bar when I came on the scene, and he was still the best years later, at the time

14
of his death.

I feel about him like Senator Sam Erving said about the death of Senator Jim Allen of Alabama:

"If I and one other were the only two people left fighting the battle of Armageddon, I would want the other fellow to be Jim Allen standing by my side."

Truly the psalmist had Mr. Wright in mind when in the first Psalm he wrote, "and he shall be like a tree planted by rivers of water".

When Mr. Wright walked into a courtroom he exuded strength and confidence and demanded and received respect from lawyers and judges alike. He never came into Court unprepared, and "locked horns" with the best lawyers that the State of Alabama had to offer and he always held his own.

He treated all his clients alike, whether rich or poor, educated or ignorant

He was kind and gentle with his secretaries, and was always solicitous of the welfare of them and their families. He did hundreds of little favors for people that no one ever heard about. On one occasion, after I had practiced law for several years and dollars were hard to come by, I failed for a time to pay my law license. I was involved in a very important case and was winning on every hand, when suddenly the lawyer on the other side filed a motion to have me taken off the case, because I failed to pay my license. Mr. Wright heard about it, went in and paid my license, brought it to me and said nothing. He probably forgot it the next day, but I never have forgotten it.

Mr. Wright was not only a fine lawyer, but was very public

spirited. He was almost single handedly responsible for the bridge across the Warrior River, which bears the name of Woolsey Finnell. He worked hard day and night for improvements of the roads and the river. He was a long time member of the City School Board and breathed the breath of life into this Board. He was farsighted enough to cause the Board to buy land where Central High School East is located and when land could be bought at a reasonable price. He foresaw the Supreme Court's decision concerning equal but separate facilities and caused Druid High School to be built according to the exact specifications of Tuscaloosa High School.

He wrote the Bill which was introduced and passed, creating the new Druid City Hospital, in which a non-political board was set up to run it.

Mr. Wright was interested in politics all of his life, but always for the other fellow, until one day, like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky, he was appointed Circuit Judge, a position he held with great honor and distinction until his death.

Although there are no buildings, bridges, or highways named in his honor, there should be, and there are no monuments erected to his memory, and there should be. He left two mounments that will do him honor and credit for many years to come; a son, George S. Wright, a distinguished lawyer and now Judge of the Bankruptcy Court, and a daughter, Camille Wright Cook, a distinguished lawyer and now Associate Dean of the University of Alabama Law School. Mr. Wright would not have asked for anything more.

No thumbnail biographical sketch concerning the Bar of 1926 would be complete, and certinally I would be derelict in my Loyalties and appreciation without mentioning four of the finest legal secretaries, who ever lived. Of course, Mrs. Annie Belle Whitson worked for the firm of Foster, Rice and Foster. She was there when I came and she remained there until long past the age of retirement.

Miss Lucy Barnes was the secretary to the firm of Harwood and McQueen, and so far as I know, that was the only job she ever had. She knew as much about their business as they did. She was down the hall from me, about three doors, and helped me a great deal by furnishing me with forms for various kinds of documents, which she could find at a moment's notice. She worked there literally "all her life", and now lives in retirement at her old home place in Gordo. I owe her a deep debt of gratitufe and I shall never forget her. She helped to train Bob Harwood and two of the McQueen boys and she did a good job on all three.

The third member was Miss Catherine Seale, who at the time I began practicing law, was an unmarried lady and was employed by the firm of deGraffenried and Foster. Since she was across the hall from me in the First National Bank Building, she did a lot of free work for me, for which I am deeply grateful. She later married Melvin Thomas and she and Melvin are still together after many years. They are the parents of one daughter. "Miss Catherine", as I always called her, was later employed by H.A. and D.K. Jones, and was employed by Charlie Gross, at the time of his death.

The fourth lady that I care to mention spent her entire life

working for Reuben Wright and so far as I know that was the only job she ever had. She was Miss Jeanetta Jeffrey, and was known and admired by every member of the Tuscaloosa Bar. She was good to Mr. Wright, and she was good to the public and all in all she was a very fine secretary.

When I graduated, as I said, in 1926, the mayor of Northport was Hyde Shepherd. The City Commission of Tuscaloosa consisted of Norfleet Harris, Luther Davis and Hugh Prince. The Chief of Police for Tuscaloosa was A.L. McDuff and the Chief of the Fire Department was the father of Justice Sam Beatty, Mr. Eugene C. Beatty.

The Governor of Alabama was Bill Brandon, from Tuscaloosa. The Superintendent of Bryce Hospital was Dr. W.D. Partlow. The President of the University of Alabama was Dr. George H. Denny.

The local heroes from the Crimson Tide, who had just won their first Rose Bowl game, and under Coach Wallace Wade, were Johnny Mack Brown, "The Dothan Antelope", the son-in-law of Judge Henry Foster, Wu Winslett, and Grant Gillis.

The Circuit Judge was the Honorable Henry Bacon Foster. The Probate Judge was Woolsey Finnell. The Sheriff of Tuscaloosa County was either Bud Kyle or Foster King. The pastor of the First Baptist Church was Dr. L.O. Dawson. The pastor of the First Presbyterian Church was Dr. Charles Morgan Boyd. Local transportation consisted of trolley cars, otherwise referred to as street cars, running from various points in Tuscaloosa to Holt. The superintendent for Tuscaloosa City Schools was Dr. John M. Burnett and the superintendent for Tuscaloosa County Schools was Dr.D.L. Smith. The dean of the Law School was, Dean A.J. Farrah,

21

who taught me constitutional and contract law, and who on many occasions stated,

"The law is a jealous mistress",

and further,

"If you look after your law practice, your law practice will look after you."

The Chairman of the Tuscaloosa County Democratic Executive Committee was Richard Foster and the secretary to the committee was the Honorable S.D. McGee, who was also the tax collector. The Tax Assessor was George D. Johnston.

Buck Oliver from Tuscaloosa was Congressman. James C. Brown was the Register in Chancery and his brother, Pelham Brown, did all the work.

The president of the First National Bank was Frank Moody. The president of Merchants Bank and Trust Company was Charlie Verner, and the president of, what was then City National Bank, was R.H. Cochrane. The manager of Alabama Power Company was Tom Beauchamp and the manager of the Telephone Company was Ben Cabell.

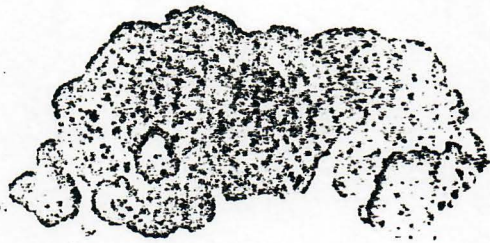
Some of the more prominent physicians were, Dr. Alston Maxwell, Dr. Maxwell Moody, Dr. J.E. Shirley, Dr. Harvey B. Searcy, who I might mention was considered the greatest Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat doctor in the south, at that time. Dr. Grover Shamblin was just reaching his prominence, and when he died recently, he had just passed his ninetieth birthday. Dr. Henry Goode had just come upon the scene, Dr. Sam Bealle, Dr. George Rau, Dr. T.H. Patton, who is the father of the local Dr. Bebo Patton, and last in my memory, but certainly not by any means least, Dr. S.T. Hardin, who for many years was coroner here.

120
Aaron Miller was the owner/operator of the Tuscaloosa News.

That was the year Hugo Black was elected to the United States Senate, Charlie McCall was elected as Attorney General and Bibb Graves was elected as Governor of Alabama. I might add that all three were elected on the Ku Klux Klan ticket.

In the words of Walter Cronkite, "and that's the way it was."

1. Bob Harwood
2. John Pearson
3. J. Manly Foster
4. Fleetwood Rice
5. Richard (Dick) Foster
6. Bernard Harwood
7. John McQueen
8. H.A. Jones
9. D.K. Jones
10. Tom Ward, Sr.
11. Robison Brown
12. Edgar Clarkson
13. Clifton Penick
14. E.L. Dodson
15. John R. Bealle
16. Liston Bell
17. Spencer Pearson
18. R.C. (Red) Price
19. W. Charlie Warren
20. Gordon Madison
21. Reuben H. Wright
22. Jim Rice
23. William Adams
24. Festus Ferdinand Windham
25. Adrian Vandebraaf
26. Edward deGraffenried
27. W.J. (Bill) Foster
28. Herbert Findley
29. Leigh Clark
30. Ed Livingston
31. Frank Livingston
32. W.T. Smith
33. Sam Henry Sprott



John Pearson

TUSCALOOSA B. C. C.
(Before Country Clubs)

From time to time, the writer is asked to write down some of the facts he recalls or has knowledge of regarding the life style and the entertainment which was available to the people of Tuscaloosa in the early 1900's. Naturally, anything I write will be based on observations made by me as a small boy and the facts which have been conveyed to me by conversations with those somewhat older than I am.

There has been called to my attention the fact that while some historians have recorded various events in the history of the City, the social life and available entertainment has been somewhat neglected, so the facts to be expressed in this article must be recognized as the way it was seen and heard by the writer and could be captioned TUSCALOOSA B. C. C. - "Tuscaloosa Before Country Clubs."

Entertainment most always involved travel and for the purpose of getting some idea of how Tuscaloosans traveled in those days before the Country Club era, I might remind you that the transportation of the people in and out of Tuscaloosa was chiefly by rail. The Alabama Great Southern Railroad which is now called the Southern and the M&O which is now called the Gulf Illinois Central and the L&N Railroad provided the most frequent and dependable transportation to and out of Tuscaloosa. The McLester Hotel operated a bus for the transfer of passengers between the railroad stations.

Perhaps some remarks about the old McLester Hotel would be appropriate here. According to my earliest recollection, the hotel was located on the Northwest Corner of the intersection of Greensboro Avenue and 6th Street. The hotel building faced east and it was about four stories high. I think there were approximately 160 rooms.

The E.N.C. Snow family owned the hotel building and Mr. Henry Snow was the manager. Mr. E.N.C. Snow operated a retail shoe store in the north section of the ground floor.

Mr. Henry Snow employed only colored men as waiters in the dining room of the hotel and he had a shower room back of the main hotel building and he required these waiters to take a shower before they put on their uniforms they wore while serving meals.

Mr. Henry Snow died when I was about 10 or 12 years of age and Mr. Lester Snow, who was a lawyer, took over the operation with Mr. J. A. Gilder as the manager. My brother, Spencer J. Pearson, was associated with Mr. Lester Snow in the practice of law. Mr. Henry Snow married Miss Abbie Searcy who was the mother of Mrs. Leslie Dee and Mr. Henry Snow who served with the FBI many years ago. He also was the father of Dr. James Snow of this city. Mr. Lester Snow married Miss Mary Nuzum, the mother of McLester Snow who, I believe, lives in or near Mobile, Alabama. I still have a very warm spot in my heart for Mrs. E.N.C. Snow who lived on the block where the court house now stands. I delivered newspapers to Mrs. Snow who very often would leave a plate of cake on her door step for me - that still is a very effective way to evoke the love and admiration of a boy.

While on the subject of hotels, I must mention the old Washington Hotel which stood on the Southwest Corner of the intersection of Broad Street and 22nd Avenue. This was a three story, brick structure and I recall more about the demolition of the building than about the appearance. I do not know who operated this hotel but I think it was owned by the Moody family and perhaps was operated or managed by a Mr. Purser who married a sister of Mr. Frank Moody, the grandfather of Frank M. Moody, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the First National Bank. I do recall that many years after the demolition

of the hotel, the home of Mrs. Purser, which was located on the Southeast corner of the intersection of 7th Street and 22nd Avenue, I found an old Washington Hotel Register which indicated that Sam Sprott was there for dinner and a certain date; that F. G. Blair was a guest for dinner on a certain day, but I failed to take this register and preserve it and I have always regretted it; much information might have been gleaned from it.

Some of us can remember the Tuscaloosa Belt Railway which was the proud owner and possessor of the "dummy", a steam powered locomotive which pulled open cars which encircled this City, and finally was extended out as far as Riverview and Holt. Mr. Marvin Copeland, the father of Olmstead Copeland and Marvin Copeland, Jr., had some official connection with the Belt Railway but I do not know what his connection was. This railway was later electrified by Mr. Ross before the Alabama Power Company bought it, but the automobile dealt a fatal blow to the electric cars. So, transportation has been part of the scene for many years as imperfect as it may have been.

I cannot recall horse-drawn or mule-drawn vehicles but I do remember that the cars which were drawn by the animals were parked in an old vacant lot located between 8th and 9th Streets on the west side of 14th Avenue. I was told by Mr. George Johnston, Tax Assessor for many years, that these horse-drawn cars ran on wooden tracks and from the barn where they were parked, a track extended along 8th Street west to Greensboro Avenue, and then north to Broad Street.

The cars referred to were parked and as children we played on them, but did not know exactly why they were there. Most everybody knows that former Governor W. W. Brandon was a driver of a mule car before he became a legislator and then the governor.

Most people owned horses and carriages which were prized possessions and status symbols much as automobiles came to be status symbols after the horse and buggy days. Mrs. M. T. Jemison owned and operated an electric car which was powered by batteries. With transportation there were many opportunities for entertainment. I think that fact is still true and the average youngster today will agree that transportation is a "must."

Today, there are three or more country clubs in Tuscaloosa and it might first seem that life was dull with nothing to do before they were organized. Let's think of entertainment in the early 1900's here in Tuscaloosa.

True, there were no parks, as such, but a number of clubs furnished and provided entertainment among which was the "Barge." This barge was a houseboat that was owned by a group of people and which was parked on the north side of the river about opposite where the government shops are now located on 21st Avenue. This barge was anchored in a shady place on the north side of the river and the members or owners and their friends would go to the Barge which had an enclosure or pen of a kind where the youngsters could swim and not be in danger of drowning. Most of the swimming of the adults was done in the river. The barge was used for changing into bathing suits.

It was necessary to cross the river to the barge from 21st Avenue in a skiff and Mr. Jim Fitts and John Donoho, both of whom were connected with the City National Bank, one day wanted to leave the barge. They got Admiral "Cat" Brown and me to go with them in the skiff to the south bank of the river so we could return the skiff back to the barge. We did this, but we were losing ground and the boat was drifting toward the dam when a man from a government dredge boat came in a skiff and rescued us before we got too much into the force of the downstream and over the dam. It could have been fatal had our skiff gone over the dam.

In the vicinity of the "Barge" on the north side of the river was Spencers Mill Creek. The water was clear, clean and cool and finally this spot became more popular than the barge. Automobiles were growing in number and people could drive almost to the diving board in their cars and, of course, they were not going to row across the river to get to the barge.

Another activity which was only little appreciated by most of the people of my age in those days was the "Chataqua." This consisted of lectures and musical events and plays held on the University campus under canvas. I can recall having attended one or two of these performances which were not very exciting entertainment for a boy my age. Needless to say, we avoided these programs which were often based on Shakespere's works such as "Taming a Shrew."

There were also annual performances by a traveling show called W. I. Swain - they produced "shoot 'em ups" and mystery murders - and my recollection is that they had two or three different programs each week. The last performance I recall was under a tent located on 5th Street between 26th and 27th Avenues, and, of course, they were highly entertaining. The young people were especially anxious to get to the W. I. Swain shows on Friday night as they always had a drawing and gave away prizes.

An event that came along occasionally was the "street fair." The "street fair" was held in the middle of the street as the phrase implies. I know on one occasion the tents and other properties of the fair extended from the intersection of Greensboro Avenue and Broad Street to 6th or 7th Street. Can you imagine the "high diver" and the merry-go-round in the middle of the street? It just simply couldn't happen now. I also recall a street fair that was held on 23 Avenue between Broad Street and 6th Street, and, of course, these performances of all kinds and types were most entertaining and thrilling, especially to the youth of the city. There were many "educational" events such as the "dance of the seven veils."

A place of amusement not often mentioned and really known to but few at this late day was the "Airdrome" so named because there was no roof on the site. This was a silent movie house and the patrons sat under the stars on very crude benches and not only saw the cowboy and Indian fights but were also subjected to continuous flickering of lights and clicking of the motion picture machines. This was located on Broad Street at the intersection of 22nd Avenue which location is now occupied by Perry Creamery Company. The show was operated by Joe Saks, who operated a store where Pizitz is now, and I think Mr. C. C. Simpson, both of whom are now deceased. Mr. Simpson owned and operated a laundry and dry cleaning business; also, a bill board advertising business.

Another place of amusement must be included in this. It was the Skating Rink on the property south of 10th Street and east of 10th Avenue which is now owned by the University of Alabama and is the location of a public school.

The Skating Rink was operated by Sage Monnish, the son of Mr. F. W. Monnish who was a real estate developer and who owned most of the stock in the East End Realty Company and the Tuscaloosa Coal Iron and Land Company. This skating rink was "way out" from town but it was accessible by the old "Dummy" which was owned by Mr. Monnish and his associates. The site of the rink was low and much water accumulated on it when it rained. I am told the water sometimes froze in winter and permitted ice skating. As skating became less popular, it was used as a dance hall and some of the University of Alabama fraternity dances were held at the rink. I skated some there but never did dance.

One place of amusement which was not very long-lived was a dance club operated by Eugene McCarty on the top floor of the Alston Building. Gene was a dance teacher and also operated a taxi business. The top floor was very ornate but his venture did not last long.

At one time there was a movie show in the building occupied by Kress and then by Black-Friedman and Winston on the west side of Greensboro Avenue at Broad and 6th Streets. This show was operated by Simon Mayer and Dave Cypress. Dave was a singer and Simon a comedian. I do not recall that they put on an act as a team but they performed separately. Another movie was in the Old City Hall on the corner of 6th Street and Greensboro. It was just south of the Bama Theatre as it is located today.

For a town the size of Tuscaloosa, the circus was a big day. I can recall what a great privilege it was and how much excitement there was attached to watching the circus unload. The last one I saw unload was moved from the railroad cars for its performance to a field in what is known as Cherokee Plaza which is now cut through by 9th Street. It was west of M&O railroad track and in that section which is south of the area known as 9th street and the viaduct and north of 15th Street. This was a large Ringland Brothers circus. I think the traveling manager of it was a Rotarian in his home community. He entertained the members of the Rotary Club for dinner and this circus and the event seems to me worth relating.

The tableware, food, and service was certainly above and beyond our expectations. The finest imported china and elaborate table cloths were used. Handsome silver knives and forks and all the services that accompany a real meal and a real fashionable dining room were used to serve the delicious food. This circus dinner was greatly enjoyed by the Rotarians with a great deal of surprise.

Another source of entertainment which should be remembered by a great many, is the shows that were given in the old "Flks Theatre" which is now the Alta Apartments at the corner of 6th Street and 22nd Avenue. These traveling shows would make a one night stand and they had some very fine shows which

performed here. Among them was the show of "Irene." Another was "St. Elmore." Colored minstrels were very popular. They also had the great civil war movie, "Birth of A Nation", and many, many other plays and shows which were unusual for a town the size of Tuscaloosa. A Mr. J. P. Melvin operated the theatre.

Then another source of entertainment was the fair ground which was located in what is known as Capstone area in those days. Of course, there were "free acts," gambling devices, ferris wheels and on one occasion, a fellow tried to "take off" in a small plane which hit a fence. Associations, business houses, and other organizations displayed their products and were awarded ribbons. I remember very distinctly that many churches had booths where they sold food at the fair. I think hamburgers were first introduced at the fairs.

Many parties, dances, and dinners were held in private homes. These affairs were described in detail by Mr. Tom Garner and Mr. W. A. Collier in the local newspapers.

In addition to the public entertainment which we all came to enjoy and look forward to were the more private and club affairs. Of course, we might think of the clubs which provided most of this entertainment as the "cream" or "jet-set" of society of that day. There were several clubs - one of which was the Midnight Sons, the other was the LTF's and Emerald Club, all of which held one or more dances each year and especially did they entertain at the time of the annual commencement at the University of Alabama.

The clubs known as "Midnight Sons" were composed of the men who were leaders in the community. I can recall only the following and cannot tell exactly which club they were members of.

Charles Flinn, officer of the old Merchants Bank and Trust Company which operated where Louis Wiesel Company operated on Broad Street, lived on Broad Street (now University Boulevard). His house was where the City Bank Building is now located.

Alonza Hill was another member who worked in a local bank and he lived with his sisters in the house on Broad Street Mr. Flinn later lived in.

Mr. Jim Fitts was connected with the City National Bank when I first knew him. He later was associated with Mr. Britt Turner in the lumber business and he later was agent for Standard Oil Company. His father was Festus Fitts who moved to Chicago and was quite successful as a lawyer. Miss Annie Lee Fitts, sister of Mr. Jim was a beautiful, and gracious lady who lived with her mother in the boarding house operated by Mrs. Annie Buck. This house was on the north side of Broad Street just across the street from the Flynn home.

These clubs, in my opinion, should not be completely obliterated from the memory of people here in Tuscaloosa because they were patronized by the very best people. They added to the culture and life in Tuscaloosa. These clubs held their dances in places they rented such as one located above Adrian's Store on Broad Street. Another one was a ballroom in the old City Hall Building which stood where the Bama Theatre now stands. I recall that the Sigma Nu fraternity had a dance hall over on the north side of Broad Street about opposite what is the City Hall now. They had a nice hardwood floor there and it was well decorated and was used quite frequently as a night spot. Clubs and fraternities had dances at different parts of the city and also various other clubs. One of the spots that was used a great deal was over "May's Place." May's Place was a confectionary and above it was a dance hall where the Morgenthau Band performed and dances were held here every Saturday nite and an admission was charged to pay the orchestra. This place where May's was located is now occupied by Grant's Store on Broad Street.

Restaurants, except the dining room of the McLester Hotel, had a tough time existing. However, boarding houses were fairly successful. I have already mentioned Mrs. Buck's house on Broad Street in the block where the South Central

is now located. Then, just across the street on the southwest corner of the intersection of Broad Street and 19th Avenue, Mrs. T. N. Hays operated a boarding place which was taken over by Mrs. Sloss who operated there until a gas station was located there. Mrs. Sloss then moved to the basement of the old Y.W.C.A. which was located next to and west of the "Phoenix" House. The food was served in the swimming pool of the Y.M.C.A. It was a most attractive and unusual place and it was so arranged that dances could be held in connection with the dining room. The food Mrs. Sloss served was superb and the best people patronized the place for many years until Mrs. Sloss gave it up and moved closer to the University. Her daughter, Mary Sloss Neilson, resides here now and is very successful in the real estate business.

The old McLester Hotel was also a gathering place for visitors and for local society. I can recall how people would come here from Livingston, Eutaw, Pickens County, and down around Bibb County, and spend almost a week during commencement. They were entertained royally by the McLester people and they enjoyed having their friends who were in college and who lived here in Tuscaloosa.

It should never be forgotten that these people who celebrated the commencement at the University did so in many ways, but one of the ways that stood out in my mind was the use of carriages which were somewhat like these carriages used in the parades of royalty in England. The passengers in the carriage faced each other and the driver of the carriage was elevated, sitting in front of the passenger. The University students would rent these carriages and use them for a whole week during commencement and they would go in groups to call on their lady friends and often times would have their ladies in the coaches with them as they rode over the City and enjoyed the celebration of their graduation. During commencement week Mr. Julian Ennis of Livingston made his headquarters at the old McLester where he regaled his friends with a top-grade Sumter County white lightning.

Mr. John G. Hanly operated a livery stable on 6th Street between 22nd and 23rd Avenues about where the Druid Furniture store is now located. He rented these carriages and furnished a driver and the horses for \$10.00 per week, so I am told. Mr. Hanly was married to a Miss Countess, a sister of Mrs. M. R. (Beatrice Countess) Ormond, and Miss Sula Countess, both of whom live here now.

To end up this rather awkward resume, I think it might well be remembered that all the drug stores in Tuscaloosa operated soda fountains, and they were gathering places in the early evening for the "drug store cowboys." They would sell ice cream and soft drinks which we served to the customers at marble-top tables generally in or near the center part of the drug store. Dr. Bingham operated a store in the McLester Hotel building. Dr. Alstin Fitts operated one on the north side of Broad Street along about where the Dyer Shop is now. Davis-Leach started out with a drug store just a little bit east of the Top Dollar Store on 6th Street. Then, Davis-Leach moved into the Alston Building where the H&W store is now located. It was moved to the northeast corner of Greensboro and 6th Street, then to City Hall building.

Mr. Harry McGahee operated a drug store on Broad Street where Harco is now operated and Mr. Roy Faucett operated a drug store just about two doors east of the Central or McGahee drug store.

These places and these people that I have mentioned all contributed a great deal to the social life of Tuscaloosa, and, honestly, the social life here was really more in evidence than it was in most small towns that did not have the University to bring life and spirit into the community.

In the early days of football at the University, the games were played on the campus about where the Denny Chimes are now located. The games were held in a spot which was surrounded by canvas. These canvas curtains could be

folded up when they were not in use. The celebration took place after the game had been won and it was a regular procedure to have all the students take part in a night-shirt parade. These boys would come from the University campus along University Avenue with continuous yelling and loud talk and finally would parade through the moving picture shows causing quite a good deal of disturbance but at the same time they had the plaudits of the audiences in the picture shows.

The first golf course I recall was located just south of the Evergreen Cemetery extending from the cemetery to the Southern railroad tracks. This sport was not very popular at that time and the next I knew of golfing was a course owned by Mrs. R. P. Prowell which was located where Guilds Woods is now located.

Mr. J. R. Stallworth operated a swimming pool and dance hall at Riverview in the 1930's and this was favorite for young Tuscaloosans to enjoy swimming both a pool and in the river. This pool was reached by the old "Dummy" and later by electric cars. Later, Mr. Stallworth operated an amusement park and swimming pool at the foot of River Hill on the west side of Greensboro Avenue under where the new bridge now is located.

It might be of interest to note here that the first taxi business in Tuscaloosa was owned by John G. Wright, a colored barber, who operated a very fine barber shop in a ground floor building on 6th Street forming a part of the Alston Building. The taxis were Fords and the driver was separated from the passengers in these taxis. One of these drivers was a very fat colored man whose name was Tom Kemp and Tom was very handy in helping people get where they wanted to go.

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY
PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1665, Tuscaloosa, Al 35403

Memiors of
John Little, III
Compiled by David Nelson
Donated by:
Terry Lolley

Memoirs
of
John Little III

September 1988
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Memoirs of John Little III

John Little III was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1874, the eldest son of John Little II (1841-1919) and Amanda Melvina Harris Little (1844-1918), who had married in 1872 in the Harris home, now The University Club. His brothers were Richard Harris Little (1876-1924), Tuscaloosa newspaperman and business man, and Robert Irving Little (1881-1967), Professor of Romance Languages at The University of Alabama.

John Little III graduated from The University of Alabama in 1893 and from the Presbyterian theological seminary in Kentucky in 1899. He was ordained in the ministry by the Presbytery of Louisville, Ky., in 1899. He was founder and superintendent of the Presbyterian missions for blacks in Louisville; he died there about 1950.

"Grandpa Little" was John Little, born in Scotland in 1800, who came to Tuscaloosa from North Carolina in 1835 and married Barbara Kerr, a member of a Scottish family that arrived here in the late 1820's. He established a drug store that operated more than fifty years; he died in 1886. His wife was a noted school teacher.

John Little II was a physician, banker and business man in Tuscaloosa. One brother, Dr. George Little (1838-1924) was a geologist, and a second brother, James Little (1843-1892), continued the drug store till his death.

The family home was on the northeast corner of Greensboro Avenue and Seventh Street, later the site of the Diamond Theater for many years and now occupied by a law office. They later moved to a house on the southeast corner of Ninth Street and Twenty-Third Avenue, on the same block as the old Stafford School. The Stafford Hotel was built there about 1956, but Dr. Robert Irving Little lived in the house until his death in 1967.

John Little III wrote these memoirs in the 1940's at the urging of Dr. Irving Little. The map on page 11 to which he refers apparently was never completed nor did he complete memoirs of his years at the University.

Dr. David Nelson

DAVID D NELSON DMD
600 UNIVERSITY BLVD E STE B4
TUSCALOOSA AL 35401-2066

DH39829

John Little III

The first thing that comes to my mind about the old home on Greensboro was that a dray came up to the side fence and brought a load of white sand and the driver threw it over the paling fence. There were two large chinaberry trees in the side yard and they shaded the sand pile.

The fence along seventh street had wide palings but the fence in front of the house had palings about an inch and a quarter square. The front porch was just two steps high and there was a large stone, to step down on as you went to the gate. There were iron scrapers on each end to use in getting mud off your feet.

There was a very large oak tree in front of the house a little north of the gate and a cedar post near it with a ring in the side for hitching horses. Uncle Norfleet rode horseback from the plantation on a roan mare named Katie and she was the only horse I remember being tied to the post.

The house had a hall and two rooms on each side and a wing on the South side with two additional rooms. The parlor was on the right, then the dining room, then Grandpa's room and Uncle Jimmie's. Mama's room was on the left and then the room that Richard and I slept in--an L shaped back porch--at first Richard and I slept in a trundle bed in Mama's room.

In the back yard, about ten feet from the end of the porch on the North, was a two story frame building, the first floor of which was the kitchen and a Negro man, (I think named Joe Little) slept upstairs.

"The Cantly house" stood in the yard North of our home. It was farther back from Greensboro than our residence and the front yard had several flower beds with brick borders; the bricks were put in slanting so one corner stood out. The flowers I remember were portulaca, phlox, verbena and touch-me-nots or balsam. The pods would pop open if pressed when the seeds were ripe.

In the summer time a tin tub of well-water was set out in the back part of the front yard to get warm in the sun for our afternoon bath. We were given a bath just before supper and put on a shirt waist and linen pants.

Cousin Mary Irving had the North room of the Cantly house as her bedroom, a long narrow room. Back of it was a store room. The South front room had long benches in it and she taught school. I remember only one incident. She pressed a lead pencil in my cheek and said, "Great stupe!" I am not sure of the names of any pupils. It seems vague that--Howard Horner and John Snow and a sister of his--"d Rouke and the sons of Josh Honsman and Chris Hansman--I think the boys had the same name as their fathers.

There are two or three events in which Richard was involved. There was a large mulberry tree in the back yard. One Sunday morning we were at home and he climbed this tree and fell out and his temple hit on a four pronged rake and he got up with the prongs sticking in his head. I pulled the rake from his head and went running up Greensboro to the church to tell Papa. The story ends here. I do not remember Papa coming or what they did for him.

The water bucket was on a shelf on the back porch between the dining room door and Grandpa's door. It was so high we could not reach it without standing

in a chair. Richard climbed on a chair and reached a bottle of turpentine that someone had left on the shelf. He turned it up to his mouth and took a swallow. It took his breath--he lay gasping. Mama said, "Go get your Papa." I tore out of the gate to the Cantly house and to the drug store or the bank--somehow the bank is connected with this. Again the story ends. I don't remember Papa's coming or what they did for Richard. The terror of seeing him hurt is what impressed me.

Grandpa Little had his own way of doing things. He had an alcohol stove and made coffee in his room. Once Richard turned a pot of boiling water, that was on this alcohol burner, over on himself. I remember seeing his arm wrapped in vaseline and cotton.

Grandpa worked the garden which was back of the Cantly house. He had all kinds of tools. It was one of his pet rakes that Richard fell on. There was plenty of manure from one or more cows and he had a colored man haul it and spread it all over the garden. I remember potatoes were planted early in deep rows filled with leaves. He spent a great deal of time working the vegetables. He gave me a little plot and I had radishes, onions, and dwarf peas.

Grandpa got up very early in the morning and went to the market house to get meat to be cooked for breakfast. He frequently had steak for breakfast. I remember the gravy on grits and corn muffins. I remember him saying you had to go early to get the best meat and frequently he would get, "a nickel's worth of liver"--enough for the whole family--occasionally brains. The first butcher I remember was a Mr. Morgan. There were two stalls, one on each side of the market house. Each man would close up the market after dinner time. Late in the afternoon they would, each man, kill a beef--bring it to the market house about five o'clock in the morning and begin cutting it up. Mutton was only occasionally available, pork only in the winter time. There was no ice so the meat had to be disposed of the day after it was killed. Many a time I have seen a small drove of cattle some farmer had brought to town standing in the street in front of the market house. The owner would try to sell to the two butchers and it would frequently take several hours to close the deal.

There was a brick house in the back yard about fifteen feet from Uncle Jimmie's room. It was called the Smoke House but was used only as a tool house and for coal and wood. I think they used wood for the kitchen stove. I cannot remember the cook. I have a vague idea of her name as Susan Ballard. A girl, Pinkie Ballard, washed our feet and took care of Cousin Mary's room. Pink worked for us after we moved to the present house.

I remember Grandpa insisted on having his dinner at twelve o'clock before the rest of the family. The cook served him and I remember the fare as hoesake, corn pone, turnip greens and buttermilk.

I cannot remember much about the family meals. It seems to me Mama was in bed part of the time when I was very small and Cousin Mary presided at the table.

One other thing happened only once. At Christmas (I think Cousin Mary) anyhow someone made a big bowl of egg nog on the dining room table. I did not get any but I think I licked the spoon and was told it was not for children. This is very vague and I only remember it once.

We had very little company. The parlor was seldom used. Uncle Horfleet came up once riding horseback on his roan mare Katie. Uncle George and his family visited us once and slept in the Cantly House. Margaret was not yet born. Mary, Dan and George--The only thing about that I can remember is Uncle George's lining up the four boys in the school room and lecturing us after we four had had a fight. (*Sam & George; John & Richard*)

Uncle George took us all down to the river to try to learn to swim. There was a covered bridge going over to Northport. Under it were fish traps run by Mr. Suggs who lived in a frame house on the right side as you entered the bridge and collected toll.

There were flat ledges of rock at the edge of the river under the bridge and it made a nice clean place to dress and to leave your clothes when you went in swimming. No bathing suits were used. After that I remember Papa taking us down to the river frequently in the afternoon. The people of the town went down in the afternoon to swim.

Back of the smokehouse was the cow lot. A half barrell stood at the fence and was filled with water from the well. *The well rope was long enough to allow anyone to empty a bucket of water ^{into a trough that ran} into this wooden drinking tub.*

The stable was two stories high with a shed along the side nearest the house. In the summer Papa would buy wagon loads of hay and have the loft filled.

The first cow was a white ^{muley} headed ^{she} milky cow. *Had* a very large bag and gave a great deal of milk. The milk was poured in large pans about four inches deep and put in a tub of cold water that sat by the well which was between the smokehouse and kitchen. I think the cook churned every day on the back porch. All the family drank buttermilk. The old cow was named Jane. She was turned out in the street every day. She brought a calf every year and one of her daughters was very much like her and also became a good milker.

Grandpa supervised a lot on the next block east. He took a great interest in lucern (alfalfa) which he grew in this lot for the cows. It made excellent hay and I think a wheel barrow load was cut every day for the cows.

Mr. Mat Thomas was a big fat man and had a desk in the back part of the drug store. Papa used to hire from him a two seated vehicle, a surry without a top as I remember, and take the family out driving occasionally. Mama was never able to walk much. The places I remember going were to see the Bucks out on the Huntsville road. They had a large flower yard, beehives on the East side in front. Mrs. Maxwell over in North Port had flowers and a large pit. They were all very large people, quite stout. Ida, the youngest daughter, and Charlie were very fat. Mama always enjoyed going to the Ryans and there she bought flowers. I think the children's favorite drive was to Finley's Mill. There we could wade in the water. We sometimes drove to Cribb's Creek, and out to see old Mrs. Woodall at the Alabama Insane Hospital. She gave me a stubby silver spoon. (*If you ever see it I would like to have it.*)

Mr. Thomas also had an "Omnibus". I think it used to meet the trains. At least once, perhaps other times, Mama used the bus for a birthday party for me. She took some children out to Finley's Mill branch and we had cake and lemon aid--no icecream in those days. I remember the table cloth spread on the ground and a Prince of Wales Cake. *A layer of fruit cake and a layer of white cake, iced all over and icing between each layer*

The afternoon before Irving was born, Mama had a birthday party for Richard on the back porch. I can only remember two or three things about it. One was that little brown table was used. Cousin Mary Irving was there--perhaps Susie Maxwell.

That night I remember hearing Mama tell Papa to put me and Richard in the back room. I suppose we were sleeping on the trundle bed. I woke up when he carried us back. I suppose Uncle Jimmie went for Dr. James Searcy. I know he was there.

(during)

You were a very delicate baby. Mama could not nurse you and I think Rosa Cain--some nurse took you once or twice every day to Mrs. Charlie Petersen to be nursed. Bottles were prepared. I think Mellins Food was used.

Dr. Stillman came to the house on Sunday afternoon and baptised you for they were afraid you might not live. *Dr. C. A. Stillman - Pres. minister*

There was a very old colored woman, Aunt Caroline, that used to sit in that low split bottom chair and hold you in her lap. She evidently was not there very long for I do not remember very much about her--only her sitting in that chair with you in her lap.

Rosa Cain was mixed up with the family some how. Whether she was Aunt Caroline's daughter or not I cannot remember. I think she nursed you some too. Perhaps she was the was woman. She lived on the same street as the Stricklands, west of Greensboro on the way to M. & O. Depot, and had a boy named Felix. Mama drove by the house one day to see her.

I remember hanging our stockings on the mantle in Mama's room at Christmas time and waking up very early in the morning. They had nuts in the toe, some hard candy, an apple, an orange, a package of fire crackers and a Roman Candle, a pocket knife--one time.

The only public celebration I can remember was a Christmas tree in the Courthouse. This was prepared by Mrs. Sue Garner for the Children who worked in the cotton mills. I can't remember who took me probably Cousin Mary Irving. It was a good big cedar tree and was on the platform in front of the Judge's desk. Had paper chains--strings of popcorn and strings of cranberries. A few little candles lighted--little mesh bags--red, yellow and white, filled with hard candy and nuts. The children sang a few songs and I think Miss Mary McGowan recited. Besides the candy, apples, oranges, there were some packages given to quite a group of children. Mrs. Garner as long as I can remember was always spoken of as "a good woman" and always carried on an afternoon Sunday School for the underprivileged children in the city hall or courthouse or some public hall. I never got to know her personally--only by sight.

I don't remember ever seeing or hearing of any Christmas trees or parties at any of the churches. It was celebrated with shooting as many firecrackers as I could get. Later on the families all had a big Christmas dinner but I don't remember any in my early childhood or while we lived in the old house.

A drover brought quite a bunch of nice horses to Tuscaloosa and kept them at a livery stable, first kept by Stokes and later by Cochrane. (A wholesale grocery is now on the site.) Dick was a coal black, very fast saddle horse and the owner used to ride him down Greensboro and back. Sometimes he would throw pebbles with his feet on our front porch. He was, I think the highest priced

Judge H.M. Somerville

horse he had and no one would buy him although he was a beautiful animal. He sold all the rest. Dr. James Searcy bought a roan saddle horse--Dick hurt his leg some way and he could not show him off. Papa had him examined and it was only a flesh wound and he finally gave him \$175.00 for Dick.

We borrowed the Somerville rock away until he could order one and employed a man to take care of the horse and drive Mama. The first time he was hitched up, some vehicle came behind and started to pass. Dick gave a lunge and kicked up his heels and one went through the dash board.

From that time on Mama went driving every afternoon and in the summer Papa would frequently come and go with us. Frequently we begged to take other children and they or we would sit on the floor at the back with our feet on the step.

The second summer Dick got "stove up" and tamed down and I began to ride him in the morning. I would have to report every hour. As the years went on, Richard and I went plum and peach hunting and made long trips in an old buggy that came into the family.

Dick was always stiff and as he grew older stumbled and once or twice fell down, hitched to the carriage, and would scare Mama. However, he never lost his speed and would never let a horse pass him. No horse ever beat me in a race. When Dan and I were in college, Dan was riding Dick and a gypsie had a fancy little horse and came up by Dick. He started and the gypsie put the quirt to his horse, but Dick disappeared in a cloud of mud and I found Dan on him at the University. I was riding Charlie a new and excellent saddle horse, but he could not keep up with Dick even if he was stiff.

Greensboro was a wide unpaved street with three rows of large oak trees. One row was straight down the middle from the Court House to the Strickland home. The street was repaired from time to time by dumping loads of gravel; the pebbles would work down leaving sand on top about two inches deep. The branches from the oak trees formed a canopy over each lane. Some of these trees grew to be very large-- $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 feet in diameter. The one in front of our gate was 4 feet at the ground. The road was kept gravelled to a small hill that sloped down from the Stricklands, which was red clay, and crossed a ditch about where the railroad crosses, in winter, *there* was a mud hole *at the rail road crossing*

The depot was a two room frame building with a space partitioned off in the center for the ticket agent. The first one I can remember was Mr. Fred Turner. His wife was a good friend of Mama's, Kate Turner. They lived between the Turner house on Queen City and the Donahoe house on 7th Street.

Starting up town from ^{the} depot the first house you came to was the Drish Place on the right. On the left at 15th was a two story frame. I can't remember who lived there unless it was the Horners.

Following Greensboro beyond Broad Street--on right was Atlanta Store owned and operated by B. Freedman--or Friedman and Loveman. Further on towards river, I am not sure whether building occupied later by Freedman & Loveman was then standing; I cannot remember its being built later. As far back as I can remember Mr. B. Friedman had an office in it. Cousin Queen Hays borrowed money from him and would go there to see him.

There was a grocery--meal, side meat and molasses-- at top of River Hill. They also sold whiskey. I think ~~H. Black~~ operated it. (Later ^{W. Bennett} he operated a fancy grocery on Broad Street about where Seeds Hardware store was. He also sold whiskey there when I worked in Bank).

Back of this store, north, was a row of Negro houses. Porches on street level back either ^{on} 4 X 4 holding them up--some I think had a room under them in gully.

At foot of hill was a cold spring on right and a frame bath house. Then a brick circle with old gas tank. There were lamp posts on some streets and wooden pipes under ground and I think the gas was made in a brick building that stood next to this gas tank. The lamp posts had a large square top enclosed with glass. It seems to me once when I was very small I saw a man going up Greensboro Avenue with a lighted torch in his hand and was lighting the lamps which stood on the corners.

There was nothing after you passed this brick house next to Gas tank until you come to the Toll Keepers house at the bridge. It seems to me that a man named Suggs lived here and collected toll. He had fish traps down under the bridge.

You could pass by the bridge and go on down the hill to the boat landing. I went sometimes to see boats come in. Men would bring out flour and barrels of sugar and molasses, sides of white salt meat; then bales of cotton would be put on; then the boat would go across to North port and load more cotton.

Coming back up the hill on the right was a wooden bridge across the gully to the Cotton Mills as I remember, operated by Old Man Jim Fitts. Beyond the mills was the Old Tan Yard. I remember seeing the vats but I do not think it was in operation. It was always spoken of as the Old Tan yard. Searcy ^{Marlowe} once told me his father or grandfather and Grandpa Little operated it. I never heard that mentioned by any of our family.

Coming on back to town there was an open marshy place where is now Stallworth Lake. A big spring enclosed with brick about opposite the gas tank--a long iron pipe poured out a stream of water.

I know there was a brick wall on the East side of the road and I think also on West side. The hill was quite steep and wagons with heavy loads, lacked one hind wheel with a chain coming down. Big gullies on either side. Negro Baptist Church at top of hill on right.

I have drawn sketches of our block and the one opposite and will write about them in detail. The fence in front was white painted with square pickets up to vacant lot next to Court House. Had two gates--one in front of our house, one in front of Cantly House. A solid wooden fence from front back to Walker's garden and ours along south side--six inch picket to back gate--Solid fence from gate back to stable--Front fence painted--side fence white washed. I used to climb up on front fence at corner of vacant lot and watch old sows gather up leaves in mouth and make a big pile then they would have a litter of pigs.

I remember looking through between the palings and watching amn work in Walker's garden. Grandpa used to work early in morning in our garden and I would frequently go out and watch him.

The privy stood in the back of the garden in the corner next to the stable. Had a big bush in front to hide it and mulberry bushes behind.

There was little fruit--one big Chinese Cling peach grew at the back corner of kitchen and some years had beautiful fruit--one quince tree over next to fence between vacant lot on north--one Blare dansen plua that never had any fruit.

The Court House had a tower and a large clock. There was a bell in the tower and a rope hung in the hall. This bell was rung as an alarm in case of fire. Men would run and get out the fire engine. There were no horses and no regular fire men. I think there were some volunteers. There was a long double rope on the front of the engine and a double row of men would grab this rope and pull the engine. There were brick sisterns in the middle of rain street. I suppose they were filled with rain water from the roofs of buildings.

The fire engine house was next to the market house. The engine had two long handles on each side and two or three men would get on each side and pump with these long handles.

The only man I remember around the Court House was Woolsey Van Hoose. He was Clerk of Chancery Court. Judge Brown was probate Judge but I don't remember his office. I think Mr. Garner, Tom's Father, was City Marshall and Hugh Kirkman was Sheriff. I don't know where their offices were I did not go inside of Court House.

On 6th Street back of Court House was a long one story frame house with a front porch which was the Hanly home. John Hanly was a short heavy man. His wife was a very nice looking woman and at that time I think had two children, Mary and John. His livery stable was on the corner. Coming around the block was the Walker garden, then the Walker house. (The store was built after we moved to our present home.) Then one stable--

Directly west from our front porch standing abck some distance in the yard was the Odd Fellows Hall. I do not remember that being used much. Lter it was the first Free School. I think a man named Dill had a private boys school there just before the public school started.

Then came the Fire Engine House. This I think was a brick building. The Market House was a frame building about 40 feet wide with big wide doors. An open space in center with stalls with high counters on each side--and one across the back--Morgan had one side and I think a man named Simpson had the other.

A little brick house stood between the Market House and the City Hall. It was called the Guard House and used as a City Jail. It had a heavy wooden door and several times I remember the Town Marshall dragging drunken men and putting them in.

The Baptist Church was on S.W. corner of this block and the Episcopal Church on the N.W. corner of this block.

The neighbors--I can't remember much about Mr. Joe McLester. I know he was in bank and Papa succeeded him but have no recollection of him. Miss Nannie, I remember as being pretty and living across the street. She and Mama were friends.

married "Nannie Somerville
niece of H.M. & Eudora Somerville

8

and my head hit on a brick with the corner standing up. I felt a deep cut and the blood was running down my back. I ran home holding my finger in the hole. Here the story ends.

After them a Jewish family lived there and they were friendly. The name was Patterson and they sometimes went to Presbyterian Church with us.

The Maxwells were across the street. As I remember Mrs. Maxwell was not strong and a Mrs. Ball kept house. Susie was a girl that played with us. She died and I remember her pink casket. I do not remember playing with the boys. I think Fred and Luther were in college. Whether it was then or later I remember them wearing uniforms.

The Walkers I never remember being in our house but it seems we used to send food back and forth when one party had something nice. That also applies to Maxwells and Pattersons.

One Sunday afternoon some of the family were on Walkers front porch. They had a pit for flowers in front yard and had cut off some stems of geraniums. I picked up one when I thought no one was looking and stuck in the ground behind a hedge. I remember questioning planting it on Sunday--Some weeks later Mrs. Walker sent it over in a pot saying it had taken root and was mine because I had planted it.

The people who visited that I remember were Mrs. Mary Ann Maxwell who lived back of Presbyterian Church where manse now stands--Mrs. Mollie Toxie, Mrs. Virginia Hutcherson, old Mrs. Leland, Miss Corine her daughter. They were friends of Cousin May Irving. My recollection is Mama was sick a good deal. She once said to me "I was in bed two years." She seldom went out but I remember several events.

Once she took Richard and me to see Aunt Cornelia Somerville. She was sick in bed and was in the back room and was lying in the big bed that you now have. It is the only time I remember seeing her.

wife of H.M. Somerville

Another day she took me when she called on Dr. D. C. Rankin and his wife when they were living in the Old Ozmest home. She tried to call on new members of the Presbyterian Church when they came.

She took me to Mrs. Purser's wedding which was in the old Moody Family residence. I got worn out at reception and cried before refreshments were served. They had what I remember as great quantities of big cakes in the dining room.

Once I remember her taking us to the Old Marlowe home (back on 4th Avenue) When we got there she said "I don't see how I can climb those steps." All calls in those days were formal and we went in the big parlor. That is only time I remember being in that house.

Mama kept people's visiting cards. Occasionally she would hire a carriage and repay these calls. Only occasionally the parlor in our house was used, but I can not remember who came when it was used.

Once while we were living in this old house, Mama went to Mobile to consult Dr. Caleb Toxey. When she came back she brought me some harness to play horse. It had a strap over the neck and a band across the chest with bells on it and then lines out back to drive. The old cow had a calf in the lot so I put it on the calf and opened the lot gate. The calf ran down the street towards Thornton Yancy's carpenter shop. I held on for awhile running at full speed, then I fell down. I was worried to death but some how I managed to get them off the calf and

drove him back in the lot.

SECTION II

Beginning down in New Town, the old Cochrane place, now Stillman, there was a court went in from the road with a white paling fence and a gate which allowed one to go directly to the big front door. I only remember going there once to call on some little old white haired lady. I suppose old Mrs. Cochrane, but I am not sure of the name.

Going North we passed the Dr. Sims place where Mrs. Mayfield now lives. I was never in that house until years later. Dr. A. G. bought it and Stillman Institute was there for a short time before moving to present site.

Coming on towards town we passed the Perkins Place. A large 2 story frame building with big square wooden pillars. I suppose W. C. Perkins who was steward for years at Alabama Bryce Hospital--lived there. The road branched beyond that. Going north was the Col. Barter place; he was captain of one of the steam boats. Across from him was an old brick house with round wooden pillars. I can't remember who lived there. Going back towards town was the Ryan place. Miss Mary Ryan sold flowers and had a flower pit in front yard. Mamma used to go out and bring apple geraniums, heliotrope and fishures. This house was directly west of Old Baptist College. There was a big gully between.

Where you turned left to go to Barter place, on the right stood a big frame house. The Perry family lived there. Joe Perry was somewhere near my age. His father had a grocery store but I cannot remember where it was located.

Coming on towards town there was a bridge across the gully. Ocea Taylor lived on the right. He was a Negro carpenter and built a good many houses around Tuscaloosa. His daughter went as a missionary to Africa and made a very efficient worker. You turned left and there was the Old State House. In later years it was the Baptist College. It seems to me as a child it was a vacant building.

Coming on towards town the next house I remember was the Smallwood house. A long brick building, one story with iron filagree posts supporting the roof to the front porch. At each end a room came out as far as the porch and had a door for entrance as well as a front door in the main front door in the center. The old man had a store on Main Street--"Hats, Boots and Shoes". Later his son Charles, built a new store just across from the present P. O.

"The Old Inn" was on the opposite side. I can't remember who lived there. The next building was a livery stable; run by a man named Ed Stokes. He owned a black horse. He must have been the undertaker but I do not remember about that. Later on Gilly Cochrane ran the livery stable.

Across the street going east, on north side, was a long frame one story building sitting well back in the yard. Keeling Craddock lived there. He worked in P.O. for a long time.

Next was a large 2 story brick occupied by Old Man Jim Fitts and his family. I do not remember ever being in that house.

Then the Fitts Bank. Then a book and stationery store, Richardson Book Store, Prof. W. C. Richardson.

A stairway led to second story. Col. Hargrove had a law office and Scmerville, Judge H. M. and A. E. McInchin, had a law office. Col. Hargrove and Judge Sawyer

elected to be Judge of Supreme Court.

On the corner stood an old fashioned brick building that ran back on Greensboro. I cannot remember any store being there at that time. It seems to me Old Man Seed had an office there and bought cotton. Around the corner on Greensboro, Warren had a fruit shop and back of that was a barber shop.

Later Prince and Son opened a dry goods store on the corner. Going back to 25th St. and Broad on the south side--The Lynch Hatchery, a long two story frame building with a wide front porch running the full length of the building--big split bottom hickory rocking chairs were on the front porch and there were generally half a dozen men sitting in them. I do not remember ever being in building.

Next was a one story frame store that came all the way out to side walk. This was the Post Office.

Next a small brick office that sat back several feet from sidewalk. It was known as Old Dr. Cochrane's Office. I do not remember him or who he was. Later Gilly Cochrane had his office there.

Next a long one story frame building, with a porch on East side, a bay window on North end next to street. Dr. Chisholm, a dentist had an office in front part. One Saturday night I had a tooth ache during the night and cried and kept family awake. Early Sunday morning Papa took me to his office and had it pulled. I questioned pulling a tooth on Sunday but it was done.

On S. W. corner of Broad and Greensboro, the best I can remember was a saloon. Run either by Simpson or Rank. I think Map page 11 will help you understand. I will begin at Greensboro and go up right, on South side, first.

A saloon stood on the corner. The name Ralph comes to me first but I think a man named Simpson probably operated it first. The Broad Street entrance was for white people. The side door on Greensboro was for Negroes. Saturday afternoon the white women did not go down town because the streets were full of Negroes and many were drunk. From the Court House to Ralph's Corner, the sidewalk was filled with them.

Going East was a grocery I can't remember who operated it. Peter Clinton later had a store along there.

Smallwood the old man, had a store--hats, boots and shoes. Then it seems Seed Hardware. That may have been later. Herring and Harrison had a tailor shop and high class clothing store. Then Josh Hansman had a fancy grocery store. He had apples, very red--Ben Davis, oranges, cranberries; he also handled oysters in season. The first ice I ever saw he brought to town in sacks filled with saw dust. They would come in on afternoon train and Papa would go by and bring a little piece home, tied with a twine string--5 cents a pound.

My mind is blank beyond Hansman's store. I can't remember what was where the City Bank now stands. In the center of street at Broad and 28rd was a well house. People would water horses there. Going back to left or North side--The Atlanta Store, founded by B. Friedman, who came to Tsucaloosa as a pedler with a peck he carried on his back. Clerks I remember, Charles Black, a man named Freeman, Mr. Victor Freedman, a Miss Mary in dry goods side.

A set of steps went upstairs next door and there was a large room. I remember Mama talking of Miss Nannie McLester roller-skating in the room. It was also used for concerts. The store next door I cannot remember at that time what it was used for.

Mrs "Nannie" Cornwell McLester

(Page 11, Map, is missing)

Next was a little harness shop that had a big gray artificial horse with harness on. McGahoe was in the back room and made and repaired harness. Mr. Ed Snow had a dry goods store next door. A small man with a bald head, wore glasses and was very precise in his manner. Cousin Dick Nicholson clerked there. I never remember buying anything from him. He kept pigeons and several times he gave me a pair of squabs. They would grow up and fly back home. I never got any to stay until after we moved to our present home and I fixed a loft in old barn house and raised a few. Dick also had a blow gun-- A cone with joints burned out; he would wrap the end of a steel knitting needle with cotton and put in cone and blow. He would shoot robins in the cedar trees in their side yard.

Hester and Hays drug store come next. Dr. Hester was a large man and practiced medicine. James Hays was the druggist.

W. Y. Howell had a fancy grocery.

Chris Hansman has a confectionary. The first soda water I ever drank was in his store. It was wonderful to see him shave ice, put in a glass, turn in some red syrup and then make it foam.

George Searoy had a book store between him and Spiller on the corner where later the First National Bank was built. Spiller's Store was one that had bolts of cloth, sheeting, dress goods. Whether he sold meat and sugar and meal I do not remember. Glascock across the street did.

Going back to South side was John Glascock's heavy dry goods. Big bolts of cloth--dress goods--sheeting. In back he sold white salt meat and sacks of salt and barrels of flour. A small alley back of the store and then a two story frame building where Mr. Nunnally had a printing shop and issued a weekly paper, The Gazette.

It seems to me there were two or three small shops and then a two story brick store. Charlie Barnes lived upstairs. There was a front porch over the sidewalk and the family would sit out there in the afternoon. Mr. Barnes ran a bakery and confectionary shop. There was a store next door. Willie Barnes had a tin store. I have a vague idea that some lady had a dress making store along there between Barnes and an alley, a little alley. Then a two story red brick building with a porch along the second story. This porch had no pillars supporting it. The joists of the floors projected over the sidewalk. There were two or three little shops, some not used. The only one I remember was a small one occupied by a man named Celleck who repaired clocks and watches.

I think the upper rooms were a part of the Washington Hotel. I cannot remember about this hotel or who operated it. I have a vague idea there was a hole in the ground on that corner. Then a hotel was built by Mr. Moody and Mrs. Pursor. I wonder if Mr. and Mrs. Gilly Cochrane ran it once. It never was much of a success.

Back again to the North Side. Robert Maxwell had a big general store that had a large country trade. Salt meat, barrels of sugar, brown and white, molasses, sacks of coffee, horse collars, trace chains, hoes, I think shovels and plows.

Back of the store along 23rd ^{ave} street was a long frame house with rooms where people could sleep. Country wagons with a canvas top over hoops would bring the whole family and camp in this lot. There were troughs and a shed for the horses and mules. I would climb up on fence in back of drugstore and watch the people. The lot was larger than Maxwell Store, extended beyond Little and Burton.

Little's Drug Store had a large square post in front with a mortar and pestle

on top. Sidewalk paved with flat stones taken from river. Cellar doors west of door--an iron bar ran across next to stone to support; stone steps to cellar; heavy wooden shutters for windows, a heavy iron bar was put across at night; a bolt through to inside and a pin was put through to bolt shutters. Inside door on left was small case for cigars, plug tobacco and cutter on wall shelf. The west side wall was lined with shelves. Spices and herbs, sponges, paint brushes, castile soap, glue, big bottles of patent medicine, chills tonic, iron bitters. On the floor in spring were all kinds of garden seed. Grandpa was very proud of Landroth's Seed. Turnip seed in sacks, a pill box to dip up an ounce and put in little paper bag--peas--beans--corn.

The East Side--The counters had combs, hair brushes, tooth brushes. The shelves back were lined with bottles with gold letters and Latin names for drugs. Then a high desk where labels were written. A counter with scales where prescriptions were filled. Then the old iron safe--A big pot bellied stove stood at end of this counter and several hickory racking chairs and one or two straight chairs. Dr. Marlowe and Dr. Ell Toxey and Mr. Mat Thomas are the only people I remember being around during the morning. Mr. Mat Thomas had a desk in the back on the west side. It seems I remember he had little blue boxes with coffee and rice which he sold on commission. He had an Omnibus which met the trains. He also had a topless surry that hauled the mail. I remember seeing bus come up from depot with hand bags on top. I suppose it was main conveyance for University students. There were only about two hacks that met the trains. Purton's Printing Shop. J. Snow Hardware Co, Garden tools, kegs of nails stood along side under counters. Turner's Fancy Grocery. The old man who lived on Queen City. Next Hills College. The brick next to little alley I am not sure about--I think Captain Walker was there before he built a store next to his house.

H. C. Peterson (Ed's father) had a fancy grocery. A small vacant lot, later P. O. was there.

The First National Bank--Mr. Frank S. Moody had a law office in the back room. Papa went in only short time before we moved to our present home. A brick store was next to the bank. Walter Harris had a store there but I do not remember his being there until after we moved in new home.

F. M. Turner had a photograph place beyond. He lived around on 22nd ^{ave} ~~St.~~ and had a little frame house built next to his home. Which came first I am not sure. I remember he took my picture when I was very small. I had on a pair of fancy stockings with fancy figures and I told him "I want my stockings taken."

On the next block I do not remember but one house on either side. A yellow stucco covered house on S. E. corner. Had a porch the whole length of house. No family names come to mind.

The sidewalks on both sides were rough and sloped down hill. 21st ^{ave} ~~Street~~ ended in a big gully. A circular brick wall extending down 25 feet into the gully had been built on North side to hold the road and stop the wash. A brick sewer several feet in diameter ran under the road and emptied into a broad wooden trough that sloped out some distance. A heavy storm undermined the wall and it caved in. I went down with every body else in town to see the wreck. It stopped traffic on that street for several months until the wall could be rebuilt.

The next block on South side were two houses. N.W. corner a very old frame house. Dr. Fitts later built house there.

Walter Harris on S.E. corner.

Judge Miller on N.E. corner. Judge Miller was a Republican and was Postmaster as far back as I can remember. I think his daughters, Miss Florence and Miss Margaret

succeeded him.

The next two blocks the map explains. From Queen City going on out to the University there was a steep hill beyond the Somerville lot gate. A brick culvert under the road and a big gully leading down to river.

Ed Fardin, a painter lived on top of hill on the right in a small frame house. Beyond him was a big house with square wooden pillars. Jim Brown lived later. I do not know who built or owned them. Opposite this house a lane led up to Dr. Reed's home. East of the lane was a large two story frame house. A man named Herring lived there. Partner Herring and Harrison. Then the Mat Thomas home. Opposite-- a two story brick--the old Brown house--I don't know what Brown. Off to left a road led up to Col. McCallas home. At the one mile post a lane came in from the New Grave Yard. On west of this lane stood an old large frame house or Barks old home. Later Dr. Somerville built home. To East--Col. Hardaways home. On North side of road, Old Observatory. Then University Campus. On South side--president's mansion. North side--Dr. Eugene Smith. The Palmer, Wyman, Joe Harris and McGorvey houses were all built later.

Back to town:

Where McLester Hatchery now stands was a big hole with mulberry trees growing in it and on 6th back of it was Lawrence Weavers blacksmith shop. When a circus would come to town a hole would be dug in the middle of the street in front of Lawrence Weaver's Shop; part of it covered with a piece of iron and a brick chimney made. A large cloth balloon was placed over chimney. A fire of barrel staves was made in the hole; kerosene poured on fire and the balloon would begin to fill with hot gas. Twenty men or more would hold the balloon down with ropes until it was ready to go. A trapeze was attached and a man in tights would give the word and as the balloon started he would run along and be lifted in the air. All small boys in town and many grown people would gather. After giving a performance on the bar as the balloon went up, when the time came he would turn loose and come down in a parachute. He would land a mile or two in the country if the wind was blowing. I saw this performance several times. I only got to go to circus once. Papa would never take us but he let us go once with Dr. Marlowe. The circus tent was down in "Old Boneyard" where the M & O depot is now.

The only other public event that I remember was the Commencement at Hills School. The girls gave a calisthenic drill, marching and exercises with wands and dumbbells. In the early days at Church the only thing I can remember is there was a balcony in the rear (towards Greensboro). Miss Evis Searcy played the organ in the balcony and some colored people were sitting in balcony.

Old Dr. Reed was Superintendent of Sunday School. I do not remember going in early days but I do remember he wore a big shawl.

The Wizzard Oil Company came to town with a large tent which was on commons back of The Old Inn and where water tower was later built. They had a fancy wagon drawn by two gray Normandy Stallions. This wagon would drive around town and play a calliope and advertise sale. In tent they gave a Punch and Judy show and then a man would walk up and down on an elevated walk. One minute (maybe 5) "I will sell this wonderful oil; cures rheumatism etc. \$1.00 a bottle". How I got to go I do not know.

Mr. Moody bought one of these Gray stallions and he did not live long but one gray colt the Moodys drove for several years.

Papa hired a hack. It had a rack on back for a trunk. A Negro man named "Gid" drove and took Mama and Papa, Richard and me to plantation for two weeks. On the

Dr. W. G. Somerville I
Dr. William Cassell Somerville

15

The first night we stopped at a frame house this side of Greensboro with a family named Moore. They had the largest dish of fried chicken I had ever seen. I ate several gizzards.

I remember going to see Uncle Norfleet who lived on his place in a cabin. An old woman named Aunt Mank kept house for him.

There was a gin house on hill in front of house. I went there and rode a long beam pulled by four mules. The oak trees in grove were covered with moss.

Dr. Cobb came to the house and had the Episcopal service in the parlor.

Uncle Richard and Aunt Melville had no children and I remember Mama telling me they had lost two.

Country wagons stood on the street with things to sell, particularly on Saturday. In front of old probate office were wagons with water melons and cantaloupes and some peaches. I do not remember many apples. Near Maxwells Store were covered wagons. George and Old Lee Chambers would have loads of coal. We always used Chambers coal, later Montevallo Lump. Wagons with bunches of fat pine.

Frequently you could see wagon loads of hay for sale, Beginning at 7th St. and coming South on 23rd Avenue, Thornton Yancy had a carpenter shop. He repaired furniture and made coffins. I remember often watching at this task. He would take a twelve inch board and make a box narrow at the foot, a broad place for the shoulders and drawn in again at the head. He would cover this with black cloth tacking it on; put excelsior in the bottom and then line the inside with white cloth; screw on the metal handles; make a top to fit and put screws in that with large silver flat heads that could be screwed in with a man's fingers.

When some one died, a notice announcing the time and place of the funeral would be written on a piece of note paper with a black border. This was tacked on a light board with a tapered handle and a Negro would go to each residence; ring the bell and let the family read the notice. There was no daily paper.

When the funeral procession came in sight of the church the sexton would begin to toll the bell until they arrived. After they left the church the bell would be tolled until they were out of sight. There were no other houses on either side of this street on that block.

Two Negro houses on the east side between 8th & 9th.

Our stable faced 23rd and across the street was Lucy Gains. An old house that a man whose name I cannot recall. Then the Colin family. One of these boys worked for Aunt Cornelia. Used a peach limb to keep the flies away while dinner was being served.

Cornelia Harris Somerville (Mrs. H.M.)

The Hargrove Stable was on the next block. A very large frame building and the whole block was used as a stable yard for cattle.

Mrs. Hortense ^{Rodes} Rhodes house, yard and a corn field occupied the next block.

^{Avenue}
22nd ~~Street~~ No houses faced on this street between Broad to 6th. On east side south of 6th was a one story brick house. Unless the Hogans lived there before they built the little frame they lived in I cannot remember who lived there.

On West side in the middle of block was a small one story frame. Mr. Charlie Peterson lived there. As a baby you were taken there to be nursed.

Mrs. Tower lived on the N.W. corner of 7th street. The house had a ground floor built of brick and high steps leading to the second story which was frame. The porch had two small round pillars supporting the porch roof. Bannisters around the porch and on the end of steps.

On S.W. corner was Old Brody House. A two story brick with a porch across the front both upstairs and down. On the East side next block was the Old Donahoe House in the center of block and Prof. W. C. Richardson on the Corner of 9th Street.

On West side corner 9th was Col. Martin house. I do not remember anyone living there until the Marlowes. On the N.E. corner of 9th was a brick house. I do not remember anyone living there. A vague idea--old Dr. Leland. A few years later, W. A. Leland moved in to Figgitt house but were not there when we were in Old House. On the S.E. corner was a frame Negro house.

From 10th Street on south Negroes lived on both sides.

21st ^{Ave} ~~Street~~ started in big gully. No houses faced on that street until you come to a little frame on N.W. corner of 8th Street where Mrs. Eddins, Mother of Eon and Harry lived.

Across the street facing on 8th, old Mrs. Childress lived. Directly back of her was a small frame where a painter named Robert Childress lived.

Then one or two Negro houses.

The Old Roddy house--General Roddy always lived in England. His son Phil and his daughters, Miss Emma, Pinkey and Maggie, lived in the house.

Negro houses on West side of this block.

NW Corner 22410th The old Gregg Home. He was a shoe maker. His wife and daughters took in sewing. Next door was a 3 room frame Stillman Institute. Can't remember when built.

SW Corner--A long frame one story building "The Craddock Place". I know Keeling Craddock lived on Broad next to Fitts at one time. I never remember being in this house.

Ann Craddock married Albert Somerville.

East side 21st between 10411th was the Lewis Home. Three maiden sisters--Dr. Fraig had a room there and finally married one of them.

Miss Dornice G. Glascock married Rev. Hiram Glass Davis of Pickett Co.

Next block was Old Glascock home on East side of street. I remember no houses on West side. Then came Col. Newton Clements home--last house on that side. Mrs. Margaret Jones on West side next block--Bob Cochrane now lives in this house. On the N.W. corner of 22414th, facing on 14th Street is a large brick house occupied by Dr. W. S. Wyman.

On 20th ^{Ave} ~~Street~~--I can remember only one house facing on that street. Miss Mary Hewell, a frame one story house, hedges of box in front and large flower garden south side of house. (N.E. corner 9th street and 20th Ave.)

On the North end of 20th Ave. stood a large frame house, just on the West of it was a road leading down into the Big Gully and back of her house the land sloped down to the river. The lady who lived there was Mrs. Clark. I never knew anything about her.

Between her house and Broad Street on the North side was a small frame house built and occupied by Dr. James Guild.

Between Broad and 6th was a small brick house which was occupied by Prof. Calhoun. On Corner of 20th Ave. and 6th was a one story frame. The home of W. C. Jamison. He was later elected mayor and was connected with the firm of Allen & Jamison.

Queen City Avenue--North end was a gully. All the houses on this street were built on East side. Going south towards the depot the first house was called by our family the Old Ormond Place. It was the residence of old Dr. Guild. Back of it in the woods was a small frame one room cottage where Walter Guild lived. He drank and evidently the family built this little room for him. Only a fence separated the Guild place from the Somerville garden. It ran all the way through to the gully which started at University Avenue and ran to river. There was a very large garden North of Somerville House. A large strawberry bed, grape arbour, flowers and vegetables. The old Governor's Mansion--Judge Somerville Home. *H.M. Somerville.*

Between University Avenue and Hill's College was a one story frame house with five or six rooms. I do not remember anyone living there but Uncle John Harris. The first telephone I ever used was in his home. I am pretty sure that was some years later.

The Hills College was a long, two story frame building, with a wide porch extending the whole length of the front. The girls used to walk up and down on this porch; probably 50 feet South was a large one story frame building. In the front part was the auditorium, with a stage across the East end and there were probably class rooms back of the stage.

The teachers--Prof. H. B. Hill, Miss Jerushia and Miss Ella Hemphill and Miss Fuss Inge. She marched the girls down town shopping and to church. Her arch enemies were Cadets. If one or more came along and started to pass the girls, she would follow right behind them to the front of the line.

Across the street was a whole block enclosed with a high picket fence. It was called Hills Park. It had flower beds and some flowering trees. A frame Pagoda in the center with benches. In the afternoons under Miss Fuss's supervision, the girls were allowed to walk in this park.

The old Turner residence was a one story residence with an ~~iron~~ railing around the front porch and open work, ~~iron~~ parts. *(wooden)*

MRS. TURNER WAS A COUSIN OF EUDORA SOMERVILLE'S - VIA THE WALTERS FAMILY

Then came a short street--down a steep little hill. On the south side was a very large house occupied by two maiden ladies who lived in seclusion. The Misses Prince-- Many years later E. P. Lee married one of these women when quite advanced in age.

Next was a two story brick--built for some professor in the University; I think a Mrs. Hart lived there. On the North side was a one story frame house occupied by Mr. Fred Turner. His wife was named Kate and was a friend of Mama's. She had a very prett yard of flowers, did her own work and kept an immaculate house. Her husband was ticket agent at the depot.

The Misses Donohoe lived next to them in a two story frame. Col. A. B. McFadin lived in the house south of this little street. They were the leaders in high society He was a smart lawyer but drank and never was a financial success. His wife and daughters all dressed well, attended church regularly and took an active part in all social functions.

*709
Queen
City*

*married Eudora Somerville
(sister of H.M.)*

Dr. David Nelson
1702 Ninth Street
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

On other small street--all small Negro houses.

The old Hemphill House--It sat a block back from the road. A large 2 story frame house with large square columns supporting the roof. In the center was a small porch over the front door for the second story.

10th St.--On North side--large 2 story frame--Dr. Joshua Foster's home. I think he was a professor in the University.

Then a house later bought by ^{Wm. B.} (Buck) Oliver. I cannot remember who lived there. Beyond that were Negro houses out to University land.

On South side--General Woods home had a side entrance. Beyond Woods' home was a 10th St. side street going south. The only family on that street was Robert Hood. He had cows and sold milk. His daughter sang in the choir at the Presbyterian church.

Then the Catholic Convent. There was no school there as I remember; no one lived there. It had a high solid wooden fence enclosing the whole lot. Small wooden doors that were always closed. From there out to New Cometary were all Negro houses.

10th & Queen City--General Woods house stood way back from the street. Had a driveway with row of cedar trees on each side. He had planted apple trees north of driveway back to his home. The only member of his family I can remember was his son, Bernice who married a daughter of Prof. Richardson.

North of driveway to Woods house was a cornfield. Back of cornfield on a small street was a large 2 story frame building occupied by Miss Kernan's School. She was a white woman who came from the North to teach a Negro school. She went to Session of Presbyterian Church and told them she wanted to join with the privilege of bringing some of her pupils or teachers and have them sit with her in any part of the Church. The session told her they had a part of church set apart for Negroes and her teachers and pupils would have to sit there. This is only school I ever heard of at that time for Negroes. Later when the public school was started, Prof. Jerry Earnes was first principal.

Opposite Kernan School on this little side street was a side entrance to Harrison House. On Queen City Avenue from Hemphill House to 15th Street all houses sat well back and had a driveway with big gates and cedar trees on each side.

The next house was old Mrs. Harrison's--Mother of Calhoun and Jim. The Dearing Home and the Bozeman Home were very much alike. Large two story buildings with large square pillars supporting a high roofed front porch.

The George Seeroy House was a modern frame house. A large grove of pine trees between his house and the road--He had a modern gate--a large beam extended from gate on either side with a chain hanging down. The driver would pull chain and gate would swing open on inside, pull chain and gate would close.

Prof. W. H. Verner was the only other home between 15th St. and depot. It was a two story frame house. I think he had a few boarding pupils. When we moved to 2223 he was teaching in Stafford building. He then taught awhile in old Lecture Room back of Presbyterian Church. Then bought the Old Catholic Convent. I first went to him in Old Lecture Room. But remember seeing boys ride on horses to Stafford School and hitch them in yard.

Sixth Street, going west from Queen City Avenue--Hills Park on North side. No houses facing this street until you come to a four room frame occupied by the Morgan Family on N.E. corner of 2 th.

N. W. Corner--A small frame house occupied by Mrs. Virginia Hutchason. Joe Hutchason, her son, went to Memphis and became a cotton buyer. The Mother was in hard lines. She and Virginia, her daughter, lived out at Chamber's place later on.

On some block was a long frame house. Mr. Samuels, Walter's father lived there. He was an old man and carried a cane and a dog followed him around. It occurs to me now that he had a watch and clock repair shop in that store next to Atlanta Store.

Across street at 21st, W.E. Corner of block was a brick house. A flower pit in front yard. If Chris Hansman did not live there Mrs. Hart a dressmaker did. My memory is vague. On South side middle of the block was a small brick house built very low and a front door right on the street. I cannot remember who lived there.

Next block no houses.

Between 23rd and Greensboro, South side John Hazly stable and residence. North side-- Gregg's shoe shop. Dr. Burton had an office in a long one story frame just back of Sus Lockes store on Greensboro. I remember seeing Dr. Burton's house hitched in front. He had a sister who was a singer. They both must have moved away or died young for I only remember them in my early childhood. Lawrence Weaver's blacksmith shop was one building on next block. Episcopal Church had a lecture room back of church also faced this street.

The John Warren home was a large frame building on the next block. And the only house I remember. I knew little of family.

On South side of street further down was the Episcopal Rectory. A large two story brick house. Dr. Stringfellow is the first minister I can remember whether he was there at the time I do not know.

The only other house I remember on this street was the County Jail, a square two story brick house. The Jailer lived downstairs and kept prisoners upstairs.

7th, beginning at Queen City Avenue--On North side--An old frame one story residence I am not sure who lived there. I wonder if it was the Gade Family. I cannot place them anywhere else until they came to the Joe McLester house.

On South side was a long frame two story building called the Lettric House. It had a long porch enclosed with lattice work. I have a vague idea he was a music teacher. They either took boarders or some family lived with them; I do not remember any of the family.

North Side Corner 20th--A small frame house--I think Old man Seed lived there.

7th Street 20th Avenue--A large two story frame house. The Spiller Home. The F. S. Moody home on South side was built later. I do not remember any house being on that lot. Mr. Gluck lived in the large house next door as far back as I can remember. It was built by some old family but I do not know its history.

North side at 21st ^{one} St.--Mrs. Kate Maxwell lived in a long frame house with a front porch the whole length. She was Mother of C. N. Maxwell.

South side: Old Moody Home--I can't remember Mr. Washington. I think he was dead. Frank S. and his wife and Miss Sallie lived there. I remember when Mary was born. People were so upset about her having only one hand. I visited there and I remember they had hay in the horse lot. Reuben Dodson was their carriage driver and house man. He could even cook. Old Aunt Onie wore a white cloth around her hair and nursed all the children. I think it was while we lived in the old house when Mr. Moody began taking us with Frank M. in his buggy to the farm. It was always a great event. The driver through the swamp called "bear Haven"--the great foms along the road in the swamps. I remember seeing that gray stallion he bought from Wizard Oil People.

There were no other houses facing on 7th Street until about 28th. There was a large frame house--an old timer but I do not remember being in it but once and that was when I was working in the bank. Mr. Moody took me to witness the will of Dr. Wilkerson on his death bed. The street ended because a big gully stopped it.

8th Street at Queen City--The Peterson family, Ed's father, lived in the house Mrs. Wash Moody now owns. Across the street was a one story long frame house. The first family I can remember living there was Old Dr. Heilsen's but that was years later.

S.E. of 20th: Was a long white frame house with a porch running full length of house. Some old white haired lady lived there. I do not remember name. She was kin to Thomas Owens who had charge of Archives of Alabama in Montgomery. She was also kin to the Clarks of Mobile. As young ladies both of Mr. Manly Foster's wives stayed there during one commencement at the University.

Across 20th was home of Old Mrs. Childress--a small frame house very old. 8th Street at 24 & 25--Mr. Ed Snows large house was the only one facing on 8th. It still looks about the same from the outside.

8th at 25th: the Catholic Church stood on the corner facing 25th ^{Ave.} ~~Street~~. A frame house behind it was the priest's house. I am not sure but it seems to me he had a small school.

8th at 26th: On the North side was a very large frame house which was the home of Dr. James Searcy. The ground floor may have been of brick. The kitchen and dining room were on first floor. Wide front steps led up to second story where was the parlor and some bedrooms. I think there was a third story where the boys lived. He had a good start on his large family--Reuben, "Dunk", James, Rattle and Annie. The back yard had chickens, ducks and pigeons. He had several cows and I think he kept two horses. He rode horseback a good deal in his practice but I think he sometimes used a buggy. On the opposite side was a very good sized 2 story frame house. Woolsey Van House lived there.

I cannot remember any other houses beyond that and the street did not go through to Newtown because of gully. Sixth Street was the only one that went through.

9th. Started at Queen City but had no houses until Dr. Charles Allen, Stillman home. It had a porch that formed an L-part on 8th St. and part on 20th. It was a one story frame with a good many rooms, two facing on 8th, 3 facing on 20th ~~St.~~ ^{Ave.}, 2 across back. *BIRTHPLACE OF JULIA TUTWILER*
On the South side the General Roddy house had a long side porch on the 9th St. side. It also had the main front door on 21st ~~St.~~ ^{Ave.}

The next house facing on 9th St. was at 22nd. A large 2 story brick. Mrs. Felle Stafford had operated a girls school at one time in the building but it had been closed. She lived in the house. Whether Prof. Verner had started his school or not I do not know. When we moved to the house we now occupy, he was operating a boys school in west side of house.

Robert Jamison lived in a two story frame house which he built on the west half of the block. He bought the west 3rd of the block from Mrs. Stafford.

9th Street & 23rd. On the N. W. Corner stood an old one story frame house. I think this was old Marlowe home. Father of Dr. N. P. Marlowe and that at this time Misses

Mary and Lou Harlowe lived there. I am not sure of this. Directly west of this house was a small frame building where Miss Mary Harlowe taught a school.

The next houses facing on 9th Street--On North side was a small frame house. I am not sure who lived there. Name of Mont I. Burton comes in mind. On South side back of Presbyterian Church was a long one story house with porch running the full length. Mrs. Mary Ann Maxwell lived there. Her children were Joe Maxwell, John Maxwell and Ruby Maxwell. A maiden lady, Miss Ellen Maxwell lived with her. She once taught painting and drawing. Once Cousin Mary Irving had her take me and some other children out to make some free hand drawing of things in the street. I only remember one lesson out in the street. I did not pass in drawing.

Facing on 25th diagonally across from Mrs. Maxwell was a one story frame house where Peter Clinton lived. The rest of the houses on this street going west were small Negro houses. It ended in the Old Boneyard.

10th St. at 20th--One Negro House occupied by a carpenter, Luffboro. He had a large family and they were Presbyterians. He always had some of the students of Stillman Institute boarding with his family. He ran the boarding department. I think some worked for private families and had a room in servant houses on place.

Lawrence Weaver the blacksmith, had a very nice home back of Stafford School. He sent his children to school. A daughter became a good musician and his son an M. D.

Lucy Gainins lived on 10th back of Robert Jamison. She sent her son to Tuskegee. He was principal of the Public school at Holt.

The only other house I can think of is a large two story frame house just this side of Old Graveyard where street ends. Wilbur Perkins has lived there as far back as I can remember. His wife was organist at Methodist Church and a private teacher of music. When I met them I cannot remember.

None on 11th Street.

12th Street. The only house I can remember facing on 12th Street, starting from Queen City, was a long one story frame house at 22nd Avenue. It had a porch the whole length enclosed with lattice work. It was known as Old Wilkerson home and Dr. S. C. Wilkerson lived there. His wife was peculiar and people did not like her. I think she was in bad health. A very thin, small woman; he was large and stout.

None on 13th and 14th.

15th Street: ^{Rodes} Mrs. Hortense ~~Rodes~~--A small one story frame--only house on block.

The entrance to Dresh Place had a gate and two large brick gate posts, two feet square. To west of entrance was a brick house called "Parters lodge". I think it was unoccupied. Dr. Woodruff lived there later. He was a queer Presbyterian preacher that finally lost out because of his peculiar ideas.

Beyond Greensboro a few Negro houses down to bottom where it crosses M. & O. tracks.

From the bottom a side road branched off South and led up to two ancient houses. On West of road was Old Judge Peck's house. I did not know Judge Peck. His son was an M. D. but never practiced. He was a poet, Dr. Samuel Menton Peck. On the South side was the Old Marast place. A large frame two story house. Mrs. Ellen Marast lived there. I suppose both houses were built for plantation homes before the

civil war.

This covers my memory of Tuscaloosa before my seventh year when we moved to 2225 Ninth Street.

Mr. Walter Wilds sent two of his wagons to move household goods. I undertook to move the chickens in the wheelbarrow. Their feet were all tied together. About where bottling works are I turned over the wheelbarrow. There was great squawking but no serious damage. I reloaded and brought them safe to new home.

There were no street lights in those days after the gas house went out of business. People seldom went out at night but when they did, Thursday night to prayer meeting, Sunday night to church. Most people carried a lantern. The first lanterns I remember had candles. Then kerosene became available and was used in lanterns.

Thus endeth the first lesson. The University will be much briefer.

John Little.