

CHILTONIAN

Volume 29, Number 1

January 2009

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its quarterly meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 11th, at the Clanton/Chilton County Library. The guest speaker had not been named at the time of publication.

All members and other Chilton citizens who are interested in our county's history and its preservation are encouraged to attend.

CREDITS:

Chiltonian is a quarterly publication of the Chilton County Historical Society & Archives, Inc.
P. O. Box 644, Clanton, Alabama 35046-0644
(A Non-Profit Organization)

OFFICERS:

President	-	David Dennis
Vice President	-	Wayne Sewell
Secretary	-	Marie Smith
Treasurer	-	Colyn Moatts
Reporter	-	Marie Smith

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Biographical Transcriptions from Chilton County Newspapers

By Ben Roberts

[EDITOR'S NOTE: In this issue of the Chiltonian we continue the series on biographies of prominent County citizens, as those biographies were published in local newspapers of the time. Once again, we thank Historical Society President Emeritus Ben Roberts for the transcriptions.]

Union-Banner, 8 December 1927

Dr. Amzi Gowan, Brewton

Standing out conspicuously in the list of Clanton men who have made good in the professional world is the name of Dr. Amzi Gowan, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Gowan, who was born in Kosciusko, Miss., February 20, 1887.

He attended the public schools of that city, and at an early age went to college at Vanderbilt, where he studied dentistry.

Dr. Gowan began his practice of dentistry at Clanton. During his stay in Clanton Dr. Gowan enjoyed a splendid practice. He was prominent in the development of our city, and Gowan Addition, with its modern attractive homes, is a monument to his untiring efforts.

In September, 1911, Dr. Gowan married the charming and talented Miss Nell Mullins, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Mullins, one of Clanton's most prominent families.

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After a very successful professional and business career in Clanton Dr. Gowan moved to Brewton, Alabama, in 1919, where he and his talented family where enthusiastically received.

Other than maintaining a large practice in dentistry in that city, Dr. Gowan is associated with Mr. John R. Downing in developing real estate.

While Brewton claims him now, we still feel that Dr. Gowan belongs to us, and we are very proud of his success in the dental world.

Thursday, April 19th, 1928

Who's Who In Clanton

Walter H. Gillespie

An officer who is conscientious in regard to his duty, fair minded, is one of the highest types of citizens.

In Mr. W. H. Gillespie of Clanton we find just such an officer and man. Mr. Gillespie, the son of Mr. David Gillespie and Emily Thomas Gillespie, was born at Rockford, Ala. His early schooling was received at Olive Branch church in Coosa County. When he was 14 years of age his father died and Mr. Gillespie assumed the responsibility of his mother and three sisters.

He farmed in Coosa County until 1915 when he accepted a position as chief deputy sheriff of Chilton County. Mr. Gillespie became one of the first state law enforcement officers in 1920 at the time it was organized. [sic] Mr. Connie Austin being the first state law enforcement chief [sic]. A few years later Mr. Gillespie became a special deputy for the Eureka Coal Co., at Helena in Shelby County.

In 1921 he was appointed federal prohibition agent which position he now holds.

His work in this capacity has taken him to all parts of the state, and he has done special work in New Orleans, La., Columbus, Ga., and other places. Mr. Gillespie is now posted in the middle district of Alabama, his office being in Montgomery.

In 1897 Mr. Gillespie married Miss Roxie Kelley, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Kelley of Coosa County.

Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie are faithful members of the Primitive Baptist Church 3 miles south of Coopers.

Through his simple and unassuming behavior and fearlessness in the execution of his duty he has been able to handle all the difficult situations which he has encountered in following his vocation in New Orleans, Clanton, Columbus and many other cities. The very lack of work for Mr. Gillespie in Clanton, while giving proof of the character in general of the people in this section also is a proof of the effectiveness of Mr. Gillespie's methods and the fact of his fearlessness in the execution of his duty.

In spite of the arduous nature of his work he maintains a genial and pleasant personality and it is a pleasure to many, to meet and converse with him.

While Mr. Gillespie is a citizen of Clanton his duties take him away from home a great part of the time but nevertheless is a loyal citizen who in many ways means much to this town and county.

Mr. Gillespie is very enthusiastic over Clanton's future and his belief in Clanton is based on these facts:

"To its ideal location in the center of the state, 130 miles from the northern border of the state, a 122 miles from the southern border, 85 miles from the eastern border and 96 miles from the west, its splendid health concerns with a wonderful territory conditions [sic], its prosperous

business to draw from and last but not least its high type of citizens."

Thursday, February 16, 1928

Who's Who In Clanton

Mr. W. D. Spigener

It affords us great pleasure to present these articles on "Who's Who In Clanton," and it is very interesting and gratifying to know that they're being so enthusiastically received by our readers.

Clanton has a number of men who are most successful in business, and by their progressive spirit are reaching out and grasping the best things for Clanton. Needless to say they give unselfishly of their time and thought to their town.

It is a wonderful thing to be public spirited, and one has only to glance around them to realize that we have a host of public spirited citizens who cooperate well in every movement for the betterment of Clanton, and the friction that exists in so many towns is conspicuously absent here. This fact is evidenced by the modern appearance our city has acquired in recent years. Attractive buildings of all types have been and are being constructed, and we are beginning to realize that in a few years Clanton will be a city.

We believe absolutely in these, our citizens, and we venture to say that a finer group of men cannot be found anywhere. They are high type men of integrity and foresight, and we are happy to be able to bestow the flowers they so deserve while they are still with us.

One of our most substantial and dependable citizens is Mr. W. D. Spigener, who has been a citizen of Clanton for 26 years. Mr. Spigener, the son of Mr. W. H. Spigener and Caroline Spigener, was born in Elmore County,

(then Coosa), 13 miles above Wetumpka on the side of the Coosa river in 1875. Mr. Spigener's parents were natives of South Carolina. His father and three brothers came to Alabama before the Indians left the state, the former settling here in 1836. He had the opportunity to learn much of the interesting life of the Redmen [sic] in his native haunts, and he hunted with them and learned forest life as only Indians could teach it.

Mr. Spigener received his early education in the country schools of the county. Until the age of 21, Mr. Spigener farmed. His first position was [that of] clerk in the store of his brother-in-law, T. S. Macdonald, at Rockford.

In 1883 he went into business with his brother, W. S. Spigener. In 1890 Mr. Spigener moved to Goodwater and established a firm of White and Spigener.

In 1900 Mr. Spigener married Miss Brook Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Thomas, who lived near Kellyton, Alabama. Mrs. Spigener is one of Clanton's finest women. Both Mr. and Mrs. Spigener take an active interest in church work, and in every way they stand for the best.

Mr. and Mrs. Spigener had one child, a charming daughter, who is a Mrs. Laurie Farrior of Birmingham.

Mr. Spigener moved to Clanton in 1902, and entered the hardware business with Mr. C. Fenn Jones in the firm then known as Jones Hardware Co. A few years later Mr. Spigener sold out his interest in that business and entered the dry goods business, in a firm known as Spigener Cash Store. Then followed five years of successful farming. In November, 1919, Mr. Spigener was appointed as register of Circuit Court in equity and for many years he has served his county well.

The highest compliment that can be paid any man is to say that he is a Christian gentleman, and this can be truly said of Mr. Spigener. He is a

man of high ideals and principles. He is conscientious and sincere, and can be trusted as a friend. Needless to say, a man of this type is the backbone of any town, and Clanton is indeed fortunate in having Mr. Spigener as a citizen. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in which he serves on the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Spigener supports his town in every way, and believes that it has great possibilities of becoming a city in the near future.

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By Lorene LeCroy
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1870 - 1893*
\$22.50 + \$3 S&H

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\$59.40 + \$5 S&H

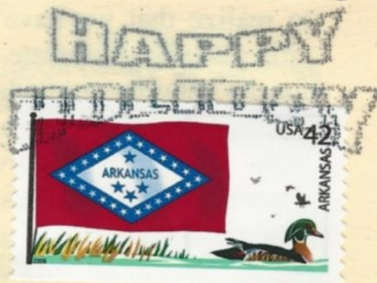
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CHILTONIAN

Volume 29, Number 2

April 2009

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its quarterly meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 5th, at the Clanton/Chilton County Library. Wayne Sewell will give a presentation on the Civilian Conservation Corps.

All members and other Chilton citizens who are interested in our county's history and its preservation are encouraged to attend.

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Union-Banner, December 1, 1927

Bill Caldwell, of Pletcher

Some men are born leaders and it is through their leadership and guidance that the businesses of today are making progress never before known in the history of the world.

The advertising business leads the list in its originality, modern ideas and progress.

Mr. Bill Caldwell, advertising sales manager for the Southern territory of the Paramount Famous Lasky Corporation, through his cleverness and originality has put over some of the cleverest and most up-to-date advertising schemes of the times [*sic*] it is this ability that has won for him the position he now holds.

The world knows him as Mr. Caldwell but we natives of Chilton County know him as Bill, and it is for this reason that we wish to go back to the years that we knew him just as Bill, and review his boyhood days.

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(Continued from page 1)

Bill Caldwell, the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Caldwell of Pletcher was born in Pletcher in 1901. He attended school in Billingsley and Pletcher. When just a lad he began tinkering with telegraphy, and at the remarkable age of 12 he worked as a telegraph operator for the M. & O. Railroad Co. in Pletcher. Two years later Bill became relief operator for the M. & O., and a short while after that he became agent and operator at Elrod, Alabama.

Further schooling was received from Professor Askins with whom he studied one and one-half years, after which he again worked as relief operator and agent for the M. & O. At the age of 18, Bill discontinued his work with the Railroad and was employed by the Postal Telegraph Company in Birmingham. His next position was with the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., where he did clerical work. He was associated with them in Birmingham, Nashville, Columbia, S.C., and Atlanta.

It was during his stay in Atlanta that he secured his position with the Paramount Famous Lasky Players, the largest moving picture concern and owner of picture theaters in the United States. His record with them has been an interesting and enviable one. From Atlanta he was transferred to Oklahoma City and given the position as ad[vertising] Sales Manager. He was then promoted to Chicago and later to the home office as supervisor of advertising sales for the Southern territory which consists of Jacksonville, Atlanta, New Orleans, Dallas, and Memphis. He has occupied the position for two years. During the first period of the present fiscal year his district led the United States in Sales [sic].

"The Hundred Percenter," a magazine gotten out by his Company in New York says "Bill Caldwell with the energetic support of the Southerners is the big noise just now," and a circular letter to all offices from the Company read "All Bill Caldwell's districts went over the top and have been doing this constantly."

Remembering Bill as we do, we are not surprised that he is able to go over the top in anything he undertakes. Energy, determination, enthusiasm and fairness are the qualities that have made him a success.

While Mr. Caldwell has always displayed rare judgement [sic] in business deals he has showed his very best judgment in the selection of the splendid little wife from Texas whom he brought to his father's home several weeks ago.

Chilton County is proud of Mr. Caldwell's record and we hope that other boys may catch the vision and make something out of their lives.

Union-Banner, November 24, 1927

Charles Henry Culpepper

We frequently hear it said that one gets out of life what one puts into it, and also that success comes as a result of untiring effort.

A concrete illustration of these facts is exemplified in Mr. Charles Henry Culpepper of Danville, Va.

By virtue of the fact that he was willing to exercise his native ability, we today find him at the head of one of the South's greatest hosiery manufacturing concerns.

Follow with us Mr. Culpepper's career, step by step, and you will agree that success often has a small beginning.

Mr. Culpepper, the brother of Mr. Frank Culpepper, was born on the edge of Clanton, April 7, 1880.

He received his education at country schools, the principal one being Littlejohn School.

At the age of 18 years Mr. Culpepper went to Sylacauga and got a position pressing hose in Matthews' hosiery factory. It was there that, at the age of 23, he married Miss Gertie Calloway, a splendid young woman of that city.

From Sylacauga, he went to Athens and later to Tuscaloosa where he followed the same trade.

A few years later Mr. Culpepper went to Danville, Va., where he soon became assistant to the superintendent of the D. K. Cotton Hosiery Mills. Five years after he was made superintendent of the mill.

Dr. Napoleon Johnson, who a few months ago visited Danville and had the pleasure of calling on Mr. Culpepper in his beautiful office, said that, in discussing the former's wonderful success, he finally asked the question: "How did you do it?" and Mr. Culpepper answered, "By hard work!"

Mr. Culpepper will be remembered as a gentleman of pleasing personality whose chief characteristic was determination. His many friends join the Union-Banner in congratulating him upon his success.

This wonderful example should fire every boy and girl in Chilton with the ambition to "To give to life the best they have," and "the best will come back to them."

Thursday January 5th, 1928

Cecil Brown Smith

The College standard dictionary gives several good definitions of the word ambition, one of the principal ones being eater [*sic*] or inordinate desire of power or distinction for its own sake, but another definition, eager to achieve something great and good, fits the case of Cecil Brown, because his desire to achieve something good is

demonstrated in the sincere interest he shows in his law practice.

Cecil is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Smith, and was born in Clanton in 1902. He attended the Clanton grammar school and in 1920 graduated from Chilton County High School where he made a creditable record. The following year he entered the University of Alabama, where he studied law and in 1923 he graduated.

Talent is often more manifest in a small child and there is nothing more interesting than watching this talent of which the child is often unconscious developed step by step. When Cecil was a tiny lad he would often stand on a stump and speak to an emergent imaginary multitude, and no doubt this fanciful audience [*was*] swayed by his youthful eloquence.

A talent is often inherited from one's forefathers and Cecil's gift as a lawyer seems natural coming is as he does from a family of lawyers. His father, Mr. A. C. Smith, has practiced law in Clanton for 35 years, and with eight other lawyers in the family it is not surprising that Cecil should carry on the family tradition.

Upon graduation from law school Mr. Smith began practicing law with his father in Clanton, and his splendid knowledge of law made quite an impression.

In 1925 Mr. Smith went to Lakeland, Florida, a thriving city of 25,000 inhabitants, and began to practice law with the firm of Calloway and Burrus of that city. Mr. Calloway will be remembered as a former resident of Clanton.

On May 10th 1926, Mr. Smith came back to Clanton and married Miss Jetty Popwell, and he and his bride returned to Florida immediately after the ceremony, where Mr. Smith resumed his law practice.

During his brief stay in Florida, Mr. Smith's ability as a lawyer has given him a place of eminence in the Florida bar. Mr. E. E.

Calloway of the firm of Calloway and Burrus aspires to the Federal judgeship and no doubt Mr. Smith will take his place in the firm in the near future.

It is inspiring to enumerate the number of Clanton sons and daughters who have gone out into the world worthy of every profession and vocation, and Clanton and Chilton County are exceedingly [*sic*] proud of Cecil's record and with the remarkable progress he has made in the professional world even at such a youthful age. We are sure that he will reach the summit of his profession in a few years.

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CHILTONIAN

Volume 29, Number 3

July 2009

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its quarterly meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, July 12th, at the Clanton/Chilton County Library. Jeff and Cat Reece will give a presentation on the Mullins Cemetery dedication.

All members and other Chilton citizens who are interested in our county's history and its preservation are encouraged to attend.

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Union-Banner, January 19th, 1928

Benjamin C. Apperson

The first public recognition of the advent of Benjamin Crichton Apperson into the activities of this world [*are found*] in the Banner [*in*] 1901, written by Frank Crichton, editor of the Banner, and for whom the subject of this sketch was named:

"I have just learned that a good lady on the western side of the county has honored me by naming her little boy after me. It has not been my good fortune to meet the lady, although I have the pleasure of knowing her husband whom I highly esteem. I am told by him that my namesake is a bright and intelligent little fellow now about eighteen months old, and I feel proud of him. I hope he will grow up to be a better man than I have ever known how to be. Here's hoping for a long, happy, and prosperous life to Crichton Apperson."

Following the time when the above was written, many years elapsed before we hear anything

(Continued, page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

more of Crichton Apperson. He was just one of the many little boys of Chilton County who was growing up under the tender care of a good father and mother who were striving to prepare him for the battles of life and who were hoping with Frank Crichton and many other friends that his little life might extend through many future years to bless his fellow man with happiness and usefulness.

When Crichton Apperson's life did break into usefulness it was with a great force, and since that day his name has been written on the pages of Birmingham's history in flaming letters. His rise to prominence has been phenomenal. His zeal for doing things has been without limit. He is a whirl wind when it comes to doing things. We know of no son of the soil of Chilton County who has gone forth and fared more successfully than this little boy of our western hills, who a quarter of a century ago was represented to be a bright and intelligent little fellow.

As Secretary and Treasurer of the Alabama Retail Food Dealers Association and the Birmingham Retail Grocers And Butchers Association, he is one of the leading factors in the promulgation of the work of protecting the health and welfare of the people of Birmingham and Alabama, by the inauguration and support of those policies which are suggested by a sanitary viewpoint with reference to preparation, handling and sale of all foodstuffs. His organization is a powerful force maintained for the betterment of the food business.

Born in the western part of Chilton County April 1, 1900, Benjamin Crichton Apperson is now in the very prime of useful young manhood. He brings to this work the enthusiasm of youth, combined with the expert experience of practical work and study.

He is the son of D.M. and Viola (Lenoir) Apperson, the former of whom is a native of Autauga County; the latter of Chilton. D.M. Apperson is a prominent farmer. During the whole of his mature life he has been recognized as one of Chilton County's most substantial citizens. There are three other children of the Apperson family: Charles L., William F., [and] David C.

The paternal grandfather, Samuel Labo Apperson, served as a soldier in the Indian wars of Alabama. The maternal grandfather, Thomas Lenoir, was an officer of the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

Benjamin Crichton Apperson attended the rural schools of his home community and the county high school of Dallas County. He took special courses in business training through correspondence schools.

He has had government service with the United States Shipping Board, Baltimore, Maryland, where he remained until October 1918. Volunteering for active service in the World War, he was released from the Shipping Board and ordered to California. An attack of the flu kept him confined until after the armistice.

In connection with his work with the Food dealers of Birmingham he organized The Gro[c]er's Journal, a bright and snappy monthly magazine, of which he is the editor. His work has been productive of great good in improving the pure food laws of Alabama.

In the matter of his editorial work, Mr. Apperson is following worthy [sic] in the footsteps of the man for whom he was named. Frank Crichton was the founder of The Banner in 1892 and was editor of that paper until his death in 1913.

Among other activities, Mr. Apperson was responsible for getting the closing law for Birmingham; for the pure food law of Birmingham, which is the finest in the state. This law has been adopted by many other large cities in the country.

During the entire period of his connection with the Retail Food Dealers Association, which began after the World War, he has been its active head, and has attended every like association in the cities of the United States and in some foreign countries. The largest delegation sent to a national grocers convention [was] that which Mr. Apperson carried to California from Birmingham in 1924.

Mr. Apperson devotes his whole time to the Grocers Association and The Grocer's Journal.

His success has been remarkable, and his wide experience in traveling has made him a broad and useful man. He keeps fully abreast of the advances that are being made in the crusade against unsanitary conditions and methods in the retail food business all over the United States.

His work is a very valuable public asset. It directly concerns the health of the public, and is a tremendous safeguard.

True to the family tradition, Crichton Apperson is a member of the Baptist Church and a Mason. He is one of the most outstanding young men Chilton County has produced and he is yet only fairly well started on his life career.

Union-Banner, September 29th, 1927

Broadus Connatser Of The Birmingham Barons

We choose as the second subject of this series of stories another one of Clanton's baseball stars who gives promise of a successful future as an actor in the great national pastime. Last week we told about Jack Hayes of the "Senators." This week it will be Broadus Connatser of the Barons.

The career of "Connie" started when he was a student at the Chilton County High School back about 1920. His work on the local baseball club of the school was a sensational success, and he drew the mark for a famous baseball player of the future. Every year has marked his rise up the ladder until now it seems that he is destined to take the part of a regular member of the Birmingham baseball club.

Broadus is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Connatser of Thorsby. He is a nephew of Mr. W. W. Fox of Clanton with whom he is connected in business. He spends his off days here with Mr. Fox between the baseball seasons. He was born in Sevierville, Tennessee, in 1903, and moved to Thorsby with his parents in 1915. His graduation from the Chilton County High School was at the end of the 1920 season.

Pursuing his studies diligently along with his athletic prowess he graduated from the

University of Alabama in 1926 with a B. S. degree. During his college course he was a regular member of Coach Wallace Wade's wonderful baseball club, playing his regular position of first base.

At his graduation from the University, "Connie" signed a contract with the Birmingham Barons and joined them at the beginning of the 1926 season. He was sent to the Vicksburg Club of the Cotton States League. He played the 1927 season with the Jackson Club of the Cotton States League, holding his contract with the Barons. This year he had a large share in the honors which won the pennant for his Club at Jackson. He played in a postseason series with the Monroe Club, which won four out of five games played.

Broadus is a very popular young man with hundreds of his admirers who have followed his career with a great deal of interest. It is very probable that he will have a chance as one of the mainstays of the Baron line up for next year, and everybody believes he is able to hold the fort at first base to the satisfaction of his boss, the honorable Johnny Dobbs.

Union-Banner, December 15th 1927

"Uncle Dick" Jones

A man who has known and loved Clanton from its infancy is Mr. Dick Jones who is affectionately known to his friends as "Uncle Dick."

Mr. Jones came to Clanton 61 years ago when the place was too small to be called a town. There were only three stores and about 200 inhabitants here. From this small beginning and during this long period of time Mr. Jones has believed in Clanton and has proved it by standing by the town. In every phase of its progress he has had an active part in the development of our modern little city.

Mr. Jones, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Jones, was born in Russell County, Alabama, near Columbus, Ga., in 1848. At an early age the Jones family moved to Auburn where Mr. Jones received his education. In 1866 he came to Clanton and took a position with Hall and

Campbell, a big sawmill company at Stansfield switch. His next position was with Hayes Hunt another sawmill threes miles west of Clanton. For a number years after that Mr. Jones devoted his time to the sawmill business in which he was most successful.

In 1886 he married Miss Rosa Wood of Coopers and in 1890 he lost his splendid wife. Mr. Jones is the father of two children, Mrs. T.C. McSwain and Mr. Macy Jones, and has four fine grandchildren, Louise, Mary, Elizabeth and [unreadable] McSwain.

Mr. Jones and his descendants have meant much to the community life of Clanton. They are prominent in church and social life of the town.

When we consider the splendid Christian character of "Uncle Dick" we are not surprised that a town backed by such men as he should become a real town.

We asked him what was his first impression of Clanton and he answered, "I liked the place and believed that it had a future," and we realize that his belief was not unfounded.

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October 2009

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All members and other Chilton citizens who are interested in our county's history and its preservation are encouraged to attend.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Work on an updated inventory of the newspapers at the Library is underway. Many of the bound volumes are in bad shape and need to be boxed up. More info will be posted on the Society's webpage soon.
(www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~alcchs/CCHS.html)

David Dennis

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Biographical Transcriptions from Chilton County Newspapers

By Ben Roberts

[EDITOR's NOTE: In this issue of the Chiltonian we continue the series on biographies of prominent County citizens, as those biographies were published in local newspapers of the time. Once again, we thank Historical Society President Emeritus Ben Roberts for the transcriptions.]

Union-Banner, February 2nd, 1928

Who's Who In Clanton

C. Fenn Jones

One of the great necessities of a good farming country such as we find around Clanton is an up-to-date hardware store.

Needless to say Clanton boast Pasture [sic] of the best and most complete hardware stores, not only in the county but in the state. It has often been said that Jones Hardware Co., carried every type [of] hardware on the market, regardless of the demand.

The credit for this business which is truly an asset to our community, belongs to Mr. C. Fenn Jones one of the founders of the business.

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Jones, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Calvin Jones, was born in Coosa County December 29, 1871. His father was a native of Tennessee and his mother, who was Miss Angelina Love before her marriage, was from North Carolina.

Mr. Jones spent his youth on a farm and his schooling was received in the common schools of the county. From the ages of 22 to 27 he held a very responsible position for one so young. He occupied a place for the State of Alabama penitentiary at Wetumpka, serving in many capacities.

In 1902, Mr. Jones and Mr. W. D. Spigener came to Clanton and established the present firm of Jones Hardware Company.

In 1907 Gamble Hardware Company of Wetumpka bought an interest in the business and retained it until five years later when Mr. Jones bought out their interest and became sole owner of the business.

In 1926 Mr. Jones married his charming wife who was Mrs. Elizabeth Fuller Higgins. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jones hold a prominent place in the religious, club, and social life of Clanton.

It is interesting to note that when Mr. Jones first came to Clanton the only existing firms which were here then were Broadhead's Store, Peoples Savings Bank and W. I. Mullins who occupied the present stand of Mullins and Moore.

A good idea of the growth of Clanton may be obtained by comparing the present conditions with those 26 years ago when Mr. Jones moved here. At that time the town was a small place, undeveloped and unorganized. Stock roamed the streets at will, and the atmosphere of the town lacked hustle and bustle which today so impresses visitors to our city. Remarkable indeed are the changes that can be brought about over such a period of years, and Mr. Jones' enthusiasm over the changes impressed the writer very forcibly.

The farms throughout the county as well as Clanton in bygone days were far from progressive. Mr. Jones' chief interest has been and still lies in assisting the farmers in developing their farms to their fullest capacity. It has been his pleasure to supplant

crude farming implements of former times with the most improved implements that the times afford. Jones Hardware Company was one of the first stores in the county to introduce the cultivator.

When asked of the present and future Clanton, Mr. Jones said, "I think that Clanton is a splendid town and I believe that its growth in the next ten years will far surpass that of the past ten. With its location and territory to draw from, its extensive agricultural interests and its natural resources, we are sure to have one of the most modern towns and counties in the South."

Mr. Jones is one of Clanton's most prominent citizens. He takes an active interest in every movement for the good of his community and his faith in Clanton's future is evidenced in the fact that he has invested much money in real estate in Clanton.

Union-Banner, December 1st, 1927

Who's Who In Clanton

Napoleon S. Johnson

For the last few weeks we have written a regular story every week concerning some man or woman of Chilton County who has gone out into the world and made good at arts, trades and professions. These little stories have been greeted with a happy response of interest and approval from our readers, for which we are gratified.

And while it is true that many of our people have gone out into the world and by their achievements done credit to themselves and their native home, yet enough able men and women have kept the home fires burning to make Clanton one of the best towns in the State.

We are pleased to reflect upon the steady and permanent growth of our little city and our splendid County; not a spasmodic growth by leaps and bounds has marked the rise and fall of many places, but a steady, normal, and permanent growth that will "stay put."

From a small country village cross-roads Clanton has grown to be an up-to-date modern little

city with modern business buildings, paved streets, attractive homes, handsome churches and sch--- (Beg pardon, please, we were about to add schools; but when we thought of the miserable mess at the Clanton Grammar School building, our heart failed us.). Anyway, we have a good town, and we will soon have a better one by this correction of a Grammar School building that will be the pride and glory of us all.

Strangers have often remarked that in the business district of Clanton there is an atmosphere of hustle and bustle comparable to that of the city. Men and women who have become settled down and permanent fixtures in the life of Clanton have made this progress possible; and we like to think about them in the light of the things which their minds and their resources have contributed to this development.

One of the men to whom we might point as a potent factor in the progress of Clanton is Dr. Napoleon S. Johnson, one of our most loyal and public-spirited citizens. No introduction for Dr. Johnson is needed at our hands. He is perhaps known and loved by as many people in Chilton County as any other person you could name.

He was born in Clanton on August 13, 1883, the son of Dr. J. S. Johnson and Sallie Strock Johnson. His early schooling was at the McMorries Academy in Clanton, which institution furnishes the happy recollections of the school days for many of our now prominent and leading men and women. In 1897 and 1898, he attended Randolph-Macon Academy, going from there to the College of Surgeons at Baltimore, Maryland. The next year he attended the medical school of the University of Alabama, graduating at Mobile in 1901.

Dr. Johnson began practicing medicine at Clanton at the remarkable age of 18 years. In 1906 he was commissioned local surgeon for the L & N Railroad. A number of post graduate courses at different times has kept him abreast of the times in the practice and science of medicine.

As a local surgeon for Alabama Power Company, the excellent service and ability of Dr. Johnson has received recognition of high authorities of his profession in that organization.

Besides being a splendid doctor, this man is a worthy citizen. He believes in Clanton and devotes

much of his conscientious thought and energy to the things which concern the progress and permanence of the life of our community. He is vice-president and director of the Peoples Savings Bank, has served as city councilman, and has always taken an interest actively in every movement for the progress of the city or county.

The homes of Clanton are the blocks out of which the fine structure [of] our citizenship and community are builded [sic]. It may be truly said that in this respect the home of Dr. Napoleon Johnson represents one of the most beautiful units of our civic structure. His noble wife and sweet, congenial children are a glory which any man might be proud to contribute as a part in the building of social prestige for his community.

Union-Banner, December 15th, 1927

Who's Who In Clanton

Miss Margaret Hester

In the past we have looked with awe and wonder at a small town girl who has had the courage to brave a big city and seek her career there.

At first thought it might seem incredible that a Clanton girl had the courage to seek her fortune in the business world of New York City, but those who know Margaret Hester realize that a girl of her capability can really realize her ambitions.

The oft repeated story of countless girls and boys who are anxiously seeking interviews with powerful business heads only to be promptly refused the compliment that cold businesslike New York has bestowed upon Margaret [sic].

It is interesting to review Margaret's childhood days which were spent in Clanton. In fact her first recollections are of Clanton where her parents have lived for a number of years. She attended the Clanton Grammar School and in 1919 she graduated from Chilton County High School with high honors. It is interesting to note that throughout her high school days and part of her grammar school days she was one of four friends who were rivals for honors.

In 1923 Miss Hester graduated at the Judson

College where her record was also an enviable one. In 1924 she taught music at Columbiana and the following year at a place near Pensacola. The next year Miss Hester became interested in a business career and consequently took a business course in Birmingham after which she accepted a position with the Postal Telegraph Company in that city.

Then with less than a year's experience Margaret set out for New York where she became secretary to the director of a large corporation. Mr. Smith, her employer, was formerly an instructor at Columbia University who gave up his profession to become a director for his company. So effectively has Miss Hester served her employer that she has assumed more duties and directs his affairs during his protracted absences.

Our hats are off to a girl with Miss Hester's ambition and initiative, and we're glad that Clanton can claim her as our own.

Miss Hester is quite a favorite in Clanton as well as many sections of Alabama where she has [won over] a host of warm friends through her sweet personality.

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