

CHILTONIAN

Volume 30, Number 1

January 2010

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its quarterly meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 10th, at the Clanton/Chilton County Library. Historian Jim Phillips will speak to the Society on a variety of Alabama subjects.

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

MEMBERSHIP RATES:

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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, 13 October 1927

Dr. Samuel E. Johnson

Standing out conspicuously on the enumerated list of sons and daughters of Clanton who have helped to put our town and county on the map of the world is the name of Dr. Samuel E. Johnson. He is the youngest son of late Dr. J. S. Johnson, and a brother of our esteemed citizens, Drs. Napoleon and Arthur Johnson. Sam was born in Clanton in 1889 and is the youngest of four sons.

Coming as he did of a family of four physicians, it was but natural that he should choose as his life's vocation the noble calling of his ancestors. In early life he attended the city schools of Clanton. Later he went to Randolph-Macon College where he graduated and went on to take up his study of medicine at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. He was awarded a diploma from that institution in 1911.

After his graduation from Vanderbilt he was licensed by the State of Alabama to practice medicine, and he began his professional work at his home city, Clanton. Along about this time there is to be recorded what is perhaps the greatest event of the young doctor's life, his marriage to one of Clanton's fairest daughters, Miss Mattilee Harper.

(Continued, page 2)

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Dr. Johnson removed to Verbena and practiced medicine for a short while. Then followed a course in McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Returning to Clanton to pursue the practice of his profession, Dr. Johnson made preparations to settle down and devote his future years to a life of service to the home people with whom he had grown up. But along came the World War about this time. Like millions of other young men of that day, the plans of Dr. Johnson had to be made all over again, because the big war was calling for men from all walks of life. The response of this young physician to the call of his country was made by his enlistment in the United States Navy for the duration of the war.

During the wartime period he made an enviable record in the service of his country. His duties carried him to practically every important country in the world. At the conclusion of war, Dr. Johnson chose to remain in the service of Uncle Sam. He was placed at a very important post in one of the country's largest sanatoriums at San Diego, California.

Frequent visits have been made by Dr. Johnson to his native city and he always expresses himself as intending someday in the distant future to come back home and settle down. He owns quite a lot of very valuable business property here, and his cozy little home on the north Sixth Street remains in charge of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Harper, awaiting the day when her son-in-law and daughter shall have grown weary of the world and turn their footsteps homeward.

Clanton and Chilton County are proud of Sam Johnson. We have known him ever as a clean, upright, sterling young man. He has gone the world over and we dare say that every place he has been has admired him for the qualities by which we love and honor him at home.

Everybody in Clanton would be joyful to know that he had decided to come back to the place of his boyhood to spend the rest of his days.

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Union-Banner, Thursday January 5th, 1928

Mr. W. W. Fox

If *[there is]* one word to express the qualities

of one of our best citizens, that word would be enthusiasm, but one word is entirely inadequate to express the qualities of a man of Mr. W. W. Fox's remarkable capabilities; so to express him fully we must describe him as industrious, progressive, conservative, energetic and loyal to his hometown, shrewd in business and a promoter of rare intelligence and insight.

Mr. W. W. Fox, the son of Mr. William Wesley Fox and Jane McClure Fox was born October 9th, 1865 at Somerset, Ky. At the close of the Civil War, Mr. Fox's father was killed and his mother was left to battle along for herself and son, and when Mr. Fox was two years of age, his mother moved back to her old home place in Severe [*sic*] County, Tenn., and in 1878 she and her son moved to Huntsville, Alabama.

Mr. Fox received his early schooling at old Shilo school and Paul's Chapel, rural schools of Madison County, and the rest of his education was gotten by hard knocks.

At the age of 14, Mr. Fox was left an orphan. The high principles his mother had instilled in him sustained him through years of upward struggle. At his mother's death Mr. Fox went back to Kentucky and learned candy making under Mr. W. E. Hodges. Then followed various occupations, including the carrying of the Star Route Mail on horseback over 40 miles of rough road in all kinds of weather. Later he served an apprenticeship in bricklaying and carpenter's work. In 1891, Mr. Fox learned the photographic business which he followed in Huntsville and later for several years in Tennessee.

In 1897, Mr. Fox returned to Huntsville and married Miss Willie Edna Stewart of that city. After his marriage, Mr. Fox went into the mercantile business in Huntsville and remained in that business until 1903, at which time he became interested in real estate. In 1911, he sold out his interest in Huntsville and moved to Clanton.

Mr. Fox's first impression of Clanton was a very favorable one. He said that the town had a future, and his faith in Clanton's future was demonstrated by the fact that upon coming to this place he immediately invested his money in Clanton real estate and other enterprises.

Mr. Willie C. Edwards

In 1922, while on a vacation, Mr. Fox lost his wife in an automobile accident from which he barely escaped alive in Jackson County. Mrs. Fox's death was a great blow to him as well as to her hundreds of friends in Clanton and elsewhere who held her in high esteem.

Mr. Fox continued his various enterprises in Clanton, in the meantime auctioneering, which he had followed for 20-odd years, consuming much of his time.

In 1924, he married Mrs. Mattie Wooley, formerly Miss Mattie Ware, sister of Mrs. W. A. Reynolds of this city.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Fox are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Clanton and are active workers in all the interests of the church.

Mr. Fox has no children but the famous baseball player, Broadus Connatser of the Jackson Club, has spent much of his time with Mr. Fox and has taken in a large measure the place of the son.

In the seventeen years of Mr. Fox's stay in Clanton, he has meant much to the progress of our city. His enthusiasm and public spirit have been great factors in the growth of Clanton and he has spared no pains in helping to build up this city. It is indeed inspiring to hear this broad minded citizen speak of Clanton's future and the fact Mr. Fox possesses rare good judgment in business [*sic*]. Our faith in his insight and foresight makes his following statement one of interest to every citizen of Clanton and Chilton County:

"Clanton's future is as bright as a day in May. It is so situated as to have territory to support a city of consequence. Being bounded as it is with Birmingham on the north, and Montgomery on the south and Selma on the west, there is not a location in the state as logical for a city. If each citizen will lend his support and cooperation, Clanton, in ten years' time will have a population of 20,000 people."

More honors to Mr. Fox, and here is hoping Clanton citizens will take up the cry, "Twenty-thousand people in Clanton before 1938." Also let us hope they add to its lustre [*sic*] by attracting to and claiming and as its own many more such citizens as the esteemed Mr. W. W. Fox.

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When we consider the useful and successful men and women that Chilton County has set out into the world, then we begin to realize the important parts the mothers and fathers of our county have played and are still playing in the history of America. Their ideals and principles are spreading out into the world to make it a better place, and in no son of Chilton County or any other county have lofty ideals and inspirations been more evident than in the person of Willie C. Edwards, and no community has sent out a more useful citizen.

Mr. Edwards, the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Edwards, was born at Route 2, Clanton, July 17th, 1896. He attended the grammar school and the C.C.H.S. from which he graduated. At Auburn he studied electrical engineering. When the World War broke out, Mr. Edwards answered his country's call and attended a training camp at Auburn, at which time he was in the radio department. His company was ready to leave for the front when the armistice was signed. He graduated at Auburn with high honors in 1918.

Mr. Edwards served his apprenticeship, one year at Westinghouse, at Pittsburg, Pa. Due to his unusual talent and ability he made a great impression upon the head of Westinghouse and was given a position as superintendent of the branch at Springfield, Mass.

On July 14th 1920, Mr. Edwards married one of Clanton's young ladies, Miss Mae Roberts. Three years later he was made sales manager of the United States for Westinghouse. The later part of that year he was called back to Springfield and given another promotion.

The next year Westinghouse discontinued his branch of the work but recommended him highly to the North East Electric Co. at Rochester, New York. After spending a short time in the shops he was promoted to assistant manager in Chicago. In 1925 he was promoted to general manager at Detroit, Mich. This position he now holds. This company, while manufacturing various types of electrical machinery, specializes in electrical parts for automobile motors.

Mr. Edwards' career has been an interesting one. He has risen steadily from the beginning and having put his hand to the plow, he never turned back.

He will be remembered as a splendid character, a bit reserved but withal a jovial manner, which made him popular wherever he went.

Chilton County and Alabama are proud of him, and we congratulate him and also those who have been his inspiration through life.

Value Plus

Old Schools of Chilton County Alabama

By Lorene LeCroy

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~

Baker/Chilton County Marriages,

1870 - 1893

\$22.50 + \$3 S&H

~

The Heritage of Chilton County

(Contact Library to get on waiting list for reprint)

\$59.40 + \$5 S&H

~

Thorsby: Writings & Memoirs

Of Mrs. Grover Bice

\$20.00 + \$3 S&H

Mail Check or Money Order

To

Chilton County Historical Society

P. O. Box 644

Clanton, AL 35046-0644

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CHILTONIAN

Volume 30, Number 2

April 2010

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its quarterly meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 11th, at the Helen Jenkins Chapel in Thorsby. Lucille McFarland will present a program on the history of the town of Thorsby.

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
22 December 1927

Mr. Herbert Davis

It is interesting to trace the origin of a man's ambition and consequence (*sic*) success to his boyhood days, and in so doing we find Herbert Davis a tiny lad tinkering with a net work of wires in which he has visions of wonderful inventions, and a few years later we find him in a crude laboratory of his own making experiments with various chemicals, and today we find him a man, quickly rising to the top of the ladder of success for Herbert has become a successful chemical engineer.

Back of almost every successful man we know there is a noble father and mother who have taught the boy vision, and through inspiration and self-denial have helped him toward his goal. Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Davis, the parents of Herbert, have meant this and much more to their son.

Herbert was born at Enterprise, August 6th, 1901. When he was three years of age his parents moved Clanton where Herbert entered grammar school. In the class of 1920 he was an honor graduate of the C. C. H. S., after which he worked three years before entering college at the University of Alabama. His record there...

(Continued, next page)

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...contradicts the statement that so many boys make, that a man is handicapped if he cannot immediately enter college after graduation from high school. Quite often people who only view their success, so to speak, instead of experiencing it, think that success is a piece of luck, but it is not. Herbert worked hard every day of his college life. So diligent was he in his work that his high grades won for him several Fellowships. After his first year in college Herbert accepted a Fellowship in Physics, and with the last two years of college he was offered a Fellowship in Chemistry.

He was president of his class and his senior year and was active in military life. Aside from being a good scholar, Herbert was popular in the social life of his school. He was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi fraternity and of the Gamma Sigma Epsilon, an honorary chemical fraternity, an honor which only one other Clanton boy has received, namely, Clyde Foshee.

In 1923 Herbert graduated from the University of Alabama with the highest honors in his class, having a record of nothing but A's during his four years.

A few weeks after his graduation he accepted a position with the United States Steel Corporation in Ellwood City, Pa., as chemical engineer. It is interesting to note that this is the same company in which Bill Evans (*sic: Edwards*) holds a splendid position.

Those who understand Chemical Engineering can readily understand why Herbert enjoys each step of his research work, which is as follows: plugs and points in getting differences in heats on all electrical furnaces (in which he has the opportunity to find the best deal at the lowest prices). Hardening room on special steels for machine parts, boiler water, foundry sands, etc. After his last assignment which includes X-Ray and microscopic experience, Herbert will become technical advisor of the big furnaces after which his next promotion will be to the General Electric Co. in Cincinnati.

The impression of Dr. Denny, president of the University of Alabama, of Herbert is expressed in his recent remark, "If Chilton County High School has any more students like Herbert Davis, it does not need any other recommendation."

When we consider the sources of Herberts (*sic*) inspiration it brings to mind one other who has meant much to him, his sister, Mrs. Robert L. Williams.

We are proud of this native son of Clanton and we hope that other boys and girls will follow his example, and in so doing remember that in Herbert's inspiration it brings to an impossible were absent (*sic*).

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Thursday, February 16th, 1928

Miss Estelle Littlejohn

Ambition and success usually go hand in hand because the person who has real ambition usually has the determination to back it up. The stuff that ambition is made of is sacrifice and unceasing effort, and when we find a person who is willing to forgo pleasures in order to make something of their lives then it does not take a clairvoyant to foresee success for that person.

Clanton can boast of a number of girls who have set out to seek their fortune, and it is with a great deal of pride that we think of this number of courageous girls who have really succeeded in their several professions and vocations.

One of the number of girls of whom we are justly proud is Miss Estelle Littlejohn who has attained a large degree of success in the business world of Birmingham.

Miss Littlejohn, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Littlejohn, was born in Clanton where she received her early schooling at the Clanton Grammar School. In 1924 she graduated from the Chilton County High School and immediately set out to secure her fortune in Birmingham. Miss Littlejohn showed such ability even from the beginning of her business career as clerk for the American Telephone Company, that she was soon recognized as a capable businesswoman, and her services since that time have been in great demand. Needless to say the above mentioned company requires an unusual degree of accuracy and ability of its clerks and that fact in itself is a compliment to the person who holds such a position as Miss Littlejohn.

In 1927 Miss Littlejohn was offered a splendid

position with the Postal Telegraph Cable Company which she accepted and held until this week, when she became clerk for the Interstate and Electric Company in Birmingham.

Young people often cherish a certain ambition from early youth and if for some reason they cannot develop that ambition they are wont to think that their lives to some extent are failures, but Miss Littlejohn has proven that such an idea is erroneous. When she was a little girl, Miss Littlejohn longed to be a trained nurse and look forward with a great deal of pleasure to the time when she should become a nurse, but fate did not lead her in that direction. Despite that fact she has achieved success. This goes to prove that determination directed in any line can accomplish wonders.

The Littlejohns will be pleasantly remembered in Clanton where they lived for a number of years. Mr. Littlejohn was a popular merchant here and his family also made a host of friends. And while they are now making their home in Woodlawn, Birmingham, we still claim them as are all (*sic*).

Mr. and Mrs. Littlejohn are to be congratulated on their daughter's success, and we are glad that we can claim such a plucky young lady as a Clanton girl.

Union-Banner, 3 November 1927

Miss Jewel Armstrong

The twentieth century woman has made for herself a place in the professional and business world, and many of Chilton County's young women have joined the ranks of the new woman and are making remarkable progress in the various walks of life.

It is generally conceded that every individual has some talent which if fully developed will fit perfectly into the beautiful pattern of life. There is no calling higher or nobler than that of a trained nurse. Doctors are a blessing to our country but after they have left the sickroom, it is the nurse who with patience, tenderness and intelligence battles hour after hour and day after day with the disease.

Miss Jewel Armstrong is one of the fortunate people who have discovered her talent and her excellent record as a nurse bears evidence to the fact

that she has put her whole heart and soul into her work.

It will of course be interesting to recall something of Miss Armstrong's history. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Armstrong of Clanton and was born in Calera. Before moving to Clanton in 1919 she lived in Siluria and Verbena. In 1923 Miss Armstrong graduated from the Chilton County High School. Her pleasing personality won for her a number of friends who regretted to have her leave home for Selma. On August 1, she entered the Baptist Hospital in that city and on May 18, 1927, graduated as a nurse with high honors. So proficient was she in her work that she was in great demand in the hospital even before graduation. She was off-duty at 6:00 P.M. and was called on duty at 6:00 A.M.

Miss Armstrong is at present working with Drs. John Furniss, Eugene Calloway and Massey in Selma. Each of these doctors recommends her as being one of the best on record.

This goes to show what a wonderful future life is in store for every young person who sincerely wishes to make his or her life count for something, and it is our hope that our County will send out other young women in the coming years, who will serve humanity so noble (*sic*).

The Union-Banner joins Chilton County in congratulating Miss Armstrong upon her success.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our "Value Plus" advertisement box (following page) always features a number of the books and compiled writings on subjects dealing with Chilton County history.

Over the last several issues of *The Chiltonian*, we have included *The Heritage of Chilton County* within Value Plus, along with a note that one should contact the Chilton/Clanton Public Library in order to get on a waiting list for the popular book's first reprinting.

Because Heritage Publishing Consultants no longer has a local representative, this process for ordering *The Heritage of Chilton County* has become problematic; therefore, we suggest that you contact the publisher directly if you desire a copy of the book.

(Continued on back page)

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To that end, the following contact points for
Heritage Publishing Consultants are provided:

WEB Site:

<http://heritagepublishing.net/>

Toll-free Number:

1-800-568-1611

Mailing Address:

Heritage Publishing Consultants
P. O. Box 22128
Louisville, KY 40252-0128

Value Plus

Old Schools of Chilton County Alabama
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\$15.00 + \$3 S&H

Baker/Chilton County Marriages,
1870 – 1893
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Of Mrs. Grover Bice
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31 MAR 2010 PM 1 L

2010 Census
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CHILTONIAN

Volume 30, Number 3

July 2010

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its quarterly meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, July 11th, at the Chilton/Clanton Public Library. Mrs. Harry Atchison, Curator, will give a presentation on the Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington, which is located in Columbiana.

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
27 October 1927

Clyde H. Foshee

And another young Chilton man who is destined to shed laurels upon his boyhood home is Clyde H. Foshee, son of Mr. C. D. Foshee who resides in the western part of our county. Early in life he manifested a disposition to study and learn and soon he was in a primary school at Billingsley where his grades work (*sic*) promptly conferred and his appetite for education so stimulated that he longed for more.

He then came to Clanton and was extremely fortunate in entering the Chilton County High during the administration of Professor H. C. MacDonald, who is one of the most efficient instructors Alabama has ever had. In his earnestness for learning and his daily deportment Clyde made such an impression upon Mr. and Mrs. M. L. White that they invited him to make his school home with them, which he did, and they assisted and encouraged him in his work for the four years required for him to complete his course there.

During his high school course he led his class each year and finally graduated with special honors. His ambition for education not being satisfied he made arrangements and matriculated... (*Continued, next page*)

(Continued from page 1)

...in the University of Alabama. His first year he made such an excellent record that the Professor took a special interest in his work and gave him all possible assistance. His progress was so marked that after his second year they gave him a position of assistant instructor for some of the classes for which they paid him almost enough to defray his expenses for the two more years of his course.

He completed his four year term receiving an A.B. degree with honors. He then secured the recommendations of President Denny, of the University, with which he had the honor of entering the Harvard University of Boston, Mass., where he is taking the course in medicine and surgery, making high-grades in work there last year. He will complete his full course at Harvard in three more years, and will then be equipped to do honor to old Chilton, no matter where he may see fit to locate.

This young man's record should be a source of inspiration and encouragement to other young people of our county. It proves that where there is a will there is most assuredly a way.

We're very happy that Chilton County has given birth to a young man of Mr. Foshee's ideals, and we are sure that his life will be one of real service.

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Union-Banner
17 November 1927

Mr. Evans Edwards

Prominent in the list of Clanton people who have made good in other cities is Evans Edwards, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Edwards of Clanton.

Evans, as a child, showed a keen interest in machinery and electricity and his selection of a profession as electrical engineer did not come as a surprise to his family and close friends.

Mr. Edwards was born one mile east of Clanton in 1902. He attended the Clanton Grammar School and in 1920 graduated from the Chilton County High School. The following year he entered Auburn, where, following his life's ambition he studied

electrical engineering. During his four years in Auburn, Mr. Edward's record as a student was an enviable one. And on the campus as well as in the classroom he was highly esteemed. In 1924 Mr. Edwards graduated from Auburn in electrical engineering with high honors.

In 1925 he served his apprenticeship with the Bell Telephone Company at Atlanta. In a few month's (*sic*) time the company realizing his unusual ability assigned him to a position as electrical engineer at Jackson, Mississippi, which position he still holds. This responsible position takes Mr. Edwards all over the state of Mississippi where he makes estimates of costs of constructions.

December the 2nd, 1926, marked one of the most important epochs in Mr. Edward's career, when he married the charming and talented Miss Irma Moore of Gulfport, Mississippi.

Chilton County takes exceptional pride in Mr. Edward's record and we feel that thru (*sic*) this son we have a part in the big enterprise of our nation.

Mr. Edwards will be remembered as a gentleman of the highest type. He is always most polite and his reverence for the higher and nobler things of life is the keynote to his success. He is studious and energetic and needless to say he is rewarded fully for his efforts.

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Union-Banner
29 December 1927

Miss Hattie Jones

Washington, one of the most historic national capitols in the world, is a cosmopolitan city where one meets the whole world. Ministers and Representatives from every nation maintain their establishments in the characteristic styles of their respective countries. Learned men from every nation visit Washington to study the conditions of this remarkable city and with the best intellect from every corner of the earth gathered together in any city is bound to make that city a place of rare opportunities.

Washington is to the United States what Paris is to France; it sets the pace for entertainment and

every city in the country vies with one another to match its grandeur and magnificence.

In just such an atmosphere which we might call the zenith of every girls (*sic*) dreams is Miss Hattie Jones who is known and loved by Clanton people.

Miss Jones was born at Mulberry near Clanton and attended the Clanton public schools and after that, high-school at Newton, Alabama. Later she went to the University of Florence which burned some time ago. Miss Hattie's first experience in teaching was at Newton, Alabama. Later she taught at Quincy, Fla., and Fort Deposit, Ala.

In 1920 Miss Jones decided upon a business career and consequently took a business course at Wheeler Business College in Birmingham and after her graduation she accepted a position as a stenographer for the Forest Lumber Company and the following year Miss Jones became secretary to Mr. L. F. Gerald, a prominent Clanton attorney.

In 1923 the goal toward which she worked so hard was realized when Miss Jones became stenographer for Senator J. Thos. Heflin, in Washington, D.C. And so proficient was she in her work that she assumed new duties until finally she was given charge of assisting the (*sic*) pensions and her energy and patience (*sic*) war veterans in collecting their (*sic*) in this work was a boon to many American boys maimed by the World War.

After working with Senator Heflin three years, Miss Jones became secretary to Major Jeffers in Washington, which position she now holds.

This rapid rise in the business world is a reward of a natural intellect developed to its fullest degree. Miss Jones had been a scholar all her life and she deserves this rare honor which has been bestowed upon her.

Miss Jones is the daughter of Mrs. Andy Jones of this city and a sister to Mrs. J. P. Hayes, one of Clanton's prominent club women. She is also a sister to Mr. Hugh Jones a popular merchant of Clanton.

Miss Jones is very popular in Clanton where she is admired by all who know her. Her lovely personality has won for her a large circle of friends in her hometown as well as in Washington where she is prominent not only in business but in social life.

Union-Banner (?)
19 January 1928

Mr. W.H. Sartor

The fruit of industry and pluck is success, hence Mr. W. H. Sartor is one of the most successful merchants in central Alabama because he has worked unceasingly to realize his boyhood dreams of being a merchant.

Mr. Sartor was born September 12, 1861, near Autaugaville, Alabama. He is the son of Mr. W. D. Sartor and Mary Elenor Sartor and is the brother of Mr. Eugene F. Sartor who holds a lucrative position with Schloss Sheffield Company of Birmingham.

On March 18, 1872, Mr. W.H. Sartor moved to Clanton from (*sic*) Baker County.

A real appreciation of the splendid salaries of today can be gotten by comparison with those paid when Mr. Sartor was a youth. His first position was where he received 25 cents a day. Later at a saw mill he was paid 75 cents a day. He received his first regular monthly salary of \$10.00 as clerk for Captain John Harmon (*sic: Hannon*), a merchant for whom he worked two fall seasons. Later Mr. Sartor accepted a position with R. Ehrman, a merchant who came to Clanton from Montevallo and ran a merchandise business on the site where Mullins and Moore now stands. Mr. Sartor's salary at that time was only \$35.00 a month. When he gave up the position 15 years later he was earning \$50.00 a month.

In 1897 he launched out into business for himself, forming a partnership with Mr. N. A. Kicker in a firm which will be remembered as Sartor and Kicker. On September 12th, 1896, Mr. Sartor married his splendid wife who was Miss Mary Belle Watts. She lived near Clanton at that time.

Later Mr. Sartor bought out Mr. Kicker's interest in the business and the firm of W. H. Sartor and Sons, was established.

In 1916 the Clanton Bank failed and he lost all of his hard earned savings. At a time when many would have lost heart, Mr. Sartor's dauntless courage steered him over the rough places and in 1919 he formed a partnership with Mr. V. J. Elmore. And now, regardless of the drawbacks in the past, Mr. Sartor's ability...

(Continued, next page)

...as a merchant has made his present business, Elmore's, one of the most up-to-date stores in this vicinity and has given him a place of prominence with other business heads.

Besides being a good merchant Mr. Sartor is a splendid man of high ideals and principles. He has meant a great deal to the advancement of Clanton. In every movement for the betterment of his town Mr. Sartor has taken an active part, giving generously of his time and means. He is a member of the Baptist Church, a member of the Masonic Lodge, and a member of the Zamora Temple Shrine.

Mr. Sartor is the father of Mrs. Barney Roberts, Mrs. Crutcher Ross and Mr. Adolf Sartor. Two other sons Lee and John Sartor died some years ago. Mr. Sartor and his family are very active in the church, social and club life of Clanton. His daughters Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Ross are accomplished musicians who are very unselfish with their talents.

Mr. Sartor believes absolutely in Clanton where he has lived for over 50 years. He has had an opportunity to study the town from every angle and it is his opinion that in 8 or 10 years Clanton will be a city.

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Chilton County Historical Society
P. O. Box 644
Clanton, AL 35046-0644

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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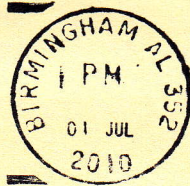
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CHILTONIAN

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October 2010

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its quarterly meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 10th, at the Chilton/Clanton Public Library. Dr. John Van Falkenburg will give a presentation ("The Magic of Thought") that will be of interest to all Society members.

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)

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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
15 March 1928

Mr. Joseph Benjamin Downs

A citizen who is noted for his loyalty to this town, his just dealings with his fellow citizens, and his thrift is Mr. Joseph Benjamin Downs, the son of the late M. William Downs and Rebecca Downs. Mr. Downs was born near Rockford, in Coosa County, on May 18, 1864. He obtained his education from the country schools of that county, and assisted his parents on the farm until he was 18 years old, at which time he received a position as teacher of the Coosa River Church School, in Elmore County, where he taught two three-month terms.

In '86 Mr. Downs worked several months on a short line railroad at Oxmoor, Ala., and the following year married his 16-year-old bride, who was Miss Lydia M. Eiland, the daughter of Della and Frank Eiland, who lived 7 miles south of Clanton. His account of the marriage is very humorous. Mr. Downs said he borrowed his brother's Prince Albert coat, stole his youthful bride, and set out for Atlanta, where they spent their honeymoon. They returned a few days later to Alabama, bought a round axle wagon on credit and set out in earnest to work, hauling lumber for Uncle Berry Wells, who had the lumber unloaded at old Wintersville.

(Continued, next page)

Newsletter 1

(Continued from page 1)

During the summer months the price of lumber went so low that times became very hard for the lumber dealers, so much so that Uncle Berry called his employees together, explained the situation, and said that due to the slump in the business he would not be able to pay any wages for their services, but said that he would divide rations with them. Some of the workers agreed to this arrangement, but Mr. Downs hastily withdrew his services and sought employment elsewhere. He spent a month on the farm and then went to teach at Poplar Springs School, and taught two 10-month terms.

The following year he went to Cooper, Ala., where he went into the mercantile business. He went to Montgomery to buy the opening bill of dry goods from Bolling and Co. The salesman, Mr. Worthington, attended him, and here Mr. Downs had another amusing experience. After he spent all his money he told Mr. Worthington that he was under the impression that when a man paid a certain amount of cash money for goods he was entitled to the same amount of credit, and the somewhat puzzled and embarrassed salesman consulted the credit man and came back with the answer-- "We know you are as good as gold, but we would rather have the gold." Needless to say this experience has been the source of a good deal of fun during the past years, and Mr. Downs still laughs over it.

He remained in the mercantile business at Cooper 8 years, during which time he also served as postmaster, and in 1898 moved to Clanton. Upon arriving here he bought out Mr. Dick Edwards' stock rough-shod, without even an invoice. At that time he occupied what is now known as the Wade Building and later moved his store across the railroad. It seems that Mr. Downs was in great demand, because here, too, he served several years as postmaster.

In 1915 Mr. Downs bought out the hardware business now owned by Farmers Hardware Company, and established the firm of Downs Hardware Company, his partners being his son, Mr. Hosea Downs, and J. J. Pickens; 8 years later in 1923 the Downs Hardware Company was sold to its present owners, and one of the partners, Mr. Pickens moved his family west.

Mr. Downs recently retired from public business, [and grows] watermelons and sugar cane on

his new farm 2 mi. south of Clanton on Montgomery Highway.

Mr. and Mrs. Downs are the parents of three children--Mr. Hosea Downs, who is a member of the firm Downs wholesale grocery company; Mrs. J. J. Pickens (Ruby Downs), who is living in Denver, Colorado, where her husband is interested in the real-estate business; Joe Ben Downs who operates an up-to-date barbershop here. Each of Mr. Downs' children are splendid men and women, who mean much to the religious and social life of their communities.

Mr. Downs joined the Masonic order at Cooper in 1893, and the Cooper Baptist Church in 1896. As a boy Mr. Downs had ambitions to become a lawyer, and though fate did not lead him in that direction, he became a most successful businessman, and Clanton is indeed fortunate in having a splendid man of Mr. Downs' type as a citizen.

He is a progressive citizen, and has proved himself sincere and loyal. During his 30 years stay in Clanton he has done much to promote its growth, entering whole-heartedly into every plan for the upbuilding of the town, and standing always for the best. Both Mr. and Mrs. Downs are loved by Clanton citizens and their influence for good is far reaching. Mr. Downs says that when he came to Clanton there was only one brick building, and that the city's growth has been continuous, and he is confident it will never stop growing.

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Union-Banner
22 December 1927

Dr. J. P. Hayes

The list of men who have been prominent in the progress and development of Clanton would be incomplete without the name of Dr. J. P. Hayes, who is one of our most substantial citizens.

Dr. Hayes was born in 1869 and attended his first school at Mulberry; later at Poplar Springs, Mississippi.

He began the practice of medicine in 1894, under Dr. Sam Johnson in Clanton, and in 1895 he moved to Lawley, in Perry County, where he practiced

independently. The following year Dr. Hayes graduated at the Medical College in Memphis, Tenn., where he made a creditable record. At the close of school he located in Maplesville, where he practiced two years, and in 1898 he located in Jemison, where he stayed one year.

In 1899 Dr. Hayes returned to Clanton, where he has practiced his profession for 30 years.

In 1903 Dr. Hayes took a postgraduate course at Tulane.

Clanton has never had a more capable nor conscientious physician than Dr. Hayes. The person who said that sympathy is one of the requisites of a successful doctor must have had Dr. Hayes in mind, [as] his sincerest sympathy has been a true comfort to hundreds of his patients all over Chilton County.

Few physicians have the ability to make a success of anything aside from medicine, yet, besides being a splendid physician, Dr. Hayes' business ability has meant much to the growth of Clanton.

In 1896 Dr. Hayes married the lovely Miss Eula Raspberry of Mulberry, the mother of Mrs. Grady Broadhead, one of Clanton's most popular matrons. Two years later his wife passed away.

In 1900 he married Mrs. Celeste Jones of Mulberry. Dr. and Mrs. Hayes' other four children, Dick, Jack, Kathryn, and Alex, [have] been much [involved in] every phase of Clanton life.

Dr. Hayes elder daughter, Mrs. Broadhead, plays a prominent part in the religious and social life of her community. The elder son, Dick, is a popular salesman with Polk Brothers Motor Co., Chevrolet dealers. Jack has gained fame in major-league baseball with the Washington Senators. Kathryn is an accomplished musician, and Alex aspires to the laurels attained in the baseball world by big brother Jack.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Hayes are very prominent in the social and religious life of our city, and their host of friends all over the county bespeaks the splendid spirit they have shown in everything for the betterment of our city and county.

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Union-Banner
8 December 1927

Mr. Hugh Foshee

When we consider the beautiful and progressive town that Clanton is today it is difficult to picture it as the small village that Mr. Hugh Foshee found when he moved here in January 1873.

Mr. Foshee is one of our oldest and most loyal citizens. Old Jim Baker [former slave of Alfred Baker, Sr., for whom Chilton County originally was named] is the only man left here today who lived here when Mr. Foshee first came.

He was born in Kingston, Alabama, in Autauga County, the 20th of March in 1851. He attended school at Isabella.

Just as Clanton has attracted a number of other men and women, so it attracted Mr. Foshee.

Clanton was incorporated for the first time the year that Mr. Foshee moved here in January 1873, and he has the distinction of writing up the first by-laws of the town of Clanton. He clerked for a time in the store of J. W. Foshee's that was located in the same spot where Mullins and Moore now stand.

Mr. Foshee's history is one of the most interesting and colorful imaginable. It represents in a large measure the ambitions and aspirations of every boy. When he was quite a young, carefree youth he heeded the call of the "Wanderlust" and journeyed to Texas where he rode wild ponies and enjoyed every thrill of ranch life. After staying in Texas a short time Mr. Foshee secured school in Fannin County in the northern part of Texas and taught one session.

In July of 1874 Mr. Foshee drove a number of Texas ponies to Arkansas and it was there that he met his lovely wife, Miss Mary Marzell Jones. After a brief courtship Mr. and Mrs. Foshee were married and made their honeymoon on Texas ponies to Monroe, Louisiana, 75 miles distant. It was there that the young bride saw her first train, so rare were they in those days. They boarded the train at that place and arrived in Clanton October 15, 1874.

Upon their return Mr. Foshee went to Lomax and taught five months school after which he kept
(Continued on back)

books for the old sawmill firm, Allen, Spain and Hawkins.

On account of bad health Mr. Foshee was forced to seek the out-of-doors and he again encountered interesting experiences. He bought a team and hauled logs, and in 1877 he traded his team for a house and lot in Clanton where he again made his home. He was appointed clerk of Circuit Court where he served until 1892. After which he practiced law for a few years. He next went into the lumber business in which he had a long and successful experience.

Mr. Foshee is the father of two children, a daughter, Mrs. Renfro Mullins, and a son, Durwood Marian, who died in 1902.

Three years ago Mr. and Mrs. Foshee celebrated their fiftieth anniversary.

Mr. Foshee has meant much to the business and community life of Clanton, and is one of the men who has helped put Clanton on the map. He and his family are highly esteemed, and Clanton has been a better place by their living here.

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