

# CHILTONIAN

Volume 37, Number 1

January 2017

## QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its quarterly meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 8th, at the Senior Connection (located in the Park Plaza Shopping Center, immediately west of the Clanton City Pool complex). At publication time, the program had not been finalized. That said, all 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	-	Derric Scott
Vice President	-	Colyn Moatts (acting)
Secretary	-	Scarlett Teel
Treasurer	-	Colyn Moatts
Reporter	-	Janette Bailey

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(Dues payable in January)

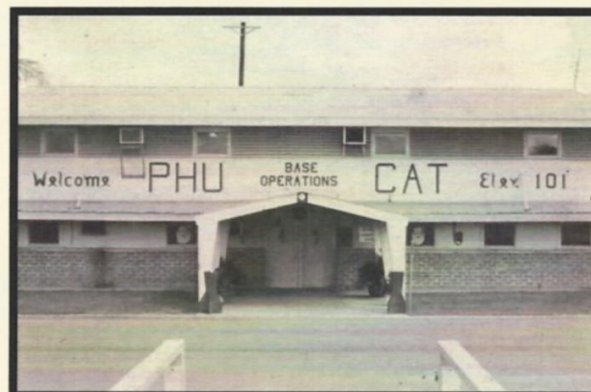
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## A Year For My Profit

Letters to Vietnam  
1969



By  
Colyn Clay Moatts  
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# The Letters

(continued)

[Reminder] NOTE: The following letters are transcribed in chronological order with original spellings and grammar, and although some letters are missing—my mother wrote to me at least once each week—one can easily get a sense of the times and home-front events from the letters here included. Sensitive or pejorative words and phrases [and occasionally an entire letter] have been redacted, as appropriate.

\*\*\*\*\*

From my father:

Clanton, Ala.  
May 25, 1969

Dear Colyn:

We are doing fine an hope you are. it sure did rain an hail here yesterday. About 12.00 o'clock but it died off quick an I cut grass till night. I have finished Mrs Jones<sup>1</sup> house on the outside it sure does look good. She has a small room to paint I told her I would paint it for her this week it won't take long. then I am going out of business for the time being. (like a Jew)  
I can get all the small jobs I want an that makes it a lot easier on me. I was talking to Dick Hayes<sup>2</sup> yesterday an told him Mrs Hayes an Mother sure was lucky they had us for a Husband. be good an write when you can. If you need any thing let us know. We love you very much. Mrs Jones said she had you on her pray list she is 82 years she is a very nice person. the time passes fast to us

With Love  
Daddy

1. A neighbor, about a block away.
2. A next-door neighbor.

From my mother:

Clanton, Ala.

May  
25 - 69

Dear Colyn

I hope this finds you doing alrite. As for us we are doing pretty good. We had a hail storm yesterday. it sure did beat my pretty flowers up. I hope they come out, they was so pretty I have some double petunias they are the prettiest things I have ever seen. Shirley & daddy are doing alrite. he is just about through painting.

Kate has her apartment fixed up & ready to move in next week.

she went home with Nell today.

Mother has gone to Sylacauga today, her sisterinlaw is being buried over there this afternoon.

she is going to stay a few days with Marvin & Beadie, while she is over there.

I washed your car & ours Thursday they both look like they are brand new.

You said you was having some hot weather, well its pretty warm here now, 91 deg t[w]o day's this week & 89 most all the time. I bet you are burnt up it is so hot there, I have a pretty good tan myself, from working in the yards.

I got your letters Thursday, write when you can & take care. I love you by for now, Mom.

From my father:

Clanton Ala.  
June 7<sup>1</sup> 1969

Dear Colyn:

We are doing alrite an hope you are fine  
I sure do apprecat the beautiful card an [cigarette] lighter. it was sweet of you. I am going to Montgomery this afternoon an spend the week end with the Golsons, I have been doing small jobs this week I made \$37.00 that is not too bad for me. they wanted me to work in the mill two evenings the pay would be about \$3.00 per hour but the work an worry two much for me. I had rather cut bushes. I hope you get to come home befor long the time sure does pass fast for me but slow to you I suppose. the weather sure is hot. Colyn Alvin McCary said tell you hello you may not know him but I told him I would tell you. Well I will close for this time Mother has dinner ready wish you were here to eat with us.

With Love  
Daddy

1. Dad's birthday

From my mother:

Clanton, Ala.  
June 7 - 69

Dear Colyn

Just a few lines to say hello, hope this finds you alrite.

As for us we are doing pretty good. it sure is hot here now in the 90 deg every day.

Daddy sure was proud of his cigarette lighter & the pretty card.

I gave him some underwear & Brut he likes to smell good, ha ha says it makes the women like him.

Shirley gave him a new shirt & he got lots of pretty cards.



Kate is living in her apartment now, she moved there last Monday.  
 I had a letter from Mama Moatts yesterday they are doing alrite.  
 I sure am glad you are first Lt. now, I know you need the pay raise.  
 Everything is so high here & goes up every week.  
 Mother & all the rest here are doing pretty good. Daddy is fixing to go to Montgomery for the week end.  
 I will stop for now write when you can & take care.  
 I love you, from Mother.

From my mother:

Clanton, Ala.  
 June 9 - 69.

Dear Colyn

Just a note to say hello,  
 hope this finds you alrite.  
 As for us we are doing pretty good, only about to burn up it is so hot here it was 93 deg yesterday.  
 Clay went to Montgomery over the weekend & Mama Moatts came home with him so she is here with us this week,  
 she said tell Colyn hello & she loved him.  
 I am sending you a picture I cut out of the Birmingham News<sup>1</sup>, so you could show the other boys what pretty peaches we grow in Clanton ha ha  
 Daddy & Shirley are at work & I have been washing some this morning,  
 so thought I would write you a note & go mail it before I had to fix dinner  
 everyone else here are about the same  
 Mrs. D. W. Patterson<sup>2</sup> is in the Baptist Hospital in Montgomery.  
 Clay went by to see her yesterday while he was down there.  
 I will stop for now write when you can & take care, we love you.

by from: Mom & Dad & Sis.

1. Issue of June 5, 1969, with photo of Peach Queen contestants Jacque Woodley and Sherry Moatts (my cousin).
2. An elderly neighbor.

From my mother:

Clanton, Ala.  
 June 18 - 69

Dear Colyn

how is my old boy today?  
 fine we hope, as for us we are doing pretty good.  
 have been haveing some cool nights, that makes for good sleeping, but I have to get up to early. its real hot in the day time tho.

they are haveing the peach festival here this week. I cut this [enclosed] clipping out of the paper for you, thought you would like to read it.

Your Ins[urance] papers came last Friday.

dad & Shirley are at work & I am fixing to go out side & work some in the yards.

Mrs. Patterson is still in the hospital in Montgomery, and Mr. Dick Hayes goes to the Hospital in Birmingham today.

the cancer has broken out in his face now & it is a secirous operation now.

Shirley is thinking of going to night school & take typeing & short hand,

so she can get her a better job.

she makes \$1.76 a hour now where she works, that's pretty good.

I better stop for now dont know mush news, just wanted to write & tell you I am thinking of you, & love you, take care of yourself & write when you can.

by for now from: Mother & daddy.

From my father:

Clanton Ala.  
 June 22, 1969

Dear Colyn:

I hope you are doing alrite we are doing fine. We have just got back from Montgomery. We went by Aunt Marys then went out to the hospital to see Mrs. Patterson she is not any better. I sure do hope you get your leave where you can go back to Tapie [Taipei] so you can see Amy<sup>1</sup> hop[e] she is doing alrite. I guess every body around here is doing alrite I don't have much time to see about them, it takes about all my time to work an keep Clay straight ha  
 the time is passing pretty fast We will get a whole week for vacation the first week in August. the work has been running very rough the last few weeks but hope it gets better there is a boy working in the Mill that has been in Vietnam dont know why he chose the Mill. You bee good as you can an write when you can

With Love  
 Daddy

1. Amy Chien (Chien Yao-Yao), a college student I met and dated on my first R&R trip to Taipei, Taiwan.



From my mother:

Clanton, Ala.

June  
22 - 69

Dear Colyn

Just a few lines to say hello, I hope this finds you doing  
alrite, As for us we are doing pretty good, only about to burn  
up

it has sure been a hot one today,  
we went to Church this morning & after lunch we went to  
Montgomery,

to see Mrs. Patterson, she is real sick.

We went by Mama Moatts & Mary's they are doing alrite,  
she has her house air conditioned & its real nice,  
but we all cant be rich ha ha.

We come back by Eva Hines house My Cousin that her  
husband has been sick for 13 years they are looking for him  
to die, and he would be better off & the whole family also.

We had some pretty rough weather here last Thursday night.  
it was stormey alnight & we had a lot of rain

We are getting fresh country tomatoes & vegetables now.

We had our first watermellon last week, we saw several  
truck loads of them on the road when we was comeing home  
this afternoon.

Well as news is short I better stop for now.

You take care & write when you can

We love you.

by for now from, Mother.

(To be continued?)

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*Of Mrs. Grover Bice*  
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Chilton County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 644  
Clanton, AL 35046-0644

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# CHILTONIAN

Volume 37, Number 2

April 2017

## QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its quarterly meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 9th, at the Senior Connection (located in the Park Plaza Shopping Center, immediately west of the Clanton City Pool complex). Author/photographer Glenn Wills will give a presentation on "Forgotten Alabama". All Chilton citizens interested in our county's history and its preservation are encouraged to attend. REMINDER TO MEMBERS: It's time for annual dues renewal.

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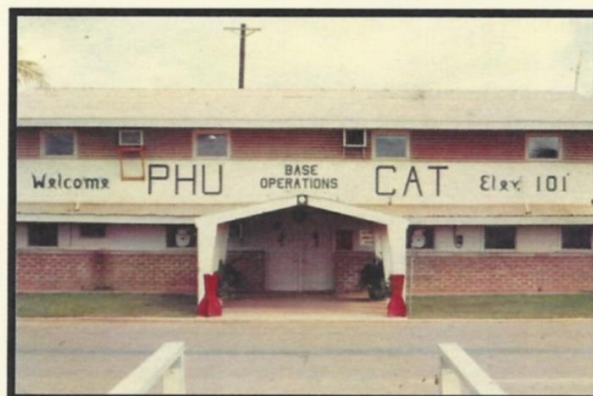
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**TO REPEAT:** "**EDITOR'S NOTE:** During the last Chiltonian "submissions drought" (2012), we began serializing a small booklet I wrote for our sons—three installments were published, one in each of three issues of the newsletter (April, July, and October 2012). Although I requested feedback on the series, none was received... at least, formally; however, I inferred (from the sudden influx of new submissions that followed the third installment) that perhaps a goodly number of folks preferred something other than reading the mail I received while on a tour of duty in Vietnam. Well, we're in another drought, and we're back to the old mail. As before, if you want to see something different, please forward your submissions to our Clanton address. I assure you the submissions—if they're even remotely connected to Chilton County history—will find their way into an upcoming newsletter. (Hey, it worked last time, so once more unto the breach, Dear Friends...)]

## A Year For My Profit

(Continued from Previous Issue)

Letters to Vietnam  
1969



By  
Colyn Clay Moatts  
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# The Letters

(continued)

*[Reminder] NOTE: The following letters are transcribed in chronological order with original spellings and grammar, and although some letters are missing—my mother wrote to me at least once each week—one can easily get a sense of the times and home-front events from the letters here included. Sensitive or pejorative words and phrases [and occasionally an entire letter] have been redacted, as appropriate.*

\*\*\*\*\*

From my mother:

Clanton, Ala.

June 25 – 69

Dear Colyn

We recived your letter yesterday,  
& was glad to hear from you.

As for us we are all doing pretty good except about to burn up.

it's in the 90 degs every day now & the low last night was 75 deg so you can see summer is here.

I am glad the Insurance bill on your car wasn't so much.

it sure come down from last year it was \$88.05 last year & I told them it was in storage. You said for us not to drive it, we dont it dont even have a tag on it.

We crank it up almost every day & keep it washed.

Mr. Dick Hayes is back home from the Hospital & doing fine.

but Mrs. Patterson is still real sick & in the hospital in Montgomery been there 4 week's.

I still have some pretty flowers in the front yard even tho its so hot.

I keep them watered.

Mother & all the rest up here are doing alrite.

I guess I better stop for now & go mail this.

You write when you can.

& take care we love you.

by for now from Mother & Daddy.

From my father:

Clanton, Ala.

June 29, 1969

Dear Colyn:

hope you are doing alrite we are doing pretty good this hot weather. the little man with a million friends<sup>1</sup> said it was 98 yesterday. I havent been working very much this week in the evenings, it takes all I can do to work in the mill, the work is running so bad. an the more you do the more they expect you to do, so I just dont worry about it. Just work 8 hrs an that is it. We will be off for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with pay, they are giving us a little pay increase soon with new year day off with pay that will be ~~theree~~ three days 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Christmas, New Years. I washed your car this week an polished part of it will get the rest when it cools off, ha it sure does look good. Colyn did you have [*spark*] plugs put in your car when you were in Denver I am going to have it tuned up just before you come home, let me know. I love you very much an will be glad when you get home.

With Love  
Daddy

1. Marion W. Easterling, a local gospel-song writer and radio personality on Clanton station WKLF.

From my mother:

Clanton, Ala.

June 29 – 69

Dear Colyn

Just a few lines to say hello. hope this finds you doing alrite. As for us we are doing pretty good, only about to burn up.

the high yesterday was 98 deg & they said it would be 99 deg today & 100 deg tomorrow with no rain in sight.

so we are in for a hot summer.

I went to Sunday School this morning, but didn't stay for preaching.

We have got to go to Montgomery this afternoon. My cousin's husband died yesterday.



I know you remember who I am talking about his name is Vaughn Hines, he has been down sick 13 years, so I know him & his family both are better off. Mother & Ida & Jesse are going with us. I dread the hot trip, but we couldn't go tomorrow for the funeral, so have got to go this afternoon for awhile. Kate is likeing her apartment fine, I was by there to see her yesterday. I will stop for now & let Daddy go mail this. You write when you can & take care, we Love you.  
by from Mother.



***Daddy & my brother Larry  
in Dec 1961***  
(Mullins house in background)

*From my father:*

Clanton, Ala.  
July 6 1969

Dear Colyn:

hope you are doing alrite this hot weather, the tempt has been around 100 Mark for over a week an lows at the 70 to 75 it has put Mom an Pop in the shade, ha. Cant take it. I have had a virus for a week but feel lots better today cant eat nothing but something cold, an a little chicken soupe. We are making it pretty good about the time passing off, just a little over two months. Burt Jr. Mullins<sup>1</sup> an his wife have a 8 lb 9 oz boy I sure am glad they made it. Grandpa Burt said he was floating on Cloud 9 now. Mrs. Mullins is such a nice person always asks about you. Colyn I don't know much to write about but we will be looking for you home before to long. Uncle Jesse an Aunt Ida have just left they are doing alrite.

Be sweet an a lots of Love

Daddy

*1. Burton Mullins, Jr., the only son of our neighbor, Mr. Burton Mullins, Sr. On June 7, 1962, Mr. Mullins, Sr., was the first person to make it through the woods and get to my brother (Larry) when he was killed in a hunting accident just northwest of our house.*

*From my mother:*

Clanton, Ala.

July 6 - 69

Dear Colyn

Just a few lines to say hello.

Hope this finds you doing alrite.

As for us we are some better. daddy & myself have both had a virus for about a week.

the weather is so hot I cant hardly stand it, the temperature stays around 100 deg & over every day. and don't get much lower at night.

Mother & Kate spent the day with us th 4<sup>th</sup> of July we grilled hamburgers & winers.

I went to Sunday School this morning, daddy didn't go his stomach is still upset.



Marvin & Beadie are down at Mothers today  
 We went down there to see them after lunch.  
 they brought Mrs. Patterson home from the hospital  
 yesterday.  
 she is better but still in a bad condition.  
 Ida & Jesse came over for a while this afternoon.  
 they are doing pretty good.  
 Maynard Cagle<sup>1</sup> got married Saturday night.  
 Pat Lewis<sup>2</sup> came by to see us Friday afternoon.  
 she is going to School this summer.  
 I will stop for now as news is short. Write when you  
 can & be sweet & take care We love you,  
 by for now from Mom.

1. *A high school friend of my sister, Shirley.*
2. *A high school sweetheart (and my first wife).*

*(To be continued?)*

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# CHILTONIAN

Volume 37, Number 3

July 2017

## QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its summer meeting on Sunday, July 16th, at 2:00 PM at the Senior Connection building. The speaker will be Alabama historian Jim Phillips. His talk will focus on Alabama antebellum history with extra information on "Old Maplesville."

The meeting is free and open to the public. Mr. Phillips will bring a portable museum with him consisting of artifacts and relics from Antebellum and Civil War Alabama.

Mr. Phillips is known for his presentations and videography on such topics as Alabama antebellum history, southern aviation, Sloss Furnaces, Birmingham-Southern, county histories, D-Day, and even ghost stories.

He is a historian, videographer, and collector of old bottles, coins, and more. If you have any old bottles (pre-1920), feel free to bring them for examination, evaluation, and possible trade for old coins and/or Civil War buttons.

You might be familiar with his brother, Dr. Doug Phillips, a naturalist who hosts *Discovering Alabama* on Alabama Public Television.

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**EDITOR's NOTE:** The following article is excerpted from a compilation of stories written by people who grew up and lived in the old Lay Dam Village, the residential community built by and for employees of Alabama Power Company's first hydroelectric power plant. Many thanks to Mrs. Barbara Petty for providing the material.



## The Beginning

Barbara Greene Perry sent us this article on the beginning of Lay Dam, written by Madge Wilbanks of The Clanton Advertiser. It sets the stage and explains the critical role the Bates family had in making Lay Dam possible. The personal family vignettes in the article are as remembered by Belle, one of Roliffee & Oda Bates' daughters who married Edwin Petty. Belle and Edwin had two children—Joyce and Billy. Barbara Greene married Billy. He was a grandchild of Roliffee and Oda Bates, as are Bill and Downie O'Neal who also contributed to the memories in this book.

### First Hydroelectric Plant Was Built Here

Saturday, April 15, 1989 was a most extraordinary day of celebration of Lay Dam and Alabama Power Company as 75 years of service to the people of central Alabama was recognized. It was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lay Dam, the first dam built by the young Alabama Power Company.

The construction of this dam was the culmination of a dream by a former riverboat captain, William Patrick Lay. As he travelled the river, he envisioned great potential for the waterway. He had previously built and operated a successful, small hydroelectric generating plant near Gadsden and had worked for the development of the river by building locks and dams for commercial travel.

In 1906, Captain Lay decided to organize the Alabama Power Company to finance his plans for a dam on the Coosa River. Lay's oldest son, Earl, and his attorney, Oliver Hood, joined him in incorporating the company on December 4, 1906 and in 1907, Lay secured approval from the U. S. Congress to build a dam on the Coosa. However, he lacked the necessary finances to make his dream a reality.

On May 1, 1912, Lay turned his holdings over to Thomas Martin, a legal expert on water rights, and to James Mitchell, a Canadian engineer and

financier. These two men also envisioned greater power on Alabama's rivers.

In 1912, according to Belle Bates Petty Hendrix, daughter of Roliffee and Oda Robinson Bates, Captain Lay drove from Clanton in a buggy to find her father who was clearing some new ground. She remembers that Captain Lay was a thin little man when he got out of the buggy and walked over to her father. Belle's father took Lay to the Bates' home, approximately 11 miles north of Clanton near the Coosa River, and the two men began talking. Apparently, Lay had been camping out on the banks of the river, looking at land around the area that he needed for the proposed dam. He had accidentally come upon the Bates' home and returned to Clanton to learn who lived there. Belle Bates also recalls that her father, Roliffee, just laughed at the Captain and told him he was crazy when Lay told him of his dream of putting a dam on the Coosa. Although the river was just a big creek, Bates did not think anything big enough to stop the water from running could be built. Besides thinking Captain Lay's dream impossible, Belle remembers that her father really did not want to sell the land anyway.

However, after sitting on the Bates' front porch and talking a long time about the dam and electricity for the area, Lay must have convinced Bates that his dream could come true because Roliffee sold him 40 acres of land for a \$50 gold piece. It seems the Captain carried a bag full of these gold pieces with him for just such purchases. At that time, Bates owned 1,500 acres around the Coosa River.

There were eight daughters in the family of Roliffee and Oda (Robinson) Bates, one of which was Belle. She was about six years old when she first remembered Captain Lay coming to talk with her father about acquiring land for the dam. When she was 16, Belle went to a Church of Christ tent meeting "that Mama let us attend." She remembered, "I liked the preacher, Brother Cornelius Petty, and a year later, married his son, Edwin, a linemen for the Alabama Power Company." Edwin was tragically electrocuted while working on a 60-foot pole at Martin Dam in



1930. He was only 29 years old at the time of his death.

After the actual construction of the dam began, Rolifee and Oda bates kept between 45 and 50 workers as boarders in their home. Belle remembered: "My mother's wood stove never got cold for three full years! Captain Lay, who had brought his own utensils with him when he travelled alone, added these to the large assortment of china, glasses and cooking utensils that Mother already had... so there was plenty of china on which to feed the working men."

Rolifee added three rooms to his family home to house the men. Oda Bates worked hard to feed all the men helping to build the dam but she had help from her older daughters as well as assistance of a young black woman who helped with washing all the dishes for that many hungry men. Can you imagine washing all the dishes for than many men?! The men ate on the L-shaped back porch where the tables were set up. The wash basins were placed on shelves along the wall for the men to wash their face and hands before eating. Also on the wall were towel racks with hanging towels which the men never seemed to mind using one after the other. Two men slept in each bed and there were four beds in each room. As with the towels, they never seemed to mind sharing the beds. They were just glad to have a place to eat and sleep. In order to feed that many men, Oda Bates ordered huge amounts of groceries once a week from a salesman who came out from Clanton. Captain Lay also lived with the Bates family whenever he came out to check on the construction of the dam. He and Rolifee used to sit on the front porch and tell tall tale after tall tale.

By 1914, the capacity of the dam was 54,000 kilowatts. Unit 5 was added in 1916 and Unit 6 was completed in 1921, giving the dam a total capacity of 81,000 kilowatts. In 1929, old Lock 12 was renamed in honor of the first president of the Alabama Power Company, Captain William Patrick Lay, whose dream had finally come true.

(To be continued?)

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## With Thanks...

It has been many years (two decades?) since I first began serving as your editor of *The Chiltonian*, but Volume 37, Number 3, is my last issue.

To put it as simply as I know how, I'm now in my seventies and the advancing years (with their attendant health issues) are making it very difficult for me to maintain the level of multi-tasking excellence to which I aspire and which I feel obligated to provide to you, the readers.

To be perfectly honest, I probably should have made this decision a couple years ago. For example, my steadily weakening eyesight combined with the arthritis in my fingers make typing a very time-consuming and difficult process. Editing alone has become an interminable procedure that drags on and on. You deserve better, more effective editorial effort.

I urge you to steadfastly support the new editor, who probably will be named over the next few months. Given the Society's demographics, it's unlikely that your next editor will be a teenybopper, but that's okay. The wisdom and experience that come with being 50-something or 60-something mean there's a good pool of dedicated Society members to choose from. Certainly, I pledge my support to the new editor.

In closing, I am mindful of the words of Moses as he admonished the children of Israel in his last days: "Consider the days of the past, which were once before you." What a great slogan that would be for a historical/genealogical society!

As local historians, we are the "keepers of the keys" for the generations ahead of us. If the so-called "millennials" are to have any chance at surviving their egocentric, myopic, and self-indulgent view of the world, we who have gone before must point them toward the truth of



history—history the way it was, not history the way they might wish it to be. After all, changed or buried history is not a reliable guide for useful learning and application in a hostile world.

Before I ramble too far afield, I appreciate all the help and support you have given me over these past years. It has been my privilege and honor to be editor of *The Chiltonian*, and I'm very grateful for the opportunity to serve you in that capacity.

And remember, I'm not resigning from life, I'm just withdrawing as newsletter editor. So, "Keep 'em flying!" And, I'll be seein' you around the campus.

Thanks again, and God bless you,  
*Colyn Moatts*

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# CHILTONIAN

Volume 37, Number 4

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## QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its fall meeting on Sunday, October 8th, at 2:00 PM at the Senior Connection building. The speaker will be Mr. Carey Heatherly, the University of Montevallo Archivist and Special Collections Librarian. His talk will explore the Archives at the Carmichael Library and especially the digitization project of our own Union Banner newspaper, among others! The Facebook page "Milner Archives and Special Collections" – is the official Facebook page of the Anna Crawford Milner Archives and Special Collections at the University of Montevallo.

The meeting is free and open to the public.

**CREDITS:** *Chiltonian* is a quarterly publication of the Chilton County Historical Society & Archives, Inc.  
P. O. Box 644, Clanton, Alabama 35046-0644

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***EDITOR's NOTE:** This quarter the Chiltonian presents an article detailing research into my Duren ancestry. I hope this is interesting and, perhaps, useful! If anyone has information, corrections, or other comments, please let me know.*

## A Brief History of Fulton Nathaniel Duren

By Derric Scott

Fulton Nathaniel Duren was the patriarch of the Duren family in Central Alabama. He moved his family from DeKalb County, Georgia to Chilton County, Alabama between May 1891 and June 1894 (according to the birth states of his children). Fulton hails from a large Duren family located in several counties surrounding Atlanta and also from areas to the west and southwest. The origin of the family in the United States seems to be the Augusta, Georgia area in the late 1700s. One of two known Duren sons moved into Central Georgia about 1824 and began this large family line.

The first documented appearance of Fulton is on the 1860 US Federal Census. He is a five year old boy living with his family in the "Several Districts" section of Coweta County, using the Palmetto Post Office. His family includes his mother, Emily Sarah Light Duren Hollis (age 30), older brother, George W. (age 8), and younger sister, Mary S. Duren (age 3). Even though Fulton is very young, a lot has already occurred in his life. It appears his father has died and his mother has remarried to Samuel P. Hollis. They are also living with Samuel Hollis and his other children (step siblings). Samuel is listed as being a railroad hand, and everyone in the listing was born in



Georgia. Also, it is noted that Samuel and Emily were married within the year. Fulton's father's name was George Washington Duren.

By August 1870 the family is living as a unit apart from the Hollis family members. However, they are all listed with last name "Hollis" including a new family member, Jane Hollis (age 10). Others listed are Emily (age 30), George (age 17), Fulton (age 13), and Jane (later called Mandy E. or Jennie, age 10). The census says they are living in the Goods District in Campbell County near the Powder Springs Post Office. However, they MAY NOT have moved, see below.

Campbell County had been carved out of the original Coweta County about 1828 and is the neighboring county due north of Coweta. Campbell County was fully incorporated into Fulton County in 1932. Note that Palmetto (where Fulton resides in 1860) is in the section of Coweta County that was cut out to make Campbell County. Palmetto was in Campbell County in 1870 and is today in Fulton County. So, most likely, our Duren family did not move between 1860 and 1870 – the county borders changed. This area is all west and southwest of Atlanta.

Mandy E. Hollis, Fulton's half-sister, married Joel R. Miles in 1878, had a large family (12 children or so), lived, and died in Georgia. One late note was made of her in Fulton's obituary on January 4, 1940, where it said he had "one half-sister, Mrs. Jennie Miles of Georgia."

I believe Fulton's sister (Mary S.) was later called Lottie and she seemingly never married. Lottie (Mary S.) Duren and Mandy E. Hollis Miles are buried with their mother in the Wesley Chapel Cemetery. Joel Miles is also buried there. Today, the church has been torn down and the cemetery is all that remains. The site is located at the intersection of Wesley Chapel Road and Snapfinger Creek Road in DeKalb County, which is about 12 miles east of Atlanta, just off of I20. The 1870 census may provide a clue about how they went from living west of Atlanta to being buried east of Atlanta...

Interestingly, Fulton has two separate entries in the 1870 US Census. On the 8th of August 1870, he is listed with his family in Campbell County, as described above. However, in the same census, on the 1st of September 1870, he is listed as 15 years old, at the Cross Keys Post Office, Shallowford District, DeKalb County, as a laborer on the farm of Noah and Nancy Dilda.

It appears that Fulton went from his family at home to work with Noah Dilda in DeKalb County. It isn't unreasonable that his mother and sisters followed him a little later. In fact, his sister, Mary, continued to live in the Stone Mountain area until her death on August 9, 1932.

George Washington Duren, Jr. was Fulton's older brother. He married and raised a large family of Durens west of Atlanta. Most stayed in the Palmetto and Fairburn areas. I have researched no further than his children and a few grandchildren.

On January 18, 1877 Fulton married Rebecca Elizabeth "Lizzie" B. Abbott (b. 1856, d. 1911), daughter of Walton D. Abbott and Margret Adaline Blount. They lived in Georgia and started their family. They had eight children (7 daughters, 1 son) before they moved to Alabama sometime between May 1891 and July 1894. The first child born in Alabama was Essie Mae on July 4th, 1894. Altogether, they had 10 children: nine daughters and one son (Edgar). One daughter, Maud, died at age 15 (in 1902). Fulton, Lizzie, and most of his children (and their spouses) are buried in the Mars Hill Cemetery, outside of Jemison, Alabama.

In the 1880 US Census (June 7-8) Fulton is living with his wife and two daughters in the Panthersville District of DeKalb, Georgia. His wife is R. E. (age 23), and his daughters are Evarilla (age 2), and L C (age 1). Fulton is listed as working on a farm.

There is no existing 1890 US Census, but on June 9, 1900, Fulton's entire family appears on the 1900 US Census in the Jemison precinct of



Chilton County, Alabama. Fulton is listed as a farmer.

In the 1910 US Census, Fulton is living with his wife and six children. Maud has died and three have married and moved out. By now some names have evolved. Dony is listed as Donnie, Ros as Rossie, Lester as Celeste (Lech to some), and Georgia as Sennie. Essie and Eula remain the same. Celeste married Joel T. Childress and is living next door with their son Rufus (5). They have been married seven years. Eva Rilla married John Franklin Lowery on October 28, 1897, has three children, and is living in Shelby County. John is listed as a foreman on the railroad. Vannie married Richard William Wilkes (listed as a merchant) in 1904. They are living in Montgomery (with no children yet).

Unfortunately, Lizzie Abbott Duren dies the next year, December 18, 1911. She is buried at Mars Hill Cemetery. There is no death certificate and no obituary has been found, so the cause is unknown.

Fulton continues to live in the Mars Hill area as a farmer into the 1920s. On the 1920 US Census (January 17) he is listed as widowed and living with his daughters Essie Duren and Donnie Allen (married Jack Allen) and two of Donnie's children: Joel Allen (age 7), and Estell Allen (age 3 10/12). Rossie has married James J Sims, is living nearby, and has two daughters. Joel and Celeste Childress and children are still living next door. Sennie married Joseph Smitherman and is also a neighbor. Eula has married Ruben W. Mims. They are living with Ruben's parents in Mignon, Talladega County with a son and a daughter. Ruben is a spinner in the cotton mill there. Edgar has married Fannie Mae Scott and is living next door to his in-laws in the Mars Hill area. Edgar and Fannie so far have four children: Richard, Roland, Linnis, and Fulton (Snook). Edgar is a laborer in a lumber mill.

Fulton and his daughter, Donnie Allen, and her son, Joel, move to the Columbiana (Shelby County) area by 1930, and both are listed as widowed. Fulton is 72 years old. Edgar continues

to live, with all of his ten children, in the Mars Hill area as a farmer in 1930.

According to his death certificate, Fulton N. Duren died on December 27, 1939 due to pneumonia from influenza at the age of 84 years, 11 months, 17 days; his father was G. W. Duren and his mother was Jane Light (both born in Georgia). His birth date is listed as January 10, 1855. The informant for the death certificate was E. D. Duren (Edgar).

Note that Fulton's headstone has contradictory information listing his birth date as February 27, 1855 and death date as December 28, 1938. The death date is certainly wrong on the headstone, since the death certificate's dates are all in 1939 (and his obituary was printed in January, 1940). Also, since the 1900 US census lists his birth as January 1855, as does the death certificate, then most likely the headstone is wrong on that account as well.

Fulton's father, George Washington Duren, was one of ten brothers and one sister. Their father (Fulton's grandfather) was George Duren (middle name unknown). This Duren family was well represented during the Civil War with all males (that were living) seeing service. Apparently Fulton's father, George Washington, was already deceased by the time of the war, but I have no record to prove and date his death. Two brothers died in the war: John G. Duren at Richmond, Virginia, and Griffin T. Duren at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The highest ranking brother was Corporal James Andrew Jackson Duren who served in the Georgia Cavalry. Corporal James A. J. Duren is buried in the Confederate Cemetery in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Fulton's grandfather, George, was one of two (known) brothers from Augusta; the other was Thomas. Thomas left the Augusta area and isn't further known. Their father (Fulton's great-grandfather) was from the north of Ireland of Scotch-Irish ancestry, settled in Augusta as a skilled blacksmith, and lived out his life there. Unfortunately, his name is currently unknown. As



a young man, George drove stage coaches from Augusta into Central Georgia. Eventually he bought land and settled in Gwinnett County (just north of Atlanta). As described above, the Duren family then slowly settled more and more to the west and southwest.

When Fulton moved from Georgia to Alabama, he apparently came as part of a good sized group of extended family and friends, especially the Abbotts. Fulton's wife was Elizabeth "Lizzy" Abbott Duren, and from her large family, at least three siblings moved to the Jemison area about 1893; her sister Dulcenia Abbott (married Thomas Parker), her brother John W. Abbott (married Francis E. Treadwell) and her sister Frances Emma Abbott (married George Calloway Shaw). One older relative recounted that they left Georgia because the soil wouldn't support cotton anymore.

## Message from the President

We greatly appreciate the years of dedication that Colyn Moatts has provided to our organization and the *Chiltonian* in particular. Thanks again Colyn!

An important consequence of Colyn's retirement as Editor is that we now have an opportunity for another member to step up and assume the editorial responsibilities. If you are interested or know someone who would be well suited, please contact one of the officers or leave a private message on our Facebook page.

Finally, we are about to begin what I think will be a very busy and interesting year. 2018 will be the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Sesquicentennial) of the establishment of Chilton County. By our next meeting, in January, planning activities should be well underway. Please check our Facebook page for updates and participation opportunities.

Chilton County Historical Society  
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