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**J**OURNAL

OF A

**J**OURNEY

WALKER JACKSON COFFEY

## PREFACE

The world moves thru time and space inhabited largely by little people or just average people. Whatever is accomplished in the world for the welfare of man and the Glory of God is practically always the result of hard work by the average man or woman.

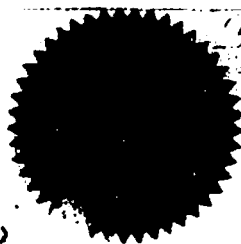
Yet when we look at history, only the leaders or the important people leave marks on civilization for everyone to see and read for thousands of years. No doubt the leaders deserve all the credits of history, but it is sometimes overlooked that leaders are only able to accomplish thru the average man or woman. Being able to achieve, thru others, is certainly proven as a historical accomplishment. However, when the average man has finished his life and been laid beneath the sod, about the only thing that he leaves for all to see is a marker in some cemetery which says — John Doe — Born Jan. 18, 1843, Died Mar. 4, 1897. In a few years no one knows anything about John Doe except what is carved in stone on his marker. We do not know how tall he was, what color eyes he had, what he did for a living, whom he married in many cases.

This is such a sad situation when national and state legislatures have spent our tax money to provide a repository for our life history and staffed it as a Department of Archives and History located in most State Capitols. Here, any citizen can store permanently papers of value to future generations. So very few citizens use this arrangement which could be extremely helpful in understanding the progress of our culture.

For these reasons, I have undertaken the writing of this Journal Of A Journey to record the significant events in the lives of my forefathers, my family and myself as we lived out our lives as average citizens.

Walker Jackson Coffey  
Route 2 Box 164  
Oxford, MS 38655

Dedicated to my father, James Alexander Coffey Jr. whose love and devotion to his kinfolks were demonstrated throughout his life.



Given under my hand and the seal of the Department of State, at the City of Washington, this 10th day of November in the year 1920 and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and forty fifth.

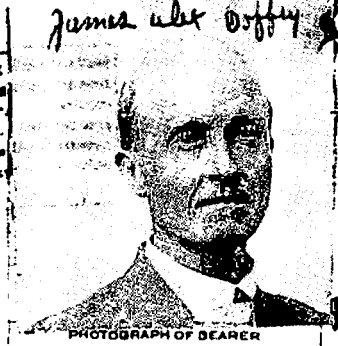
*William Bridge Colby*

James Alex Coffey

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

Age 41 years      Health *Medium*  
 Height 5 ft 10 in      Complexion *regular*  
Build *regular*      Hair *Brown*  
Eyes *Blue*      Complexion *Flawless*  
Nose *regular*      Face *oval*  
 Distinguishing marks  
 Place of birth Oxford Miss  
 Date of birth Nov 27 - 1878  
 Occupation Timber Inspector

Verify that  
 name the  
 of the  
 issued  
 of the  
 used at



PHOTOGRAPH OF BEARER

*James A. Coffey*  
 SIGNATURE OF BEARER

No. 109693

Passport information submitted to authorities in 1920 in connection with a business trip to British Honduras in Central America.

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## Part II

Chapters IV Through X will not be published until the year 2000.  
My son, Andrew Walker Coffey, is commissioned to do this for me.



## CHAPTER I

### Coffey-Petty-Bonds-Leggett Families And Connections

My father was James Alexander Coffey Jr., born November 27, 1878 at Caswell, Mississippi, Township 7 South, Range 1 West according to the public land surveys. He died June 21, 1955 in the Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas Veterans Administration Hospital. He is buried in Lot 279, Woodlawn Cemetery, Knoxville, Tennessee. His grave is marked.

My paternal grandfather was James Alexander Coffey Sr., born October 31, 1830 in Perry County, Alabama. He died June 6, 1907. He is buried in Old Liberty Cemetery, Section 17, Township 7 South, Range 1 West near Etta, Mississippi. His grave is marked.

My paternal great grandfather was Hugh Coffey, born April 9, 1784 in South Carolina. He left there sometime after 1827 along with many other families and settled near Etta, Mississippi. He died May 7, 1861, and is probably buried in the Old Liberty Cemetery as he was living with his son, A. B. Coffey, according to the 1860 U. S. census. His son is also buried in the Old Liberty Cemetery.

My mother was Mrs. Mary Johnson. Her maiden name was Mary Elizabeth Petty. Her first marriage was to Henry Johnson about 1892. He passed away about 1895 leaving her with an only child, Henrietta Johnson. My mother then married James Alexander Coffey Jr. She is buried in Knoxville, Tennessee.

My maternal grandmother was Harriet Jane Petty. Her maiden name was Bonds. She was born January 23, 1842 near the Philadelphia Church Site in Lafayette County, Mississippi. She died May 8, 1911 and is buried in the Candy Hill Cemetery, Union County, near Myrtle, Mississippi. Her grave is marked.

My maternal great grandmother was Elizabeth W. Bonds. Her maiden name was Coffey. She was a sister to my grandfather, James Alexander Coffey Sr. She was born in Mecklenburg District, North Carolina on May 9, 1821. She died on December 28, 1857 and is buried in the Philadelphia Cemetery, Lafayette County, Mississippi.

My maternal great, great grandmother was Margaret Walker who married Hugh Coffey. She was born October 1, 1789 in North Carolina and died November 4, 1854. She is probably buried in the Old Liberty Cemetery in Lafayette County, Mississippi as she was

living with her son, A. B. Coffey, at the time.

My paternal grandmother was Martha Ann (Mattie) Coffey. Her maiden name was Leggett. She was born in Lafayette County, Mississippi on October 20, 1848 and died on July 21, 1924. She is buried in Lot 100, St. Peters Cemetery, Oxford, Mississippi. She was the daughter of Charles S. Leggett.

My maternal grandfather was Andrew Jackson Pettey. He was born in Georgia on September 22, 1838 and died on August 23, 1910. He is buried in the Candy Hill Cemetery, Union County, near Myrtle, Mississippi. His grave is marked.

My maternal great grandfather was Luke Pettey, born in South Carolina on August 11, 1792. He died on February 23, 1865 and is buried in the Old Covered Wagon Cemetery near Lafayette Springs in Lafayette County, Mississippi. His grave is marked.

The father of my great, great grandmother was Andrew Walker. He was born on December 5, 1756 in County Antrim, Ireland. He died on September 20, 1845. His grave is marked in the Walker Family Cemetery near Walkersville, North Carolina in Union County. He emigrated to this country when he was eleven years old. He lived in South Carolina five years. While living in Mecklenburg District, North Carolina, he enlisted in the Revolutionary Army and served at various times as a Private with North Carolina troops under the command of Captains William Hagen, Robert Davies, McKnight and Colonels Ezekiel Polk, Robert Irwin and Adam Alexander. He was in the battle of Walkups Mills. He enlisted under General Davidson and served two months as Quartermaster. He was commissioned Captain in May 1781 and served one year in Colonel Irwin's North Carolina regiment. He was allowed a pension under Revolutionary War Claim S7839, executed November 8, 1832. The first U. S. Census of 1790 lists Captain Andrew Walker as head of a family with one male under 16, six females and three slaves. The sixth census in 1840 lists Andrew Walker as a pensioner in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, age 84. The wife of Andrew Walker was Sarah Crye, daughter of John Crye. The children of Andrew Walker and Sarah Crye were: Elizabeth who married James N. Houston; John who had three wives viz: Sarah McCain, Mary H. Grimes and Hannah McCorkle; Catherine who married James Porter; Sarah who married Joseph Matthews; Mary (unknown); Margaret who married Hugh Coffey; ~~Ester who married Aaron Houston.~~

## FAMILY MIGRATION WESTWARD

Sometime after 1827 the Coffeys, Petteys, Bonds, Craigs, Dacuses, Nunnalys and many other thousands left North Carolina because they could no longer make a living farming there. The farmers had been raising cotton and tobacco year and year and the land was worn out. They had no way of renewing the land as we have today with fancy fertilizers. The total population of the country at that time was only ten million so there was much more land available elsewhere to the West. So Hugh Coffey, his wife and seven children left Mecklenburg District, North Carolina in the 1820s looking for new land and a better living. They stopped to make crops in Georgia and Alabama before reaching Mississippi in 1836. They traveled in prairie schooner wagons made of wood, mostly mock orange, since it was tough and strong. There was no grease for the wagons and a pine tar bucket was carried on each coupling pole to grease the wheels as they rolled ever toward the west. As the wagons rattled along, the tar would soon dry out and run off the wagon axles. Early in the day, the wheels would start squeaking loudly and the eerie sounds of a hundred wagons could be heard for miles. What food they had was carried with them and prepared over open fires lit in the early dawn of the morning and the late twilight of the evening. The wagon trains followed Indian trails mostly, fording creeks and looking for shallow places to cross the larger streams. The oxen pulling the wagons were staked out at night in whatever grass could be found nearby. No food was carried for them as there was just not enough room. Babies were nursed at the breasts of the mothers. Children were born and old people died on the way west. They were buried wherever with care and love but today no one knows where or ever will. Such was life on the way to a better life they hoped for but did not really know. Their main asset was courage. It always accomplishes in spite of obstacles.

Hugh Coffey, his wife and nine children were camped on the banks of the Cahaba River near Marion, Ala. in the fall of 1835. They had been on the road for seven years. They had made five crops at this location. Two of their children, James Alexander Coffey and Mary Coffey were born there. They had left their home in the Carolinas sometime after 1827. They heard about the Chickasaw Indian Cession of land in North Mississippi in 1832 and 1834 and decided to look for new land in North Mississippi.



So the Coffeys and perhaps their friends and relatives headed for the U. S. Land Offices at Columbus and Pontotoc. They settled just south of the Tallahatchie River in the northeast part of Lafayette County near Etta, Miss. The land was in Sections 2, 3, 10 and 11, Township 7 South, Range 1 West. They sat down on this land Jan. 6, 1836 before Lafayette County was chartered. Indians were everywhere as the movement of the Chickasaws to Oklahoma was not completed until 1840. My grandfather Coffey was 6 years old. His first playmates in the new country were little Indian boys.

Building homes and clearing land for crops was worked at furiously. Huge oak, cypress and gum trees were cut, rolled into piles and burned to get ready for spring planting as no crops could be missed and families live. The work was just that urgent. All hands pitched in and did their part, no questions asked. A job too big for one family immediately drew the help and support of neighbors. Honesty and fairness were the code of the hour as anything less was nakedly obvious. Anyone considering a dishonest act was so shocked at the price tag and consequences that the mere thought of such an act was banished from their mind forever. Fear was part of their lives. Fear was, and is, a significant factor for maintaining balance in the world.

### LIFE IN LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISS.

Crops were good and cotton was in great demand for clothing both in the U. S. and overseas. Cotton raised in the rich soil of the Tallahatchie River was hauled up the river road from Caswell to the railhead at Abbeville, or on to Memphis if the price was higher. The money from sale of the cotton was used to buy clothing, shoes, flour, sugar, salt and coffee. Most other needs were supplied locally.

The church at Philadelphia was built in 1845 by the Baptists. The Old Liberty Church was built by the Presbyterians. The Methodists also used the Old Liberty Church for services for a period of time. The Petteys and Bonds were Baptists while the Coffeys, Leggetts and Barrys were Presbyterians. Soon after the Philadelphia Church was built, a chandelier was hung. It consisted of a cheese hoop with candles set in it so that night services could

be held. Later the candles were replaced with coal oil lamps, then gas lamps which had to be pumped up. There was no full time pastors at either church as they were on a circuit. One preacher served many churches preaching on first Sunday, third Sunday, etc., depending on the arrangement that was most convenient for all.

The 1850 Census tells us something about who lived in the community and who were the closest neighbors as the census taker made his rounds in sequence. All of Hugh Coffey's children were living elsewhere, except James Alexander Coffey Sr. who was still single and lived with his father and mother. He was 20 years old when the Census was taken. Harris Coffey, one of Hugh Coffey's sons was married to Martha Lambert and they had six children; Andrew B. Coffey, another son of Hugh Coffey, was still single at age 30, and was living with Arthur St. John who married Andrew's sister. The St. Johns had one son, Columbus, at the time. George R. Bonds had married Elizabeth W. Coffey, a daughter of Hugh Coffey. They had two children at that time: Harriet J. Bonds, my maternal grandmother and Mary C. My maternal grandfather, Andrew Jackson Pettey, was 11 years old and lived with his mother and father in Pontotoc County. His father's name was Luke Pettey and his mother was Mary. Other neighbors of the Coffeys in Lafayette County were John E. W. Houston, age 31, wife, Bonifay J. and two children; A. Alex Houston, age 27, wife Mary C. and three children; James Alderson, age 40, and wife Alice L.; James B. Borum, age 19, and wife Eleanor; James Berryhill, age 60, and wife Elizabeth; Elijah Andrews, age 54, and wife Emma L.; Green Bailey, age 57, and wife Eleanor with five grown children at home along with three younger ones; Edward Bailey, age 23, wife and baby; Horace Lawrence, age 43, wife and seven children; Anthony B. Lambert, age 50, wife Rowena and four children. All these neighbors were farmers, except Horace Lawrence and Anthony B. Lambert, who were clergymen. A. Alex Houston was listed as a farmer, but he was also a Minister of the Gospel. He married both sets of my grandparents, James A. Coffey Sr., to Lavina A. Barry on Jan. 23, 1868 as shown in Book B, Page 290, of the Circuit Clerk's Records. He also married Andrew Jackson Pettey and Harriet S. Bonds on Aug. 17, 1865, as shown on page 200 of the Records.

In 1850 the population of Lafayette County was 14,065 which

included 8346 whites and 5719 blacks. There were 1382 white families with an average size family of six. Only 53 people in the County were over 70 years old. The average adult was about 35 years old. The population of Lafayette County today in 1974 is a little over 20,000 so it has not grown much in 150 years.

In 1850 there were two colleges or academies with five teachers and 109 pupils. The annual college income was \$13,400. There were only nine other colleges or academies in the entire state. Lafayette County had a lot to offer in the higher education field. It still does today.

Some of the Census-listed occupations were farmer, brick-mason, druggist, painter, overseer, stage driver, carpenter, physician, ferryman, blacksmith, whitesmith, saddler and shoemaker. There were an unusually large number of overseers and physicians. Most of the physicians were in their twenties. The overseers were employed on large cotton farms. Research revealed no slaves in the Caswell (Etta) community.

From a map of Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana published by S. Augustus Mitchell of Philadelphia, Pa., there was at that time (1837) only one road of significance in Northern Mississippi. That was from Cotton Gin Port on the Tombigbee River north of Columbus, Miss. to Memphis, crossing the Tallahatchie River north of Pontotoc at the junction of Tippah Creek. In 1845 a map by John LaTourette in connection with Public Land Surveys showed this road connected to the Oxford-Holly Springs road at Little Spring Creek near Malone.

In 1850 life in Lafayette County was interesting with a lot of happiness. Most of the population was young and knew hard work both in the field and at the house. Hard work was accepted as a way to a better life. Most families were large, taking all of mother's time from early dawn until late at night. Cooking was done on woodburning stoves. Washing was done on a scrub board near the well or near the spring where the water was. There were all kinds of chores and deeds of love to be performed at all hours. This work was shared by all in the family. Each member of the family felt a sense of accomplishment because of his or her contribution whether it was large or small in the overall effort of living. There was team work. What ran through their minds is unknown as they lived from day to day. They must have been happy because they, at last, had a home, loved ones, the hope of a better

life, a family of their own, all loving and caring for one another. At night mothers and fathers knew where their sons and daughters were. There was a sense of the presence of God in families because they feared God and felt that He would take care of them. They felt this way because this was the climate in which they lived with adversity always present. The fathers of this generation had known war. The mothers also. All was peace and quiet in this part of the world.

This tranquil way of life ended in 1860 with the election of Lincoln, his inauguration and the outbreak of the Civil War. United States Senators and Congressmen said farewells in Washington as the nation split apart over the slave issue. U. S. Postmasters, judges, district attorneys, customs collectors, etc. sent their resignations to Washington. Of the 1108 officers in the U. S. Army Regulars, 387 resigned, many already having joined the Confederate forces. Governors of seceded states took over U. S. military posts, arms, lighthouses and all Federal property using State militia.

The Confederate States started organizing armies. Christopher H. Mott of Marshall County, a Lieut. with the Miss. Rifles in the Mexican War, was one of the Brig. Generals of State troops under Gen. Jefferson Davis in January, 1861. He resigned his command and by special authority of the Confederate Government raised a regiment of volunteers for service during the war.

L.Q.C. Lamar, who was a law partner with Mott, was elected Lieut. Colonel of the regiment with Mott as the Colonel. Offers of Companies raised from the counties and towns poured in. The regiment rendezvoused at Oxford on May 25, 1861. The regiment proceeded to Richmond, Virginia where it reported to Maj. Gen. Robert E. Lee. The regiment was designated as the 19th Miss. Volunteers with 11 Companies having a total force of about 1100 men and officers.

Company B of the regiment was called the Mott Guards. It was from Lafayette County. The Captain of the Company was W. G. Martin. In this Company was my grandfather James Alexander Coffey Sr., single and 30 years old. He enlisted on May 17, 1861, at Abbeville and on June 12th the regiment was in camp near Richmond, Va. He was wounded seven times during the war. He was furloughed from Howards Grove Hospital at Richmond on Oct. 8, 1864. He returned to Oxford, Miss. where he was parolled as a prisoner of war by Hugh R. Creighton, Asst. Provost Marshal on

June 5, 1865. The military record of James Alexander Coffey Sr. is attached as Plate I-XIV.

My maternal grandfather, Andrew Jackson Pettey, was a volunteer in the 34th. Mississippi Regiment, Company C. The colonel of the regiment was Sam Benton. Company C was organized March 3, 1862 at Abbeville, Miss. The Captain was Elijah W. Smith who died in Kentucky during battle. He was succeeded by Capt. B. F. Houston. This regiment was part of Walthall's Brigade. Andrew Jackson Pettey was severely wounded on Sept. 18, 1863 in the battle of Chickamauga near Chattanooga, Tenn. After being wounded, he lay on the battlefield overnight where he was picked up on Sept. 19th by Catholic Nuns and taken to Chattanooga. From there he was hauled in a wagon to Blackie Hospital at Madison, Ga., near Atlanta. Later he was moved to Ocmulgee Hospital at Macon, Ga., and finally to Marshall Hospital at Columbus, Ga., where he was furloughed on July 12, 1864 as being unfit for further combat. He made his way home on crutches, a distance of more than 500 miles. He was paroled at Holly Springs, Miss., on May 26, 1865. On the 17th of August 1865, Andrew Jackson Pettey married Harriet J. Bonds and built a home near Philadelphia Church in Section 26, Township 7, Range 1 West. Andrew Jackson Pettey's military record is attached as Plate I-VII.

I was born near a sawmill run by my father. He said 50 feet from a saw dust pile in a new three room home built from freshly sawed pine lumber. Being named Walker, I walked when I was eight months old according to my mother. I lived at the saw mill until I was about 3 years old when we moved into a new house built by my father in Section 21, Township 7 South, Range 1 West, 18 miles northeast of Oxford, Miss. in Lafayette County. The new house was located on the road near my grandfather Coffey's original home. The new house had four rooms, a front porch all the way across the house and a large attic suitable for two more rooms. There was a double gable in the front and a porch all the way across the back of the house. Facing the house, the 2 bedrooms were on the left separated by a hall from the parlor and kitchen on the right. The floors were pine and it was finished throughout with tongue and grooved pine lumber. Cooking was done on a wood burning stove. There were two fireplaces, one in each bedroom. There was no plumbing. Water was drawn from a bored well just east of the house. The house was built in 1909. It

stands today.

My grandmother, called "Gron," and my Uncle Hugh lived in the original Alex Coffey home nearby. I liked to play at their house and especially eat there. This was a six room house. There was a parlor built in front of a large living room and bedroom. There was a fireplace in this room but no other. All sleeping was done in cold bedrooms in the winter. To the right were two bedrooms while to the rear of the living room were the kitchen and dining room. The kitchen and dining room were lean-to construction as was the two bedrooms and the parlor. The original house was built of logs. It was built right after the Civil War and had a chimney of mud and grass with a few sand rocks about head high. I do not remember my grandfather Coffey as he passed away in 1907. He was 5 ft. 7 in. tall, bald with a long beard and blue eyes. He weighed about 140 pounds. His right arm was useless from wounds suffered at Petersburg, Va. My grandmother, whom everyone called "Gron", was just about my best friend but my Uncle Hugh whom I loved very much was a close second.

Some of the memories I have of living here include visiting and spending the night with Lewis, John, Jim and Richard Nunnally. They lived about 1½ miles down the road toward Old Liberty Church. I also frequently spent the night with my grandmother, Martha Ann Leggett Coffey and my uncle Charles Hugh Coffey. I remember in particular my grandmother cooking our meals in the wood fire place. We frequently had corn bread and sweet potatoes.

I had a horse called "Old Gray" which I rode bare back with a bag of corn to Joe Parks mill nearly every Saturday to get corn meal ground. "Old Gray" was gentle and would let me climb up his front leg, catch hold of his mane and pull myself up on him. I loved to ride Old Gray as it made me feel big like a man.

I also had a shepherd dog I called "Shep". He was black and tan and a large dog. He always had a pleasant expression on his face which made me feel good. He could whip any dog that he ever saw. He was the best cow dog in the country. He could drive a herd of cattle or horses anywhere that you wanted them to go. He was a heeler, i.e., he bit the cow or horse on the ankle just above the hoof to make them go. If the cow or horse were cooperative, they got a small bite but if not, old "Shep" would bite a little harder. He was so quick he could bite the horse between steps and stay out of the way of the flying heels. When I wanted to ride "Old Gray", I would

take "Shep" to the pasture gate and say, "Go get Old Gray". Shep would take off in a run up the branch looking for "Old Gray". He would single him out of the herd by heeling him. Pretty soon "Old Gray" would come running, and I had better have the barn door open or "Old Gray" would jump the fence.

At that time father farmed and raised cattle. He had a large herd of cows and calves. We had a large barn always filled with food for the horses and cattle. There were also lots of hogs, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese and guineas.

One year during a political campaign for Governor of Mississippi, my father had a big picnic and dance in the pasture near the road across from our house. All the candidates came and spoke to the crowd. A large dance floor was built of tongue and grooved lumber. The dance floor was covered with corn meal to make it slick for dancing. People came from miles around and stayed until dark, dancing and eating their basket lunches under the shade trees. Everyone had a big time. This was in 1911 as I recall my sister Nettie was a baby in mothers arms. My grandfather, Andrew Jackson Pettey died on Aug. 23, 1910 and I remember riding in a buggy with my mother, father and sister to their house for the funeral. He lived near Philadelphia Church. We spent the night there. I remember seeing my grandfather Pettey lying in his coffin in the parlor that night. He had a long white beard and was a big man. I never remember seeing him at any other time. After my grandfather's death, my grandmother Harriet Bonds Pettey, came home with us and spent one night. The only time I remember her is next morning when she was standing in the window combing her long black hair. Her eyes were also black, or deep brown. She was dressed in a beautiful black taffeta dress that rattled when she walked. She was 68 years old at the time. I do not remember anything else about her. While we lived in the double gabled house, I have two memories that stand out. The Christmas of 1912, old Santa Claus came in person to see us on Christmas eve night about 8 o'clock. He had a big bag of oranges, apples, candies and a few toys. He gave me all that I could carry and I was so happy. The other memory is that we had a telephone to Oxford, and one night my Daddy had me listen to the phone. All I could hear was thump, thump, thump. Daddy told me that was the noise made by men cutting through the steel plates around the cells in the Oxford jail. A cold chisel and hammer were used to cut a hole in the steel walled cell. A mob got

the man out and hung him on a big oak tree across the street on North Lamar, where the Baker Building now stands. The next time we came to Oxford, Daddy showed me the limb on which the man was hung. The jailer stood in the door of the jail with a double barrel shotgun and told the mob he would kill the first man who tried to enter the jail. At this the mob decided to cut through the jail cell. Mobs entered this jail several times in later years in the same manner, thru the same hole which was never repaired adequately as long as the jail stood. Several prisoners escaped through this same hole in later years. The steel plate was almost ½ inch thick. One morning early when I was delivering papers in later years, I went by the jail and there was a sheet tied together in strips hanging out this hole where some prisoners had escaped that night. I knocked on the jail door and told the jailer he had lost some of his guests during the night. He was very surprised to see the sheet hanging out the hole in the wall. This jail was built for maximum security as a repository for Federal prisoners.

We moved away and left the double-gabled house on January 1, 1913. Daddy had some poor farming years. Cotton and cattle were cheap and money was scarce. I hated to leave as I loved this house, my horse and dog, my friend, Lewis Nunnally, who had a big billy goat named Fodder. Now Fodder was an unusual goat as he had a good leather harness which could be used to hitch him to a home-made wagon that we used for boy-hauling. Fodder wore iron shoes on his feet, put there in the true blacksmith manner by Lewis and John Jim at their blacksmith shop in the plum thicket below the house. I told "Shep" goodbye and gave him to Lewis, my best friend. "Old Gray" was sold to someone along with all the other horses. I told him goodbye. While I was very sad on the one hand, I had confidence in what Daddy was doing. I was sure it was best.

On a very cold frosty morning, I remember getting up in January 1913, at about 3 am and riding in the dark with mother, my sister, Nettie, and Daddy over long, rough frozen dirt roads to Myrtle, Mississippi, where we got on the Frisco train bound for Memphis. I don't know who took the horses or wagon. I only remember boarding a train for the first time. I was afraid of the steaming locomotive. It was warm on the train and there were lights in each car. I think the lights were kerosene as best I can remember. I remember very little about living in Memphis. I do recall that we lived in a shotgun house, i.e., all rooms were in a



row and the house was jammed next to other houses on either side, a kind of tenement or flat. I had never been to school and did not go the year we lived in Memphis. I remember that there were a lot of bad children in the neighborhood. I could not play with any of them. I was given a few pennies occasionally which I used to buy a special type of candy that looked like a barrel. The store was around the corner from our house. My father was a motorman on a street car. Because he was new at the job, he was called an Extra. This meant that he filled in for anyone who was ill or could not work his regular shift. This caused him to work all kinds of odd hours but finally he had been on the job long enough to get a regular shift. The motormen were responsible for all traffic accidents while the conductor was responsible for all passenger accidents as well as all fares. Both jobs were hard work with a lot of exposure to robberies. On some of the street car runs the motorman and the conductor carried guns to defend themselves. My uncle Hugh, a conductor on the Mississippi street run always carried a gun. He was never robbed. The street cars were very modern for that time and pulled trailers during the rush hours. The street cars had a front and rear door. The passengers entered thru the rear door and exited thru the front door. The trailers were hooked behind the street cars and secured together with a tongue bar as well as four big springs. The trailers had only one large door with a separate entry and exit lane.

I liked to go down to the river front at Memphis and watch them load cotton on the boats. The cotton was hauled from the warehouses on Front Street to the big, cobblestone wharf on two wheel carts pulled by one mule or horse. It was stacked on end for hundreds of feet along the wharf. As the boat pulled up to the wharf, it would lower a gang plank, about four feet wide, which would come to rest on the cobblestones. Anchors and ropes would then be used to tie the boat in place securely. When all was settled down, the loading of the cotton would take place. Some roustabouts would back up to a bale of cotton, stick it with two cotton hooks and pick the bale up and run up the gangplank with it. This was a tremendous feat of strength as the bales generally weighed 500 pounds each. Most of the cotton was loaded with a crane, however.

Front Street was a rowdy den of iniquity where anything went. This was the location of all the saloons for the rivermen. I saw my Uncle Hugh get in a fight with a man in one of these

saloons. The fight ended when Uncle Hugh hit him with a pair of brass knucks and he went down and out. Brass knucks were carried by nearly all men who had work to do among the riff raff. They carried brass knucks as well as guns most of the time when they left home. Brass knucks are just that. They are a slug of brass with holes for all four fingers. When they are slipped on the hand, a hunk of brass protrudes from the back of the hand between the hand and the first joint of the fingers. Usually the brass hunk is roughed up so it will cut.

In the Spring of 1914, we moved back to Oxford. We lived in a rented house on Woodsons Ridge near Fonce and Ike Roberts. The house was in very poor condition, having big holes between the weather boarding, and some holes in the floor with a lot of leaks when it rained. When the rain came, we would put washtubs under the leaks. It was there in the summer of 1914 that I had malaria. I was in bed with fever for about two months, taking quinine to keep the fever down. They always gave me quinine in strawberry soda which I cannot drink to this day. My father rented some land and put in a crop of corn. In June it rained and rained and rained. The corn got under water early in July. It was ruined. My Daddy and I rode the mules to the corn field one morning to see how high the water was. It was nearly waist deep in the field. My father looked at it and cried. I cried too. One old mule got down with the colic and we had to worry with him for hours before we could get home. Daddy never gave up though for a minute. I don't know where our food came from but we always had something to eat. Most of the time it was sorghum molasses and biscuit. I was so sick most of the time that I could not eat anything but soup and cornbread. My ears hurt all the time. When I could not go to sleep, my mother filled a cloth bag with table salt, heated it in the stove and I held this to my ears until I dropped off to sleep.

In the fall I got well enough to go to the Woodson's Ridge school. A one room, all grades school taught by Mr. Will York. I was 8 years old and had never been to Public School or Sunday School in my life.

That fall my father bought the Bay Springs pond, grist mill, gin and a house from Mr. Math Quick. We moved to the house at Bay Springs which still stands just above the Big Spring at the bottom of the hill. There were three rooms in the house. My Daddy built a bedroom on the east end of the house. The kitchen was in

the rear with three rooms in a line on the front of the house. There was a front porch across two of the rooms. There was no plumbing in the house. We carried water from the Big Spring at the bottom of the hill. The house was comfortable with only one fireplace. The house was about a mile from the mill where Daddy worked from dawn till dark every day but Sunday. He got no money for grinding corn or ginning cotton. He took one fourth of the corn for toll when it was ground. This toll corn was fed to a big herd of hogs in a pen near the mill. This was the corn-hog ratio at work, i.e., rather than selling the corn for a very cheap price, it was converted into pork which brought a much higher price and was far more saleable at any time. He got no money for ginning cotton. The pay for ginning was the seed. He ground the cotton seed into cow feed and sold part of it, keeping the rest for our cows at home. In the Spring of 1915 Daddy bought a new water wheel, an overshot, for the water mill. It was the only overshot water wheel in North Mississippi. An overshot water wheel takes on the water at its maximum height, carries the water down to its minimum height and dumps it. This gives the water wheel a lot more power than the conventional type which had paddles stroked by the water as it rushes against them. He also bought and installed a saw mill. The big water wheel turned a steel shaft about 6 inches in diameter. There were pulleys on the shaft which, thru belts, drove the machinery. The belt from the shaft to the saw mill was about 50 ft. long. The others were considerably shorter. The mill was two stories with the grist and feeder mills on the lower floor while the gin was in the upper floor. The saw mill was outside the mill building in the open except for a shed over the main saw. The water wheel turned relatively slowly and speed was gained by changing the size of the pulleys. Each mill had a best performance speed which was gained by having the pulley exactly the right size.

I started to school Nov. first. School ended on April first. The second year of school was taught by Miss Gabriel Houston, a sister-in-law of Joe Parks a former neighbor of ours when we lived at the double-gable house. I liked Miss Gabriel and learned a lot more with her. I was in the third grade and almost nine years old.

The summer of 1915 was wonderful. I played at the mill, fishing nearly every day in the beautiful ponds with their pretty clear water and sandy bottom. Altogether there were about 10

acres in the four ponds. Daddy obtained 50 gallons of black bass minnows from the Tupelo hatchery and released them in the upper pond one afternoon. I fished a lot with bottles. To bottle fish you put a line thru the bottle cork tying the line securely to the cork. Put the cork in the bottle, bait the hook and throw the whole thing in the water. The bottles were left overnight being picked up next morning in a boat. If a bottle had a fish on it, the bottle would be bobbing up and down in the water.

I came home from school one day that spring. Daddy met me way up the road from home. He walked along beside me and told me that I had a little baby sister, but she was born dead. He said that mama was all right though. When I got home, he took me in the bedroom and showed her to me. She was lying on a little pillow. Her hair was coal black, and I thought she looked like a doll. Daddy told me that in the morning he wanted me to be a big man and go with Mr. Hickey to bury the little baby at Old Liberty Cemetery, about 9 miles from where we lived. I got up about 4 a.m. When Mr. Hickey got there, he took the little baby in her coffin and placed it across the buggy at our feet. He had a shovel in the back of the buggy. We wrapped some hot bricks in newspapers to keep our feet warm. It was very cold that morning so the old horse stepped right along with us. About noon we arrived at Old Liberty, hitched the horse and got out the shovel. Daddy said to bury the little baby next to his father. He told us that granddaddy was buried next to the north woods. We soon found the location and Mr. Hickey started to dig. He dug until he got tired and then I dug. In about an hour we had the little grave ready. We got the coffin and carried it up the hill to the grave. We had to enlarge the grave somewhat but finally set the little white coffin down in it. I remember as we filled the grave with shovel after shovel, thinking what it all meant. It was the end, I thought, of little baby sister. This trip was one of the most indelible memories that I have ever had imprinted on my mind. We unhitched the horse, turned the buggy around and started home. Neither Mr. Hickey or I said anything all the way home. When we got home I felt so depressed and tired that I ate and went right to bed after I had gone in and told Mama goodnight. She just hugged me and I never said a word. I did not understand about death except it was the end of everything, just like animals when they die. For some reason that did not disturb me as I had seen animals die many times before. I saw hogs shot in the head and killed at

meat killing time; I saw cows hit in the head with an axe and killed for beef. I had seen horses and mules die again and again. They were just buried and that was the end of them.

In the spring of 1915 Daddy ordered a water ram from the Sears Roebuck catalog. He placed the water ram at Big Bay Springs down hill from where the water bubbled out of the ground into about a six inch stream. A length of pipe was connected from the spring to the ram. He connected another pipe to the ram and laid it underground all the way uphill to the house where he put a faucet in the backyard. No more carrying water. The ram worked off the differential of pressure, pumping water to the house right up the big hill. No engines or other source of power were necessary. The ram worked all the time but it released the water unless the faucet was open at the house. That was wonderful and it was viewed with interest by everyone who came by the Big Bay Spring.

My mother had a child by her first marriage named Henrietta Johnson. She was fourteen years older than I. We called her Henrie. She was 5 ft. 11 inches tall, had long black hair like mother and black eyes with fair skin. She weighed about 130 pounds at this time as she was 23-years old. She was born Dec. 25, 1892. She was always like a second mother to me and my sister Nettie who was four years old at this time. Henrie was strong physically. She rode a horse like a man. She often went hunting on horseback killing rabbits as it was galloping along.

Down below the Big Bay Spring a few hundred yards was the Bay Springs Baptist Church. Here I went for the first time to Sunday School at 2 O'clock in the afternoon every third Sunday in the month. I believe I started in the month of July, 1915. The church was served by a circuit rider pastor who preached on the third Sunday in each month. All who had joined the church were baptized in the big pond near the mill, the third Sunday in August. I remember at one baptising, a large lady was laid back in the water by the pastor. She became so frightened that she broke loose from the preacher and came ashore on her own. While the preacher had walked out into the water, he practically had to swim ashore after the lady broke loose from him. There were many giggles behind the back of the preacher as he finally waded out of the water with his coat on, wet all over. However, after getting his breath, he waded out into the water again and completed the baptising.

In the summer of 1915 my father had an all-day dinner on the ground in a grove of trees near the water mill. This was a political year. Theo. G. Bilbo, THE MAN, was a candidate for Governor. He came to the picnic, speaking from a wagon that was parked under a large oak tree. This was Bilbo's first campaign for Governor that he won. I do not remember his platform, but it was along the same line as James K. Vardaman's was when he was elected previously. Bilbo was elected the 39th. Governor of Mississippi and served his four years. He was a tremendous orator, playing on the emotions of the people about the blacks and the Civil War. He could watch the faces of his audience and play up those ideas which brought applause. When dinner was spread on the long tables which had been built on the side of the hill, no one ate at Stan Borum's table as he had barbecued billy goat which could be smelled long before you reached his table. In fact, the people on either side of his table finally moved elsewhere. Stan Borum did a little farming but largely raised goats for milk and meat. They required no feeding or care which made life easy.

Daddy had a dance floor built on the picnic grounds. It was about 20 ft. square, being made of tongue and grooved lumber. The tongue and groove means that one side of the board had a lip while the other side has a trough. When the lip of one board was fitted into the trough of the other board, there was a tight fit that made the whole floor smooth. About two p.m. after all had finished dinner, the band started playing and the dance was on. Square and buck and wing dancing was going strong about 4 p.m. when a shot rang out about 20 ft. from the dance floor. I was standing up, looked around, and saw a man stagger, pull a gun from his coat and fire three times point blank at another man coming up thru the swamp. Then both fell where they stood. The crowd ran toward them. Someone said to get bagging at the mill. The bagging at the mill was heavy hemp used to hold the cotton bale together for the steel band ties. Two pieces of bagging were brought. Each wounded man was placed on a piece of bagging which was used as a stretcher. The two men were carried to the mill where they were laid down beside each other with their heads elevated and supported by the roll of bagging. I remember walking along beside Wilbur Littlejohn as he was carried to the mill. He had his eyes closed and looked like he was dead. One man asked the crowd to stand back so that they could get some air as it

was terribly hot and humid this day in August. I was close to one of the wounded men. His shirt was open. There were two holes in his chest on the left side. Each time his heart would beat, blood would spurt out of these holes. I could not see the wounds of the other man but his shirt had been unbuttoned also. Both men were loaded into separate automobiles, parked near the mill. I believe one car belonged to Dr. Henry Fraser but I do not remember who owned the other one. There were only two cars at the picnic as I recall. The cars started for Oxford 10 miles away over rough dirt roads. One man died that night but the other man lingered for three months, finally regaining his health and living a normal life. The crowd stayed on but there was no more dancing. The whole crowd was buzzing with what the shooting was all about. The next day Daddy and I dug three bullets out of a hickory tree right behind where one man stood when he was shot. It was a miracle no others were wounded as people were everywhere and the shooting was right in the middle of the crowd. It was said the shooting was about a girl both men were dating.

One day shortly thereafter Daddy and I took a load of cotton seed to Oxford in the wagon. We got home about 9 o'clock that night. Mama met us at the door crying. She said that a man in the neighborhood had come by that day and insulted her. I never heard the details. Daddy never said a word but got the shotgun, put two shells in it and started toward the door. He turned to Mama and said, "I am going to kill him." When he said that Mama and Henrie grabbed him and after a big struggle, they took the gun away from him. Henrie had the gun and ran back through the house and out the back door. She hid the gun in the woods and came back into the house. Mama started talking to Daddy and quieted him down but he was asking for the gun as well as looking for it. He finally gave the idea up as a bad one and regained his senses.

Henrie was in bad health. She had tuberculosis at the double gabled house and recovered fairly well. When we lived at the double gabled house Henrie would have a hemorrhage occasionally. When this happened she would sit in the old rocker with a big quilt around her coughing constantly. At times her coughing spells were so bad that blood would run out her mouth. Mama was always able to do something that would help though. Maybe it was prayer.

Now Henrie took a bad case of pneumonia. Mama was up with her night and day. Late in the spring Henrie got well enough to sit up in the bed. As the flowers came on and the trees put on leaves, she got a little better but she was far from well. Henrie was unable to do any work around the house for the whole summer. Then in the fall she began to feel better. One day she got on the old mule, took the shotgun and went rabbit hunting. Now we all knew that Henrie was really better, but we had a bad winter with her.



## CHAPTER II

### OXFORD TOWN

In the fall of 1915 Daddy sold the house and mill at Bay Springs and we moved to Oxford. I well remember Daddy saying, "I am moving to Oxford so my children can get a good education and be somebody in the world. I don't care what the hardships are, nor how we have to live. I will get the money somehow." We moved into a rented house on Second North Street (N. 14th St. now). At that time it was the second house off what is now Highway 7 North. A family named Holcomb lived in the first house near Highway 7. Our house was on the east side of the street. It was a four room house with two bedrooms, parlor and kitchen. We had one water faucet in the house with no bathroom. Daddy hauled lumber with Kidd Hickey that fall until the roads got so bad this job made no more money. Kidd Hickey had moved to Oxford about the same time. He had two boys, Kyle and Robert and three girls, Mary Kate, Pauline and Erma. They lived near us, but I do not remember exactly where. Daddy bid on a Star Mail Route to Delay and Tula. A Star Mail Route is a contract job where bulk mail is hauled to outlying small post offices. Daddy carried the route in a buggy pulled by two mules named Red and Lex. He had bought Red and Lex at an auction in Memphis when we moved from Memphis to Woodsons Ridge. He sold his wagon and bought the buggy. The Star Route job paid \$900 a year and that was all we had to live on. We did have our milch cow which was kept in the stable back of the house, some chickens and a garden.

I started school at Oxford Elementary which occupied the grounds where the new post office now stands. I was 9 years old and started in the fourth grade about Oct. first. One day about two weeks later, Miss Maude Barefield, the teacher, asked me to go to the board and do the 4's in the multiplication table. I went to the board but did not know the multiplication table. She took me to the principal who talked to me and took me to the third grade room. He told me I would be in the third grade because I could not do fourth grade work. This was the biggest disappointment and the most embarrassment that I have ever experienced as I had a fierce sense of pride. Daddy had told me to go in the fourth grade and now what was I to tell him? Telling him that I was put back in the

third grade was awful, but he accepted it alright and patted me on the back. Mama and Daddy always handled me by encouragement. I never remember either one striking me except once when Daddy slapped me when I kept on talking after he told me to be quiet.

This experience made me dislike school. Why was it necessary to go to school anyway? The boys, and certainly the girls my age did not know a lot of things that I knew. All of them were "City" kids. They didn't know a buggy shaft from a wagon tongue from the tongue of a plow; a single tree from a double tree. They didn't know the names and uses for various parts of harness; bridle and bit (and maybe blinders), checkreins, hip strap, crupper, and lines; breast strap, hame and hamestrings, breeching, traces, spreading strap and ring; saddle cinch, saddle strings, stirrups, spurs, rowels. They didn't know why the blanket went on before the saddle. They didn't know the way to hold the lines to guide a horse to a buggy or a team to a wagon. They didn't know how to guide a horse with a halter or a bridle when riding bareback or in a saddle (the lines, held in the right hand, pulled to the left made the horse go to the left because the line touched his neck on the right side). In driving a team, the lines were held in the left hand and the right hand was used to pull the right line taut to turn the team to the right or the left line taut to pull the team to the left. Though I never drove oxen, I knew how it was done because I followed and sometimes rode the log wagons that hauled the logs out of the swamps of the Tallahatchie River bottom to the sawmill. I watched every movement of the ox-driver as he curled, unwound his body like a baseball pitcher and cracked the seven foot long blacksnake whip almost but not quite touching an oxen's ear. I watched so that some day I could do the same when I was old enough. When I followed Daddy about the barn, I learned the difference between a hayfork, long handle with three tines, and a spading fork, shorter handle with four tines for spading in the garden. I learned the difference between a spade and a scoop (a large deep shovel for shoveling food into the feeding troughs in the barnyard). These kids in my grade could not tell whether a cow was a Jersey, Holstein, Longhorn, or even whether a hog was a Poland China, Durock Jersey or a Hampshire, little bone or big bone Poland China; or whether chickens were Dominceckers, Barred Rocks, Plymouth Rocks, Rhode

Island Reds, Blue Hens, or White Rocks. I could. I also knew about cows, calves, muly cows, heifers, yearlings, steers, boars, shoats, roosters, hens, broodie hens, layers, fryers, horses, mules, ponies, colts, fillies, jacks and jennies. I knew that a mule had a jenny mama and a horse pappa but I didn't know how nor why and learned not to ask.

But I resolved to go to school because Daddy and Mama said I ought to get an education, whatever that was. I didn't understand it, but I had a lot of confidence in Daddy and Mama. Besides I liked to play at recess, especially to compete with any boy my size.

Mr. "Ramrod" Johnson was the school principal at the time. Miss Martha Smith (later Mrs. John Herndon) was the third grade teacher. She was tall with long black hair, a fair complexion and wore very pretty clothes. I liked her. I learned the multiplication table quickly and enjoyed going to school. I walked to and from about 1½ miles, as did many others. We had a 15-minute morning and evening recess as well as a one hour lunch period. We took our lunches, as there were no eating facilities at the school. Everyone had to pick up their lunch paper and put it in the garbage can. This was a must. The boys all played on the west side of the school ground while the girls played on the east side. The two sides were separated by a brick walk from the street to the front door of the school. The walk was a 'no man's land' and any boy who crossed over the walk was treated like a criminal until he got back on his side. Some of my friends in the third grade were: Hillard Elliott, Myra Patton, Robert Furr, Robert Brown, Cearley Slough, Myrtle Hawkins, and Lorene Holcomb. At home in the evening just before twilight, the neighborhood boys and girls would play in our front yard until dark. I enjoyed these play sessions. We played all of the games that we knew nearly every evening.

We lived on Second North Street in the winter of 1915 and 1916. The first jonquils I ever remember seeing were at this house on Easter Day, 1916. They were in full bloom in a long row down the driveway. I remember that I got down on my knees and just looked at the color in many blooms. This was a nice house with good floors, walls, and ceilings. It was warmed by fireplaces that burned well without smoking up the house. There was a front porch that was nice to sit on in the fall.

In the summer of 1916 we moved to a large house on Tyler Avenue on the hill just above the railroad and power plant. Mrs. Robinson lived between our house and the railroad at the bottom of the hill. Mr. Parker and his son, Darrell, lived on the other side of us. These houses were on the north side of Tyler. On the south side, there were two houses, one just across the street while the other was a concrete block house down very close to the power plant. The house we lived in had four bedrooms upstairs, one bedroom, a parlor, kitchen and dining room downstairs. It also had an inside bath - our very first.

That fall Daddy got a job with the Lucas E. Moore Stave Company headquartered at Columbus, Miss. His job was buying white oak timber and producing staves for whiskey barrels. Staves had to be made by hand using a broad axe and a drawing knife to put the curve in them. Making staves was a true art of hand work. Nearly all stave makers were foreigners, usually from Yugoslavia. Daddy advertised in The New York Times for stave makers. They came into Oxford on the train - men, women, and a few children. Usually only one in a group could speak a little English. Daddy would meet them at the train, bring them to house where they would spend the night. Next day he would outfit them with tents, cooking utensils, bed clothes and tools. He would then take them out to a piece of land where the timber had been bought. They would set up camp, cooking on open fires and sleep on cots in the tents. Most of the camps were out towards Pontotoc or around Tula and Delay. The Slavs worked seven days a week, made the staves, racked them up in stacks, ready for Daddy to come out every Saturday, count the staves and pay them. They always wanted cash, no checks. I went with Daddy several times to check out the staves, but I was afraid of the Slavs as all of them wore handle-bar moustaches and carried hunting knives in their belts. One especially fierce looking Slav scared me stiff. Daddy called him Blackie. His eyes shone like stars with a lot of white around the iris. Blackie could speak some English. His face was very expressive with pretty white teeth. Occasionally one of the Slavs would disappear, never to be seen around the camp again. Of course none of the others ever knew anything about him. Daddy always carried a gun when he went to pay them. He never turned his back on any of them. Daddy was left handed and carried the gun in a shoulder holster under his right arm. It was a .38 Smith and Wesson.

I started to school in the fall of 1916 in the fourth grade. I was 10 years old. Miss Maude Barefield was still teaching the fourth grade. She and I got along fine except for one thing. She gave me my first whipping. The whipping was for fighting and scuffling when we were in line to march into the room from a play period. She kept me and the other boy after school and wore us out good. Unfortunately there was a row of hedge bushes to the side of the fourth grade room where the switches were very long and slim. Both of us cried because it hurt.

In the summer of 1917 we moved into the house across the street from us on Tyler Avenue. It was a five room house with inside plumbing. There were three bedrooms, a parlor with combined dining room and kitchen. We had sold our cow when we left North Second Street.

That fall I started working after school at Stone's Dairy up the railroad tracks about a mile north. Stone's Dairy was owned by Col. James Stone. It was run by his son James Stone, Jr. They paid me \$3 a month and gave me a gallon of skimmed milk every night. When school was out, I drove the cows about a mile to their pasture in the morning and then drove them back to the dairy that evening. There were about 40 cows altogether. Each had a name. I had the list of names with me and had to check each one off as they came out of the pasture. If one was missing, I had to go find her.

That summer my mother came down with typhoid fever. She was delirious at times, particularly late in the afternoon. We thought she was gone several times but finally pulled through after being in bed for six weeks. The stomach becomes perforated with typhoid fever, and it is necessary that the patient eat no food at one stage. Henrie took care of Mama day and night, watching her to keep the food away no matter how hungry Mama got. The doctor said that Mama got the fever from the skimmed milk which I got at the dairy. We never boiled the milk before drinking it which we should have done. I stopped working at the dairy.

The U. S. was in WWI, and there were bond drives as well as patriotic meetings at the old Lyric Theatre. I remember going to one meeting there with Daddy when he threw his hat in the air when the band played Dixie. I was quite surprised as I had never seen such a demonstration before. Many men screamed at the top of their voices and threw their hats in the air. Daddy said that he was going to volunteer. He did volunteer but could not pass

the physical examination. He was 39 years old at the time. The most striking thing about the War to me were the flags on the front doors of homes with a blue star on the flag for each man in the army or navy. Some houses had gold stars on the flag for sons or fathers who had been killed in the war. The stories about the war in the Commercial Appeal were frightful, with descriptions of the hardships being suffered in the muddy trenches in France, the submarine sinkings, the 75 mile cannon the Germans used to shell Paris. The German spies in this country reportedly landed on our shores by submarines. Kaiser Wilhelm jokes were common.

In the fall of 1917 when Ole Miss opened, physically fit students were drafted into the army and given rifles. They drilled every day on the Ole Miss football field where the stadium is now. I watched them drill many afternoons after school. As the boys finished training, they would leave for overseas to fight in the war.

William Faulkner was a young man at that time but he was not attending Ole Miss. He could be seen around the square many days, but he rarely talked to anyone. Nearly everyone in Oxford, population about 2,000, knew each other and always spoke when we met on the streets. William would seldom speak to anyone and most of us called him Count. He dressed and looked like an Englishman with the cut of his clothes and meticulously trimmed moustache. William suddenly disappeared from Oxford and returned after the war was over wearing a Canadian Air Force uniform. He had a limp and walked with a cane. I will not repeat any of the explanations I heard about his absence from Oxford during World War I.

At Christmas 1917, I got a bicycle. My Uncle Hugh in Memphis gave it to me. It was the largest and best gift that I had ever received. It made no difference to me that it was a used bicycle. I learned to ride the bicycle after the usual number of falls and bruises. Now I could go places fast on my own bicycle. How wonderful this was to me. I took good care of it as I really appreciated the meaning of having one of my own.

During each fall and winter, the Illinois Central Railroad hauled a train load of bananas from New Orleans to Chicago every Saturday. The train came thru Oxford about 9 a.m., always stopped, opened up a car and sold bananas to any and all by the bunch for 50 cents each. Daddy always met the train and got us a bunch of bananas. The bananas were hung in the closet by the

fireplace where we could use them for a snack after school or at any other time we were hungry.

In the summer of 1917, Dr. James Leavell held a revival meeting in a large tent on the school grounds where the new post office building now stands. The revival lasted a week. Mother and I went every night. On Wednesday night during the revival, I became a Christian by public confession that I had committed sins and believed that Jesus Christ would forgive my sins and that I would seek to learn and do His will ever after. Mother moved her church letter from Philadelphia to the First Baptist Church at Oxford where Dr. James Leavell was pastor. I was baptised a few weeks later in the baptistry of the old church building which was located in the NW corner of Van Buren and 9th Street. This location is now a parking lot for the present First Baptist Church. I started attending Sunday School and church services every Sunday morning as well as BYPU and evening church services. I quit using bad language and tried to think good of all my friends. I enjoyed all the church services and always came away feeling better for having gone to church. Dr. Christopher Longest, a professor of Spanish at Ole Miss, was Sunday School Superintendent. He was a good leader as well as a good speaker. For years he always led the song and prayer services before Sunday School started. Mr. Auber J. Wilds was BYPU Superintendent. He was a fine Christian man.

About one half the young people in Oxford belonged to this church and attended services faithfully. At that time and for years Dr. Landrum P. Leavell, a brother of Dr. James Leavell, was the editor of the Sunday School quarterly used in the Southern Baptist Convention. He had a daughter named Marion Leavell who was also a leader in the Southern Baptist Convention for years.

Dr. James Leavell lived in the Baptist Parsonage, located at the corner of 5th Street and Tyler Avenue. The back of the Leavell house was on our side yard. Dr. Leavell had a son named James and a daughter. James was about my age, and we played together almost every day, particularly in the summer. This Christian family had a life-long effect on my sense of personal values. They set such a wonderful example of what a person should do and try to be that every one in their company was awed. This was the most outstanding example of what a family relationship should be that I have ever seen. I thought that Mrs. Leavell was the most

beautiful woman I had ever seen. She had auburn hair and very white skin and dark eyebrows. She was always smiling which added to her beauty.

My half-sister Henrie had been studying the Morse telegraph code for some time. She finally learned to telegraph well enough to get a job with the Western Union Company as an operator. Their office was in the Colonial Hotel on the square. With my new bicycle, I became her messenger boy delivering messages around town. She paid me 10 cents for each message delivered. I generally spent the dime for something to eat immediately following payment. Henrie continued at this job for a few months. Then she got a job as a telephone operator at Oxford with the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Company. The telephone office was over the Brooks Patton barber shop in the corner of the square. The telephone office equipment was a magneto type exchange. When a customer wanted a number, he picked up the receiver, turned the crank on the phone which sent current over the wire to the office. This made a relay in the office operate which caused a little hinge to fall open on the front of the board. The operator picked up a plug on the end of a cord in the board, plugged into the jack on the line and said, "Number Please". The customer told the operator the resident wanted or the store wanted and the operator made the connection. The operator picked up the front cord on the connection, plugged it into the line being called and turned the crank on the board to ring the distant phone. She always stayed on the line until the connection was established. She pushed the hinge on the board back up. When the call was completed, the customer turned his crank causing the hinge to fall down again which indicated the connection was completed so the operator pulled the cords down.

All stations in town had numbers but everyone was so well known that most of the calling was done by name rather than numbers. These telephone operators really served the public. They knew all the goings on in the town, not necessarily by listening in on the conversations, but because people felt more free to communicate. If you needed a doctor, had a fire or an accident you just gave the problem to the operator who took care of all the rest for you. There was very little long distance calling except to Memphis. The line to Memphis was along the Illinois Central and Frisco Railroads where it was accessible for repair



all the time. The lines to Water Valley and Grenada were noisy most of the time. There were no direct lines east or west. To call Tupelo the call had to go to Memphis and be switched back down the line along the Frisco Railroad. The same was true of any calls to the Delta around Batesville or Clarksdale.

I knew this telephone business because my sister Henrie was the night operator and she hired me to stay with her at night as she was afraid to stay by herself at the telephone office. A Mr. Scott and his son maintained all the equipment and lines in the town as well as the lines out of town about 15 miles north and the same south. Mr. Scott worked night and day as he always had to go when there was trouble. All the telephone wires were open wire type. They came right up the streets on poles and cross arms to the telephone office where they were terminated on the crossarms and cut into short pieces of flexible, covered wire which went into the office and ended on protector blocks in a long row. These protector blocks were porcelain block with a carbon block next to it. Each block was connected to a wire on each line, a carbon to the ring wire and the porcelain to the tip wire. When lightning came in on the wires, it would short the charge to ground through these blocks which would burn together when there was a bad storm. In addition each wire had a fuse in it to open the circuit when there was an abnormal amount of current on the wires. All of this was to protect the operators and the customers from shock. In addition, this protective equipment kept the office from catching on fire or the equipment from being damaged. During those days, a telephone office had plenty of fireworks when a big storm came along.

I got through the fifth grade all right. Miss Avent was my teacher. I learned a little, but was not too enthusiastic about her. Geography was her favorite subject. She drilled and drilled us in geography. We had to learn the names of all the states and their capitols, as well as the names and capitols of all the countries in the world. Next we had to learn about each country such as exports, imports, dress and customs of the people, what kind of government they had, their army, navy, etc. It was good training. I never forgot it.

Most of the games played by the boys at school were "tops" in the fall, and "marbles" in the spring. The favorite games of the girls were jacks and hopscotch. There were no supervised

playground schedules nor any organized games other than what the children organized. We had a lot of fun doing what came naturally. Generally we considered recess a challenge to organize something of interest and get it started. In other words, we acted as individuals who were not regimented with some adult doing our thinking. Freedom is the word in its truest sense.

Professor Hudson was now the School Superintendent. He was a nice looking man and a good administrator. He let the teachers solve their own problems as long as the decisions were within the overall school policy. Prof. Hudson set up some playground rules that solved a lot of problems. He had boys, grades 1-6 play in one area of the playground, boys, grades 7-12 played in another area of the playground behind the school. All girls played in an area in front of the school playground. There was one outside drinking fountain for boys and one for girls on the playground. The rule was to line up at the fountain instead of wrestling for position.

At this time there were a few school buses, probably two or three running from the county into Oxford. County students had to pay a tuition fee if they came to Oxford school, as I recall \$5 per month. I believe there were 26 county schools operating in places like Taylor, Abbeville, Burgess, Toccoola, Tula, Lafayette Springs, Delay, Denmark, Harmontown, etc. The Oxford School operated from the middle of September to early May while the county schools were in session somewhat shorter due to farm work. The older children were needed by their families.

In the summer of 1918, the war was on everyone's mind. Nearly all of the young men in Oxford were in the Army or in camps being trained for warfare. Everyone was awed by the use of mustard gas by the Germans. Troop trains were coming through Oxford weekly and even more often. Two locomotives were used on the troop trains which came through, blowing their whistles; soldiers hanging out the windows waving at the crowds. These trains never stopped as they could not get all the soldiers back on if they did.

On Nov. 11, 1918, word flashed into Oxford that the war was over for sure. There was a false report a few days before as I recall. The Kaiser had fled to Holland and his armies had asked for surrender; Happy Day. The men in Oxford got their guns, went up on the square, loaded their guns, and fired in the air all day. Case after case of shotgun shells were sold by the hardware stores. Porter Hardware on the corner of the

square and Hughes Hardware on another corner had big days at the cash register. Another group bought several cases of shells, cut them open and emptied the powder. Then they got two anvils from the blacksmith shop. One anvil was set on concrete, powder poured on top of it, the second anvil was loaded on top of the first and the powder was fired with a fuse ordinarily used for dynamite. This shot the top anvil high in the air making a noise like a cannon. The firing went on all day and into early evening. The anvils were shot on the lot back of the present bus station for Continental Trailways. This bus station was formerly Purvis Garage. Oxford had never seen such a demonstration since the Civil War.

On the way home that evening I remember wondering what war was like and why we had wars and what could make men kill people that they did not even know. I also wondered what could make a harmless country boy in Oxford go overseas and kill a harmless country boy in Germany. Was it patriotism? What was patriotism? What did that word mean anyway? I did not understand it. To me it seemed to be a kind of mob-mania.

In the winter of 1917-1918 the flu epidemic hit Oxford. Nearly everyone in town had the flu and many died from its effects. I took the flu at school one day. I tried to walk home to Tyler Avenue but had a high fever. I remember wondering if I was going to make it as I staggered along the street but I finally made it. After about four days I was able to go back to school.

When school started in the fall of 1918, I was in the sixth grade. Miss Kate Kimmons was my teacher. Some of the boys and girls in my grade were Hilliard Elliott, James Riley Knight, Myrtle Hawkins, Noel Hodge, Cearley Slough, Robert Brown, Myra Patton, Jessie Mae Hathorn, Melne East and Lottie Vernon White. This year instead of having an honor roll published in the paper at the end of each month, each grade had a list posted in the room starting with the one who made the highest grade. My name was the No. 1 on the list nearly every month in the year. Daddy and Mama were really proud of me because I had now caught up in school. Anything that pleased my parents made me very happy and satisfied. Fifty years later when I met Noel Hodge in his place of business in Oxford and shook hands with him, he said, "You were the No. 1 student." That is all he said for a few seconds. It really floored me.

The school work seemed to come easy to me now. I liked the teacher and I wanted to please her, too. She was tall, with iron gray hair, brown eyes and a dark complexion. She wore pretty clothes with black shoes most of the time. The most puzzling subject to me was plane geometry. I never did understand it, but got it by memorizing the whole thing as well as the illustrations.

In January 1919, the States adopted the 8th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, outlawing all alcoholic beverages. Daddy's job was in jeopardy, as the Lucas E. Moore Stave Company started going out of the business of making whiskey barrels. Daddy kept on working for them through 1919 and part of 1920. In the spring of 1921, he went to New Orleans where he obtained a job as a timber estimator with a Land Company there.

In the fall of 1919, I started school in the seventh grade. My teacher was Mrs. Fox Simpson. She had two beautiful daughters. One of them married Baxter Elliot, Sr. later. Mrs. Simpson was very kind and tolerated a lot of foolishness by the class members. The seventh and eighth grades were run somewhat like a high school. The teachers were specialists in certain subjects. Miss Sallie Belle Duncan, the eighth grade teacher, taught all the math in these grades; Mrs. Simpson taught all the English with the remainder of the subjects being divided between them. I finished the year with an average of 93 making the honor roll nine months straight.

In the seventh grade one afternoon, someone shot Mrs. Simpson with a wet paper ball and a rubber band. She blushed and tried to get someone to admit that they did it by asking each class member separately. No one admitted they did it. When school was out all the boys were kept in and the principal came in. He asked each boy separately if he did it. All denied the act. The principal then told us that we would have to scrub out the men's toilet and clean it up every day for a week and that he would personally supervise the operation. This he did, but no one ever admitted shooting Mrs. Simpson. I was absent from school on that day. No one ever told who did it as far as I know.

I was going to Sunday School and church every Sunday. I had many of the same friends in Sunday School that I had in school. The Baptist Church was a most unusual building. It was built in two parts; the Sunday School building and the church building. However, they were side - by - side with a common

wall. The common wall was a series of high doors that could be folded back on either side to put both the Sunday School building and the church auditorium together. I never saw this done but one time. It was during a revival when the famous evangelist, Gypsy Smith, was in town for one week. He was a most powerful and dramatic preacher. Ordinarily, the Sunday School building was kept separate from the church building. The Sunday School building was two stories. The auditorium was open through the second story, but there were classrooms around it on both the first and second stories. The older people had separate rooms on the ground floor while the young people had their classrooms on the second floor. There were six to eight young people in each class which was according to age. The young people's meeting room was on the second story overhead in the rear of the pulpit. It would take care of about 30 people. Mr. Auber J. Wilds was our leader most of the time when he was in town. The main auditorium of the church would seat about 500 people. The pews faced west. The pulpit and choir were on the rostrum. The baptistry was in the rear of the rostrum with maroon colored curtains. There were three pieces of marble fronting the baptistry. On the main piece of marble was a verse from the Bible. It was Romans 6:4. "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." The organ was to the side of the rostrum. It was played by a hand pump operated in the rear of the organ. The janitor operated the hand pump each Sunday for the organ.

Lillian Jones, who was my age, and in my grade at school lived across the street. We often walked to school together and played together at home. Her father was Mr. Buddy Jones, later Sheriff of Lafayette County at two different times. Her mother was Miss Deanie, a wonderful person. Mrs. Jones' maiden name was Kisner. She was raised in Tula about 14 miles from Oxford. Her husband was from the same neighborhood. Lillian had an older sister named Rosa who was about the same age as my half-sister, Henrie. They were good friends. Rosa later married a Mr. Driver while Lillian married Bill Steadman, fullback and captain of the 1937 Mississippi State football team. They live in Jackson and have one son, Chuck.

Now it is 1920. School started as usual for me. I was fourteen years old, weighed about 125 pounds and was 5 ft. 8 inches tall. Daddy said that I was going to be the tallest Coffey he had ever seen. Daddy was 5 ft. 11 inches tall and weighed about 140 pounds. Mama was 5 ft. 5 inches tall and weighed about 130 pounds. Daddy had blue eyes, while Mother had black eyes, with long black hair which she wore in a bun most of the time. When she washed her hair she would get out in the sun to dry it. Several times I noticed that her hair hung down below her waist when it was down.

In 1919-1920, some of the officials of Oxford and Lafayette County were: B. K. Collins, Tax Assessor; W. M. Woodward, Chancery Clerk; S. S. Webster, Circuit Clerk, while E. D. Beanland was Mayor. J. H. Lawshee was City Clerk.

Daylight savings time was in effect. Most people did not like it, but they felt patriotic enough to respect it since we had been at war. A subscription to the Oxford Eagle cost \$1.50 per year which was a little less than 3 cents per copy. It was mailed to subscribers. A new kind of store was opened: Davidson's Variety Store. This was really a dime store but they had other things like school books, baseball gloves, bats, etc. Rev. J. A. Christian was the Presbyterian minister. He had a large following, particularly young people. Income tax was a new thing. The rules were that a single person got \$1,000 while a married couple got \$2,000 exemptions.

Every week the Eagle carried letters from Oxford boys in the American Expeditionary Forces in France. There was one letter I recall from Cpt. Lee Baggett with the Infantry. He wrote to his mother that France was devastated. He said there was not a tree standing that he could see, and the land was one shell hole after another. The soldiers had APO box numbers just like they did in WWII. Some of the names in the local columns of the Eagle were Guy Cook, John Walker, J. E. Neilson, Wiley Chandler, George Woodward, Henry Stephens, Ella Somerville, Grace Jones, C. A. McCharen, Frank Tate Harvey, Wilson Bedenbaugh. Mississippi furnished 70,000 men to the U. S. Army during WWI. Half of them were black.

A survey showed that 137 homes in Oxford had an outside privy. There were also 159 homes which had a stable for stock. In 1919, there were 365 homes in Oxford, 256 white and 109 black. Of this total homes, 279 had screens to keep out the flies while 86 had

no screens. 219 homes were connected to city sewage. In this survey the Public Health Officer recommended, "The public square in Oxford needs more attention. Some way should be found to remove the manure and rubbish from the square late Saturday so it will be respectable on Sunday." He also recommended that stables in town be cleaned up and that stores should buy milk only from sanitary dairies. All of these measures were recommended because of annual outbreaks of typhoid fever in Oxford. Nearly everyone in Oxford was vaccinated for typhoid every three years, or as required.

Some more names in the Eagle news were Lorette Eads, Elma Meeks, George Heard, Mrs. Eatman, Walter Brummitt, Vernon Gamble, George Lundie, Marvin Hawkins and Dr. Dorroh.

On March 16, 1919, there was a terrible siege of tornadoes which killed many persons in North Mississippi. Oxford escaped damage but had 7.4 inches of rain. The Eagle carried this, "Miss Henrie Johnson spent the weekend in Memphis. She was accompanied by Mrs. Coffey." This was on April 10, 1919. The Lafayette County Liberty Loan quota was \$104,600. The bonds paid 3.75 percent interest. George M. Knight was Chairman of the bond drive. Some of those supporting the drive with a full page ad in the Eagle were: J. E. Neilson, Bank of Oxford, Guaranty Bank and Trust Company, H & J Friedman, Porter Hardware Company, Robert L. Tomlinson, Sisk-Lawshee Company, Yates Auto Company, Rowland Drug Company, Miller Cafe, Carter Drug Store, Bramlett and Sons, R. R. Chilton Company, J. B. Brown, Farmers Warehouse Company, Davis Mize Company, B. S. Mize and B. J. Wiley. Cumberland Bell Company had an ad in the Eagle explaining a rate increase with some curves showing how the cost of everything had increased during the war.

The Principal of Oxford High School had his salary increased to \$2,000 per year. Popular perfumes of the day were Jockey Club, Sweet Pea, Manis, Mary Garden, Violet, Carnation, Imogine. Popular soaps were 7th Regiment, Cashmere Bouquet, Woodbury, Resinol, 4711 etc. The Oxford High School football team had John Falkner, Virgil Metts and Watkins Elliott in the backfield, Scott at Center and McDaniels at end. McDaniels went on to Ole Miss where he was a star end on the varsity. He was keyed up at the kickoff in every game. In those days the football field was where

the baseball field is now. There were no stands and the crowd stood along the side line.

Chess Carothers was a fine black man who lived on the same street that we did, College Hill now known as N. 7th Street. I was coming home one afternoon and saw smoke coming out from under a car parked in front of H. T. Smith's house. Soon I saw Chess crawl out from under the car and run across Mr. Smith's yard with his clothes all on fire. Mr. Smith ran out of the house, caught Chess and wrapped him in a quilt to put out the fire. Chess lay down on the ground, still smoking. We took him home back of Mr. Smith's house and called a doctor. I went back to see Chess later that night before he died and it was awful. You could see the naked, burned white flesh all up and down his shoulders and arms.

Lee Russell from Lafayette County was Governor of Mississippi. The selection of delegates to the National Convention was carried out just as it is today in general. Lee Russell had a lot of political enemies in Lafayette County but they were very much in the minority. He carried Lafayette County by 1700 votes in the election with about 300 votes being cast against him. However, his enemies were strong, and they did not elect him as a delegate to the National Convention. This was the first time the Governor had been left out of the delegation since 1880.

A big event in 1920 was the Confederate Veterans reunion at Oxford for the State of Mississippi. Several hundred of the veterans from Beauvoir made the trip to Oxford on the train for the reunion. Nearly every family in Oxford took some of them in their home and entertained. "Mr. Jim Coffey entertained G. W. Pate, Co. H 15th Miss. from Coffeerville, and D. S. Angett, Co. H, 15th Miss. from Grenada," reported the Eagle.

During 1919-1920 there was a continuing debate in Oxford about the light and water systems. They were becoming outmoded and inadequate. The rate for water was \$2 for the first 2,000 gallons and 50 cents per 1,000 gallons thereafter. The rates for power were \$1.50 for 7kwh and 20 cents per kwh for all over 7kwh. This rate is about 15 times as much as we are paying today. The power plant in those days was run by two men, and it was a diesel plant located just north of the old Illinois Central railroad depot. The power was generated by a Fairbanks Morse engine, two cylinder, which had to be started by a lighted cigarette. However, after the engine was started, it would run for at least 3 months



without stopping for repairs. The 1920 Census showed the Oxford population as 2014 which was a decrease from 1910 and 1900. This worried the townspeople and they thought that the 1920 Census was rigged.

I had the same teachers in the 8th grade that I had in the 7th grade. The only change was that Miss Sallie Belle Duncan was my home room teacher. A new course was introduced; agriculture. This was advertised as a big step up in education. However, it was a weak course as it only demonstrated what everyone already knew about raising crops, after all, we were all very close to the farm.

In Algebra we had the first reading problems that we had ever seen. They were very hard. I had trouble with setting up equations but finally mastered them fairly well with some help.

On one rainy day, I took an umbrella to school. While walking up the steps at the school, a little girl in the fifth grade said to me, "That is my umbrella." I didn't pay her any attention, going on upstairs to my room. Grades 7-12 were upstairs. Pretty soon a teacher came to my room and said, "Mr. Hudson, the principal, wants to see you." I went to his office. He queried me about the umbrella and I stated emphatically that it was mine, one that I had brought from home that morning. He was not satisfied as the little girl claimed it was hers and she identified it fairly well. In a naive sort of way, Hudson inferred that I had stolen the umbrella. He said that he would talk to me later and sent me back to my room. He called me to his office that afternoon and went over the whole thing again. No conclusion was reached but it was obvious that he suspected I had stolen the umbrella. When school was out I went home and told the whole story to Daddy. He went to see Mr. Hudson next morning and settled the matter. But I still felt a cloud of suspicion hanging over me in the eyes of my friends.

Daddy's job with the stove company was gone because of the prohibition law outlawing liquor. He had to make a move. He went to New Orleans and got a job as a timber estimator with a land company. A timber estimator is a very unusual occupation. There were very few at that time.

In manufacturing lumber the basic quantity is a "board foot." A board foot is a piece of lumber 1 inch thick, 12 inches wide and 12 inches long. This is before planing or smoothing of it in its finished form. A 1x12x12 ft. long piece of lumber has 12 board feet in it. A

2x4x12 ft. long piece of lumber has 8 board feet in it. This is arrived at by multiplying 2 in. by 4 in. by 12 ft., and dividing by 12 or 8 board ft. a 1 in. by 4 in. by 16 ft. piece has 5.33 board ft. in it. All lumber, of course, has to be sawed from trees which are cut down, cut into lengths and the logs hauled to the saw mill. There they are cut into the desired pieces of lumber. If a saw mill man wants to make money, he has to buy the timber. He must know about how much lumber the timber will produce so that he can offer the right price. Here is where Daddy shined.

As a timber estimator, he would first, with a hand held compass, run out the land lines blazing the land boundaries by slicing off the bark on the trees along the land lines. In other words, the land would be surveyed first so he would know exactly where it was. Before he started, it was necessary for him to go to the court house, look up the land deed and read it. In the land deed as in all land deeds there is a starting point or marker corner. The marker corner is usually described as a steel stake, driven 20 ft. west of a white oak tree or in some other language that permits one to actually go out and find it or find the corner physically. Once the marker corner was actually found, the survey could be started. I have seen Daddy look for the marker corner for several days in some cases.

Once the survey was completed, the actual estimating could start. This was done by walking back and forth through the land, in strips, and estimating how many board feet of lumber each tree would cut. As he walked he kept all the figures in his head, writing only the total of each trip on a piece of paper. When all of the strip trips were completed, he added up the total and that was the answer. He told the prospective buyer that the 80 acres of timber would saw out 300,000 feet of lumber or 5,000 crossties or whatever he wanted to cut from the timber. The buyer would then try to purchase the timber at 'stumpage' or so much an estimated 1,000 board feet.

In those days pine timber sold for \$4-5 per 1,000 board feet at the stump. So the above 80 acres of pine timber would bring \$1200-1500. The sawmill would cut the timber, saw the lumber out and sell it for \$10-12 per 1000 board feet. This would be the price when delivered at the rail head. After deducting the expenses of the mill, logging, hauling and all the other things, very little profit was left in the long run. Looking back, this was the way things

were when people were honest. Now if Daddy had been dishonest and told the saw mill man the timber would only cut 200,000 board feet the owner would have got less for his timber and the sawmill man would have made a bigger profit. But things were not done that way then because men had standards they would not give up for money or anything else. I am convinced that Daddy could have made a million dollars in a few years if he had only been just a little bit dishonest but he was truthful and had a high degree of integrity and because he had these qualities, he was a very poor man all his life. He had these qualities of honesty and integrity because he lived and was raised in that kind of home where some value was placed on being honest and truthful.

Well, Daddy went to New Orleans and started to work for a land company. He came home about once a month. Early in the fall we moved into the house with the two Dacus sisters on Garfield, Ave., between South Lamar and South 10th Street. We had two rooms and a kitchen, and a little bath for my mother, sister Nettie and me. We moved in with the Dacus sisters because my mother was afraid to live by herself. I loved to live here as I had lots of playmates. David Hughes, whose father ran the hardware store (now Sneeds), the four Elliott boys, Baxter, Hilliard, Quay and Jack. The Elliott boys lived at the corner of Garfield and Old Taylor Road, just across the road from the present William Faulkner Home. This was a very spooky house, the Faulkner home, at that time as a rather old couple lived there. We boys never went there as we thought the house was haunted. We hunted rabbits and birds back of this house where there were a lot of cedar trees.

David Hughes and I were very good friends. We tried to install a telegraph wire between our houses so we could talk at night. We were never able to figure out how to get the wires across the street.

The Elliott boys and Ross Brown loved to play football every afternoon after school. So did I. On the way home from school, we would first have a game in Ross Brown's front yard and then all of us would head for the Elliott yard. We knew where every stump, rock and hole was in these yards as we had the occasion to fall on or in them when we were tackled. All boys wore knickers, with long black stockings above the knee. The stockings were held up by knee garters. The idea was to play football without tearing the

knee out of our stockings which were expensive. We protected them by rolling the stockings down to our shoetops and snagging our bare knees. In other words we traded skin off our knees rather than have it come off our rear end because we tore the stockings. All boys wore high top shoes, usually black. Our parents told us that we needed ankle support while we were growing up. We had more sprained ankles then than we do now. But the parents set the style in those days as well as a lot of other things which I think now was good.

One week when Daddy came home, he told us that he was going to have to make a trip to Central America for the land company. He was going to British Honduras in Central America to buy 6,000 acres of land and timber for the land company. He said that he was going by himself and camp out in the jungle while he was estimating the timber. He bought a 30-30 rifle, a small pup tent and other supplies. He had his passport, his vaccinations and left in early November. He went down on a United Fruit Company banana boat, landing at La Ceiba. He contacted an Indian who owned the 6,000 acres of timber. There was a stone fence all around the perimeter of the land. Daddy got a guide and they carried the supplies on foot with them. Many hardships were encountered. He was followed at a distance all the journey by another Indian who never did give him any trouble.

After Daddy finished estimating the timber, he went to the capital, Tegucigalpa, where the final arrangements were made. Daddy got back to New Orleans about Christmas and came home. He continued to work in New Orleans through the winter of 1920-1921 and came home to stay in the spring of 1921.

Uncle Hugh and my grandmother, Mrs. Martha Ann Coffey, had been living in Memphis since 1911. Uncle Hugh worked in the Main Post Office on Front Street as a clerk. Everyone in the family called my grandmother, Gron. I do not know the origin of the nickname. All of us loved her dearly for many reasons. I was the only grandson she had which made our love for one another something very special. Every September, when the Tri-State Fair was in Memphis, I was always privileged to spend that week with her and Uncle Hugh. He would take me to the fair every evening after he finished work. We saw everything there two or three times. We also took all the rides, shot at the targets in the shooting booths, ate king size hamburgers and hot dogs, and saw

all the shows, etc. That week was the highlight of all the weeks in the year for me. I made the trip on the train from Oxford to Memphis, riding the Illinois Central from Oxford to Holly Springs where I changed to the Frisco for the trip on to Memphis. Uncle Hugh would always meet me at the old Union Depot. We would ride the street car and then walk about a block to where he and Gron lived.

At that time he was living at 925 Blythe Street near the fairgrounds. Later he moved to a house on Cooper Street near the railroad crossing where I visited them many times.

When I wasn't going to the fair, Gron and I would be eating good things that she fixed and drinking Kool Ade. That was her favorite drink. I loved it too. Occasionally she sent me to the store for a few groceries. Another past-time that I enjoyed very much was to sit on her front porch in the swing and try to identify every type of automobile that came down the street. The cars would stay in the middle of the street while vendor wagons would drive near the curbs. Vendors patrolled the neighborhoods, selling coal by the sack, kindling by the bundle, bananas, vegetables, milk and butter, beef and pork.

Usually the meat wagons ran only on Saturday. Then there was the rag man in his wagon ringing a loud, shrill bell, and asking for old clothes, rags, and what-have-you. Most of the vendors put their personalities in their cries as they were trying to get ahead in this new America.

The songs that the vendors sang as they sold their goods had love, misery, want, desire for a new life and all the feelings of the human soul in them. Nearly all the vendors were migrants from southern Europe. They lived in miserable shacks around the fringes of Memphis where they did truck farming as a share cropper, or they lived by hand and mouth from day to day. Many of them wore their native costumes or clothing. A bandanna handkerchief around the head, one ear ring, a string of beads, loud shirts and jeans. Some of them had gold teeth and a beautiful smile as they bargained with you. Most of them had heavy Slavic accents, and they spoke broken English. I loved to hear them talk as they were always witty and vigorous in their propositions to sell or buy. Their prices varied from house to house. They asked all the traffic would bear, ending the sale on a bargaining basis. No prices were ever quoted by the vendor unless

you asked him. Nor was any article marked as to price. The same situation existed in all of the stores. No marked prices as we see them today. All purchases were consummated by a bargaining process, no matter what the item. The stores were market places, where goods were bought and sold according to the law of supply and demand.

What a change has been made in 50 years. Today prices are fixed by the sellers as the result of communication with other sellers. The buyer can take it or leave it. Supply and demand have been aborted. Everything is controlled by the seller or big cartels, underwritten by a government bureaucracy, supported by taxes taken from the buyer.

This type of culture is a mutation of democracy and socialism. It cannot in the future produce a true democratic offspring and further change will eventually generate only a slightly mutated socialism to keep within the intent of the Constitution of the U. S.

Generations yet unborn will cultivate this socialism and breed it to Communism, thereby producing a mutated Communism which could be the culture of this country in the twenty-first century. The poor must be taken care of daily, or they will bring down the whole system. The poor will be taken care of in communes while the middle and upper classes operate the country and its culture as a mutated communistic system with maximums set to prevent too much wealth accumulation. All businesses of any significance will be owned and run by the government i.e. the leaders. Businesses to be taken over by the government in the future include all railroads, all power companies, boat and barge lines, fuel and energy companies, building materials industries, automobile manufacturing plants, steel companies, electrical manufacturing companies, banks and credit firms, clothing and food production plus any business having a national scope. Small businesses will be owned by individuals as they are now, but the government will have absolute control over them because of supply and distribution mastery. The Bell System will be one of the first companies to be taken over by the government as it must have absolute control of all communications to keep abreast of what is going on in the country. Phone tapping and spying by government agencies will be a way of life. The individual will be miserable but he will vote for the system because he knows there is no more secret ballot.

Our present political officers will be replaced by District Directors as executive officers and appointed advisory commissions. Each District will have a minimum and a maximum population to qualify as a political District. It may be one County or three or four Counties. City political officers will be phased out. The advisory commissions will be the District watch dogs as accountants and auditors. The District police force will be all powerful under the direction of the District Director.

There will be no more labor unions in the 21st century. They will bring the country to the edge of revolution in the late 1990's by strikes, slowdowns, and poor workmanship. The process of mutation of democracy, socialism and communism will destroy labor unions. The end-product party will be the godfather of a new culture in the 21st century much as it is in the USSR today. This period of change will shake America to its roots, but it will survive as no other superior power will exist.

The District Directors will be the electoral college under the Constitution. They will simply elect the President every four years. Congressmen will be elected just as they are now by popular vote, but the power will be in the hands of the President. Congressmen will go along with the President because there will only be one party. Any elected official not loyal to the party will be disgraced and perhaps recalled by the people at the prodding of the all-powerful District Director. Courts will be streamlined. The right of appeal will be limited according to the type of case involved. Largely the Supreme Court would be concerned with matters relating to government operations where constitutional involvement existed. Most cases would be settled in District Courts once and for all time.

In the spring of 1921 we moved to the old Dunn house on North 7th Street (formerly called College Hill Street because the street was on the route to the village of College Hill). This house had three bedrooms, dining room, kitchen and a front porch, as well as a porch in the rear of the house. It was a nice home with nine foot ceilings, plumbing, and a good garden space in the back yard. I had my own private bedroom in the front on the left. About this time I got the agency for the Memphis Scimitar newspaper. There were from 100 to 125 subscribers for this evening paper which arrived on the 10:45 p.m. Illinois Central train from Memphis every night except Sunday. The paper was 25 cents for 6 days or

\$1.00 per month by carrier. I made about \$25 per month for carrying the Scimitar. I soon was able to buy some things that I had always wanted like candy, cakes, baseballs and a baseball glove, as well as some nice clothes. I was also able to buy all of my pencils, paper, and school supplies. Daddy never had to buy me any more clothes, ever. One bad thing about the paper job was that I never got to bed before 1 a.m. I had to get up at 6 a.m. to go to school. This was not much sleep for a boy of 15 but I made out as mother always let me take a nap before going to the train. She was my alarm clock every night. I loved making money. On the paper route I learned who lived in every house in Oxford and who owned every place of business in Oxford. In fact, I learned to draw a map of Oxford and was able to put the right name on every house. Most of the subscribers were nice. Most of them paid their bills, but sometimes some of them could be very hard to find when the bill was due. I would go to the house to collect, and the wife would send me uptown to find the head of the house at his business as she would not have a dollar to pay for the paper. Actually housewives had very little cash as they bought everything on credit including groceries, usually delivered to their kitchens.

Some of the happenings in Oxford in 1920-21 included an order by the Board of Trustees of the colleges in Mississippi that the Red and Blue Society, The Blues Club, the AAAH Club, and the Ole Misses be disbanded on the basis they violated the anti-fraternity law in Mississippi. The only nearby hospital was Bramlett's Hospital and Nurses Training School which was located on Madison Street about 15th. The Mayor of Oxford was E.E. Temple and the City Clerk was Louis Stephens. The Pastor of the First Methodist Church was Rev. L. M. Lipscomb. The church was located at the corner of Jackson and 10th Street. The City tax rate was 63¼ mills. The City government was the Commission form of government with these Commissioners. There was considerable agitation to change the type of government.

The leading citizens or a lot of them belonged to the Farm Bureau. The members listed were: H. P. White, G. C. McElroy, L. C. Tatum, Hargis Redding, T. W. Mooney, J. S. Hartsfield, B. K. Collins, W. D. Austin, J. E. King, R. X. Williams, S. M. Sneed, G. C. Wilson, W. L. Heard, M. Price, Dan Allman, Hunter Foust, J. L. Perkins, G. W. Price, Douglas Walker, W. C. Wells, J. D. Gregory, W. M. Rogers, J. F. Goolsby, J. M. Saunders, T. J. Boatright, R. C.



Ragland, J. M. Daniels, C. L. Shipp, J. P. Sharp, K. M. Hickey, D. S. McLarty, W. W. Kimmons, L. K. Bailey, G. C. Stephens, T. J. Smith, C. A. Locke, B. W. Jones, J. E. Mills, N. E. Parks, J. B. Cole, J. R. Maples, J. M. Smith, J. G. Hurdle, W. L. Walker, W. C. Turpin, V. H. Jones, J. H. Metts, E. L. Williams, Jim Hamilton, J. R. Smith, R. O. Waller, Alvin Hipps, A. G. Tatum, J. B. Hipps, J. D. Jones, Durley Jones, Jim Carwile and Hardy White. W. N. Scott, J. C. Eskridge, P. T. Gamble, A. Q. Roberts, T. W. Denton, J. J. Dillard, W. A. Spears, A. B. Jones, J. B. Howell, W. L. Hargis, S. M. Moore, J. C. Carothers, W. D. Franklin, W. D. Heddleston, R. C. Saunders, C. M. Elmore, Dulon Cole, M. L. Waller, J. C. Holman, C. Y. Ayles, I. E. Walker, J. E. Tatum, J. B. Kelley, W. E. McLarty, G. Uth, W. T. Reynolds, Travis B. Reynolds, A. L. Simmons, B. T. Murray, George C. Hall, J. H. Blasingame, J. H. Crouch, A. F. Calloway, E. C. Dooley, H. G. Arnold, E. C. Coffey, W. J. Hogan, and W. P. Haley. In general these were the landholders or those who had an interest in farming in Lafayette County.

Dr. J. C. Culley opened the Oxford Hospital on Dec. 15, 1920. It was located where the Golden Years Home stands now. The 32-room hospital cost \$30,000. It could take care of 22 patients. Dr. Culley's father and mother from Jackson, Miss., attended the opening of the hospital. In the Eagle for Dec. 16, 1920, "Mr. Jim Coffey has returned from Central America after quite a lengthy business trip to that place in the interest of the lumber business." The stars of the 1920 Oxford High football season were Scott, Kincannon, Falkner (John), Elliott (Watkins), Metts and Parks. These were the days of prohibition and the following article appeared in the Eagle: "Town Marshall Mathis of New Houlika, 16 miles south of Pontotoc, was killed and Mayor A. A. Newell was wounded in the arm late last evening when they attempted to arrest a man, who was said to be retailing white mule from a 10 gallon keg in his wagon on the streets of New Houlika. Mayor Newell's arm was broken by the bullet. The bootlegger made his escape. He lives near Buckhorn 20 miles southwest of Pontotoc and he is said to have gone in that direction. Bloodhounds from New Albany were secured and a posse is scouring the hills near his home. Chickasaw, Pontotoc, Lafayette and Calhoun Counties corner near Denton's home. The wagon and team with the keg of whiskey was seized and is being held by authorities at New Houlika." This was an item in the Oxford Eagle for Dec. 23, 1920.

Governor Lee Russell brought ouster proceedings against the Oxford City officials but was over-ruled by the Supreme Court. He then called for a new census which showed Oxford's population as 1807. This reduced its status from a city to a town. This permitted the Governor to appoint a new slate of town officials who would serve until an election could be held. This was in retaliation because Lafayette County, his home, did not elect him as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 1920. It was the first time a Governor had not been a delegate since 1880. J. C. Hartsfield was Sheriff of Lafayette County.

The Old Soldiers Home at Beauvoir, supported by the State, was having extreme difficulty meeting its expenses, and Mr. W. M. Lampton of Magnolia paid all the July bills for 1921, a total of \$7600 when the state ran out of money. He said that he would continue to pay the bills at Beauvoir until the state could take over. Names in the news were Brooks Patton, Stacy Furr, Dr. Longest, Curt Hartsfield, Mary Louise Neilson, B. K. Collins, A. B. Cullen, Pattie Frierson, Marvel Ramey, Mary Vick, Dr. Guyton, Congressman Joe Lawshee, Lorine Hawkins, David Carter, Kirl Avent, A. B. Coffey, A. F. Calloway, Ruth Herron, Sam Ragland, Fred Word, Elma Meek, Irene Crouch and Dumas Black. Drane Lester of Ole Miss and Batesville was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. He was a star baseball and basketball player as well as being the Editor of the Mississippian.

When school started in the fall of 1921, I was in the 9th grade which was part of the high school at that time. The high school had a study hall that seated about 150 students. The boys all sat on one side of the big aisle down the center of the hall while the girls sat on the other side. The idea was that by separating the boys and girls, discipline and study would be more efficiently handled. I expect that was a good reason and still is.

The study hall was supervised by one teacher, Miss Ella Wright. She was an aunt of Mrs. Frank Moody Purser nee Miss Anna Wright. They were relatives of Dr. Wright, the town dentist for many years. Miss Ella not only knew all about each one of us, but she had the complete support of our parents. Now Miss Ella was something else even in those days. We always had two strikes on us if we started any funny business and we knew she had the support of our parents because among them Miss Ella could do no wrong. Along with her study hall job she taught spelling classes for grades 9-12.

She pronounced each word clearly and we wrote it down, or spelled it in syllables for her verbally as the case might be. She had a good system. All poor spellers came under her personal supervision. They always had to spell the word verbally, and she exposed them to embarrassment repeatedly until they studied their spelling lessons seriously. We had spelling every year in high school. I am so glad we did. Every graduate of Oxford High School could spell. Miss Ella saw to that personally. At the west end of the study hall was a stage about 50 feet long and 10 feet wide. It was elevated about 18 inches above the floor. Miss Ella's desk almost in the middle of the rostrum. It was offset the width of the aisle. From her chair behind the office type desk she could see everyone in the room. There were about 150 desks in the room, 8 desks to the row, and 9 rows on each side of the aisle. Any misbehavior such as talking, excessive noise, or horse play resulted in demerits. She gave you one warning the first time without demerits. Chronic trouble-makers never developed. A student trouble-maker got her immediate attention, as well as personal supervision right at her desk in front of everyone. If Miss Ella never talked to you, you just never have been talked to. She employed reason and logic. However, there was only one answer: you were wrong. You disobeyed the rules. A good society has to have rules to live by. You disobeyed these rules. We must have rules so that we will know where we are going and what we are trying to do. We are lost without rules to give us direction. If you stay in this high school, you must obey these rules. Do you want to stay in this high school? You see, I know what Miss Ella said to those who disobeyed the rules.

Miss Ella was also our counselor. From time to time she talked to every boy and girl about what they wanted to be in life or what they wanted to do with their lives. I told her one day that I wanted to be a preacher, and it made her so happy that tears came into her eyes. She was a staunch member of the First Baptist Church where Dr. Roland Q. Leavell was pastor at the time. Many, many times in my life since then, I have felt like I let Miss Ella and God down by not being a preacher. I was not strong enough then nor have I ever been. Fear and selfishness have dominated my life. I did not heed the call with a strong heart.

My grades in school were still good. Preparation of home work was easy. Classes were enjoyable. I had a yearning to learn, but

most of the learning seemed like an exercise. My chief motivation was to make the best grade in the class so I would be recognized as the best. When I was not the best, I tried harder. There was never any question in my mind about the usefulness of what I was learning. This was what was required. Competition caused discipline. It still does.

We had a new School Principal, Prof. P. L. Rainwater. What a name but he was highly sophisticated, a good speaker and a good administrator. All the teachers liked him. The community liked him too. Miss Stacy Furr was my Latin teacher. Miss Robbie Eades was my English teacher. Miss Sallie Belle Duncan was my math teacher. An Asst. Principal, Prof. Hawks, was the History teacher. Mary Alice Hathorn (Mrs. Bryan Tate) was my Science Teacher. I liked all of them, but Miss Stacy Furr in particular. Classes ran 50 minutes with 10 minutes to change rooms. Generally there were about 25 in each class which left about 50 in study hall most of the time. We had Assembly every Thursday with group singing and prayer by the Principal. Some days we had performances at Assembly by students such as readings, solos, piano, violin, guitar, banjo, etc. Many students took piano as there were four or five teachers near the school. Any boy who took piano was a sissy. Robert Brown and William Phillips did take piano. Robert Brown was the son of the Ole Miss Professor of Languages, while William Phillips was the son of Dr. Phillips. I got thru the 9th grade in fine shape with an average of 91 and was promoted to the 10th grade.

Sometime during 1921, my father went to work for the H. B. Owen Crosstie Company with headquarters in Algoma, Miss., just south of Pontotoc. He was a partner with Robert W. Walker who married H. B. Owens' only daughter. They had two sons. Robert Walker moved to Oxford where he built a new house at the corner of 9th Street and University Avenue. It still stands, and is a brick home facing 9th Street.

The railroad tracks all over the country were in bad repair as no work had been done to keep them up during the war. Crossties to go under the rails were in large demand. The H. B. Owen Company would simply contract with a railroad to furnish them so many thousand crossties during a year at a fixed price. When a boxcar of ties was loaded and a bill of lading obtained, the railroad

would pay by check for the load of ties. The railroad had their own inspector who looked at each crosstie as it was loaded, graded it, and certified the cargo in each boxcar in detail to his company. The idea, then, was to buy timber, cut the crossties, haul them to a railhead, get the railroad inspector to load them and then you could get your money.

Almost all of the contracts were with the New York Central railroad as they wanted ties badly and had the money. When overproduction of crossties occurred occasionally, they were usually sold to the Missouri Pacific Railroad. However, this railroad and most of the others had a tendency to haggle and argue about the quality. This was right down Daddy's alley. He knew how to get the timber, get the crossties made, etc., and make money. He and Robert Walker went right to work. Daddy handled the production and delivery of the crossties while Robert Walker handled the banking and administrative work. The Owens Company furnished the money on deposit at the Guaranty Bank in Oxford.

In the spring of 1921 Daddy and Robert Walker had \$125,000 invested in crossties and a recession occurred. They sweated for six months as they could not get any shipping instructions from the railroad. The railroad did not violate their contract, they just drug their feet and plenty. Business gradually recovered and by the end of 1921 everything was just about normal except Robert Walker and Jim Coffey who were still shaking in their boots. I think this was the first time in Daddy's life that he was ever afraid in an economic situation.

The Bagget Ice Plant was located on a railroad spur just east of the Ole Miss football field. Daddy's crosstie yard was located south of the ice plant on about 10 acres along the spur. His office was located on a high bank across the I. C. railroad tracks main line from the Ole Miss football field. All of the football practice and games could be seen from the window of Daddy's office. The Ole Miss coach at that time was Homer Hazel, an all-American lineman at Rutgers University. He installed the man in motion and the quarterback handoff system at Ole Miss. But his teams did not win very many games. An oddity of football teams in those days was that the quarterback was usually very small, weighing from 125 to 135 pounds.

One of the most unusual occupations in these days was that of a tie loader. There were only fourteen in north Mississippi and Daddy had all of them. They picked the crossties off the stack and loaded them into the box car. Two of them were called headers while the rest were loaders. The header with a cotton hook in his left hand would hook the tie in the end and push it up until it stood on end. A hook was used to keep fingers from getting mashed. The loader, with a horse collar pad doubled and tied over the shoulder, would lean the crosstie toward his shoulder with the pad on it, catch it with both hands, swing 45 degrees to his left and suddenly and the crosstie would be balanced on his shoulder. His position was such that he would be headed toward the box car when the tie came up on his shoulder. He would trot up the gang plank into the box car and throw the tie off in the stack in the car. The cross ties weighed 300 - 400 pounds each so this was quite a feat of strength and finesse. It was even more of a feat to do this all day in hot weather. Each box car held 450-500 ties. The 14 loaders could load about 2,000 ties a day if they worked hard. The ties were made of oak 7''x8''x8½ ft. long and 7''x9''x8½ ft. long. They had to be free of any defect that would decrease their strength such as doughty wood, hollow heart, rotten knots, etc. This was why the railroads had inspectors at the railhead. The crossties sold to the railroad for \$1.50 to \$1.75 each and a profit of 10 cents was the margin used by the Owen Tie Company. In the course of a year Daddy would make between \$8,000 and \$12,000 as his share of the earnings.

In addition to the crossties manufactured by the saw mills, ties were made by farmers using broad axes, brought to the tie yard on wagons and trucks and sold subject to inspection at the railhead. A bank draft was given on the spot for all ties brought from anyone. For many years about the only source of cash was from crossties in Lafayette County. When a farmer needed to buy something in Oxford, he made crossties, brought them to the yard and got his cash. At Christmas, 1924, over 2,000 farmers brought crossties and sold them to get Christmas money. Many of the wagons came from Panola, Marshall and Pontotoc Counties. Wagons and trucks were lined up for 2 miles toward the square and back thru the Ole Miss campus waiting to unlaod their ties. Daddy and I were the only ones who could grade and buy the ties and we worked from dawn to dusk. We paid out over \$30,000 on this one day. I learned a lot about people dealing with these sales and

checks. It is a fact of life that not all people are honest. As the ties were being hewn out in the woods, occasionally one would be nearly finished and the farmer would find a rotten knot hole in it after he was thru with the tie. This was a lot of work to waste so the farmer would start figuring how he could sell the tie anyway. Usually he would wait until a rainy day, wallow the tie in mud, put it on his wagon with the rotten knot covered with mud and try to sell it. We got used to these dishonest practices and accepted them as the way of life but kept our eyes more open when the ground was muddy. We also learned who the dishonest people were. Some of them still live around me now after 50 years.

In the summer of 1922, I worked at the Bagget Ice Plant. I had sold the agency for the Memphis Scimitar paper route. Working at the ice plant was another experience. I lived about two miles down the railroad from the ice plant where I had to go to work at 6 am. I got up at 5 am, had breakfast, and walked the two miles to the ice plant. Baggett had two ice wagons that served the entire city of Oxford. One of them worked the south end of town while the other worked the north end of town. These were one horse wagons which hauled 2400 lbs. of ice, eight 300 pound blocks each. It was the only ice plant in Oxford except Lawhorn's which only made ice for the meat market which he ran. All houses in town had an ice refrigerator. Some held 25 lbs., some 50 lbs. and a few would take 100 lbs. There were about 600 families in Oxford. Some of them got ice every day except Sunday and some every other day. I was assigned to work on the ice wagon with Richard Fair, a black man who could not read or write.

Every morning at 6 am Richard and I would start pulling ice from the deck at the ice plant. The plant had a manual crane that was used for pulling the 300 pound blocks out of the deck. A steel can holding the block of ice would be pulled on the deck, moved to the loading platform and thawed out with hot water from a hose so the ice would slip out of the rectangular can.

It was my job to put the can back in the deck, fill it again with water and cover the can up with a heavy deck lid made of wood and steel. While I was doing this, Richard was loading the blocks of ice onto the wagon. In about 30 minutes the ice was pulled, the wagon loaded, the cans refilled and we were ready to go.

The mule trotted across the railroad tracks and up toward the bridge. Richard and I handled the University and the north end of Oxford plus some of the business houses on the square. Richard

knew how much ice each place wanted and no signs in the windows were necessary as Richard had been serving his same customers all his life. Out of the 300 lb. blocks were sawed 25 and 50 lb. blocks. I was 16 years old and fairly strong for my size. Richard and I would make the rounds and be back at the ice plant about 12:30 p.m. where we would eat our lunch which we brought with us from home.

But before we ate, Mr. Garland Kimmons, who managed the ice plant for Baggett, would make Richard sit down on a bench and give him the name and number of pounds of ice charged to each person on the route. Some families paid each day. Others paid monthly directly to Baggett by check. Richard had a terrific memory. Richard would turn the cash in to Mr. Kimmons who would balance the books using the cash and charges given to him by Richard. When the books were balanced, we would eat. The price of ice was 10 lb 5 cents; 25 lb. 15 cents; 50 lb. 30 cents and 100 lb. 50 cents. Our 2400 lb. load of ice usually grossed about \$15. Mr. Baggett had a cotton gin uptown back of the post office (later sold to Ross Brown). This gin burned coal. So when our ice hauling was completed, we hauled coal from the ice plant uptown to the gin so it would be ready to go when the ginning season started in the fall. We hauled coal until 5 pm. My pay was 50 cents for hauling ice and 50 cents for hauling coal. It was separated this way as we did not haul coal every day. I averaged about \$4 per week for six days work. It never occurred to me that the pay was poor or that the working conditions were bad. I was proud of what I was doing and it actually made me feel good to see some of my friends uptown while I was dirty and wet. I felt proud because I was doing honest work. I always carried ice in the back door of all the houses. Some housewives would say that the ice looked small while others would have scales to weigh it on. This bothered me some but I felt like we were doing an honest job of cutting the ice. If some pieces were 1 lb. underweight, we did not plan it that way. Richard felt the same way too. Later, as I saw life unravel for these ice customers, I saw that those who claimed they were being cheated were little people who contributed very little to our culture. The point they missed about the ice weight was when they got more. This happened about as much as when the ice weight was short. Richard and I had no control over the sunshine which melted the ice as we went on our route. They failed to see that all of life is a give and take proposition. I learned from these experiences that things are seldom one-sided.



At this time Ole Miss was very small. Its enrollment was probably 800-900 students. The men's dormitory was Gordon Hall. It stood where the Carrier building now stands. The Lyceum was there as always but without the additions. The girl's dormitory was Rick's Hall. Mrs. Eatman was the manager of Rick's Hall. The old law building stood as it does today. It is now called the Geology Building. The present "Y" building was the chapel at that time, where all gatherings of the student body were held. The Fine Arts Center and Peabody were there. Between Hume Hall and the Carrier Building there was a four story medical building. This was the medical school. In the 1920's, Dupree, LaBauve, and Odom dormitories were built. Heavy oak timber was cleared to build these halls. I worked on these buildings during the summer as a water boy for the bricklayers and carpenters. I rode a horse from our home on North 7th. street to the work site. The University post office was in a small building near the present pharmacy building. William Faulkner was the post master. He made a better grade on the examination than my father who was also a candidate for the job.

William Faulkner's father, Murray Faulkner, was Secretary and Treasurer of Ole Miss. He lived in a three story brick house which stood where the present Alumni building is located. My mother and father were married in this home on Aug. 31, 1905.

There was another rather old mens dormitory located where the East Bridge faculty apartments are now. The faculty home consisted of about eight large two story buildings spaced along what is now Faculty Row.

Some of the professors living in these homes were: Dr. Bishop, Bondurant and Brown. Dr. Longest lived in his home on University Avenue east of the bridge. The Chancellor lived in what is now McCain Hall. Dr. Alfred Hume was Chancellor several times. When he was not Chancellor, he was teaching mathematics and lived in a large home on University Avenue where the Education complex is now located. Dr. Kennon, the science professor also lived in a large home where the Education complex is now. The Ole Miss baseball and basketball coach was R. L. Sullivan. He was a likeable man and I loved to watch him play golf. He attacked a golf ball like he was killing snake. The golf course was located where the Coliseum and Village stand now. Anyone who had clubs could play on the course. The greens were all sand and the fairways were mowed occasionally.

Life at Ole Miss was very sophisticated and disciplined. The faculty was powerful and the skids were greased to boot anyone out who did not conform. Fraternities and sororities were forbidden by state law. Lee M. Russell, who was hazed severely by fraternities, was the Governor of Mississippi. He steered a bill through the legislature forbidding any secret societies in any State supported institution.

For a period of about 25 years, 1915-1940 approximately, a black man called Blind Jim was on the Ole Miss campus nearly every day except Sunday. He was totally blind, having lost his sight in an accident. He sold parched peanuts to the students. He attended every athletic event, rooting loud and strong for Ole Miss. The students proclaimed him as Dean of the Freshman Class.

His memory was uncanny. Once he heard a student's voice and name, he never forgot it. He was awarded an honorary "M" in every sport with service bars on his sweater sleeve. He always wore his blue and red "M" sweater no matter what the weather. Any important Ole Miss game played away from home, Blind Jim always made his way to it somehow. He was highly respected as a one man rooting section. He was about 6 ft. 3 inches tall and weighed around 200 pounds. He was an imposing figure wherever he went. He had a tremendous voice which was generally hoarse for a day or two after every game. He knew all the stars and could tell you in detail of great plays that won games even 10 and 15 years after the game. Blind Jim was "Mr. Ole Miss". He had the respect and love of every student at Ole Miss.

Freshmen were usually assigned the job of being his eyes at each game. Blind Jim knew about as much football as the coach. He would query the Freshmen on the details of each play: who did the blocking, who caught the pass, who threw the pass, were all of interest to him. All Freshmen had to wear red and blue skull caps and their heads had to be shaved or cut closely. Hazing of Freshmen was a most important past time of all upper classmen. Freshmen had to suffer to be a student at Ole Miss. Upper classmen saw that the Freshmen suffered physically or mentally almost day and night.

Some of the colleges which were on the Ole Miss athletic schedules were: Southwestern Presbyterian University, Tulane University, Union University, Miss A & M, Alabama, Millsaps and

Miss. College. Occasionally Hattiesburg State Teachers College, Georgia Tech, Tennessee and Ouchita College in Arkansas were scheduled.

In baseball, many teams from the mid-west would come south for two weeks during the spring holidays and play the Ole Miss baseball team. Some of these schools were the University of Chicago, University of Illinois, Northwestern, Wisconsin, Purdue and Indiana. In addition Ole Miss always played a semi-pro team in Memphis called the Polarines. Its manager was Bill Terry later manager and first baseman of the New York Giants. The Polarines had a pitcher named Bradshaw, later of the New York Giants, who was a terrific right hand pitcher. He and Terry, a left hander, pitched and played first base alternately. The Polarines could beat any college team. When they came to Oxford to play Ole Miss, they came in an open bed, flat bottom truck with their feet hanging over the sides, a trip of 75 miles over dirt roads.

I loved athletics and wanted to play football. My Daddy said that the game was too rough and he would take me out of school if I played. So that was that. I made the high school baseball team when I was 14 years old. I played right field and could hit the ball. Hilliard Elliott was the catcher. Baxter Elliott played center field. Branham Hume played short stop. Quay Elliott played second base. Charlie Sisk played third base. Wiley Hawkins played in the outfield and at first base. There were many pitchers. Hubert Hyde is the only one I remember. We played Pontotoc, New Albany, Water Valley, Charleston, Sardis and a number of teams out of Memphis such as CBC, Tech High, Messick, etc.

In 1922 Lafayette County experienced an oil boom. There was drilling at Oil City, six miles west of Oxford. The drillers were on the ground, land was being optioned for mineral rights with talk of a well 3000 to 4000 ft. deep. Nothing ever came of the promotional venture.

Names in the news were: Blanche Somerville, W. E. Pegues, L. M. Lipscomb, Mrs. Bodenheimer, Van Roberts, Myrtle Ramey. A marriage announcement in the Eagle of Nov. 24, 1921, "Mr. Leslie Jones of Orrwood and Miss Christine Waller of Burgess were united in marriage at the home of Rev. W. I. Hargis at 3 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 1921." Other names in the news were: Lynda Ramey, G. F. Heard, D. D. McCall, Robert Farley, Margaret Rowland, Lee Baggett, Mrs. Golladay and R. E. Harkins.

Some of the friends of Nettie Coffey were Gerald Eatman, Janette Friedman, Margaret McClure, Mary Hartsfield, Minnie Louise Roache, Leslie Malone, William Hume, Joe Smith and Lucy Dell Leathers.

Some of the business places in Oxford in 1922 were: Lawshee Grocery Company, Wiley Bros., G. G. Wilson, Patterson Bros., B. S. Mize, W. F. Ivy, H. F. Simpson, J. H. Morris, Earl Fudge, Golden Rule Store, Dr. A. E. Russell dentist, J. E. Bounds, Real Estate, James Stone lawyer, Oldham, Stone and Stone lawyers, Dr. W. B. McMahon dentist, Harry Bryan, Taylor McElroy lawyer, Holley and Golladay Ford Agency, First National Bank, Bank of Oxford, Guaranty Bank, Oxford Furniture Company, Farm Bureau, McMahon Specialty Shop over Chilton's Drug Store, Chilton's Drug Store, The Leader Clothing, Robt. L. Tomlinson, Jeweler, J. E. Nielson Company, W. R. Boles Quick Repair Shoe Shop, Oxford Buick Company, J. E. Pegues store.

A headline in the November 9, 1922 Eagle: "Another still was captured Tuesday. After having served 5 months in the federal penitentiary, A. M. Biggerstaff, who was released only one month and three days ago, was arrested Tuesday and a charge of illicit distilling entered against him. The matter was reported Monday night to Sheriff Hartsfield, who, with U. S. Deputy Marshall Temple and Chief Deputy Sheriff Buck Collins, went to the scene where the still was reported to be. They said the still was one of the biggest and best made copper stills ever captured in Lafayette County. Biggerstaff, who is from Kentucky, is one of the best distillers in the south, it is said. He knows just how to set up a still and how to make the best grade whiskey. He was greatly under the influence of his own products when arrested at his home. His still was only a short distance away. He is being held in the county jail, pending a preliminary hearing."

Land line communications in the early 1920's in Oxford and Lafayette County were provided by the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company. The Cumberland Company operated in Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Louisiana. Telegraph communication was good as it had progressed further than telephone communication. There were repeaters on telegraph wires to boost the signals as they sped to their destinations while the telephone signals could not be repeatered as vacuum tubes had not come

into general use, although there were a few repeatered telephone lines up East on the wires of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. In general one could not talk very far on a telephone line, perhaps to Jackson and maybe Birmingham from Oxford. About all of the long distance messages were sent on telegraph wires. However, all this changed in the 1920-1928 period when the AT&T Company and the Southern Bell Tel. and Tel. purchased the Cumberland Tel. and Tel. Company. Almost immediately the Southern Bell Company started replacing the central office equipment in the five states where the Cumberland Company operated with the latest type of equipment which had repeaters where needed on telephone circuits.

By 1929 one could place a call from Oxford anywhere in the country over the telephone. All of the local and long distance calls were handled by operators. Because of this, the circuits were used by the operator almost as much as by the customer. Most calls were placed person to person and the operator had to first get the number at the other end, then be returned to the local call operator who would plug into the switchboard and ring the number. All of this manual labor made the cost of long distance calls very high and the long distance revenue was small compared to the local service simply because people could not afford to make many long distance calls. Many more changes were to come in communication.

The State of Mississippi was made a Division of the Cumberland Tel. and Tel. Co. on November 23, 1922. There were 40,000 phones in Mississippi handling 106 million local and 2½ million long distance calls per year. The value of the telephone plant in Mississippi was \$13½ million. This was published in the Oxford Eagle for November 30, 1922. These figures show there was one telephone for every 45 people in 1922 while today there is one for every two people in Mississippi.

One of the great stores in Oxford and Lafayette County is J. E. Nielsons 'dry goods store'. It is the oldest business firm in the county. Mr. W. S. Nielson, founder of the firm, came from Tennessee to the northern part of Mississippi, then a wilderness. He arrived at what is now Oxford about Jan. 1, 1836.

His first store was a small log cabin on the northwest corner of the square where Bramletts Drug Store was at one time. Nielson's has never ceased operations except for two years when Gen.

Grant burned Oxford in 1864. Mr. Nielson resumed business in 1866. At his death in 1890, his son J. E. Nielson succeeded him as head of the firm.

The records show that on December 10, 1921 Charles L. Watts and others sold to J. A. Coffey, his homestead on North 7th Street, up the street from the present Junior High School. The house and lot are on the east side of the street where North 7th street turns sharply west toward the school. Its legal location is a fraction of Lot 55 on the original plat of the City of Oxford. We moved into what we always called the Watts' house early in 1922. In about a year my father sold half of the very large lot to my Uncle Hugh who built a house next door and he and my grandmother, Martha Ann Coffey - widow of J. A. Coffey, Sr., lived there many years. The house still stands as does the old Watts House.

This land has an interesting history. An Indian named HO-KA sold this land to John Chisholm in June 1836. The original sale was for \$800 and it included 640 acres or a whole section of land. Lot 55 was just a parcel of the section. The Indian Ho-KA was given this land in 1836 as part of the agreement between the Chickasaw tribe and the U. S. for the Indians to get out of Mississippi. The facts are that the Chickasaw Indians occupied all of Northeast Mississippi which added up to 6 million acres of land when it was ceded. The U. S. agents took a census of all Indian families in the tribe and gave each family 640 acres to live on as theirs. When that was done the U. S. found there were 4 million acres left over. The U. S. just kept this and then started the ball rolling to get the Chickasaws to Oklahoma. The way this was done was to buy the 2 million acres given to the Indians in 640 acre tracts and then take them to Oklahoma to live. They were driven to Oklahoma by hired riders or what we would now call cowboys. Only about half the Indians ever reached Oklahoma only the hardy ones, the rest died on the way. One of my great uncles assisted in taking the Chickasaws to Oklahoma.

In 1838 Chisholm sold this lot to John J. Craig. In 1840 Craig sold it to James D. Darby who lost it to Cornelius Fellows in a lawsuit on June 29, 1840. Darby lost the lot to William H. Duke in a lawsuit in 1844. Cornelius Fellows got possession of the lot again in 1854 and immediately sold it to A. B. Longstreet. He kept the lot until 1860 and sold it to W. W. McMahon for \$850 which was more than the whole Section of land sold for in 1836.

After the Civil War the lot went thru many hands and finally a house was built on it, about 1890. This is the house into which we moved in 1922. It was put together in the foundation with wooden pegs but nails were used in the framing and inside finish. It was built in the form of a "T" with the dining room and one bedroom on the leg of the "T" while there was one bedroom and a parlor on the top of the T. The kitchen was a lean-to off the dining room. We added a back porch which was made into sleeping quarters with screen and waist boards. We also added a nice front porch. Plumbing was added about three years after we moved into it when street sewers were installed by the City. This was a wonderful home to us and it and the 1½ acre lot only cost \$1200.

In 1923 I became interested in Amateur Radio. I built a transmitter and a receiver and passed an examination for a radio operator's license. My call was 5AOL. Two good friends of mine, Paul Ramey and William Hartsfield, were also "hams." We were all in the same grade in high school and wanted to be Engineers. We talked on our equipment to each other at night as well as to hams in many other states and even other countries. Dr. J. C. Kennon, Professor of Physics at the University, was a source of inspiration to us in our efforts. He had an amateur radio station in the name of the University and operated it at times.

William and I attended and graduated as Engineers from Mississippi A & M College. (Now Mississippi State University). Paul Ramey went to Ole Miss and graduated as a Civil Engineer. William and I both graduated as Electrical Engineers as Ole Miss did not have an electrical engineering school at that time. When we finished college, William got a job with the Bureau of Standards in Washington while Paul and I got jobs with the Long Lines Department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. We were initially stationed in Atlanta and St. Louis. Paul worked west of the Mississippi River out of St. Louis, while I worked in the Southern states when I was stationed in Atlanta.

In 1923 Rev. Roland Q. Leavell was pastor of the First Baptist Church and a very successful minister of the gospel. Nearly every Sunday the church was full to overflowing. This church had a balcony in the back where black people could attend and many did. The location of this church was right across the street from the present church.

Some of the names in the Personal Column of the Eagle were: Will Porter, Grace Bunch, Dudley Ales, Rosa Jones, Jack Ramey

(brother of Paul), John Walker, Cliva Walker, Miss Ella Somerville, Mrs. Bem Price, Stanley Sneed, Dr. Felix Linder, Mrs. Annie Milstead, Jamie Eskridge, Coach R.L. Sullivan, Mrs. A. C. Bramlett (grandmother of Dr. Julian Bramlett), P. B. Furr (grandfather of Mrs. Paul Ramey), Superintendent H.T. Smith, Chester McLarty, Oscar Douglass, Henry Minor Faser, Rev. J.A. Christian, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.

The capital assets of the Bank of Oxford were \$1 million which was an all time high for the bank.

Streets in the town were gravelled and full of holes most of the time.

The school trustees were W. L. Smith, Dr. J. E. Hargis, H. C. Wiley and George M. Knight. R. J. Farley was the Mayor. C. H. Roach was the City Clerk.

No local stores ran newspaper ads. All of the advertising was done by manufacturers such as Wrigley's Gum, Richland Lilly Flour, Smith and Scott Tobacco Company, Black Draught, etc. The Eagle listed 1500 people on the delinquent tax lists in the county.

On April 18, 1923, former Governor Bilbo was released from the Oxford jail after serving a 10-day jail sentence. He walked out of jail and had breakfast with University of Mississippi Chancellor and Mrs. J.C. Powers. Bilbo was in jail for refusing to testify against his good friend Governor Russell in the Frances Birkhead blackmail trial. On the afternoon of April 18th, Bilbo made a public speech on the grounds of the Lafayette County Courthouse. Seats had been erected as well as a speaking podium. Bilbo had a school book in one hand and a brick in the other. He announced that he was running for governor again on a platform that would provide free school books for every child in the state and that he would pave every highway in the state with brick made by convicts at the Parchman Penal Farm. His speech got a lot of cheers and was one answer to what can we do that is new and good for the people in the state. Bilbo was elected. He did provide free school books but the brick roads fell by the wayside.

In the spring, the biggest funeral ever seen in Oxford occurred when Charles McCharen, the Post Master passed away. He died of rabies, it was thought, from a bite by one of his fine milch cows. The same dog that bit his cow almost bit me one day when I was on my way home for lunch. There were more than 100 cars in the procession to the cemetery.



The Bank of Oxford ran an ad in the Eagle claiming you could buy a Ford car by paying \$5 a week on your note. The Eagle cost \$2 per year.

The Farm Electric Light and Power ran an ad advertising rural power plants. I saw several of the plants out in the country and they were very successful. I remember the voltage was 32 volts as compared with 110 in the city. Of course, the 32 volt plants were DC while the city plant was AC. A strange thing about this 32 volts is that it was the same voltage used in most aircraft during the World War II.

Some names in the news were R. E. McElvaney, Earl Yates, Dr. J. N. Lowe, Mrs. Henry Tate, Martha Buffaloe, Auber Wilds, Louise Roach, Myrtle Ramey, Dr. Alfred Hume (gave address to HS graduating class). The graduates of the 1923 Oxford High School Class were: Ruth Barry, E. J. Beanland, Quilla Collins, Cooper East, Celia Elmore, Walter Hall, Clara Hawkins, Augusta Kincannon, Marion Leavell, Roy Lipscomb, Lillian Parks, Rayford Patterson, J. B. Roach, Sallie Simpson, Dyle Smith, Elwood Sneed, and Dorothy Van Nada.

The 1923 elections returned Wall Doxey as District Attorney, L. C. Hutton as State Senator, Taylor McElroy as State Representative, T. J. Metts as Sheriff, Chester McLarty as Superintendent of Education, W. M. Woodward as Chancery Clerk, Mrs. Guy B. Taylor as Circuit Clerk and J. E. Allen as Tax Assessor.

In Oxford at this time there were several layers of society. The culture at the University was of significance because of the respect and common purpose of the academic leaders. It did spill over into Oxford, but very little through an occasional social event sponsored by some family in Oxford. There were three layers of culture in Oxford proper. The business owners and leaders had their way of life; so did the middle class of working people. Then there was the black culture. The black worked hard, got little for it and spent it all on Saturday night and Sunday. Every Monday was not only a new day but maybe a new beginning of what they hoped would be a better life.

In the Eagle of 1924 it was common practice to publish the names of the hit songs. In the April Issue, the hit songs were: "La Paloma", "Who Did You Fool After All", "Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Sheen" and "Baby Blue Eyes".

Other items of interest in the 1924 issues of the Eagle were: A. H. Coffey's 2400 acres of land were advertised for taxes; T. E. Pegram was Judge of the Circuit Court. On April 10th, a tornado

hit Oxford and did much property damage including the demolishing of Baggett's Ice Plant. The candidates for the Oxford High School baseball team were Coffey, Knight, Heard, Patterson, Lawhorn, Black, George Knight, Earl Elmore, Elliott, Hawkins, Lipscomb, Robert Elmore, Baxter Elliott, Beanland, Faulkner, H. Lawhorn, and Roach. Cooper Hathorn was the Coach.

The delinquent poll tax list included 1500 names. Wagons were advertised for sale by the Farm Bureau. Mississippi passed a State Income Tax law. Knight and Linker were agents for the Studebaker Car in Oxford. The touring model was priced at \$1045. Bramlett Hospital was running a training school for nurses. The Guaranty Bank, which was the third bank in Oxford had assets of \$187,000. The cashier was Claude Roach, the Directors were D. G. Nielson and Herman Glenn.

Some of the businesses in Oxford were: J. H. Morris - groceries; Oxford Buick Co.; Farmers Warehouse Co.; Yates Garage; E. D. Beanland-Tailor; First National Bank-assets \$486,000; J. E. Avent was Cashier of the First National Bank; E. S. Bramlett, J. A. Parks and J. M. Gathright were the Directors; Dr. W. B. McMahon-dentist; Oxford Floral Plant Company; George Knight, Cashier of the Bank of Oxford died suddenly on April 21, 1924.

The teachers in the Oxford High School were: Miss Ella Wright, study hall; Gladys Barry, Latin; Clyde Lindsey, Math; Mary Hume, Science; the English Teacher was not listed.

Dr. Alfred Hume was appointed Chancellor of Ole Miss after long years of service as Professor of Mathematics.

Some other businesses in Oxford were: A. S. Huggins-Shoe Shop; Ivy's Grocery Store; Ford Garage; Hickey's Black Smith shop which was directly across from the Western Auto Store location now.

Fire protection in Oxford was a big problem. There were a lot of willing people but poor equipment. The Chief was Clyde Huggins while Lee Baggett was Asst. Chief No. 1 and David Nelson was Asst. Chief No. 2. The firemen were J. Kimmons, H. D. Webster, Hubert Baggett, Harry Sisk, A. E. Varner, Wiley Chandler, Dumas Black, W. G. Davis, M. W. Tillman, O. H. Gathright, H. Rowland, J. O. Kirkland, Wayne Black, Henry Mitchell, W. E. Lawhorn, C. H. Roach, R. S. Black, Lee Ramey, W. G. Kimmons. These were just about all the able-bodied men in town

and most of them had businesses. The big fear was that a fire would get out of hand on the square and engulf the whole business complex, wiping it out. There was a siren at the old light plant south of the railroad station which was used to signal for a fire. All the volunteers turned out running toward the fire station which was on the south side of Nielson's store where his men's department is now located.

Oxford seemed to be gaining some momentum in 1924, with new businesses being started and people willing to take more risks. The automobile business was prospering. Most families wanted an automobile, as it seemed to be a mark of success. The old square was in holes, the mud often rutting axle deep before it was patched, but the streets were surprisingly good except on those where the wagon traffic was heavy, like Lamar and University.

In August 1924 I was 18 years old. During that time the longest trip I had ever made was to Gulfport, about 275 miles, with my Uncle Hugh to fish in the Gulf and have a good time. There I saw my first ocean liner, a Japanese ship anchored at the dock and being loaded with lumber. This was really something to see for me at the time. I tried to imagine myself on that ship plowing through the waves going toward Japan. It was a real thrill just to stand and look up at the high decks with little yellow men scurrying back and forth. I remember one in particular who was suspended over the side. He was cleaning the rust off the anchor and painting it. Many others were suspended over the sides scraping the rust off the ship. Uncle Hugh and I would rent a small row boat and row out to the reef where we would catch a boatload of fish. As we had no way of refrigerating them, the fish would be given away to the dock people, except the speckled trout which we would take to our boarding house and there the fish were cooked. We also went up to Biloxi and fished in a boat in the Back Bay where the Pearl River flowed into the bay. You could catch a boatload of speckled trout there in nothing flat.

As I remember the route we travelled, it was mostly down the gravel road along the Illinois Central Railroad via Water Valley, Grenada, Winona and then we turned directly for Hattiesburg missing Jackson. On through Wiggins and thence to Gulfport. Wiggins was a most fascinating town to me. I don't know why the name intrigued me. There was a very big pickle factory there and you could smell the vinegar for five miles before you reached

Wiggins. I did all the driving of the car as I liked to drive. Uncle Hugh did not care too much about it. He just sat in the front seat by me and looked at the countryside, pointing out any points of interest. We always managed to make the trip in one day which meant about 10 or 12 hours of driving.

In the spring of 1925 Daddy bought a Dodge touring car. It had curtains that you could put up around both sides to keep out the rain. It ran well and rode well too. In late April, Daddy said he thought the family ought to have a nice vacation and travel down to Florida. He wanted to go to Palatka and see if he could buy some cypress timber and make crossties there. He decided to get a tent and camp out all the way down and back. He bought some expandable luggage racks to put on each running board on either side of the car as well as a luggage rack which fit on the back of the car behind the spare tire.

One Sunday morning early in May, we left Oxford. In the car were my mother and father, my sisters, Henrie and Nettie, and myself. We had obtained a rare road map showing the whole route to Palatka. The highways were not numbered but had such names as the "Florida Short Route," the "Southeast Trail," the "Bankhead Highway," etc. We decided to follow the "Florida Short Route" as it had signs most of the way. If you came to a fork in the road you usually had to stop and start looking for the FSR sign which had a circle around the letters and was orange in color. The sign would nearly always be posted somewhere, but where? You had to look for it. Usually it would be nailed on a limb up in a tree or on a fence post. A far cry from today.

I was a senior in high school about to graduate on May 25th, and I was going to be absent from school two weeks just before exams. Nettie was in the 8th grade and in the same shape. I went to my teachers and told them about the situation and none of them said that I should not go. One or two encouraged me to go ahead. Nevertheless, I was afraid I would fail and not graduate which I wanted to do very badly.

Well, we took off — loaded down with the tent, pots, pans and clothes. All the roads we traveled were gravel or dirt until we got to Lake City, Fla. where we encountered 60 miles of brick road all the way down there to Jacksonville.

We made it through Tupelo and on to a point near Jasper, Ala. from where we camped out on the Black Warrior River the first night. About noon on Monday we reached Birmingham and had a

terrible time finding our way through there. Going out of Birmingham, there was a mountain that the road went over. My mother got so scared of the mountain that she had us to stop the car. She walked where the road hung over the side of the mountain. This embarrassed me very much, but I didn't say too much about Mama walking along behind the car from time to time. We made it to a point near Sylacauga, the town about 43 miles southeast of Birmingham by Monday night.

On Tuesday it started raining, and we made just 75 miles in the mud, camping near Opelika on Tuesday. The weather was so miserable we decided to stay in tourist cabins and eat at a restaurant that night.

Wednesday the weather was very bad again, with rain and lots of mud in the roads. We again made only about 80 miles and spent the night in tourist cabins near Dawson, Ga. We ate at restaurants or bought some snack material and made out on that.

Thursday we got as far as Thomasville, Ga. where we camped out in the tent as the weather had cleared up. This was pretty country and all of us began to anticipate what Florida would be like. The real estate people and eastern bankers were just beginning to blow up Florida as a paradise to live. John D. Rockefeller spent every winter in his Ormond Beach and all those wealthy enough spent the worst winter months in Florida.

Friday we reached Lake City, Fla. and spent the night in the tent as the weather was really beginning to get nice. At Lake City we encountered our first paved road made of brick. It was just wide enough to pass two cars if they were careful, but it was nice and smooth. The brick road ran 60 miles from Lake City to Jacksonville. We did not go by Jacksonville but turned southeast via Gainesville to Palatka.

Saturday and we were in Palatka about noon. Daddy and Mama found a boarding house, and we got some rooms upstairs. From the windows, you could see the St. Johns River running north toward Jacksonville. It looked to be a mile wide and had a railroad bridge across it. People were fishing from small row boats and catching fish like nobody's business. I don't remember much about Palatka except the beautiful palm trees and that it was just like another world to us. Sunshine all the time and nice cool nights to sleep.

Daddy got his business finished up Monday and we started home Tuesday morning early. The trip back was uneventful and

much easier as we had learned to work together as a team. I remembered the road. We did not have to ask directions not even one time. We had no car trouble and as best I can remember — not even a tire puncture which were very common in those days.

Net and I got back home, took our exams and passed. This made us very happy and we had a conversation piece. I suppose we were the only people in Oxford who had ever been to Florida. I had already decided I was going to school at Miss. A & M College in Starkville and study electrical engineering. I had my high school grades sent there and told them that I wanted to enter in September 1925.

The Oxford High School graduating exercises were held in the auditorium the evening of May 25, 1925. It was a very exciting evening for the twenty-nine who received diplomas. They were: Calvin Brown, Walker Coffey, Sue Cook, Marvin Dooley, Mary Louise Dorroh, Hilliard Elliott, Melne East, Byron Gathright, Jessie May Hathorn, Nellie Hathorn, Noel Hodge, William Hartsfield, David Hughes, Hubert Hyde, James Riley Knight, Jewell Knight, Ewell Miles, Dorothy Milden, Mary McCharen, Irene Morris, Myra Patton, William Phillips, Cecil Roach, Paul Ramey, Bramlett Roberts, Loutie Roberts, Lillian Russell, Mary Torrey, and Gladys Williams. Graduating with special distinction were Nellie Hathorn, Lillian Russell and Calvin Brown. Graduating with distinction were Sue Cook, Mary Louise Dorroh and Mary Torrey. Dr. F. M. Purser gave the invocation. Piano solos were given by Lillian Russell, Myra Patton and William Phillips. The boys were dressed in white flannel slacks with a dark jacket while the girls were dressed in white. Judge Clifford Davis of Memphis addressed the class.

That summer I helped Daddy on the lumber and crosstie yard. I would run the yard while he was looking around in the country trying to get more people to make crossties and sell them to us. The job was interesting, involving decisions as to the price that a crosstie was worth, writing the checks, usually between 15 and 25 dollars a load. I met a lot of people, did business with them, had them feel satisfied and I think I made a contribution to the welfare of our family. I walked up the railroad from North 7th Street about two miles to the tie yard. Mama would fix my lunch and I would walk back home that afternoon when the day was done. Daddy paid me \$25 a week for this work. I saved this money and used it to pay my tuition at Miss. A & M. There he sent me \$50

a month to live on. This made the total cost of a year at A & M about \$600. When I graduated from A & M, I figured that my education in college had cost \$2400 and maybe not that much, as I only spent \$450 in my freshman year.

Looking back on our lives up to this point as a family and evaluating what it was like in terms of today's world, I can only conclude that our lives then were very different. Let's take the so called social aspects of life then. In our family Daddy was gone from home from early in the morning until after dark trying to make a living for us. Mama was always up, fixed him a hot breakfast. She was always ready with a hot meal when he got home at night. Although we had a telephone part of the time, he never called and said what time he would be home unless it was very late. He worked this way six days a week and in some cases when he had to go on a trip, he would leave home late Sunday afternoon. Mama was just as busy at home, fixing three hot meals every day, making the beds, cleaning the house and washing. I guess washing was her hardest job next to ironing. She boiled the clothes under a big pecan tree in the back yard, took them out of the pot and put them into a tub where she scrubbed them clean by hand. She then wrung them out and hung them on the clothes line to dry. After they were dry she brought them into the house and ironed them the next day. Monday was always wash day while Tuesday was ironing day.

It was all backbreaking work, but I never heard Mama say one time that she was tired or her back hurt or anything else was wrong with her. Mama never had a washing machine or dryer in her life. She did have an electric iron late in life. She never had an electric or gas stove. All of her cooking was done on a wood fired stove. Mama never had an automatic hot water heater or a deep freeze in her lifetime. Late in her life, we gave her our old refrigerator. This was about the only electric appliance she had, other than the electric iron.

Nearly every other family in Oxford lived this kind of life unless they were able to afford servants. This changed the whole life style as the servants were able to take the load off the housewife. About the most important thing that these housewives had to do with the house was to order the groceries over the phone and plan the meals. Most families of means ran charge accounts at a grocery store and had their groceries sent out price and condition unseen. Mama had her groceries sent out sometimes to save going

to the grocery store. She also sent me to the grocery store many times to do her shopping. The stocks in grocery stores in those days was much different from today. Food like coffee was whole grain in a huge sack. They would weigh you a pound and then grind it, or you could grind it at home. Flour was kept in a barrel, and they would weigh up whatever amount you wanted. Salt and sugar were also in barrels and would be weighed to suit the customer. Cured meat could also be bought at the stores. Bacon was bought by the side and sliced at home. The butcher shop in Oxford was run by C. H. Lawhorn. He also had his own refrigeration plant and fresh meat was always available. When I got home from school many evenings, Mama would send me to the meat market to get some meat for supper. It was about a mile to the market, and I walked proudly both ways. I say proudly because Mama told me a thousand times, "You are just as good as any boy in this town. You have good blood in you." Mama was a competitor.

I would guess that about 15 percent of the people in Oxford had servants in the 1918-1928 period. These people enjoyed some social life, usually arranged in their homes on such days as New Year's, Valentine's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The churches played a big part in the day to day life style with church socials, especially for young people. In the summer the churches organized a baseball league and played games regularly on a weekly basis on the Ole Miss baseball diamond. At the end of the season recognitions were given to the winner at a big young people's social event. The church pastors were very much in view at the games, usually taking a big part in the pep activities. The unusual thing about the baseball teams was that all ages participated on the team. You might have an 18-year-old first baseman, a 28-year-old catcher and a 35-year-old short stop. All those who played had previous baseball experience and really approached these games as a special challenge to their manhood and youth. I played first base on the Baptist team nearly every summer for four or five years. Daddy would always arrange to do my work on the days when the games were played.

So the average family in Oxford had little opportunity for social life except under the sponsorship of the church. This pleased everyone and there were no marches or demonstrations to change that life style. Work at home and in the business world came first and everyone recognized it and disciplined themselves



to that kind of life style. In other words there was no spare time on anyone's hands to gripe about anything that was fairly acceptable.

## CHAPTER III

### Mississippi A & M College

On Sunday September 12, 1925 my life was totally changed. That was the day that Daddy took me to Starkville to start school at Mississippi A & M College. We arrived there about 2 p.m. He drove to the Administration Building and I got out. He shook my hand and said, "Walker, don't ever come home and tell me that you flunked out of this school. Do your best and we will be satisfied. Ma and I have worked all of our lives to see you get this opportunity, so don't let us down now." I don't remember where I spent that night. My clothes were all packed in a trunk and had been shipped by train. Anyway the next day on September 13, 1925. I registered as a student at Mississippi A & M College in the school of electrical engineering. The registration fee was \$125 which paid for a room for a semester and all fees.

This was a military school and everyone who was a student wore a uniform. The uniform was khaki and wool throughout. The slacks were tight-legged with a calf lace, and the lower leg was wrapped with a roll-type legging. There was a uniform jacket and a cap and tie. Two sets of everything were issued except the cap. To get the uniform you put up a \$20 deposit and signed for it all. At the end of the school year, the uniform was returned and the deposit refunded.

This khaki uniform was the same type worn in World War I. My third year at A & M the uniform was changed to a gray color with black trimmings particularly a black stripe down the leg of each pair of slacks. The uniform was patterned after those at West Point. The student had to purchase two uniforms except the cap and pay for it himself. I am not sure how this uniform change came about, but it was very satisfactory to everyone. Each complete uniform cost \$50 and it always belonged to the student. Each one was individually tailored to fit and the students looked very sharp in their new dress. When a new shirt was needed it could be ordered thru a service organization run by the ARMY. This was an ROTC school. The students were organized into two separate fields of military study. The engineers were in the coast artillery while the rest of the students were in the infantry. There were distinguishing shoulder patches for each branch of the

## ROTC.

Every able-bodied student took ROTC. The courses consisted of three 50 minute classes each week and a one hour drill session on the field on Saturday morning. For this the student received three hours scholastic credit. All field drilling was done with World War I rifles which were issued to each student. The rifle had to stand inspection weekly at the drills. The engineers had a very interesting miniature coast artillery set-up for their classes. There was a lake about a mile from the class room and a red ball was pulled across the lake while observer stations nearby took direction readings on the red ball, telephoned these back to the classroom plotters who issued firing instructions to a crew who had a 22 rifle mounted on a gun turret. So all of the arrangement simulated real warfare duties. The engineers had a 155 mm Howitzer and an 8-inch artillery piece which they did all the field work required to fire it except a dummy shell was used for loading and unloading practice. Those who took ROTC the last two years got to go to a summer camp for two weeks at Ft. Barrancas, Florida near Mobile. I never took advanced ROTC, as I had to work every summer at home. Upon graduation, all those who took advanced ROTC and passed were commissioned 2nd Lts. in the Coast Artillery. The rest of the students had a similar program where they were commissioned 2nd Lts. in the Army Reserve. The 2nd Lts. had the option of going into the service full time if they wanted to do this, otherwise they would have to go to camp two weeks each year to keep their commissions active. Practically no students entered the Army as a career. Some pay went along with the last two years of advanced ROTC, something like \$10 per month of in that range.

A & M had a demerit system which was used to enforce discipline. On the semester system, 1925 to the last half of 1927, 60 demerits during a semester sent you home for the rest of the semester but you could return the following semester. In the period from the last half of 1927 until the end of 1929, the college was run on the quarter system and 36 demerits would send you home for the rest of the quarter. Cutting a class was 6 demerits, collar unbuttoned was 4 demerits, shoes untied was 3 demerits, late to class was 4 demerits, no tie on was 5 demerits, and there were many more penalties I do not remember. The demerit system was administered by the faculty and the military staff. The military staff consisted of a Lt. Colonel, A Major, four Cap-

tains, a First Lieutenant, Two Second Lieutenants, and a number of Sgts. This staff was for 1200 students.

The student body was organized into two brigades, one for the coast artillery and one for the Infantry, 10 Companies, 20 Platoons, and some other fringe assignments. There were three Companies in the Coast Artillery Brigade and seven Companies in the Infantry Brigade. The organization varied with the size of the student body. Each Company had a complete set of student and military officers. The military officers monitored the student officers on the drill field. Each Brigade had a Major and the Corps had a Lt. Colonel. The Lt. Colonel had a staff. Each Company was designated by a letter. I was in Company L my freshman year. When you registered for ROTC, you were assigned to the Company which had your part of the dormitory during your freshman year. I was in the 400 section of the dormitory my freshman year so I was always in Company L thereafter, no matter what part of the dormitory that I lived in. Capt. Kabrich was my military officer for Company L. All of us took our ROTC problems to him. We did not usually get very far with them. The student officers were elected with the approval of the military. The most popular boy in the student body was usually elected Lt. Colonel of the Corps. He was also very capable as a rule.

Once a year the Army sent an inspection team to the school to evaluate the Corps. This was a kind of an examination for the whole military program. We would do our drill on the field and then go into a parade rest formation. The Regular Army team would walk down the lines of cadets and stop occasionally as each cadet saluted the entourage. I had a roommate one time who was very short, about 5 ft. 6 in. One of the very tall Army Colonels stopped in front of him, looked over his shoulder and told him he ought to shine his shoes in the rear. This boy's name was Bob Thompson. His father was a famous engineer who built the biggest dam in the world on a river in India. Bob was later a treasured fraternity brother of mine.

My freshman year I was assigned to room 487 in the dormitory and my roommate (not selected by me) was J. W. Crout of Brookhaven, Mississippi. My sophomore year I was assigned to room 276 and my roommates were Piggott and H.R. Nash. My junior year I was given room 201 and my roommates were Red Delk, Tom Salmon and John Salmon. Piggott was from Milan, Tennessee, Nash was from West Point, Mississippi, Delk was

from Oakland, Mississippi while the Salmon brothers were from Grenada. I also roomed with H.B. West of Grenada part-time in 1928. My senior year, I was in room 901 with Stewart and a boy named Daniels from Kossuth, Mississippi and his nickname was Possum because he looked like one with his kinky white hair and constant grin.

At that time, the dormitory at A & M College was the largest single dormitory in the world. It contained 1000 rooms and was built in the form of a quadrangle with sections of 100 rooms each. It was 4 stories tall. Each room had one window except the corner rooms on the outside which had two windows. The floors were made of pine wood. There were two or three steel bunks in each room which could be stacked or separate. Most of them were stacked to give more room to work and study. The large corner rooms carried four beds. Every room had an outside exposure; the inside of the dormitory was a hollow quadrangle with sidewalks to each of four entrance arches. This dormitory burned in the 1950's as I recall. It must have been some fire.

Next to the dormitory was the cafeteria, just as it is today. It was equipped to serve 2000 people at one time, and fast. There were two lines to the food and two of the fastest cashiers that I have ever seen anywhere. Each student had to go to the Treasury office and buy a food book. It cost \$9.90 and was worth \$10. The food book contained 1000 one-cent coupons. The coupons were perforated and in a continuous, folded book. Food prices were unbelievably cheap as one food book would last almost a month eating three meals a day. One thing that I remember: a reasonably good steak was 15 cents and vegetables were practically free at 2 or 3 cents per serving. All of the food used in the cafeteria was grown at the school by boys who were working their way through school. They would work on the farm for six months and then go to school for six months or maybe it was three months on and three months off account of the summer. The cafeteria was just open for 1½ hours, so you see they had to be on the ball to serve 1200 students in 1½ hours.

Practically every student lived in the dormitory except a few who lived at home in Starkville, some as far away as 25 miles in nearby towns. Students could not have cars, and there was a lot of walking required to get to everything. Starkville was about 1½ miles from the campus. I said that this was a military school, and I want to explain what went on during the average day. At 6 a.m. a

bugler blew a get-up call at each of the four corners of the dormitory. You had to get up, shave and shower, make up your bed and clean up the room. At 7 a.m. a student monitor inspected the room and you got demerits if things were not right. At 7 a.m. the cafeteria opened and breakfast was served until 8:30 a.m. Classes continued until 11:50 a.m., when lunch was ready. The cafeteria opened at 11:30 a.m. for those who did not have a class. The cafeteria closed at 1 p.m. Classes then continued until 4:50 p.m. The cafeteria opened at 5:30 p.m. and stayed open until 7 p.m. for dinner. At 6:50 p.m. a bugler blew call to quarters at each of the four corners of the dormitory. At 7 p.m. everyone was supposed to be in his room studying. A student monitor was around to check everybody in, and at 10:30 p.m. study period was over and you could visit for 30 minutes. Then at 11 p.m. the bugler blew taps at each corner of the dormitory. All lights were out at that time.

Sunday was something special. You could not sleep late as the bugler woke you up at 6 a.m. on Sunday just like any other day. On Sunday at 9 a.m. the Regular Military Officers inspected each room to see that everyone was in his room, dressed properly, and that the room was spic and span to the last nut and bolt. These military officers wore white gloves to look for dirt anywhere and this caused demerits if the room was not clean.

The churches in Starkville tried hard to provide some spiritual life for the students. At 9:30 a.m. each Sunday, church busses would be lined up for a mile to take anyone to Sunday School and church who wanted to go. They would also bring you back to the campus at about 12:30 p.m. I went on the busses many times, all during my four years there and enjoyed it all. The YMCA had a nice building on campus and provided religious life for many. This building still stands today and looks the same. The building houses the post office now. It also housed a short order grill and book store at that time.

Critically, one could call this prison life by today's standards. But we never thought of it that way. The rules and regulations and customs were accepted as the price of an education that we had been sent there to get. I suppose you could say that we were sent there. There was also much desire on the part of most of us to get an education, as we were almost certain that would get us a better life and a place in the world. We would soon need a job in the world to make our own livelihood and this looked like what had to be done to obtain this record.

Freshmen and Sophomores had practically no privileges but Juniors and Seniors had some. The Juniors and Seniors could go to the Commandant's office, sign a book and stay out of the dormitory until 11 p.m. The Seniors could go out more often than the Juniors. Others had to have written permission from home to leave campus other than during the daytime. If there was some reason to be off campus and miss classes, you had to have a written permit from home unless you were over 21 years old. Every class missed resulted in demerits unless the permit was on file in the Commandant's office. A demerit list was posted every day and the floor under the demerit posting was practically worn out once a year. One quarter I got 33 demerits in the first three weeks of the quarter, but lived the other 10 weeks without any. I was thinking about what Daddy told me when he brought me down there on September 12, 1925.

There was no socializing between the faculty and the student body or even individual students. I suppose we considered all of the faculty as our adversaries. Some of the most loved faculty members included Dr. Hand, Chemistry Dean; Dr. Herbert, Registrar; Dr. Butts, Political Science (he was later Chancellor of Ole Miss); Dr. Garner, Government (I think he taught at Ole Miss later and maybe the Ole Miss Library was named in his honor); Professor Patterson, Dean of the Engineering School. There were others but these stood out as real scholars and gentlemen. The Commandant, Capt. Cornell, was probably the least liked as he handled the demerit system. Everything that he said was final, although he would listen to your story. Dr. B. W. Walker was President of the College at that time. He was a world-recognized mathematician because he solved a mathematical problem for the first time in the history of the world although the problem had existed for hundreds of years. He had four sons and made all of them take engineering. He said they could do whatever they wanted to after that, but it was necessary to take engineering to learn to think logically. Dr. Walker was not liked too well as he was too strict and hard to deal with. We had a student government, but it was just a platform to get rid of gripes. Sometimes a gripe would result in some action, but discipline was the order of the day. If you didn't like it you could lump it or go home. It made little difference one way or the other.

Hazing freshmen was the worst that could be imagined. On my hall there were about 24 students, about 12 being freshmen.

Nearly every night up until Christmas we were beaten right after supper. They lined us up like we were going to be searched with our heads to the wall and our rear extremities protruding. Each upper classman took a whack at our rear end with his regulation leather belt or what-have-you. After that was over, we went to our rooms for study. We had to wait on upper classmen for everything. The laundry was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the dormitory. Every Monday the freshmen had to carry the upper classmen's laundry to be done. It was all sacked in laundry bags and each freshman had either one or two bags to carry including his own. Then, on Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m., the freshmen had to pick up the laundry and bring it back to the dormitory and put it on the upper classman's bed. There were about 400 freshmen picking up laundry at the same time and there were only numbers on the bag. The laundry people would call out the number and the freshman who had that number came and got the bag. It was always a real melee. This situation existed throughout the year.

Another degrading practice facing freshmen was Homecoming when his folks and sweetheart, if he had one at home, came to the football game. Well, an hour before the game, all freshmen had to put on their pajamas and march to the game. They could not sit except all together, and they were required to do some real yelling at the game. Of course, some freshmen did not do this. The upper classmen kept books on the freshmen who did not wear pajamas. Nothing at all was said until a real cold night occurred in December. Then all H--- broke loose unexpectedly.

The upperclassmen gathered inside the dormitory quadrangle and got the names of all the freshmen who did not wear pajamas to the Homecoming game in October. A squad of about eight upper classmen would go to the freshman's room and get him. He would either walk, fight or be carried to Eckles Pond about a quarter mile away and be thrown out in the water with his clothes on. He could usually wade out. Hundreds of students watched the proceedings with a lot of noise going on. If a freshman tried to resist, he would simply be over-powered and some times not in such a nice way. I saw one freshman take a straight razor and try to fight off the squad but he didn't last long. They got him easily as there were just too many for him to defend against. Of course, this freshman was isolated for the rest of his school years and called a 'funny'. So one had to be sure about the consequences



of their deviation from the life style of the student body.

Another custom of the student body was that everyone spoke when they met or passed another student. There were just no deviations from this practice unless it was an accident that you were not attentive. If you knew the name of the individual it was included in the speaking. Freshmen were required to learn the names of everyone and use them. Since all of the student body wore uniforms and all of the uniforms were alike (they had better be), the question comes up about how could one tell a freshman from anyone else. Caps were not worn except during drill periods on the parade grounds. Every freshman had an all over head skinning when he reported to school. He could go to the barber shop and get it done or some of the upper classmen would gladly do it for him.

There were no fraternities at A & M until 1928 when the anti-fraternity law was repealed. Prior to that time most of the socializing was done by "County Clubs". That is, the students from each county were organized into a kind of friendship and social club. The Club planned its meetings and social activities usually to be carried out on Sunday afternoon because that was about the only spare time one had. Girl friends usually visited the campus with their families on Sunday afternoon. However, the big thing was to get a taxi to Columbus, Mississippi and have a date with one of the MSCW girls on their campus. As many as 200-300 boys from A & M might go to Columbus on a week-end. Those who did not take advanced military could go Saturday afternoon while the rest would go Sunday afternoon. There were probably 50 taxicabs in Starkville at this time. The round trip was \$2 each and the taxi usually carried 5 boys at a time. The big fence around the MSCW grounds had a big gate at the front side of the campus and the boys would line up for several hundred feet waiting for the gate to open at 1 p.m. All dates were supervised in the dormitory lobbies. Leaving time was 6 p.m. as I recall. Civilian clothes could be worn if you were going off campus. There were a few other times civilian clothes could be worn, but I do not remember the details.

As soon as the law against fraternities in the state was repealed, a group of us at A & M and many other groups as well, formed a local fraternity and called it Kappa Sigma Theta. The repealing law provided that National Fraternities could not operate in Mississippi until the school year starting in 1929. We

had 35 members in our local and thought it was tops. We met at the YMCA in a room provided for any locals to meet if they wanted to do this. In 1928 we petitioned the Sigma Alpha Epsilon for national charter but were refused. The reason given was that SAE had never chartered a chapter at an A & M College. So we immediately started the job of getting the name of the school changed to Mississippi State College. After about a year and with some influential help we got a bill thru the legislature changing the name of the college to Mississippi State College and petitioned SAE again. This time we were given a national charter and the initiations were in early spring of 1929.

The initiation fee was \$125 and I was not initiated because I did not have the money. I was later initiated into SAE on September 12, 1954 in Starkville. I rode the train from Kansas City, where we lived at the time and borrowed Uncle Hugh's car at Oxford and drove down to Starkville for the big event. The initiation was as a LIFE MEMBER, No. 6293. The description of me in the SAE petition was as follows: "Walker Jackson Coffey, Oxford, Mississippi, School of Engineering; member of A.I.E.E., member A.S.M.E.; president of the Lafayette County Club, baseball 26-27, 27-28; vice-president Masonic Club; affiliated with the Baptist church; age 22; senior." Those sponsoring the petition were faculty members: Dr. W. F. Hand, Dr. A. B. Butts, Dr. Ben F. Hilbun, and Professor H. P. Cooper.

I received a great honor in 1928 when I was inducted into the TAU BETA PI, honorary engineering fraternity. The requirement was that you had to be in the upper one-fourth of your class in grades and acceptable otherwise. There were 24 in my class so I had to be one of the 5th best. Each engineering class stood on its own grades, i.e., Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical.

I graduated along with 274 others on June 11, 1929. Mama and Daddy came to the graduation, and I was so glad that they could be there and see me graduate. I don't know where I stood in the class as they did not rank the class at that time.

Before graduation, many companies sent representatives to interview us for jobs in the spring. The interviewing went on through most of March and April. I was interviewed by General Electric, Westinghouse Electric, Southern Bell Telephone Company, and the Long Lines Department of the AT & T Company. I was offered only one job and that was with the AT & T

Company. Westinghouse took about 12, General Electric 2, Southern Bell 6 and Long Lines 3. The other 3 boys in the class got jobs with smaller companies.

In looking back over my college life, I make these observations:

(1) I learned what order and discipline really were and what they meant.

(2) I learned how to handle my money to make it come out until the end of the month when my check was due. This was not an easy lesson to learn.

(3) I came away from college thinking all one has to do to be a success was to work hard and do what one was told. This was so erroneous. I failed to learn that the way to accomplish was to work through people. Management, a must, was what I missed learning. It took me a long number of years to learn that accomplishment of objectives and goals comes when one works through people.

I came home from college on June 11, 1929 and had to report for work in Atlanta on June 17, 1929. That week was filled with preparations and planning to go to my first job as an engineer to try out my training. Daddy and I left home early on Saturday, June 15, 1929 after saying good-bye to Mama and my sister, Nettie. He drove me to Holly Springs where I caught the Frisco Sunnyland train for Atlanta. I told Daddy good-bye and boarded the train. In my little bag, containing my worldly possessions were: four shirts, four pairs of underwear, four pairs of socks, six handkerchiefs, two neck ties and the usual toilet articles. I had on my only pair of shoes, my only suit of clothes and my only hat. In my wallet was \$75. Daddy had bought my railroad ticket to Atlanta.

I looked at my watch as the train started moving. It was 5:30. I looked out the window and waved at Daddy. He waved back to me as he stood alone on the brick runway beside the railroad tracks. I will never know what Daddy thought as the sleek Sunnyland glided away from Holly Springs toward the reddish, eastern sky. I was so excited to be on my way, no strings attached, to see what I could do in the business world.

Here ends Part I of this Journal Of A Journey Through Life. The purpose of Part I is to record the genealogy of the Coffey-Bonds-Leggett-Petty-Hatfield families and connections and something of what life was like in Lafayette County, Mississippi at

various times prior to the Great Depression.

Part II of the *Journal Of A Journey*, to be published after the year 2000, is a detailed record of the author's life and that of his family, from 1929 through 1980. In these seven additional chapters and more than 300 pages, I have recorded, largely for the eyes of my children and grandchildren, the significant events in our lives as chronicled in my diary.

## COFFEY FAMILY AND CONNECTIONS

### Husband:

Andrew Walker+, born December 5, 1756 in Ireland, County Antrim. Died September 20, 1845 in Union County, N.C., Walkersville. Buried in Walker Family Cemetery. Father's name was John Walker, born in Ireland, County Antrim. Also married (2) Ann Grant.

### Wife:

Sarah Crye, born March 25, 1757. Died November 1793. Father's name was John Crye. Mother's name was Catherine.

### Children:

Elizabeth, female, born May 28, 1778 in N. C. Died September 5, 1837. Married James N. Houston January 4, 1798.

John, male, born January 23, 1781 in N. C. Died July 27, 1858 in Walkersville Union, N. C. Married Sarah McCain October 11, 1804.

Catherine, female, born January 22, 1783 in N. C. Married James Porter.

Sarah, female, born March 19, 1785 in N. C. Died August 29, 1855. Married Joseph Matthews.

Mary, female, born August 20, 1787 in N. C.

Margaret, female, born October 1, 1789 in N. C. Died November 4, 1854, Old Liberty Cemetery, Lafayette County, MS. Married Hugh Coffey.

Esther, female, born October 10, 1790 in N. C. Died January 15, 1885 in Abbeville, Lafayette County, MS. Married Aaron Houston March 3, 1812.

### Sources Of Information:

Rev. War Pension S-7839; DAR Records; Cemetery Markers, John Crye Will 1794, Andrew Walker Will 1804; Prot. Imm. To S. C. by Revill pp. 87, 90.

+ Rev. War Soldier

**Husband:**

**Hugh Coffey, born April 9, 1784 in S. C. Died May 7, 1861 in Lafayette County, MS. Buried in Old Liberty Cemetery, Lafayette County, MS.**

**Wife:**

**Margaret Walker, born October 1, 1789 in N. C. Died November 4, 1854 in Lafayette County, MS. Buried in Old Liberty Cemetery, Lafayette County, MS. Father's name was Andrew Walker, born December 5, 1756 in Ireland. Mother's name was Sarah Crye, born March 25, 1757 in N. C.**

**Children:**

**Sarah Crye, female, born July 29, 1807 in Mecklenburg, N. C. Died January 29, 1826 in N. C.**

**James W., male, born April 11, 1809 in Mecklenburg, N. C. Died in 1810 in N. C.**

**John W., male, born June 17, 1811 in Mecklenburg, N. C. Died July 6, 1839, Ole Pine Hill Cemetery, Lafayette County, MS. Married Lillie Wilson.**

**Harris H., male, born January 13, 1814 in Mecklenburg, N. C. Died January 30, 1874, Sulphur Springs, Horns County, TX. Married Martha Lambert July 23, 1839.**

**Agnes N., female, born July 22, 1816 in Mecklenburg, N. C.**

**Andrew B., male, born June 2, 1818 in Mecklenburg, N. C. Died May 19, 1884, Old Liberty Cemetery, Lafayette County, MS. Married Harriet Barry August 7, 1851.**

**Elizabeth W., female, born May 9, 1821 in Mecklenburg, N. C. Died December 28, 1857, Philadelphia Cemetery, Lafayette County, MS. Married George R. Bonds August 13, 1840.**

**Easter Louise, female, born March 24, 1824 in Mecklenburg, N. C. Died February 28, 1857. Married James Christian.**

**Sarah J., female, born March 11, 1827 in Mecklenburg, N. C. Died September 25, 1878. Married Arthur St. John++.**

**James Alex+, male, born October 31, 1830 in Perry County, AL. Died June 6, 1907, Old Liberty Cemetery, Lafayette County, MS. Married 1. Lavina Barry January 23, 1868; 2. Martha Leggett March 7, 1872.**

**Mary C., female, born September 17, 1831 in Perry County, AL. Died December 16, 1842.**

**Sources Of Information:**

**U. S. Census Records, Perry County, AL 1830, Mecklenburg County, N. C. 1810, 1820; Marriage Records Lafayette County,**

**Union, Pontotoc County, MS; Mollie Kilgore, Coffey Family Bible and George R. Bonds Family Bible and Harris Coffey Family Bible; Cemetery Markers and Records, Pension Claims and Probate Records.**

- + Civil War Veteran**
- ++ Mexican War Veteran**

**Husband:**

Harris Coffey, born January 13, 1814 in N. C. Married July 23, 1839. Died January 30, 1874, Sulphur Springs, TX. Buried in Sulphur Springs, TX, City Cemetery. Father's name was Hugh Coffey, born April 9, 1784 in S. C. Mother's name was Margaret Walker, born October 1, 1789 in N. C.

**Wife:**

Martha Elizabeth Lambert, born January 12, 1824. Married in Lafayette County, MS. Died April 30, 1900, Sulphur Springs, TX. Buried in Sulphur Springs, TX, City Cemetery. Father's name was Rev. J. A. Lambert, born 1799 in VA. Mother's name was Rowena Perry, born 1801 in KY.

**Children:**

Elizabeth Francis, female, born October 24, 1840 in Lafayette County, MS. Died August 22, 1881, Sulphur Springs, TX. Married September 5, 1861, 1. Samuel J. Gibson; 2. Joe Fain.

Columbus Washington, male, born December 6, 1841 in Lafayette County, MS. Died August 28, 1843, Lafayette County, MS.

Margaret Rowena, female, born November 9, 1843 in Lafayette County, MS. Died November 27, 1894, Sulphur Springs, TX. Married Andrew Jackson Bridges, February 25, 1862.

John Sebastian, male, born August 22, 1845 in Lafayette County, MS. Died August 25, 1888, Sulphur Springs, TX. Married Elizabeth Hopkins Townes, February 11, 1874.

Benjamin Franklin++, male, born January 18, 1847 in Lafayette County, MS. Died February 6, 1864. Killed in action, Confederate Soldier.

Martha Clay, female, born February 17, 1850 in Lafayette County MS. Died June 17, 1878, Sulphur Springs, TX. Married Milton Lafayette Ward, November 10, 1869.

Mary Taylor, female, born February 17, 1850 in Lafayette County, MS. Died February 23, 1931, Sulphur Springs, TX. Married William Calvin Wilson, November 10, 1870.

Henry Harris, male, born February 5, 1852 in Lafayette County, MS. Died November 24, 1900, Sulphur Springs, TX. Married Fannie M. Summers, November 15, 1876.

Nancy Sabella, female, born September 18, 1853 in Lafayette County, MS. Died October 3, 1855, Lafayette County, MS.

Elizabeth Lambert, female, born March 14, 1859 in Lafayette County, MS. Died February 17, 1878, Sulphur Springs, TX.



**Married John A. Woods, February 28, 1877.**

**James Andrew, male, born July 3, 1863 in Sulphur Springs, TX. Died August 28, 1867, Sulphur Springs, TX.**

**Robert Walker, male, born October 19, 1871 in Sulphur Springs, TX. Died April 20, 1946, Sulphur Springs, TX. Married Florrie Lee Askew, December 9, 1900.**

**Sources Of Information:**

**Lambert Family Bible, Custody Walker Coffey, Sulphur Springs, TX; Harris Coffey Family Bible, Custody J. Askew Coffey, New Braunfels, TX; Mollie Kilgore Coffey, Family Bible Custody Joe Dorman, Myrtle, MS; J. A. Coffey, Jr., U. S. Census, Lafayette County, MS, Hopkins County, TX, 1850, 1860, 1870.**

**++ Civil War Soldier**

#### **Husband:**

**Andrew B. Coffey, born June 2, 1818 in N. C. Married September 4, 1851. Died May 19, 1884, Lafayette County, MS. Buried in Old Liberty Cemetery, Lafayette County, MS. Father's name was Hugh Coffey, born April 9, 1784 in S. C. Mother's name was Margaret Walker, born October 1, 1789 in N. C.**

#### **Wife:**

**Harriet M. Barry, born April 28, 1835. Married in Lafayette County, MS. Died in Houston, TX. Father's name was Richard Barry, born October 10, 1790 and died May 23, 1858. Mother's name was Margaret N. Kilgore, born June 3, 1802 in Greenville District, S. C.**

#### **Children:**

**Margaret E., female, born August 24, 1852 in Lafayette County, MS**

**Millard Fillmore, male, born May 24, 1854 in Lafayette County, MS. Died in May 1917, Lafayette County, MS., Gerizim Cemetery, Union County, MS**

**Andrew Hugh, male, born November 22, 1856 in Lafayette County, MS. Died October 28, 1925, Lafayette County, MS, Gerizim Cemetery, Union County, MS. Married Dora Lee Anderson.**

**James B., male, born November 22, 1856 in Lafayette County, MS. Died September 3, 1874, Lafayette County, MS, Old Liberty Cemetery.**

**William Harris, male, born February 24, 1859 in Lafayette County, MS. Died January 30, 1940, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery. Married Mary Elizabeth Kilgore.**

**Maude B., female, born January 17, 1861 in Lafayette County, MS. Married Dr. George Collins in February 1883.**

**Viney L., female, born February 13, 1866 in Lafayette County, MS. Married Mr. Harrison in 1891.**

**John Alexander, male, born March 22, 1868 in Lafayette County, MS. Died April 9, 1903.**

**Benjamin Barry, male, born March 26, 1871 in Lafayette County, MS.**

**Eugene Franklin, male, born September 4, 1873 in Lafayette County, MS.**

#### **Sources Of Information:**

**Mollie Kilgore Coffey Family Bible, Custody Joe Dorman, Myrtle, MS; Union County Marriage Records; Philadelphia and Old Liberty Cemetery Records; U. S. Census Records, Lafayette County, MS 1850, 1860, 1870.**

**Husband:**

**James Alexander Coffey, Sr. ++**, born October 31, 1830 in Perry County, AL. Married (1) January 23, 1868; (2) March 28, 1872. Died June 6, 1907, Lafayette County, MS. Buried in Lafayette County, MS, Old Liberty Cemetery. Father's name was Hugh Coffey, born April 9, 1784 in S. C. Mother's name was Margaret Walker, born October 1, 1789 in N. C. Other wife's name was Martha Ann Leggett.

**Wife:**

(1) **Lavina Barry**, born February 13, 1844 in Lafayette County, MS. Married in Lafayette County, MS. Died December 23, 1868, Old Liberty Cemetery. Father's name was Richard Barry, born October 10, 1790. Mother's name was Margaret N. Kilgore.

(2) **Martha A. Leggett**, born October 20, 1848 in Lafayette County, MS. Married in Lafayette County, MS. Died July 21, 1924, St. Peters Cemetery, Oxford, MS. Father's name was Chas. Leggett.

**Children:**

**Margaret Lavina**, female, born December 16, 1868 in Lafayette County, MS. Died December 15, 1872, Lafayette County, MS.

**James Alexander, Jr.**, male, born November 27, 1878 in Lafayette County, MS. Died June 21, 1955, Ft. Leavenworth, KS. Married Mrs. Mary Johnson, August 31, 1905.

**Charles Hugh**, male, born March 1, 1881 in Lafayette County, MS. Died March 17, 1965, Lafayette County, MS. Married Wilma Gladys Waller, September 1, 1926.

**Nettie May**, female, born March 10, 1885 in Lafayette County, MS. Died August 26, 1909, Lafayette County, MS.

**Nellie Walker**, female, born May 4, 1887 in Lafayette County, MS. Died March 3, 1892, Lafayette County, MS.

**John Fred**, male, born June 8, 1890 in Lafayette County, MS. Died November 26, 1908, Lafayette County, MS.

**Sources Of Information:**

Marriage Records and Cemetery Records of Lafayette County, MS; Mollie Kilgore Coffey Family Bible, Custody Joe Dorman, Myrtle, MS.

++ Civil War Soldier

Husband:

Walker Jackson Coffey, born August 22, 1906 in Lafayette County, MS. Married September 30, 1933. Father's name was James Alexander Coffey, Jr., born November 27, 1878 in Lafayette County, MS. Mother's name was Mrs. Mary Pettey Johnson, born May 2, 1875 in Lafayette County, MS. Other wife's name is Mrs. Jessie H. Hyde.

Wife:

Mina Ruth Hatfield, born May 17, 1910 in Graysville, TN. Married in Chattanooga, TN. Died February 26, 1977 in Oxford, MS. Buried February 28, 1977 in St. Peters Cemetery, Oxford, MS. Father's name was William Dallas Hatfield, born November 13, 1887 in Graysville, TN. Mother's name was Nancy Cleo Northrup, born December 13, 1888 in Pikeville, TN.

Children:

Kerin Northrup, female, born April 9, 1937 in Nashville, TN. Married (1) Robt. E. Brooks, November 15, 1958; (2) Lawr. Magdovitz, June 21, 1972.

Andrew Walker, male, born March 15, 1941 in Atlanta, GA. Married Eleanor House, June 19, 1965.

Betsy Ann, female, born June 11, 1955 in Kansas City, MO. Married (1) R. Gary Wilborn, August 14, 1976; (2) Thos. E. Berry, November 26, 1977.

Sources Of Information:

Birth and Marriage Records, Rhea County, TN, Hamilton County, TN, Davidson County, TN, Fulton County, GA, Jackson County, MO, Lafayette County, MS, and Coahoma County, MS; Death Records Lafayette County, MS, Hamilton County, TN, Leavenworth County, KS.

**Husband:**

**James Alexander Coffey, Jr. ++, born November 27, 1878 in Lafayette County, MS. Married August 31, 1905. Died June 21, 1955 in Ft. Leavenworth, KS. Buried June 23, 1955 in Knoxville, TN. Father's name was James Alexander Coffey, Sr., born October 31, 1830 in Perry County, AL. Mother's name was Martha Ann Leggett, born October 20, 1848 in Lafayette County, MS**

**Wife:**

**Mrs. Mary Pettey Johnson, born May 2, 1875 in Lafayette County, MS. Married in Oxford, MS. Died January 3, 1947 in Knoxville, Tn. Buried in Knoxville, TN. Father's name was Andrew Jackson Pettey, born September 22, 1838 in GA. Mother's name was Harriet Jane Bonds, born January 23, 1842 in Lafayette County, MS. Other husband's name was Henry Johnson.**

**Children:**

**Walker Jackson, male, born August 22, 1906 in Lafayette County, MS. Married (1) Mina R. Hatfield, September 30, 1933; (2) Jessie H. Hyde, January 28, 1978.**

**Nettie Louise, female, born January 30, 1911 in Lafayette County, MS. Married Dr. Richard G. Parrette, April 1934.**

**Infant, female, born November 1914 in Lafayette County, MS. Died November 1914, Lafayette County, MS.**

**Sources Of Information:**

**Marriage and Death Records, Lafayette County, MS; Shelby County, TN; Knox County, TN; Leavenworth County, KS.**

**++ Spanish-American War Soldier**

**Husband:**

Charles Hugh Coffey, born March 1, 1882 in Lafayette County, MS. Married September 1, 1926. Died March 17, 1965 in Lafayette County, MS. Buried in Lafayette County, Clear Creek Cemetery. Father's name was James Alexander Coffey, Sr., born October 31, 1830 in Perry County, AL. Mother's name was Martha Ann Leggett, born October 20, 1848 in Lafayette County, MS.

**Wife:**

Wilma Gladys Waller, born January 31, 1908 in Lafayette County, MS. Married in Oxford, MS. Father's name was James Lucius Waller, born in 1876 in Lafayette County, MS. Mother's name was Mary F. Holcombe, born in 1879 in Lafayette County, MS.

**Children:**

Wilma, female, born July 10, 1927 in Lafayette County, MS. Married A. T. Bunch, Jr., July 3, 1945.

James Alexander, male, born September 11, 1929 in Lafayette County, MS. Married Sunny Bass, May 3, 1956.

Charles Hugh, male, born April 16, 1932 in Lafayette County, MS. Married Joyce Echelman.

Fred Sims, male, born October 21, 1938 in Lafayette County, MS. Married Barbara Barnhill.

**Sources Of Information:**

Marriage Records, Lafayette County, MS; Cemetery Records, Old Liberty, St. Peters and Clear Creek, Lafayette County, MS.

**Husband:**

**Andrew Hugh Coffey, born November 22, 1856 in Lafayette County, MS. Died October 22, 1942 in Union County, MS. Buried in Union County, MS, Gerizim Cemetery. Father's name was Andrew B. Coffey, born June 2, 1818 in N. C. Mother's name was Harriet Barry, born April 28, 1835 in S. C.**

**Wife:**

**Dora Lee Anderson, born June 8, 1863 in Lafayette County, MS. Died November 28, 1925 in Union County, MS. Buried in Union County, MS, Gerizim Cemetery.**

**Children:**

**James Anderson, male, born September 30, 1887 in Union County, MS. Died May 25, 1963, Union County, MS. Married Ruby Mayes, September 19, 1911, Union County, MS.**

**Lee Humphries, male, born July 26, 1890 in Union County, MS. Died October 19, 1976, Union County, MS, Gerizim Cemetery. Married Annie Murray, September 26, 1915.**

**George Cleveland (Dr.), male, born May 18, 1892 in Union County, MS. Died October 10, 1975, Hot Springs, AR. Married (1) Cora Brasfield; (2) Ruth Phillips.**

**Marie, female, born July 25, 1897 in Union County, MS. Married Lamar Coltharp, October 8, 1916.**

**Arthur Boyd, male, born November 18, ?, in Union County, MS. Died in 1962, San Jose, CA, Vet. Cemetery. Married (1) Maurine; (2) Rose.**

**Alice Maud, female, born November 15, 1902 in Union County, MS. Married William Tom Reynolds, August 7, 1921.**

**Sources Of Information:**

**Mollie Kilgore Coffey Family Bible, Custody Joe Dorman, Myrtle, MS; Marraige Records, Union County, MS; Gerizim Cemetery Records, Myrtle, MS.**

**Husband:**

**James Anderson Coffey, born September 30, 1887 in Lafayette County, MS. Married September 15, 1910. Died May 25, 1963 in Union County, MS. Buried in Gerizim Cemetery, Union County, MS. Father's name was Andrew Hugh Coffey, born November 22, 1856 in Lafayette County, MS. Mother's name was Dora Lee Anderson, born June 8, 1863.**

**Wife:**

**Ruby Caroline Mayes, born August 16, 1890 in Union County, MS. Married in Union County, MS. Died March 5, 1967 in Union County, MS. Buried in Gerizim Cemetery, Union County, MS. Father's name was Reuben Blair Mayes. Mother's name was Ida Frances Bonnell.**

**Children:**

**James Clark, male, born June 20, 1912 in Myrtle, Union County, MS. Married Virginia Bland Dodds, April 15, 1939.**

**Reuben Mayes, male, born January 21, 1917, Myrtle, Union County, MS. Married Mary Payne Watts, April 1951.**

**Sara Nell, female, born August 6, 1919, Myrtle, Union County, MS. Married Thos. Edward Holland, April 20, 1947.**

**Joe Lee, male, born April 27, 1923, Myrtle, Union County, MS. Married November 1, 1947, Jeanne Williams Barnett.**

**Robert Carey, male, born in 1927, New Albany, Union County, MS. Died at birth. Buried in Myrtle, Gerizim Cemetery, MS.**

**Sources Of Information:**

**Marriage Records, Union and Lafayette County, MS; Mollie Coffey Family Bible, Custody Joe Dorman, Myrtle, MS; Cemetery Markers, Gerizim Cemetery, Myrtle, MS; Clark Coffey, Myrtle, MS; Sara Nell Holland, Oakland, MS.**



**Husband:**

George R. Bonds, born April 18, 1813 in N. C. Married August 13, 1840. Died October 10, 1878 in Lafayette County, MS. Buried in Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery. Father's name was James Bonds, born April 4, 1776 in VA. Mother's name was Margaret McColoh, born June 24, 1779 in N. C.

**Wife:**

Elizabeth W. Coffey, born May 9, 1821 in N. C. Married in Lafayette County, MS. Died December 28, 1857 in Lafayette County, MS. Buried in Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery. Father's name was Hugh Coffey, born April 9, 1784 in S. C. Mother's name was Margaret Walker, born October 1, 1789 in N. C.

**Children:**

Harriet Jane, female, born January 23, 1842 in Lafayette County, MS. Died May 8, 1911 in Union County, MS, Candy Hill Cemetery. Married Andrew Jackson Pettey, August 17, 1865.

Margaret A., female, born May 16, 1843 in Lafayette County, MS. Died September 11, 1846, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.

Nancy L., female, born May 16, 1843 in Lafayette County, MS. Died February 4, 1845, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.

Mary A., female, born December 13, 1847, Lafayette County, MS. Died July 18, 1848, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.

John J., male, born October 15, 1850 in Lafayette County, MS. Died June 16, 1930, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery. Married (1) Mary F. Ward, February 17, 1874; (2) Nona E. Williams, January 26, 1897.

Huey H., male, born August 6, 1853 in Lafayette County, MS. Died November 19, 1853, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.

Sarah Savanna, female, born September 15, 1855 in Lafayette County, MS. Died November 13, 1929, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.

Henry Alexander, male, born January 2, 1860 in Lafayette County, MS. Died May 21, 1861, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.

George Franklin, male, born November 7, 1861 in Lafayette County, Ms.

**Robbert Prints, male, born March 10, 1864 in Lafayette County, MS. Died August 26, 1867, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.**

**Sources Of Information:**

**George R. Bonds and John J. Bonds Family Bibles; Lafayette County, MS Marriage Records; Philadelphia Church Cemetery Records.**

**Husband:**

**John J. Bonds, born October 15, 1850 in Lafayette County, MS. Married February 17, 1874. Died June 16, 1930, Lafayette County, MS. Buried in Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery. Father's name was George R. Bonds, born April 18, 1813 in N. C. Mother's name was Elizabeth W. Coffey, born May 9, 1821 in N. C. Other's wife's name was Nona E. Williams, married January 26, 1897.**

**Wife:**

**Mary F. Ward, born September 28, 1857 in Lafayette County, MS. Married in Lafayette County, MS. Died November 12, 1882, Lafayette County, MS. Buried in Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.**

**Children:**

**George Alonzo, male, born January 19, 1875 in Lafayette County, MS. Died May 8, 1962, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery. Married Addie M. Ferrell, December 28, 1898.**

**Sarah E., female, born July 15, 1876 in Lafayette County, MS. Died July 10, 1878, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.**

**Giles Roland, male, born July 29, 1879 in Lafayette County, MS. Died January 19, 1945, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery. Married Ada Ferrell.**

**Fader Allee, female, born September 14, 1881 in Lafayette County, MS. Died October 9, 1881, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.**

**James Nesbit, male, born October 19, 1882 in Lafayette County, MS. Died July 24, 1974, Houston, TX. Married Dorothy Estelle Waits, February 1904.**

**Little Diamond, female, born January 3, 1898 in Lafayette County, MS. Died January 30, 1898, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.**

**Mary Francis, female, born September 9, 1899 in Lafayette County, MS. Married Dave M. Smith, December 25, 1919.**

**John Hubbard, male, born August 30, 1903 in Lafayette County, MS. Died May 11, 1966. Married Sue Wallace Sparks, December 1929.**

**Dorothy Harriet, female, born December 27, 1904 in Lafayette County, MS. Married George F. Adams, December 21, 1924.**

**Sources Of Information:**

**George R. Bonds and John J. Bonds Family Bibles; Lafayette County Marriage Records; Mrs. Nellie Bonds Gray, Philadelphia Church Cemetery Records.**

**Husband:**

**Luke Pettey (Petty), born August 11, 1792 in S. C. Married June 19, 1817. Died February 23, 1865, Pontotoc County, MS. Buried in Lafayette County, MS, Old Covered Wagon Cemetery.**

**Wife:**

**Mary Coward, born July 18, 1796 in S. C. Married in Jones County, GA. Died July 4, 1865, Pontotoc County, MS. Buried in Lafayette County, MS, Old Covered Wagon Cemetery.**

**Children:**

**George, male, born January 3, 1818. Died November 11, 1855. Married Mary Singletary.**

**Lewis, male, born in 1822. Married Mary Jane Swinney.**

**Andrew Jackson, male, born September 22, 1838 in GA. Died August 23, 1910, Lafayette County, MS. Married Harriet Jane Bonds, August 17, 1865.**

**Cynthia, female, born in 1820 in GA.**

**Carolyn, female, born in 1825 in GA.**

**Rebecca, female, born in 1827 in GA.**

**Frances, female, born in 1831 in GA.**

**Sarah Jane, female, born in 1833 in GA. Died November 15, 1864, Lafayette County, MS, Lebanon Cemetery. Married John Waldrop, April 18, 1859.**

**Mary D., female, born April 13, 1836 in GA. Died May 20, 1918, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery. Married E. Hale, June 1, 1858.**

**Sources Of Information:**

**U. S. Census, Jones County, GA, 1820; Pontotoc County, MS, 1850; Lafayette County, MS Cemetery Records; Candy Hill Cemetery, Union County, MS; Marriage Records Jones County, GA, Union and Lafayette County, MS; Letter December 11, 1978 from Frances Corcoran, 2057 Yosemite Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90041; Letter January 10, 1979 from Irene Petty Watt, 200 N. Riverside Dr., Carthage, TN; Letter June 19, 1979 from Mrs. Jennings B. Peddy, 2317 Godwin Cir., Orange, TX 77630.**

**Husband:**

**Andrew Jackson Pettey ++, born September 22, 1838 in Jones County, GA. Married August 17, 1865. Died August 23, 1910, Lafayette County, MS. Buried in Union County, MS, Candy Hill Cemetery. Father's name was Luke Pettey, August 11, 1792 in S. C. Mother's name was Mary Coward, born July 18, 1796 in S. C.**

**Wife:**

**Harriet Jane Bonds, born May 23, 1842 in Lafayette County, MS. Married in Lafayette County, MS. Died May 8, 1911 in Lafayette County, MS. Buried in Union County, MS, Candy Hill Cemetery. Father's name was George R. Bonds, born April 18, 1813 in N. C. Mother's name was Elizabeth W. Coffey, born May 9, 1821 in N. C.**

**Children:**

**George L., male, born May 5, 1866 in Lafayette County, MS. Died March 26, 1925 in Union County, MS. Married Elizabeth Myers.**

**John Lewis, male, born July 10, 1868 in Lafayette County, MS. Died November 24, 1870, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.**

**Luther Joshua, male, born November 2, 1872 in Lafayette County, MS. Married May Nichols, January 1, 1900.**

**Mary Elizabeth, female, born May 2, 1875 in Lafayette County, MS. Died January 3, 1947, Knoxville County, TN. Married (1) Henry Johnson; (2) J. A. Coffey, Jr. August 31, 1905.**

**Andrew Jackson, male, born October 8, 1878 in Lafayette County, MS. Died August 21, 1883, Lafayette County, MS, Philadelphia Cemetery.**

**Sources Of Information:**

**U. S. Census Pontotoc County, MS 1850; Lafayette County, MS 1870 and 1880; Philadelphia Cemetery Records; Lafayette County and Candy Hill Cemetery Markers; Union County, MS, Marriage Records, Lafayette County, MS; George R. Bonds Family Bible.**

**++ Civil War Soldier**

**Husband:**

**William Ashby Hatfield, born March 28, 1864. Married January 16, 1887. Died March 13, 1889, Meigs County, TN.**

**Wife:**

**Mary Margaret Gadd, born November 8, 1863. Died December 3, 1914, Graysville, TN. Buried in Graysville, TN. Other husband's name was R. H. Barger, and married September 15, 1889.**

**Children:**

**William Dallas, male, born November 13, 1887 in Bledsoe County, TN. Died March 9, 1952, Chattanooga, Hamilton, TN. Married Nancy Cleo Northrup, February 25, 1906.**

**Infant Son, male, born April 23, 1889 in Rhea County, TN. Died April 23, 1889, Rhea County, TN, Lone Mountain Cemetery.**

**Sources Of Information:**

**Marriage Records Rhea County, TN; Mortality Records Dept. Public Health, Nashville, TN; Lone Mountain Cemetery Markers, Rhea County, TN.**

**Husband:**

**William Dallas Hatfield, born November 13, 1887 in Bledsoe County, TN. Married February 25, 1906. Died March 9, 1952, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, TN. Buried in Graysville, TN. Father's name was William Ashby Hatfield, born March 28, 1864. Mother's name was Mary Margaret Gadd, born November 8, 1863. Wife:**

**Nancy Cleo Northrup, born December 13, 1888 in Pikeville, TN. Married Graysville, TN. Died February 20, 1935, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, TN. Buried in Graysville, Rhea County, TN. Father's name was Slyman John Northrup, born October 10, 1853, Conn.(?). Mother's name was Ella Catherine Lowrey, born April 22, 1856 in Pikeville, TN.**

**Children:**

**Leila Raye, female, born December 9, 1906 in Graysville, TN. Married Sam A. Hatfield, January 26, 1944.**

**Mina Ruth, female, born May 17, 1910 in Graysville, TN. Died February 26, 1977, Oxford, Lafayette County, MS. Married Walker Jackson Coffey, September 30, 1933.**

**William Harold++ , male, born November 27, 1914 in Graysville, TN. Married Bessie W. Parham, September 3, 1948.**

**Wynne Dearing++ , male, born August 8, 1918 in Graysville, TN. Married Marguerite Holloway, December 24, 1939.**

**Kathryn Juanita, female, born May 29, 1923 in Chattanooga, TN. Married Melvin D. McKenzie++ , March 9, 1943.**

**Sources Of Information:**

**Marriage and Birth Records, Dept. of Public Health, Nashville, TN; Lafayette County, MS and Fulton County, GA Cemetery Markers, Graysville, TN.**

**++ WW II Soldiers**

**Husband:**

Slyman John Northrup, born October 10, 1853 in Conn. (?). Married November 11, 1875. Died October 3, 1929, Graysville, TN. Buried in Graysville, TN.

**Wife:**

Ella Catherine Lowrey, born April 22, 1856 in Pikeville, TN. Married in Pikeville, TN. Died January 20, 1926, Graysville, TN. Buried in Graysville, TN. Father's name was Jasper Lowrey. Mother's name was Martha.

**Children:**

Ada Belle, female, born April 28, 1877 in Pikeville, Bledsoe, TN. Died April 24, 1962, Pikeville, Bledsoe, TN. Married Curtis Skillern.

Leila L., female, born June 12, 1879 in Pikeville, Bledsoe, TN. Died October 31, 1967, Columbus, OH. Married Mr. Boyd.

Hester L., female, born January 1, 1882 in Pikeville, Bledsoe, TN. Died August 26, 1909, Pikeville, Bledsoe, TN. Married Charley Cox.

Martha Sybil, female, born January 29, 1884 in Pikeville, Bledsoe, TN. Died April 5, 1926, Graysville, Rhea County, TN. Married (1) Coss Counts; (2) Ed McDonald.

Mary Anna, female, born May 13, 1886 in Pikeville, Bledsoe, TN. Died October 26, 1969, Graysville, Rhea County, TN. Married E. A. Powell.

Nancy Cleo, female, born December 13, 1888 in Pikeville, Bledsoe, TN. Died February 20, 1935, Chattanooga, TN. Married William Dallas Hatfield, February 25, 1906.

Clint Harris, male, born October 14, 1891 in Pikeville, Bledsoe, TN. Died in Atlanta, Fulton County, GA. Married Lena Pierce.

Frank Virgil, male, born February 18, 1894 in Pikeville, Bledsoe, TN. Died in Chattanooga, Hamilton, TN. Married Dena Lovelady.

Levi John, male, born November 7, 1900 in Pikeville, Bledsoe, TN. Died January 5, 1958, Graysville, Rhea County, TN. Married Pearl Swafford.

**Sources Of Information:**

Marriage and Mortality Records, Dept. of Public Health, Nashville, TN; Graysville, TN Cemetery Records; Joe Powell, Graysville, TN and Leila R. Hatfield, 813 Barton Ave., Chattanooga, TN, Eyewitnesses.



(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

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James A. Coffey  
 Sgt. Capt. Wm. G. Martin's Co.,  
 Mississippi Volunteers.\*

Age 24 years.

Appears on  
**Company Muster-in Roll**  
 of the organization named above, called into the  
 service of the Confederate States. Roll dated  
New Richmond, Va June 12, 1861.

Muster-in to date June 12, 1861.

Joined for duty and enrolled:  
 When May 17, 1861.  
 Where Madison Co., Miss.  
 By whom Capt. Wm G. Martin  
 Period for during the war.

Traveling to place of rendezvous \_\_\_\_\_ miles.

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\*This company subsequently became Company B, 19th  
 Regiment Mississippi Infantry.  
 The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in  
 June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for  
 the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the  
 State service.

Book mark: \_\_\_\_\_

W. McNeill  
 (655) Copyist

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

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James A. Coffey  
 Pvt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on  
**Company Muster Roll**  
 of the organization named above,  
 for May 17 to July 1, 1861.

Enlisted:  
 When May 17, 1861.  
 Where at Berice  
 By whom William G. Martin  
 Period for the war

Last paid:  
 By whom \_\_\_\_\_  
 To what time \_\_\_\_\_, 1861

Present or absent Present

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in  
 June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for  
 the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the  
 State service.

Book mark: \_\_\_\_\_

W. McNeill  
 (661) Copyist

Plate I - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

James A. Coffey  
Priv., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
of the organization named above,  
for July & Aug., 1861.

Enlisted:  
When May 17, 1861  
Where Abbeville  
By whom Capt. W. S. Martin  
Period Six the war

Last paid:  
By whom Capt. G. H. Anderson  
To what time July 1, 1861

Present or absent Present

Remarks:  
.....  
.....  
.....

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.  
Book mark

(642) W. Weithall Copyist

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

James A. Coffey  
Priv., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
of the organization named above,  
for Sept & Oct., 1861.

Enlisted:  
When May 17, 1861  
Where Abbeville  
By whom William S. Martin  
Period Six the war

Last paid:  
By whom Capt. C. M. Blair  
To what time Sept. 1, 1861

Present or absent absent

Remarks: Sick at Richmond  
.....  
.....  
.....

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.  
Book mark

(642) W. Weithall Copyist

Plate II - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

James A. Coffey

Sgt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Nov 8 Dec, 1861.

Enlisted:

When Nov 17, 1861

Where Abbeville

By whom William G. Martin

Period For the war

Last paid:

By whom Capt. Semmes

To what time Nov 1, 1861

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark

W. Marshall Copyist

(642)

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

James A. Coffey

Sgt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Jan 6 Feb, 1862.

Enlisted:

When May 17, 1861

Where Abbeville

By whom William G. Martin

Period For the war

Last paid:

By whom First Pay

To what time Jan 1, 1862

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark

W. Marshall Copyist

(642)

Plate III - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey



(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

J. A. Coffey  
Sgt., Co. B, 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.  
Appears on

Company Muster Roll  
of the organization named above,  
for May & June, 1862.

Enlisted:  
When May 17, 1861.  
Where Abbeville  
By whom  
Period For the war  
Last paid:  
By whom  
To what time, 1862

Present or absent absent  
Remarks: Sick in Richmond  
April 4, 1862

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark:  
W. W. Murrell  
(642) Copyist.

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

J. A. Coffey  
Sgt., Co. B, 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.  
Appears on

Company Muster Roll  
of the organization named above,  
for July & Aug, 1862.  
Served Dec 2, 1862

Enlisted:  
When May 17, 1861  
Where Abbeville  
By whom W. S. Martin  
Period War  
Last paid:  
By whom Capt. Bounds  
To what time June 30, 1862

Present or absent Present  
Remarks:

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark:  
W. W. Murrell  
(643) Copyist.

Plate V - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

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J. A. Coffey  
 Pvt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on  
 Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for Sept. 9 Oct, 1862.  
Dated Dec 2, 1862

Enlisted:  
 When May 17, 1862  
 Where Urberville  
 By whom W. G. Martin  
 Period War

Last paid:  
 By whom Capt. Bounds  
 To what time Sept. 30, 1862

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

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The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark

W. Marshall  
 (642) Coppist.

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

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J. A. Coffey  
 Pvt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on  
 Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for Nov 4 Dec, 1862.

Enlisted:  
 When May 17, 1862  
 Where Urberville  
 By whom W. G. Martin  
 Period War

Last paid:  
 By whom  
 To what time \_\_\_\_\_, 1862

Present or absent Present

Remarks: court martial sentence 10 days pay stopped.

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The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark

W. Marshall  
 (642) Coppist.

Plate VI - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

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J. A. Coffey  
 Pvt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.  
 Appears on

Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for Jan & Feb, 1863.

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Enlisted:  
 When May 17, 186  
 Where Abbeville  
 By whom Capt. W. S. Martin  
 Period for the war

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Last paid:  
 By whom Capt. W. S. Martin  
 To what time Dec. 31, 1862.

---

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

---

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark: W. S. Martin

(642) Copyist.

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

---

J. A. Coffey  
 Pvt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.  
 Appears on

Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for March & April, 1863.

---

Enlisted:  
 When May 17, 186  
 Where Abbeville  
 By whom Capt. W. S. Martin  
 Period War

---

Last paid:  
 By whom W. S. Martin  
 To what time Feb 28, 1863.

---

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

---

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark: W. S. Martin

(642) Copyist.

Plate VII - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey

(Confederate.)

C | 19 | Miss.

---

J. A. Coffey  
 Pvt., Co. B, 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.  
 Appears on

Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for May & June, 1863.

---

Enlisted:  
 When May 19, 1863  
 Where Abbeville  
 By whom Capt. W. G. Martin  
 Period War

---

Last paid:  
 By whom Maj. Beavy  
 To what time April 30, 1863

---

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

---

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark:

---

W. W. Hall  
 (642) Copyist.

(Confederate.)

C | 19 | Miss.

---

J. A. Coffey  
 Pvt., Co. B, 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.  
 Appears on

Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for July & Aug, 1863.

---

Enlisted:  
 When May 19, 1863  
 Where Abbeville  
 By whom Capt. Martin  
 Period During the war

---

Last paid:  
 By whom Maj. Beavy  
 To what time June 30, 1863

---

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

---

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark:

---

W. W. Hall  
 (642) Copyist.

Plate VIII - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey



(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

---

*J. A. Coffey*  
 Pvt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on  
 Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for *Sept & Oct*, 1863.

---

Enlisted:  
 When *May 17*, 1863  
 Where *Abbeville*  
 By whom *Capt. Martin*  
 Period *for the war*

---

Last paid:  
 By whom *Maj. Henry*  
 To what time *Aug 31*, 1863

---

Present or absent *Present*

Remarks:

---

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark:

---

*W. Weisall*  
 (642) Copyist.

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

---

*J. A. Coffey*  
 Pvt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on  
 Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for *Nov & Dec*, 1863.

---

Enlisted:  
 When *May 17*, 1863  
 Where *Abbeville*  
 By whom *Capt. Martin*  
 Period *War*

---

Last paid:  
 By whom *Maj. Henry*  
 To what time *Oct 31*, 1863

---

Present or absent *Present*

Remarks:

---

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark:

---

*W. Weisall*  
 (642) Copyist.

Plate IX - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

---

*J. A. Coffey*  
 Pvt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on  
 Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for *June & Feb*, 1864.

---

Enlisted:  
 When *May 17*, 1864  
 Where *Abbeville*  
 By whom *Capt. Martin*  
 Period *For the war*

---

Last paid:  
 By whom *Waj. Hershey*  
 To what time *Dec 31*, 1864

---

Present or absent *Present*

Remarks:

---

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark

---

*W. W. Churchill*  
 (642) Copyist

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

---

*James A. Coffey*  
 Pvt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on  
 Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for *May & June*, 1864.

---

Enlisted:  
 When *May 17*, 1864  
 Where *Abbeville*  
 By whom *Capt. Martin*  
 Period *War*

---

Last paid:  
 By whom *Capt. Hershey*  
 To what time *April 30*, 1864

---

Present or absent *Present*

Remarks:

---

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark

---

*W. W. Churchill*  
 (642) Copyist

Plate X - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey

(CONFEDERATE.)

6 | 19 | Miss

J. A. Coffey  
Sub. B. 19 Miss

Appears on a Register of

General Hospital, Howard's Grove,  
Richmond, Virginia.

Admitted July 15, 1864

Diagnosis

Remarks:

Confed. Arch., Chap. 6, File. No. 215, page 39

(635)

H. S. Douglas  
Copyist.

5169

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

James A. Coffey  
Sub. Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for July & Aug., 1864.

Enlisted:

When May 17, 1864

Where Abbeville

By whom Capt. Martin

Period War

Last paid:

By whom Capt. Owens

To what time April 30, 1864

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark

(642)

W. Marshall

Copyist.

Plate XI - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

James A. Coffey

Priv., Co. B, 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Sept & Oct, 1864.

Enlisted:

When May 17, 1864.

Where Abbeville, Miss

By whom Capt. H. B. Martin

Period War

Last paid:

By whom Capt. A. J. Owen

To what time April 30, 1864

Present or absent absent

Remarks: Absent wounded since Sept 14, 1864.

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark:

W. H. H. Hall

(642)

Copyist.

(CONFEDERATE.)

6 | 19 | Miss

J. A. Coffey

Priv. Co. F, 19 Miss

Appears on a Register of

General Hospital, Howard's Grove,  
Richmond, Virginia.

Admitted Sept 15, 1864

Diagnosis

Remarks:

Confed. Arch., Chap. 6, File No. 245, page 22.

(635)

110

Copyist.

Plate XII - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey

(Confederate.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

---

James A. Coffey  
 Sgt., Co. B., 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.  
 Appears on  
 Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for Nov 8 Dec, 1864.

---

Enlisted:  
 When May 17, 1864.  
 Where Abbeville, Miss.  
 By whom Capt. W. S. Martin  
 Period War

---

Last paid:  
 By whom Capt. A. F. Allen  
 To what time April 30, 1863.

---

Present or absent Absent  
 Remarks: Absent wounded  
 Since -

---

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark: W. Martin

(642) Copyist.

(CONFEDERATE.)

6 | 19 | Miss.

---

James A. Coffey  
 Co. B., 19 Reg't Vols.

Appears on a Register of  
 Medical Director's Office,  
 Richmond, Va.

---

Hospital Howard's Green Hosp.  
 Period 10 Oct. 11, 1864.

---

Remarks: Oxford, Miss.

---

Confed. Arch., Chap 6, File No. 177, page 177

all. J. H. Copyist.

(635) 1768

Plate XIII - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey

(CONFEDERATE)
<i>J. A. Coffey</i>
<i>Fvt. B 19 Miss.</i>
Appears on a <b>RECEIPT ROLL</b> for clothing, <b>Howards Grove &amp; Chimborazo Hosp. Richmond Va</b>
Date of issue <i>Oct. 7</i> , 1864.
Signature <i>By x</i>
Remarks:
Roll No.
Copyist.

(Confederate)		
<i>6</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Miss.</i>
<i>James A Coffey</i>		
<i>Plat B. Co. 19 Regt Miss Inf.</i>		
Residence	<i>Rocky Ford Miss.</i>	
Appears on a <b>Report of Prisoners of War</b> paroled at Holly Springs, Miss. from June 1 to 5 inclusive, 1865, by Hugh R. Creighton, 1st Lieut. and Asst. Provost Marshal.	Report dated <i>Not dated</i> , 186	When surrendered <i>April 9</i> , 1865.
	When paroled <i>June 5</i> , 1865.	
Number of rolls	<i>1</i>	
(639r)	<i>M. A. Raw</i> Copyist.	

Plate XIV - Civil War Record - James A. Coffey

(Confederate.)

P 1 | 34 | Miss.

*A. J. Petty*

Capt. E. W. Smith's Company  
(Smith Rifles).\*

Appears on a  
List†  
of the organization named above.

List dated *Abbeville Miss*  
*April 15*, 1862.

Remarks:

\* This company subsequently became Company C, 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry.  
The 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in April, 1862, as the 37th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. By S. O. No. 31, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated March 8, 1863, the designation was changed to the 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry, that being the number by which this regiment was known at the Confederate War Department.  
About April 9, 1865, this regiment was consolidated with the 24th, 27th, 29th and 30th Regiments Mississippi Infantry, and formed a new regiment which was designated the 24th Regiment Mississippi Infantry.

† From copy (made in the U. S. Office, War Department, in March, 1905) of an original record borrowed from the Director of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss. - M. S. 23270.

Book mark:

*A. J. Petty*

(662) Copyist.

(Confederate.)

P 1 | 34 | Miss.

*A. J. Petty*

*Petty, Co. C., 37 Reg't Mississippi Inf.\**

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
of the organization named above,  
for *July & Aug*, 1862.

Enlisted:  
When *March 13*, 1862  
Where *Philadelphia*  
By whom *L. Houston*  
Period *3 m*

Last paid:  
By whom  
To what time, 1862

Present or absent *Absent*

Remarks: *Absent Sick in Hospital*  
*Rec'd No Bounty*

\* This company subsequently became Company C, 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry.  
The 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in April, 1862, as the 37th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. By S. O. No. 31, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated March 8, 1863, the designation was changed to the 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry, that being the number by which this regiment was known at the Confederate War Department.  
About April 9, 1865, this regiment was consolidated with the 24th, 27th, 29th and 30th Regiments Mississippi Infantry, and formed a new regiment which was designated the 24th Regiment Mississippi Infantry.

Book mark:

*A. J. Petty*

(662) Copyist.

Plate I - Civil War Record - A. J. Petty

(Confederate.)

34 Miss.

A. J. Petty, Co. C., 37 Reg't Mississippi Inf.\*

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Sep. 8, 1862.

Enlisted: When... Mich 13, 1862

Where... Phila

By whom... Lt. Houston

Period... 3 yrs

Last paid: By whom... J. Maurice

To what time... Aug. 31, 1862

Present or absent... present

Remarks... present. Need no bounty as a J. Petty.

\* This company subsequently became Company C., 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry.

The 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in April, 1862, as the 37th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. By S. O. No. 31, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated March 3, 1863, the designation was changed to the 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry, that being the number by which this regiment was known at the Confederate War Department.

About April 9, 1865, this regiment was consolidated with the 24th, 27th, 29th and 30th Regiments Mississippi Infantry, and formed a new regiment which was designated the 21st Regiment Mississippi Infantry.

Book mark: ...

W. H. Potter

(642)

Copyist

(Confederate.)

34 Miss.

A. J. Petty, Co. C., 37 Reg't Mississippi Inf.\*

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Nov. & Dec., 1862.

Enlisted: When... Mich 13, 1862

Where... Phila

By whom... Lt. Houston

Period... 3 yrs

Last paid: By whom... J. Maurice

To what time... Aug. 31, 1862

Present or absent... present

Remarks... present. Need no bounty

\* This company subsequently became Company C., 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry.

The 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in April, 1862, as the 37th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. By S. O. No. 31, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated March 3, 1863, the designation was changed to the 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry, that being the number by which this regiment was known at the Confederate War Department.

About April 9, 1865, this regiment was consolidated with the 24th, 27th, 29th and 30th Regiments Mississippi Infantry, and formed a new regiment which was designated the 21st Regiment Mississippi Infantry.

Book mark: ...

W. H. Potter

(642)

Copyist

Plate II - Civil War Record - A. J. Petty



(Confederate.)

34 Miss.

*A. J. Petty*  
Co. C, 37 Reg't Mississippi Inf.\*

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for *Jan & Feb*, 1863.

Enlisted:

When *March 13*, 1863.

Where *Philadelphia*

By whom *H. Houston*

Period *3 yrs*

Last paid:

By whom *Capt Stubbs*

To what time *Dec 31*, 1863.

Present or absent *present*

Remarks: *Med. Society*

\* This company subsequently became Company *C*, 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry.

The 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in April, 1862, as the 37th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. By S. O. No. 31, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated March 3, 1863, the designation was changed to the 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry, that being the number by which this regiment was known at the Confederate War Department.

About April 9, 1865, this regiment was consolidated with the 24th, 27th, 29th and 30th Regiments Mississippi Infantry, and formed a new regiment which was designated the 24th Regiment Mississippi Infantry.

Book mark:

*W. L. Potter*

(642)

Copyist

(Confederate.)

34 Miss.

*A. J. Petty*  
Co. C, 31 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for *March & April*, 1863.

Enlisted:

When *March 13*, 1863.

Where *Philadelphia Miss*

By whom *H. Houston*

Period *3 yrs*

Last paid:

By whom *Major Peyton*

To what time *Feb. 28*, 1863.

Present or absent *present*

Remarks:

The 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in April, 1862, as the 37th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. By S. O. No. 31, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated March 3, 1863, the designation was changed to the 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry, that being the number by which this regiment was known at the Confederate War Department.

About April 9, 1865, this regiment was consolidated with the 24th, 27th, 29th and 30th Regiments Mississippi Infantry, and formed a new regiment which was designated the 24th Regiment Mississippi Infantry.

Book mark:

*W. L. Potter*

(642)

Copyist

(Confederate.)

D | 34 | Miss.

*Am. Jackson Pettay*  
*Co. C*, 34 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on  
 Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for *July & Aug.*, 1863.

Enlisted:  
 When *March 13*, 1862.  
 Where *Phila Miss*  
 By whom *L. Houston*  
 Period *3 yrs*

Last paid:  
 By whom *Capt. Leinlowe*  
 To what time *June 20*, 1863.

Present or absent *present*

Remarks:

The 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in April, 1862, as the 37th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. By S. O. No. 31, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated March 3, 1863, the designation was changed to the 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry, that being the number by which this regiment was known at the Confederate War Department.

About April 9, 1865, this regiment was consolidated with the 24th, 27th, 29th and 30th Regiments Mississippi Infantry, and formed a new regiment which was designated the 24th Regiment Mississippi Infantry.

Book mark: *W. M. Potter*

(642) Copyist

(Confederate.)

D | 34 | Miss.

*Andrew Pettay*  
*Co. C*, 34 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on  
 Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for *Jan & Feb*, 1864.

Enlisted:  
 When *March 13*, 1862.  
 Where *Phila Miss*  
 By whom *L. Houston*  
 Period *3 yrs*

Last paid:  
 By whom *Wm J. Gosan*  
 To what time *Aug 31*, 1863.

Present or absent *absent*

Remarks: *Wounded at Chickamauga  
 Sept 18, 1863. Sent to Hospital  
 Sept 27, 1863. Surgeon*

The 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in April, 1862, as the 37th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. By S. O. No. 31, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated March 3, 1863, the designation was changed to the 34th Regiment Mississippi Infantry, that being the number by which this regiment was known at the Confederate War Department.

About April 9, 1865, this regiment was consolidated with the 24th, 27th, 29th and 30th Regiments Mississippi Infantry, and formed a new regiment which was designated the 24th Regiment Mississippi Infantry.

Book mark: *W. M. Potter*

(642) Copyist

Plate IV - Civil War Record - A. J. Pettay

(CONFEDERATE.)

*P* | *34* *Miss.*

*A. J. Petty*  
*Priv. Co. 34 Regt. Miss.*

Appears on

**Hospital Muster Roll**

of **Blackie Hospital,**  
at **Madison, Ga.**  
for *Jan 7 Feb 6*, 1864.  
*Adm. Mar 1864*  
Enlisted: *March 3*, 1862.  
Where *Philadelphia Church Miss.*  
By whom *Capt. Hamilton*  
Period *3 yrs.*

Attached to Hospital:

When \_\_\_\_\_, 186

How employed \_\_\_\_\_

Last paid: \_\_\_\_\_

By whom *Capt. Benland*

To what time *31 Aug*, 1863.

Present or absent *Present*

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Book mark: \_\_\_\_\_

*A. M. Rowe*

(646) 229 Copist.

(CONFEDERATE.)

*A. J. Petty*  
*Priv. Co. 34 Miss. Regt.*

Appears on a

**RECEIPT ROLL**

for clothing,

for *1 yr*, 186

Date of issue *Mar 3*, 1864.

Signature *X*

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

Copist.

Plate V - Civil War Record - A. J. Petty

Medical Examining Board.

*Andrew J. Petty* 1864

... at ...  
... was today Furloughed for *Eight* days as a General  
... & I. C. O., 1863.

Very Respectfully

*J. M. ...*

*Medical Examining Board*

*Capt. ...*

(CONFEDERATE.)

P | 34 Miss.

*Andrew J. Petty*  
*Co. C. 34 Regt. Miss.*

Appears on a Register of patients in  
Ocmulgee Hospital,  
Macon, Ga.

Disease	<i>Wul. Selopt.</i>	
Admitted	<i>June 27</i>	1864.
Returned to duty		186
Deserted		186
Discharged		186
Transferred	<i>July 8.</i>	1864.
Furloughed		186
Died		186
Residence	<i>Pontotoc Co.</i>	
Remarks:		

Confed. Arch., Chap. 6, File No. 752, page 82

*J. Bay*  
216 Copyist.

Plate VI - Civil War Record - A. J. Petty

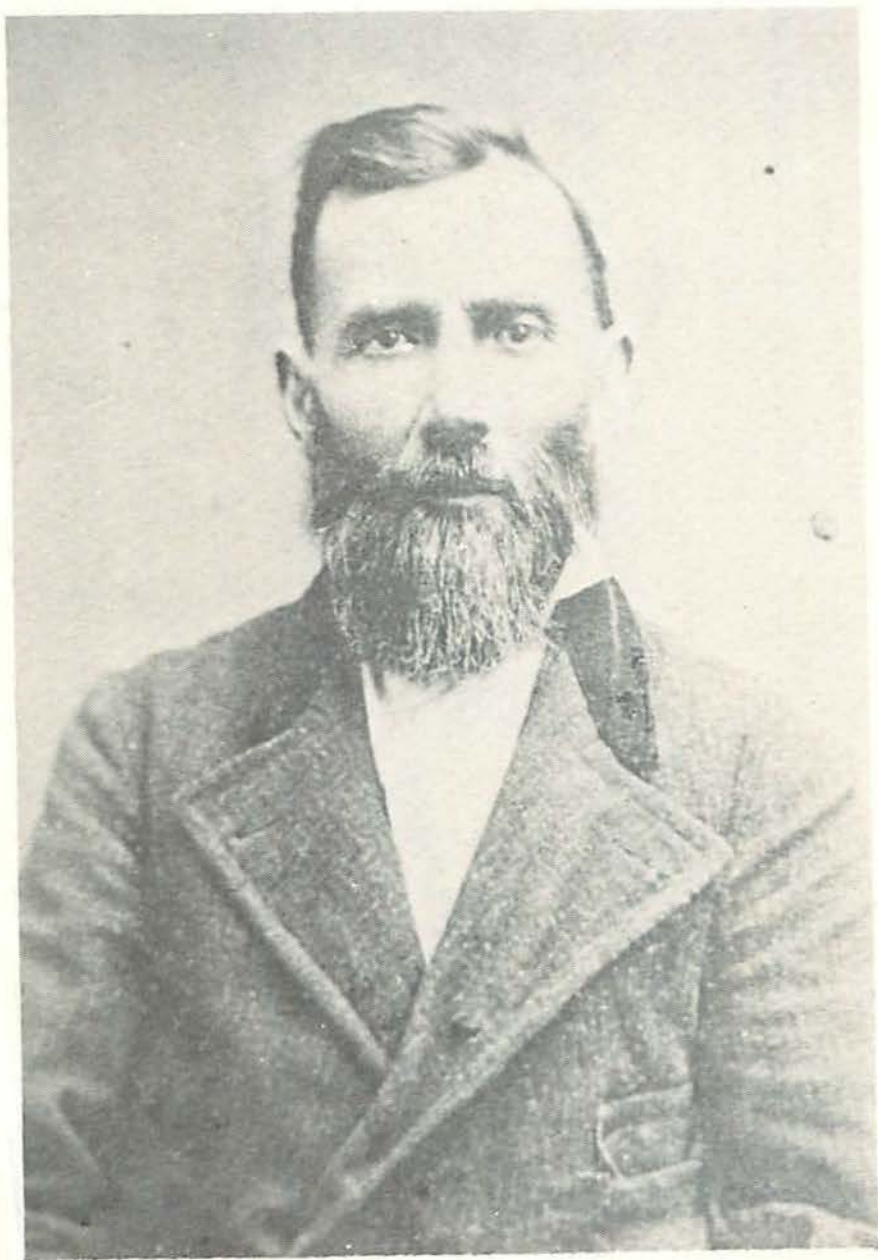




**John Alexander Coffey born 22 March 1868 Died 9 April 1903 Son of Andrew B. Coffey and Harriet Barry. Never married.**



**Eugene Franklin Coffey Born 4 September 1873 son of Andrew B. Coffey and Harriet Barry. Sometime after 1893 he worked in Memphis, Cleveland and St. Louis. While living in St. Louis with his brother Alex, he went to Dallas, Texas to investigate a job offer. All efforts to locate him thereafter have been futile.**



Andrew B. Coffey born 2 Jan. 1818 NC, died 19 May 1884, Ms Son of Hugh Coffey and Margaret Walker. Married Harriet Barry 4 Spt. 1851. Andrew B. Coffey was brother of James A. Coffey, Sr.





**James A. Coffey, Sr., born 31 Oct. 1830 Perry Co., Ala. Died 8 June 1907 Lafayette Co., Miss., son of Hugh Coffey and Margaret Walker. Married (1) Lavina A. Barry 23 Jan. 1868. (2) Martha Ann Leggett 28 March 1872. Civil War Vet. as PVT. CO. B, 19th Miss. Vols. enlisted 17 May 1861, wounded 7th time at Petersburg, Va. 14 Sept. 1864, and furloughed home 8 Oct. 1864, paroled 5 June 1865.**



**Andrew Hugh Coffey born 22 November 1856 died 28 October 1942 son of Andrew B. Coffey and Harriet Barry. He married Dora Lee Anderson.**



**Dora Lee Anderson born 8 June 1863 died 28 November 1925, wife of Andrew Hugh Coffey.**



Harriet M. Barry born 28 April 1835 NC, died ? Married Andrew B. Coffey 4 Sept. 1851



**Martha Ann Leggett born 20 Oct. 1848 MS, died 21 July 1924 MS, daughter of Charles S. Leggett and Mary ?. Married James A. Coffey Sr., 28 March 1872 MS. Nettie Louis Coffey born 30 January 1922 MS. Daughter of James A. Coffey, Jr., and Mary Elizabeth Pettey. Married Richard Grenville Parrette April 1934, TN. Both are MDs in Robbinsville, N. C.**



**Charles Hugh Coffey born 1 March 1882 MS, died 17 March 1965 MS, son of James A. Coffey, Sr., and Martha Ann Leggett. Married Gladys Waller 1 Sept. 1926 Ms. James A. Coffey, Jr., born 27 November 1878 MS, died 21 June 1955 KS. Son of James A. Coffey Sr., and Martha Ann Leggett. Married Mary Elizabeth Pettey 31 Aug. 1905, MS**

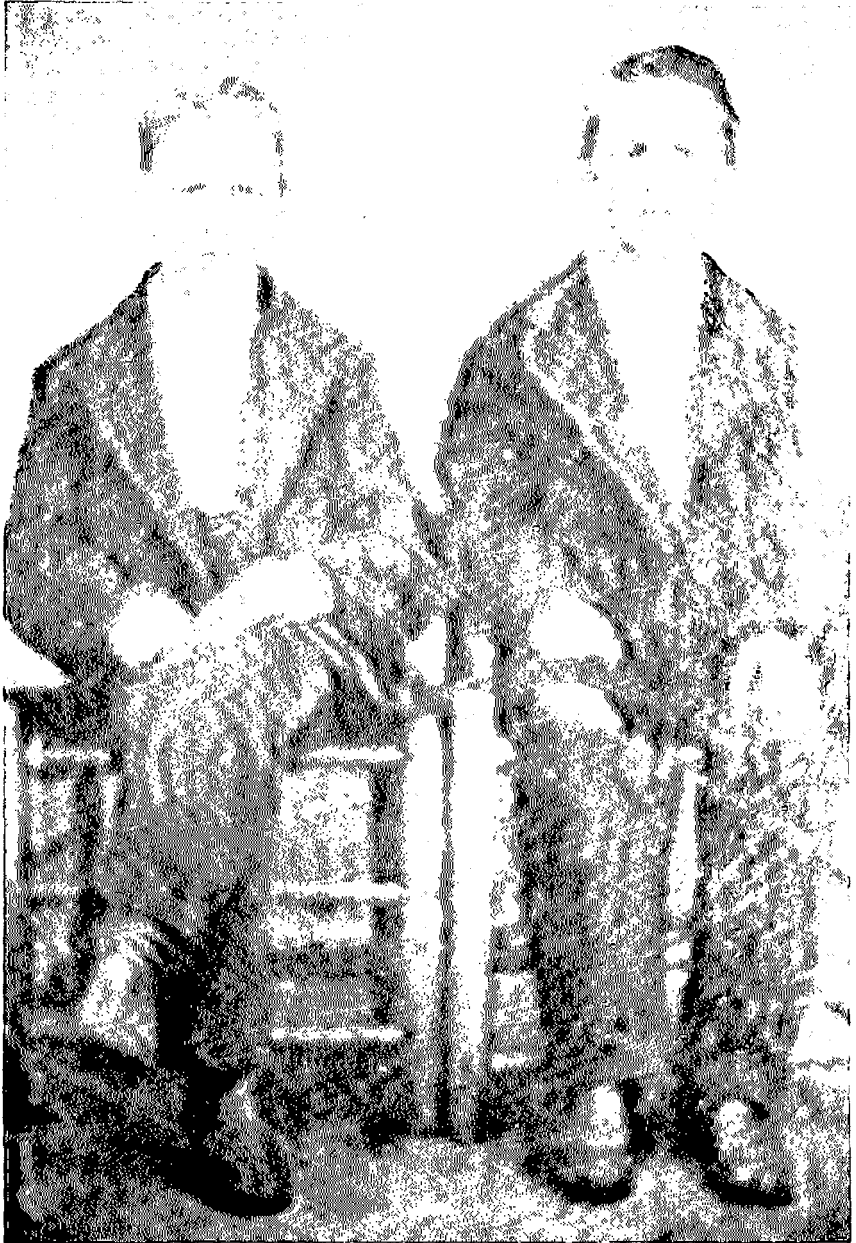


**Margaret E. Coffey (left) born 24 Aug. 1852 MS Daughter of Andrew B. Coffey and Harriet Barry. Married "Bunk" Anderson brother of Dora Lee Anderson. William Harris Coffey (center) born 24 February 1859 MS, died 30 Jan. 1940 son of Andrew B. Coffey and Harriet Barry. Married Mary Elizabeth "Molly" Kilgore. Viney I. Coffey (right) born 13 February 1866 MS, daughter of Andrew B. Coffey and Harriet Barry. In 1891 married Mr. Harrison of Texas.**



**Andrew Hugh Coffey born 22 November 1856 MS, died 28 Oct. 1925 MS, son of Andrew B. Coffey and Harriet Barry. He married Dora Lee Anderson born 8 June 1863 MS, died 28 Nov. 1925**





**James B. Coffey (left) born 22 Nov. 1856 MS, died 3 Sept. 1874 MS, Andrew Hugh Coffey born 22 Nov. 1856 MS, died 28 Oct. 1925, MS, twin sons of Andrew B. Coffey and Harriet Barry, Andrew Hugh Coffey, married Dora Lee Anderson. Boys coats and pants are homespun, home cobbled boots, home made chains and gold clasps in shirts.**



**George L. Pettey born 5 May 1866 MS, died 26 March 1925 MS, son of Andrew Jackson Pettey and Harriet J. Bonds, married Elizabeth Myers, no children.**



**Mother of Author, Mary Elizabeth Pettey, born 2 May 1875, MS, died 3 Jan. 1947, TN. Married (1) Henry Johnson 1891, (2) James A. Coffey, Jr., 31 Aug. 1905, daughter of Andrew Jackson Pettey and Harriet J. Bonds.**



**Father of the Author, James A. Coffey, Jr., (center) born 27 Nov. 1878 MS, died 21 June 1955, son of James A. Coffey, Sr., and Martha Ann Leggett in Camp at Lexington, Ky 1898 as PVT. Co. F, 3rd Miss. Vol. Inf., Spanish-American War.**



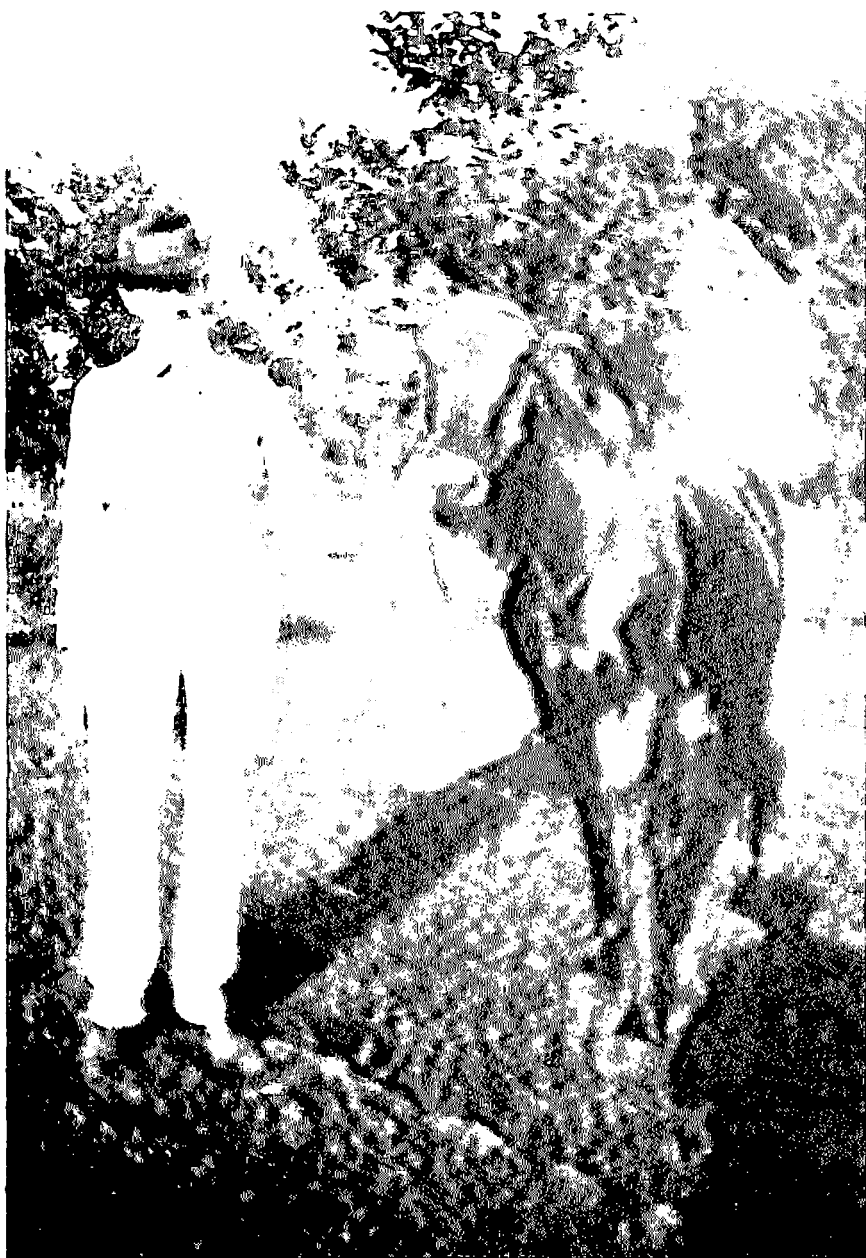
**Frank Lawhorn, (left), James A. Coffey, Jr., (right) 1897**



**Luther Pettey Born 2 Dec. 1872, wife May Nichols son of Andrew Jackson Pettey and Harriet Jane Bonds, married 18 Jan. 1900 at Abbeville, Miss.**



**George Alonzo Bonds born 19 Jan. 1875, died 8 May 1962, MS, son of John James Bonds and Mary Francis Ward**



**Sylman J. Northrup, born 10 Oct. 1853 on ? died 3 Oct. 1929, TN.,  
married Ella Catherine Lowrey. Maternal grandfather of Mina  
Ruth Hatfield.**





**Mina Ruth Hatfield born 17 May 1910 TN, died 26 Feb. 1977, MS, daughter of William Dallas Hatfield and Nancy Cleo Northrup. Married Walker Jackson Coffey 20 Sept. 1933 Chattanooga, TN., Leila Raye Hatfield (right) born 19 Dec. 1906, TN. Married Sam A. Hatfield 26 Jan. 1944, Atlanta, Ga.**



**The Author in August 1979**

**Walker Jackson Coffey, born 22 August 1906 Lafayette County, Miss., son of James Alexander Coffey, Jr., and Mary Elizabeth Pettey grandson of James Alexander Coffey, Sr., and Martha Ann Leggett, great grandson of Hugh Coffey and Margaret Walker, great great grandson of Capt. Andrew Walker (Rev. War Pension Claim No. S-7839) and Sarah Crye, daughter of John Crye.**



**Robert Walker Coffey Family — 1922**  
**Back row, left to right: Mary Louise, John Askew, Leonora Elizabeth, Robert Walker; front row, left to right: Florrie Alba, Florrie Lee, Robert Walker, Harris H., William Buford.**

### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR**

**Walker Jackson Coffey was born 22 August 1906 in Lafayette County, Mississippi. He is the son of James Alexander Coffey Jr. (Veteran of the Spanish-American War Company F, Third Regiment Mississippi Volunteers) and Mary Elizabeth Pettey. He graduated from Oxford High School in 1925 and from Mississippi A & M College in 1929 with a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering. He also attended the University of Mississippi and Princeton University. In the period, June 17, 1929 and November 1, 1967 he was employed by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company as an engineer, Manager, Executive.**

**He has one sister, no brothers. His sister is Dr. Nettie Coffey Parrette of Robbinsville, N. C. She has practiced medicine in Graham County, North Carolina for more than 40 years.**

**In 1933 Walker Jackson Coffey married Mina Ruth Hatfield of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Their children are Mrs. Kerin Coffey Magdovitz of Clarksdale, Miss., Major Andrew Walker Coffey, U. S. Army, of Honolulu, Hawaii and Mrs. Betsy Coffey Berry of Jackson, Miss. Mina Ruth Hatfield Coffey passed away on 26 February 1977. On January 28, 1978 Walker Jackson Coffey married Jessie Hathorn Hyde.**

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