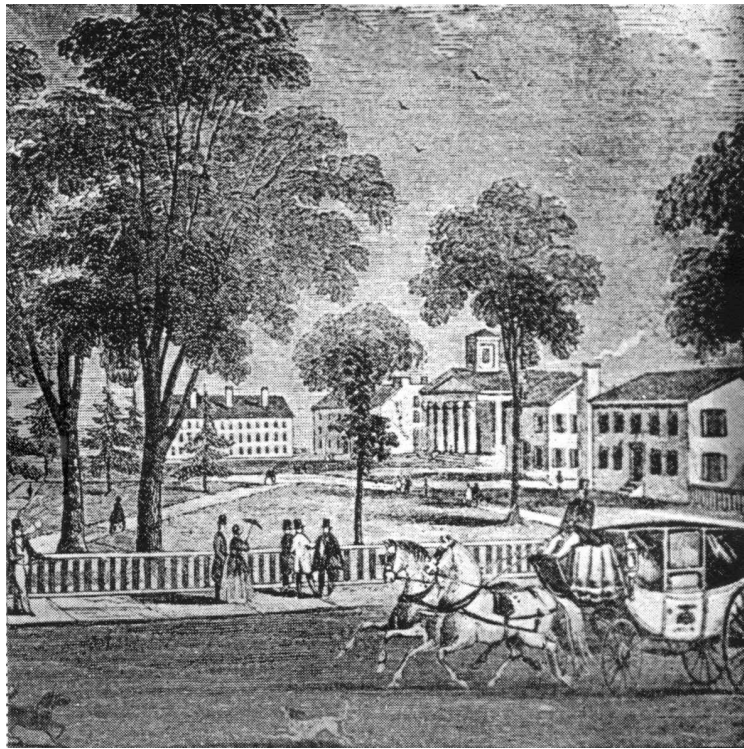


Athens Historian

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Fall 2003



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ATHENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Excerpted from a history by
Susan Frances Barrow Tate

On October 11, 1959, at an informal organizational meeting the Athens Historical Society was born. This meeting was held in the Athens Regional Library, then located on the corner of Hancock and College Avenues. The founders of the Society were Sarah Maret, Director of the Athens Regional Library; John E. Talmadge, Professor of English, University of Georgia; Porter Kellam, Director of the University of Georgia Libraries; Kenneth Coleman, Professor of History, University of Georgia; Richard N. Fickett III; Marion West Marshall; Harry Hodgson, Sr.; John W. Bonner, Special Collections Librarian, University of Georgia Library; Susan Frances Barrow Tate, Library Assistant, University of Georgia Library; and Robert E. Gibson. Temporary committees were formed to plan a general organization meeting to be held October 29, 1959. At this meeting, held in the auditorium of the Chamber of Commerce building, a constitution was approved, aims and/or purposes of the society were formulated, and committees were appointed.

The purposes and aims of the Athens Historical Society expressed in the current constitution are:

1. To discover, collect and preserve all materials, especially original and source materials, pertaining to the history of or in any manner illustrative of Athens, Clarke County, adjacent counties, and related areas.
2. To disseminate this knowledge for the enlightenment of our citizenry through preparing, editing and publishing historical materials, descriptive and illustrative of Athens and related areas through programs or historical papers.
3. To promote historical research.
4. To promote preservation and perpetuation of historic sites and places.
5. To bring together those interested in the history of these areas.
6. To promote and stimulate public interest in and appreciation of the history of Athens and related areas and to develop in every way an understanding of their historic past.
7. Notwithstanding any provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Athens Historian

Volume 8

Fall 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Paul Hamilton Hayne and Andrew Adgate Lipscomb, Brothers of the Guild	1
Athletics in Athens	10
Robert Lee Bloomfield of Athens 1827 - 1916	21
The Black Journalists	35
The Power to Destroy: Taxation as a Cause of the Civil War	44
Mame	51
INDEX	58

ATHENS HISTORIAN

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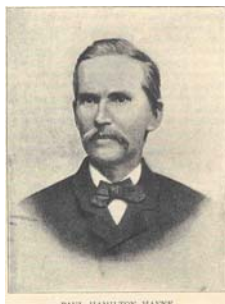
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Paul Hamilton Hayne and Andrew Adgate Lipscomb, Brothers of the Guild

by Rayburn S. Moore¹

Paul Hamilton Hayne was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on January 1, 1830, into one of the most eminent families in the state.² Two of his uncles were U.S. Senators and his father, Paul Hamilton Hayne, Sr., was a promising young naval lieutenant who died of yellow fever at the age of 28, before the son's second birthday. Hayne attended a private school and graduated from the College of Charleston in 1850. He subsequently studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1852, but his interest in literature conflicted with his legal prospects so he never practiced as an attorney.

Devoting himself to literary matters from this time until the end of his life, Hayne edited the *Southern Literary Gazette* and *Russell's Magazine* in the 1850s and contributed to these journals and to the *Southern Literary Messenger*, *Graham's Magazine*, and the *Atlantic Monthly* during this period. At the same time he collected three volumes of poems, and his career as a man of letters seemed secure, but the war interrupted his career and, to some extent, his artistic development. An ardent secessionist, he supported the Confederacy with sword, pen and capital, though his poor health limited his active service to four months in 1861-62 as aide-de-camp to South Carolina Governor Francis Pickens.

¹ Editor's Note: This lecture is based in part on recent research and the author's article about the two writers published in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, Spring 1982 (66), pp. 53-68. It was delivered to the Athens Historical Society January 19, 2002, in the quarterly meeting. Rayburn S. Moore, is Professor of English and Chair of the Division of Language and Literature at UGA. He has written a biography of Hayne and was the editor of *A Man of Letters in the Nineteenth-Century South: Selected Letters of Paul Hamilton Hayne*, published in 1982 by Louisiana State University Press. He also served as senior editor of *The History of Southern Literature*.

² See Rayburn S. Moore, *Paul Hamilton Hayne* (New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc., 1972).

ATHENS HISTORIAN

The war ruined him in “fortune and prospects,” to say nothing of damaging even more severely his delicate health. So that at its end, after his home and library were damaged by shellfire, he moved to “Copse Hill, 16 acres of pines and fruit trees” near Grovetown, Georgia, and continued his literary career. Thereafter he contributed to such magazines as the *Atlantic*, *Harper’s New Monthly*, *Scribner’s Monthly*, *The Century*, *The Galaxy*, *Appleton’s Journal* and dozens of Southern periodicals and newspapers. He collected and published three more volumes of verse, culminating with *Poems*, Complete Edition, 1882.

Over his lifetime Hayne corresponded with many of his literary colleagues, including Tennyson, Swinburne, William Black, R.D. Blackmore, Philip Bourke Marston and Wilkie Collins in Britain; and Bryant, Longfellow, Whittier, Holmes, Lowell, William Dean Howells, Bayard Taylor, E.C. Stedman, Constance Fenimore Woolson, William Gilmore Simms, John Esten Cooke, Sidney Lanier, Charles Gayarré, and Andrew A. Lipscomb in this country.

Among Hayne’s correspondents was Andrew Adgate Lipscomb who was the chancellor of the University of Georgia from 1864 to 1874.³ He was born in Georgetown, D.C., on September 5, 1816, the son of William Corrie and Phoebe Adgate Lipscomb. He was tutored by his father, attended Georgetown Military Academy, and at the age of 19, became a minister of the Methodist Protestant Church and served several charges, including churches in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Needing a warmer climate, he moved to Alabama and left the ministry in 1849 to devote himself to the education of young women. Then in 1860, he became chancellor of the University of Georgia and almost immediately was put on his mettle to save the institution, a task he managed successfully despite many difficulties, until 1863 when his last students were called into service. Remaining in Athens, Lipscomb, with the support of the Board of Trustees, reopened the school after the war and sought to reorganize it into a university with several schools, and to change the curriculum from its emphasis on the classics to one that sought to serve more practically the society of the state. But poor health forced him to resign in 1874, before his plans were substantially established, and he turned to writing on theological and literary topics,

³ See John D. Wade’s sketch in *The Dictionary of American Biography* (1933), XI, 290.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

particularly on Shakespeare. These were largely his interests when he began his correspondence with Hayne in January 1884.

At this time Hayne was the unofficial poet laureate of the South, often called upon *officially* to commemorate such important occasions as the centennials of the Battle of King's Mountain in 1880, the British surrender at Yorktown in 1881, the incorporation of the city of Charleston, Washington Irving's birthday and the sesquicentennial of the founding of Georgia in 1883. In that same year, he contributed odes in honor of the graduating class at Smith College and of the International Cotton Exposition in Atlanta. He was also asked to offer birthday tributes to Whittier, Holmes, Longfellow and Emerson. Throughout his post-war career, he was called upon to support with his pen the cause and memory of the Confederacy.

The correspondence between these two men inspired and nourished a close friendship that ended only with Hayne's death in July 1886. In addition to the scores of letters exchanged, the minister and the poet met on at least two occasions at Hayne's home, Copse Hill. Lipscomb took the train from "Wee Willie Cottage" in Athens to a country station near Grovetown. They spent almost a week together in Augusta in March 1886, when Lipscomb honored his friend by delivering a series of lectures on Shakespeare before the Hayne Circle, a local literary society. Though not of long duration, the friendship was warm and intimate; the correspondence reflects this intimacy and covers a wide range of personal, religious and literary topics.

Lipscomb's first letter is characteristic in tone and content of much of his part of the exchange. On 25 January 1884, he sends a "brother's greeting" and includes some poems and sermons as tokens of his appreciation of Hayne's genius and character.⁴ Hayne's response on 7 February expresses his thanks for the poems and sermons Lipscomb had enclosed with his letter and acknowledges his "heartfelt satisfaction" for having received such a communication from one whom to know is to honor.⁵ Hayne enclosed a copy of *Seed Visions*, a poem

⁴ The Lipscomb letters quoted from herein and the Hayne letters are part of the Paul Hamilton Hayne Papers housed in the Perkins Library at Duke University. Unless otherwise noted, all quotations are from the original manuscripts in this collection.

⁵ This letter and 11 others addressed to Lipscomb are printed in full in *A Man of Letters in the 19th Century South: Selected Letters of Paul Hamilton Hayne*, edited by the author.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

that had just appeared in the *Home and Farm* for 1 February with his reply.

As the correspondence progressed, the two writers soon found that they had so much in common and were such congenial spirits that they were soon writing each other every week, even when they were not feeling well. By April 1884 Lipscomb began to plan for the two to meet, and when Hayne could not come to Athens, he went to Copse Hill in September.

By the end of the first year's acquaintance, each expressed satisfaction with the friendship. Hayne wrote on 3 December: "Your letters are indeed a great benefaction; I may go further & say they have assumed the importance to us here of an Institution!" Lipscomb summed up his feelings on 24 January 1885, in commemoration of his inauguration of the correspondence: "You have revived my interest in life. You have been a lesson and an inspiration to my heart, and I am the stronger intellectually and the better spiritually because of the year's close fellowship with you."

Much of the Hayne-Lipscomb correspondence centers on literary matters – views of writers and literature as well as critiques of each other's works. Shakespeare, "a gigantic genius" according to Hayne, and Milton, the "divine John" as Lipscomb characterized him, were favorite literary topics, frequently approached in the same letter. As early as 27 March 1884, Hayne mentioned both writers in the same paragraph. Hayne resumed the topic on 6 April. First he paid his respects to Milton and then to Shakespeare. He was especially interested in Milton's "tremendous latitude of opinion ... upon the most vital affairs connected with religion." "He defends polygamy upon moral grounds," Hayne exclaimed, "only doubting its expediency; and as for his reputed Calvinism, Heaven help Milton had Calvin himself somewhat earlier, got hold of him." He continued:

Why, he plainly leans toward the heresy of Servetus. ... How he regarded the sanctity of the marriage tie may be imagined when he tried his best to persuade the beautiful & virtuous Miss Davis to marry him, while his own lawful wife was a few miles away in the Country. Had the young lady only hearkened, what a spectacle would have been presented to Puritan England! Fortunately she did not!

ATHENS HISTORIAN

About Milton's Eve! Did he really behold the first woman? Miss Charlotte Brontë, in her noble novel called *Shirley* [1849], says "No!" The heroine of that book [based upon Charlotte's sister Emily] remarks: "Milton was great, but was he good? His brain was right; how was his heart? He saw heaven, he looked down into Hell; he saw Satan and Sin his daughter, & Death their horrible offspring. ... Milton tried to see the first woman, he saw her not!"

In September 1885, Lipscomb had lectured on Shakespeare at the Lucy Cobb Institute in Athens, and subsequently when the Hayne Circle of Augusta wished to honor the poet for whom it was named, Lipscomb was invited to deliver a series of three lectures on Shakespeare in March 1886. Hayne, of course, was delighted by this "wonderful news," and he urged his friend on 8 February 1886 to use the occasion to "knock on the head" Mrs. Delia Bacon's "monstrous heresy" on the authorship of Shakespeare's plays, for, he observed in his next letter of 15 February, "I cannot bear to have glorious Will insulted, as it were, nay deprived almost of his very identity at this late day." Lipscomb, on the other hand, was reluctant even to mention the "theory" since he thought, as he expressed it on 22 February, that there was no "critic, authority, evidence of any sort, beyond guessing, in its favor." He eventually rejected the Baconian view directly in an interview in the *Augusta Chronicle*, 24 March 1886, in conjunction with publicity about the lectures. Hayne presumably expressed his satisfaction with this repudiation when he visited Augusta during the week of 22 March and attended the lecture on *Macbeth*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Hamlet*, the last opportunity he would have to commune with his "beloved friend," who, in his opinion, was "assuredly among the ablest Shakespearean scholars of the world!"⁶

Neither Hayne nor Lipscomb, to be sure, confined himself to discussing Shakespeare or Milton. From time to time, each commented on contemporary writers and writing, and on the current condition of Southern literature and culture. Both mentioned Wordsworth and Tennyson frequently.⁷ As for Southern writers, Lipscomb remarked on

⁶ *Selected Letters*, 314.

⁷ See Lipscomb on Wordsworth, 6 November 1884, and Hayne on Tennyson, 29 February 1884.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Sidney Lanier on occasion, and Hayne on Charles Gayarré, the Louisiana historian.

In regard to an essay on Lanier by William Hayes Ward, a member of the editorial staff of *The Independent* and one of Lanier's chief advocates among Northern magazine editors, published in *The Century* for April 1884, Lipscomb wrote Hayne on 3 June:

I thought Dr. Ward's estimate of Lanier as a poet too high, though not too high as a man of genius. Lanier had too much talent to be a remarkable man in poetry. A man cannot serve two masters, still less two or three, and next to Christianity, I think poetry is the most exacting. But Lanier had a grand soul, I imagine, and the courage and fortitude to fight and endure. I never knew him personally, but his friends always spoke to me of him with great tenderness.

Less than six months after initiating a correspondence with Hayne, Charles E.A. Gayarré, former attorney general of Louisiana and U.S. Senator-elect, had become his "honored friend," and Hayne had begun to read Gayarré's books. On 24 May 1885, he wrote Lipscomb about Gayarré's "remarkable" *Philip II of Spain* (1886):

Anything of the sort more dramatic, picturesque & vigorous cannot be found – so far as my experience goes in the English language! The account of Philip's death actually made me sick at the stomach of my soul (and the physical stomach too). I had to put the book down, seek the Garden and inhale the scent of the Bay blossoms and roses! Otherwise, there would have been an upheaval!!

As for the South's response to the literary works of its own writers, Lipscomb touched on the "chronic indifference to our home-born literature—an unaccountable anomaly in Southern character" on 3 April 1884, and two days later addressed the subject again:

Literature has no home among us in the South. Men of high culture, if not aliens among us, are treated as such, and so far as I can see, this deplorable state of things gets worse instead of better. Circumstances have forced us to be independent of the world, and one effect of this has been to render us

ATHENS HISTORIAN

independent of one another, so that our magnolias generally waste their fragrance in the Southern air.

Hayne, of course, had felt this way about the treatment of writers in the South for many years, in fact since 1852 when he was assistant editor of the *Southern Literary Gazette* in Charleston, but beyond agreeing with Lipscomb about the South's neglect of its own literature, Hayne apparently saved his ire on the subject in general for his concurrent correspondence with Charles Gayarré, an exchange where societal disregard of things literary was one of the main topics of communication.⁸

The exchange of letters, in the final analysis, meant a great deal to both men. As Hayne informed Lipscomb on 16 March 1885:

You are surely a wonder to me; a wonder of goodness, no less than genius. Verily never have I encountered my life of 55 years before, nor do I expect to encounter again, such a friend as you have shown yourself to be. I hope some day to prove my gratitude & appreciation practically.

Three weeks earlier on 24 February, Hayne had written another friend, Mrs. Margaret Junkin Preston, a well-known Virginia poet, about his correspondent in Athens:

It has been my fortune during the last two years to form the acquaintance of one of the most extraordinary men in America: (viz) ex-Chancellor A.A. Lipscomb of Athens, Ga.

About 68 old [sic], he has twice honored me with a visit, and I sincerely wish you could have been here, to listen to his eloquent, suggestive, powerful talk.

Nor was Lipscomb any less reluctant to express his joy in the friendship. Three months after he had initiated the correspondence, he wrote Hayne on 22 April 1884:

⁸ See Charles R. Anderson, "Charles Gayarré and Paul Hayne: The Last Literary Cavaliers" in *American Studies in Honor of William Kenneth Boyd*, David K. Jackson, ed. (Durham, 1940), 221-281, and Rayburn S. Moore, "Paul Hamilton Hayne as Editor, 1852-1860," *South Carolina Journals and Journalists*, James B. Meriwether, ed. (Columbia, 1975), 91-108.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Pencil or pen, your letters are always most welcome. Nothing breaks the monotony of my chamber-life so pleasantly and so profitably, and the constant feeling of my heart is that Providence has added you as a gracious gift to my soul. Friends come to us at different eras of life, divinely suited to existing needs, just at the right moment in God's secret calendar, and they soon become one by laws that will be read and understood hereafter. For a long time, I yearned to know you. At last you have come and I am satisfied. Heaven bless our friendship!

When Lipscomb heard on 3 July 1886, of "the failure of [Hayne's] health," he was too ill himself to travel to Copse Hill, but he wrote to a mutual friend that he could not "express the pain it gave [him] to hear of dear Mr. Hayne's condition."

The true extent, however, of Lipscomb's regard for Hayne is revealed in letters of 6 July, the day of the poet's death, and 12 July. These letters were addressed to Mrs. Mary Middleton Michel Hayne, Hayne's wife of 34 years. "A very beautiful and inspiring character has Mr. Hayne been to me," Lipscomb wrote on 6 July, only hours before Hayne's death:

... a dear friend, – dearest of all my living friends – true and tender and faithful – blessed to me in all the offices of affectionate service. But unutterably precious as he is to me, I can only think in this awful moment of anxiety what the great soul has been to you and how your heart is overwhelmed under the pressure of this anguish. Nevertheless, I feel assured, that your blessed Lord will sustain you.

Six months before his death, Hayne had acknowledged his awareness of the meaning of Lipscomb's example in "The Guest," a lyric published in the *Sunday School Times* (Philadelphia) for 19 December 1885, and dedicated to his "revered friend," who, in turn, considered this "precious tribute" one that had moved his "heart as it never had been moved before:"

We held sweet converse, he and I.
His soul was like a boundless sea,
O'er which at time low breezes sigh

ATHENS HISTORIAN

From unseen lands of mystery:

A charm divinely pure and bright
Breathed round him its ethereal calm; –
His eyes were wells of marvelous light, –
His voice was like a heavenly psalm.⁹

The exchange between the poet and the preacher, the laureate and the chancellor, had been one of “sweet converse” indeed – a communion of “deep love” that was “blessed in all the offices of affectionate service” and that led to special links between the two friends, cherished by each in ways that transcended the ordinary.

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⁹ This poem was published too late to be collected by Hayne, but it is included in a manuscript edited by his wife and son, William Hamilton Hayne, and entitled, *Last Poems of Paul Hamilton Hayne*. The unpublished manuscript is in the Hayne Papers, Perkins Library, Duke University.

Athletics in Athens

by Dan Magill¹

It's not surprising that Athens, Georgia, is named for the Classic City of Greece. The Olympic Games originated in Greece in 776 BC, nearly 3000 years ago. Our Athens also has a proud history of athletic achievements dating back well over 100 years. I have spent almost my whole life in athletics, beginning in the late 1920s at the Athens YMCA, and at the same time hanging around old Sanford Field at the foot of Lumpkin Hill by Tanyard Creek, watching the Georgia baseball, football and track teams. I have had the good fortune to meet and know many of the greats associated with the various athletic programs in Athens.

Originally, the Olympics had only one event, a race of some 200 yards, the length of the stadium. Now, there are many Olympic events, including Women's Soccer, which we hosted in the 1996 Olympics. But it is the University of Georgia which is most responsible for athletics in Athens.

Dr. John Stegeman, in his delightful book *The Ghosts of Herty Field*, described the advent of football in Athens. Dr. Charles Herty returned to UGA from Johns Hopkins in 1891, bringing with him a fascination with the new game of rugby that had become such a craze in the Northeast. "Thin as a reed and wearing glasses, the new instructor hardly looked like a football man," said a member of the first UGA football team, George Shackelford.² Dr. Herty told the young men about the football games he had seen and helped them build a "gridiron" on the old parade ground behind New College. He would roust the team out of bed every morning for a three-mile jog, followed by a cold shower.

¹ Editor's Note: This presentation was given to the Athens Historical Society by Dan Magill on October 20, 2002. The photographs of Bob McWhorter and Pleas Starks appeared in the Athens Sports Hall of Fame series of articles published in the *Athens Banner-Herald* in May 2000.

² Stegeman, John F. *The Ghosts of Herty Field*. Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1966. p. 2.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

When Dr. Herty arrived, no collegiate football game had ever been played south of Raleigh, North Carolina. Thus there were no opponents in the area for the new team to challenge during the fall of 1891. Mercer College in Macon agreed to organize a team and meet the University after Christmas; the first football game in the Deep South was played on January 20, 1892, with Georgia winning handily on the field later named for Dr. Herty.³

In the 1930s, my father, then editor of the *Athens Banner-Herald*, introduced me to Dr. Herty, who was visiting Athens. Dr. Herty's great-nephew, Charles Herty Hooper, Jr., played on my Georgia tennis team in the 1960s.

The first intercollegiate athletic contest for the University of Georgia was not the Georgia-Mercer football game, but a baseball game in 1886. According to no less an authority than University Chancellor David Crenshaw Barrow, a crude game of baseball was played by students after the Civil War in the late 1860s on the field now known as Herty Field. Barrow was in school then, and when I was a boy visiting his grandson, who lived across the street from me on Cherokee Avenue, Chancellor Barrow told me about it and also about the intercollegiate game in 1886. It was against Emory College at Oxford and was played at Union Point because neither team would agree to play on the campus of the other school. The teams and fans went by train to Union Point. Georgia won 12-1, largely because Georgia pitcher, Charles Ed Morris, threw curve balls that Emory players had never seen before.

Charles Ed's brother, John Morris, was the star catcher, whom I knew later. I can vouch that he still had a strong arm when he taught me German at Georgia in the late 1930s. I was in several of his classes and if he noticed that a student was not paying attention, he picked up a blackboard eraser and hurled it at the offending student, usually hitting him in the head. He hit me one time when the boy in front of me, his target, ducked and the eraser smacked me on the head.

Georgia's track program officially began with a field day for students on May 28, 1887, on the same field that was used by the baseball team. After 10 years of field days, Georgia participated in its first intercollegiate track contest at the 1897 SIAA meet in Nashville,

³ Dr. Herty's claim to fame, though, was not introducing football to the South, but for developing a process for making paper from pine pulp.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Tennessee, and finished fourth of 14 teams entered. The first dual meet came a year later with Georgia beating Georgia Tech 75-30.

Georgia's first real track coach was Herman Stegeman, the star lineman on the 1912 championship football team for Amos Alonzo Stagg at the University of Chicago. Stegeman was a broad-shouldered, blond Dutchman born in Holland, Michigan, who wore wooden shoes as a boy. Stagg called Stegeman the best all-round athlete he ever coached. In 1915, Stegeman was a member of the world-record-setting U.S. mile relay team at the World's Fair in San Francisco. After World War II, he came to Athens as a YMCA instructor, but resigned to join Georgia's athletic staff as a coach. His first job, baseball coach in 1919, saw him win the Southern Championship. The next year he originated the old Southern Conference basketball tournament in Atlanta, which flourished there until the Southeastern Conference originated in 1933. Stegeman's basketball teams in the 1920s were the perennial power in Dixie. He was the first southern coach to be picked by the National Football Rules Committee, selected by his old coach and mentor, Amos Alonzo Stagg.

"Stege" was my idol as a boy and taught me much about athletics. Many times we walked up Lumpkin hill to our homes after he had done his duties as coach and athletic director, and I had finished my duties as foul-ball catcher and bat boy with the baseball team. Stege had a great sense of humor. When Yale came down from New Haven to dedicate Georgia's new Sanford Stadium in October 1929, the day before the game he took a bunch of New York sports writers out to the Athens Country Club for a round of golf. After one of the holes, Stege changed the marker so that the tee shot required a water carry of over 300 yards. When the New York scribes looked out over the lake, one of them groaned, "My God! That's the longest water carry I've ever seen!" Stege replied, "Oh, it's not nearly as long as it looks." The Eastern writers lost over a dozen balls in the lake before they noticed Stege doubling over with laughter.

Track was perhaps Stege's first love and he made Georgia a perennial powerhouse in that sport as well. His greatest track performer was Forrest Grady "Spec" Towns, Olympic high hurdles champion in 1936. Sight-unseen, Stege gave Towns a track scholarship, thinking he

ATHENS HISTORIAN

would develop into a champion high jumper; hurdles proved to be Towns' strong point.⁴

I actually saw Spec try to clear his first hurdle. It was the spring of 1934 and I was a boy of 13, grazing on the fresh Bermuda grass shoots by Georgia's old track, where the Tate Center now stands. I noticed a runner hit a hurdle and go sprawling on the cinders; he got up cussing. I had grown up in the Athens Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and at that time had never missed a Sunday school class. So you can imagine what a shock it was for me listening to this would-be hurdler deliver the finest recitation of foul language my young ears had ever heard. It made a marked impression on me and I went over to ask another track man the name of the champion cusser. He replied, "Spec Towns." I told some of my friends about him and we would come down to watch him run the hurdles, hoping he'd knock one down and give another cussing performance. It was eight years later before my ears heard cussing that could equal Spec Towns'—from the drill instructors at Marine Corps Boot Camp on Parris Island, South Carolina.

The mammoth income of King Football, mainly from gate receipts and television, has made it possible for other sports—both men's and women's—to have first class programs with first class facilities at Georgia. So, one might say that Big Time College Football is the most charitable organization in this country, giving billions of dollars each year to support other collegiate sports and offering free education and providing jobs for thousands of people. Long may College Football live!

It was not until 1929 when Sanford Stadium was built that Georgia had a place big enough to seat its many fans. Originally, football at Georgia shared old Herty Field with baseball and track and the military students. There was never a real grandstand for fans at Herty Field; most of the fans stood on the sidelines.

In 1911 a new field was built for baseball and football at the bottom of Lumpkin Hill beside Tanyard Creek. It was named for the University's No. 1 booster of athletics, English professor, V. Sanford, later the University's president and chancellor. The grandstand was built for baseball fans, half of it down the right field line, and the other half down the left field line. It was covered by a roof and seated 3,500.

⁴ Towns won a gold medal at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. His gold medal was on display as a part of the Athens Historical Society's exhibition *Athens Treasures* at the Georgia Museum of Art in 2001.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

For big games, there were bleachers erected and overflow crowds of 9,000 were estimated.

The Georgia Tech football rivalry, though, had become so big that it had to be played in Atlanta where Tech's Grant Field could accommodate more fans. In fact, from 1900 until 1929, the Georgia-Georgia Tech game was played in Atlanta, with one exception, 1906.

Dr. Sanford finally put an end to this nonsense and raised the money to build a new stadium bigger than Tech's by getting 100 alumni to pledge \$1,000 each. It was dedicated on October 12, 1929, with Yale, then the powerhouse of the East, coming south for the first time. The largest crowd in the history of Southern football at that time overflowed the stadium - 30,000 plus.

I was eight years old when Georgia played Yale here. For several weeks before the game, I had heard people talking about the "big game" coming up against Yale. I wanted to be there. The year before, I had received a Christmas present of a football uniform: leather helmet, shoulder pads, jersey and pants reinforced with pleats of wood strips. The game was a complete sellout, but daddy knew the business manager of athletics, Charlie Martin, who passed me through the gate free. Dressed in my uniform, I walked from my home near Five Points to the stadium, through the gate, and went to find my father in the press box, then atop the north side of the stadium. The game had already started. When I found daddy in the press box, I hollered, "Daddy, they've already chosen sides." Everyone in the press box laughed like hyenas and daddy told me to go down and watch the game from the sidewalk around the field. I was disappointed that I didn't get to play and the main thing I recall about the game was that the Yale band was mighty snappy at half-time.

The best Georgia athlete who played football on Herty Field was Robert Ligon McWhorter. He played only one year there – 1910 as a freshman, and the rest of his career on Sanford Field. He was just as good in baseball – an All-Southern heavy-hitting center fielder – and he became Georgia's first All-American in football in 1913. "Mr. Bob," as I always called him, scored 61 touchdowns in 34 games during his four



*Robert L. "Bob"
McWhorter*

ATHENS HISTORIAN

seasons, still the Georgia record. Herschel Walker scored 41 touchdowns in 36 games in his three seasons.

“Mr. Bob” was a native Athenian, son of Hamilton McWhorter, a railroad lawyer and judge, and lived in the huge home built by H.H. Carlton at the end of Cloverhurst.⁵ The house was torn down in the mid-1930s to make room for the expansion of Cloverhurst, and in 1950 I built a home on part of the same property where Bob had grown up. His son, Bob, Jr., and I played in the same backfield when our Chi Phi fraternity team beat the Barons of Candler Hall for the intramural touch football championship in Sanford Stadium. Mr. Bob shook hands with all of us, and I haven’t washed my hand since.

Athens has produced quite a few outstanding African-American athletes, too. Ten of them have been inducted into the Athens Sports Hall of Fame, including Jimmy Payne of Cedar Shoals High School, an All-American tackle on Georgia’s 1980 national championship football team.



Pleas “Clegg” Starks

The best of them all didn’t attend school because athletics were not available in the black schools of his day. I’m referring to Pleas Starks, whose nickname “Clegg” came because he was tongue-tied and when coach Alex Cunningham asked him his name, Cunningham thought he replied “Clegg” when he was trying to say “Pleas.” Clegg began his athletic days at the age of seven, in 1908. He was the son of UGA President David Barrow’s cook and lived at the Barrow home on campus. He did chores there, after which he would walk about 100 yards to Herty Field to watch Georgia practice baseball and football.

In 1908, his first year hanging around Herty Field, Georgia had the Southern Championship baseball team, one of the stars being its All-Southern first baseman Morton Hodgson of Athens. Clegg literally spent his entire life with Georgia’s athletic teams, and was the most famous water-boy since Gunga Din. He was the ace right-handed pitcher for the Athens Red Sox, one of the top Negro teams in the South. They played their games on old Sanford Field and many a time

⁵ See *Athens Historian*, Vol. 6, 2001, for a postcard photograph of the Hamilton McWhorter home.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

I saw him record strike outs with his fast ball. There is no doubt in my mind that Clegg was good enough for the major leagues, but it was some 30 years later before Jackie Robinson of Cairo, Georgia, became the first African-American to break the color barrier in major league baseball.

Clegg is also famous for beating the renowned Satchel Page in a Negro All-Star game in Charleston, South Carolina, but his greatest feat was his amazing ability to throw a football the length of the field – 100 yards. He used to pump up all of Georgia's footballs and became an expert at it. He would pump up the ball so that it didn't have much air in it, then he would get a good grip on it with his huge hand reaching all the way around it and hurl it from one end zone to the other. In the 1920s when Clegg was in his 20s and at his physical peak, before bands became the half-time show at football games, Clegg would be the half-time show on old Sanford Field. Coach Herman Stegeman would introduce him and then Clegg would hurl the ball sidearmed 100 yards.

Old Athens High School didn't begin football until 1921 with coach Dr. Wedford Brown, who had been a star all-round athlete at Georgia and later became Athens' City and County Health Commissioner. Dr. Brown coached championship teams in football, basketball and baseball. His greatest athlete, one of Athens' very best ever, was Milton "Red" Leathers, later a star guard on the Georgia football team that beat Yale in the Sanford Stadium dedication game, and also Athens' first player in the National Football League, when he played for the Philadelphia Eagles in 1933.

Tennis is one of the oldest sports at Georgia. School tournaments were held in the early 1890s. The players played on several courts at private homes in Athens. The first courts on campus were four dirt courts built in 1900 adjacent to Broad Street just below the Arch, and used by students until the late 1920s. In the early 1930s six red clay courts were built in front of LeConte Hall. From 1951 through 1957, there were four green clay courts just above the south side of Sanford Stadium, and when the Science Center was built there in 1958, the varsity courts were moved to their present location.

In 1898 the first Southern Collegiate Tennis Championships were held in Montgomery, Alabama, and the winner was Georgia's L.A. Cothran of College Park, who defeated Seibels of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Tennis at Georgia has come a long way since then. In 1939 we originated the Crackerland Championships on the old red clay courts in

ATHENS HISTORIAN

front of LeConte Hall, and the Crackerland Tournament, after World War II, grew into one of the South's most popular tournaments.

In 1972, Georgia began hosting the National Collegiate championships at Henry Feild Stadium, and they have been held there almost every year since. The National Collegiate Men's Tennis Hall of Fame was built there in 1984 and Athens has become the mecca of amateur tennis in the country.

Several Athens men have been outstanding collegiate players: M.B. Wheeler was No. 1 at Georgia four straight years after World War II. Billy Lenoir, who learned the game here as a boy before moving to Arizona for the health of his asthmatic older brother, won the National Boys' 18 Singles in 1960 and was a three-time All-American at Arizona. Ham Magill won the International Boys' 13 Doubles in 1958 and played No. 1 at Princeton in 1966. The late Henry Feild was No. 1 at Georgia 1964-66. Danny Birchmore won the U.S. Boys' Singles in 1969, defeating Jimmy Connors, made All-American twice and led Georgia to the first of its many SEC championships in 1971. Jack Frierson won the National Interscholastic Singles in 1987 and Bo Hodge made All-American at Georgia last year (2002).

Athens has produced outstanding women's tennis players, too. In the early 1950s, there were the Wickliffe twins, Billie and Jo. I tried to get Georgia to form a women's team at that time, but Mrs. Soule, in charge of women's intramural athletics, was not in favor of Georgia playing women's intercollegiate tennis. I tried again when Barbara DuPree, daughter of Assistant Football Coach Sterling DuPree, and my tennis protégé, was state women's champion. But again the University said "No" to my request. So Barbara, while at Georgia, had to settle for being campus beauty queen and Phi Beta Kappa. She later became mother of Julie Moran of TV's *Entertainment Tonight*.

Finally in 1963, I succeeded in getting a girl on Georgia's intercollegiate tennis team, and it was our **men's** team! The girl was state women's champion Becky Birchmore, and the Southeastern Conference had ruled that year that women could play intercollegiate sports if they could make the men's teams. Becky played as a substitute on our team and never lost a match. To this day, she is the only girl ever to earn a letter on a men's athletic team at Georgia. Becky was the older sister of Danny Birchmore, and the oldest of the one-and-only Fred Birchmore's four children.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

In the early 1980s the NCAA began having championships in all women's sports and the University of Georgia has done extremely well in them, especially in gymnastics, swimming and tennis.

Athens and the University of Georgia also have been active in golf. The first golf course here was a nine-hole course on the old Cloverhurst Country Club, built on the same property that once was cotton fields belonging to the Hamilton McWhorter family. It ceased operation about the time the Athens Country Club was built in the 1920s, and the old Cloverhurst club and course were taken over by a new group, mainly University professors, and renamed the West Lake Country Club. The first fairway was in front of where Georgia Athletic Director Vince Dooley lives at the bottom of Milledge Circle.

The first tee shot required a long drive over the lake and I recall as a boy in the 1930s hanging around to retrieve balls that landed in the lake. We'd get an Indian head penny for each ball we retrieved from the lake. I used to caddy at the West Lake Country Club and once caddied for the distinguished University professor Dr. Robert Preston Brooks, for whom Brooks Hall is named. Dr. Brooks started his distinguished career at Georgia as a history teacher before he switched to business. But you may not know that he was school tennis champion in 1903 and Georgia's first Rhodes Scholar.

There were no real caddies in those days, so members would commandeer boys they saw lurking around the clubhouse. One day Dr. Brooks commandeered me. I especially didn't want to caddy for him because he only tipped a buffalo nickel for carrying his bags 18 holes. Of course, those were the days of the Great Depression and hardly any golfers tipped caddies more than a quarter. On this occasion, Dr. Brooks was playing with Judge Blanton Fortson, famous Superior Court judge in Athens, and his caddy was my boyhood friend Ralph Goss, Jr., whose father was an eminent surgeon in Athens. When the round was completed, Judge Fortson, I later learned from his son, made a big show of tipping Ralph a silver dollar. He did it to shame Dr. Brooks into tipping me more than a nickel; Dr. Brooks gave me a dime.

One of Georgia's greatest golfers, Athenian Jimmy Gabrielsen, as SEC champion and later runner-up in the British Amateur and captain of the U.S. Walker Cup team, was inducted into the Athens Sports Hall of Fame in May 2003. Jimmy's dad was Georgia's swimming coach, "Bump" Gabrielson, for whom the magnificent swimming pool in the Ramsey Center is named.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Swimming, incidentally, was one of the many sports pioneered and promoted by the YMCAs throughout the country, especially here in Athens. The Athens YMCA has had a profound impact on athletics in Athens, almost equal to that of the programs at the University of Georgia.

W.T. Forbes of Atlanta, after serving as a first sergeant in the Spanish-American War, became the first Athens YMCA general secretary in 1898. In 1901 he studied at Springfield College in Massachusetts where basketball was invented, and where YMCA instructors were trained for service throughout the country. "Mr. W.T." introduced basketball to Athenians and he was Georgia's first basketball coach in 1905.

Among the sports that YMCAs pioneered, in addition to basketball and swimming, were gymnastics, volleyball, softball, weight-lifting and table tennis. I remember a big fat boy from Toccoa used to take weight lifting lessons from Willie "Red" Curry at the Athens YMCA. His name was Paul Anderson and he became the 1956 Olympic weight lifting champion and recordholder.

In 1912 Mr. W.T. brought Clarence Jones to Athens as physical director for the YMCA; Jones had been athletic director at Wheaton College in Illinois where he knew the immortal football star Red Grange as a boy and the great boxing champion Packy McFarland. Jones originated the Northeast Georgia basketball tournament which became the largest in the country, attracting over 100 high school teams. He also made Athens the swimming capital of the state. He formed and coached Georgia's first swimming team in 1926 and his first captain was Walter Forbes, Jr., son of Mr. W.T. Other Athens boys and protégés of "Jonesy" who were also Georgia swim captains were John Hodgson, Fred Hodgson, Morton Hodgson, Jr.; Howell Erwin, John Ashford, Goodloe Erwin, Jimmy Hudson, and Theyx Stewart.

When Jonesy was trainer for Georgia's football teams, he allowed no cursing: some of the roughest characters ever to wear the Red and Black were in awe of him. They knew how strong he was and had heard the story about how Jonesy had punished an offender, the biggest man on the team, by grabbing the shoulder with one hand and applying so much pressure that the fellow fell to the floor and begged for mercy, which Jonesy granted when the player promised never to curse again.

The players loved Jonesy who was always in good humor; he called each of them "sonny boy" in that high-pitched Welsh voice of his. Many of the players would attend church just to hear him sing in the

ATHENS HISTORIAN

choir at the First Methodist Church. It was said that Jonesy had developed that Superman strength in his arms and shoulders during his years as a circus performer before he came to Athens. He was the anchorman of an act which had several Japanese performers atop a bamboo pole, which he held.

Another great physical director at the Athens Y was Cobern Kelly. I was in college with "Kelly;" he was older than the other students because he had served a hitch in the U.S. Navy after graduating from old Tech High School in Atlanta. He had been light heavy-weight champion of the U.S. fleet.

Kelly made a wonderful impression on many Athens boys during his tenure at the Athens Y, including my son Ham, who was quarterback on his football team in 1957 that won the national 12-and-under football championship. Also on that team was halfback Jake Scott, later All-Pro safety with the world champion Miami Dolphins. The great Francis Tarkenton began his football career as quarterback for Kelly's boys' team at the Athens Y, as did Andy Johnson.

I have so many fond memories of the greats in athletics in Athens and at Georgia, and I have only scratched the surface. Thank you very much.

**Robert Lee Bloomfield of Athens
1827 - 1916**

by Olivia B. Carlisle

Robert Lee Bloomfield arrived in Athens in 1853 from Rahway, New Jersey, with his bride Ann Warren Rodgers, to open a men's clothing store and to make a home for his future family. He was 26 years old and a progressive man of vision who did establish his men's clothing store, but also went on to become a broker, buy a cotton and wool factory, develop a pottery, bring railroads into Athens, and assist in the construction of Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Once, when an entire block of buildings on Clayton Street burned down, he rebuilt them with money from his own pocket.



R.L. Bloomfield at age 19.

Robert Lee Bloomfield and Ann Warren Rodgers of Bound Brook, New Jersey, were married September 17, 1851, by her father, Rev. R.K. Rodgers, a Presbyterian minister. Upon their arrival in Athens, they made their home on Clayton Street and became members of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, then located on the corner of Clayton and Lumpkin streets.

Both Robert and Ann had ancestors who served in the Revolutionary War. His father, Richard Bloomfield, had died when Robert Lee was only nine years of age, leaving money in his will specifically for Robert Lee's education. His grandfather was Robert Bloomfield who served as an ensign with Captain Ellis Barron in New Jersey. Ann's grandfather, Dr. John R.B. Rodgers, served as a surgeon in a Philadelphia regiment. Her great-grandfather, the Rev. John Rodgers, D.D., a Presbyterian minister of New York City, was appointed chaplain by George Washington and later became important in the Presbyterian church in this country.

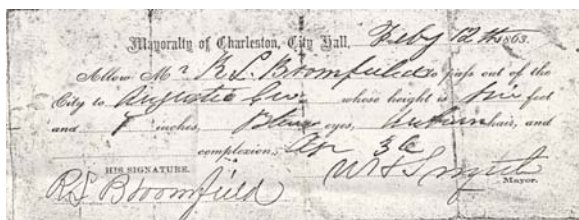
ATHENS HISTORIAN

Bloomfield opened his men's clothing store April 13, 1854, on Front Street, now Broad Street, advertising ready-made as well as clothing made to order.

In June of 1858 the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 was organized after fire destroyed the New College building on the University of Georgia campus and Athens citizens began to demand fire protection. A.K. Childs, the silversmith, was named first principle engineer of the new fire company, with R.L. Bloomfield as first assistant engineer and Dr. R.M. Smith as second assistant, to supervise the organization of the company.

A favorite family story about "Grandpa Bloomfield" was the unusual event of his ice skating on the Oconee River. According to the *Southern Watchman* of January 17, 1856, Athens had a very heavy snow fall, along with temperatures cold enough to freeze Mr. Carr's mill pond with three inches of ice. Both young and old had great fun skating and sleighing. A group of on-lookers had gathered to watch the dignified Mr. Bloomfield as he enjoyed ice skating up and down the edge of the Oconee River.

With the increase of his family, Robert L. Bloomfield bought extensive property out on Pope Hill where he built his family a large two-story, white frame home with additional cook house, well, barns and carriage house. There would be room, of course, for their gardens. Elizabeth Lee Bloomfield was the first child to be born there, in 1861; Annie and Robert K. were born in the Clayton Street home.



Pass issued W.H. Smith, Mayor of Charleston, SC, for R.L. Bloomfield to travel to Augusta, GA. His height is given as five feet, seven inches, blue eyes, auburn hair. Dated Feb. 12, 1863.

Through the period of 1860-1861, the question of slavery was the big political issue. With the Ordinance of Secession passed by the delegates at Milledgeville on January 19, 1861, Georgia was

officially out of the Union, not fully realizing that war would follow. When word of the firing on Fort Sumter arrived in Athens, Bloomfield offered to by special train to Union Point to bring news of the attack. Most of the town's residents were up until midnight awaiting the train's

ATHENS HISTORIAN

arrival. At 7:00 Sunday morning, Bloomfield's train arrived bringing news that Fort Sumter had surrendered. War had begun.

Through those war years, Bloomfield and his family endured many changes and difficulties. He and several other men from the North decided to uphold the Confederate cause, but since he was so recently from the North, he was not allowed to serve in the Confederate armed forces. It was also necessary for him to carry at all times a notice or pass allowing him to walk the streets of Athens, Atlanta and Charleston. He received a notice from the War Department of the Confederate States of America in Richmond, Virginia, dated August 2, 1864. It stated, "R.L. Bloomfield has permission to visit Georgia upon his honor as a man, that he will not communicate in writing or verbally, for publication, any fact ascertained by him." Signed by L.P. Walker, Secretary of War.

In May of 1861, Bloomfield advertised that he had purchased his clothing stock before March 1, so had almost as good a stock as formerly. He hoped before another season has passed to have a partner in Europe who would send him stock more cheaply than previously. The Union blockade of Southern ports of course prevented this. By October 1862, he announced he would soon move his stock of clothing to Atlanta and go out of the clothing business. He next engaged in the brokerage business, offering to sell land, buy all types of money, bank bills, stocks and bonds, and real estate, as well as cotton by the crop on plantations. Later Bloomfield and several other Athens men made plans to run the Union blockade, but these plans were never carried out. It was known, though, that at one time, he was able to smuggle in some much-needed medical supplies.

In June of 1863, Dr. John S. Linton sold the Athens Manufacturing Company to R.L. Bloomfield and W.F. Herring of Atlanta for \$125,000, and Bloomfield became the manager. The mill was then making uniforms for the Confederate Army. Bloomfield offered many services for the townspeople in an effort to ease their shortages and also helped the factory to continue operations. He sent wagons out into the surrounding area to forage for food for his operators. Because of necessary rationing, the families of ministers and soldiers were given precedence and reduced prices. He successfully guided the company through those difficult war years, but at times experienced slower production and some suspension of work.

With the surrender of Lee on April 12, 1865, the Civil War, for the most part, was over. One example of postwar success was the Athens

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Manufacturing Company, which had earned wartime profits from the production of Confederate uniforms. When the war was almost over, Bloomfield had the foresight to exchange the company's Confederate money for gold and gave it to the British consulate for safe keeping. The Athens Manufacturing Company was then able to return to spinning and weaving for civilian needs, producing gingham check cloth.

In her memoirs, Elizabeth Lee Bloomfield described an interesting dinner table occasion which occurred at the end of the war, when she was about five years of age. Her father was a Captain in the Quartermaster's Department of the Confederate States of America, and was away from home on this occasion. Seated at the table were her mother and three children, Robert, Annie and Elizabeth. Baby James was with his nurse. "There were also two or three Union soldiers quartered upon us," Elizabeth's memoirs state, "for they were guards who protected the buildings of the Athens Manufacturing Company, a cotton spinning mill, of which my father was the agent." Elizabeth was very fond of rice, a dish that was never lacking at a dinner in Georgia. One of the soldiers, wishing to be attentive, turned to her and said, "Lizzie, will you have some rice?" The little rebel replied, "No, I wouldn't take rice from a Yankee!" Her mother's heart stood still, but such a shout of merriment went up from the soldiers, the memoir adds, that her mother's relief was considerable and she joined in the laughter.

Also from Lizzie's memoirs is the account of a trip their family took soon after the war to visit her mother's family in Bound Brook, New Jersey. With valises for clothing, baskets of baked ham, smothered chicken, biscuits, tea cakes, bottles of tea, blanket shawls and pillows, they boarded a train for Atlanta. Then their route took them to Knoxville, Tennessee, as most of the bridges over streams had been burned. The cars were in wretched condition. When they reached the Potomac at Quantico, they changed to a steamer, which took them to Washington, D.C., where they were able to enjoy a very nice meal. They then traveled by railroad to Baltimore, where the cars were uncoupled and drawn individually through the city by big draught horses. Finally they arrived in New York City after one week of very hot and tiresome travel, before going on to Bound Brook for a very pleasant visit with their family.

By the summer of 1865 cotton prosperity had returned and Bloomfield found it necessary to add a new wing to the Athens Manufacturing Company buildings, doubling capacity. By that fall,

ATHENS HISTORIAN

3000 spindles and 75 looms were consuming 25 bales of lint cotton per week. From this, the 175 mill workers produced 10,000 yards of cotton cloth and 7,500 pounds of cotton yarn. Additional cottages were built to house the mill workers at that time.

Nearby, the large two-story Cook & Brother Armory building stood vacant, even as Bloomfield realized a continued need for expansion. On March 1, 1870, he paid \$18,000 for the 63-acre tract of land, including the armory buildings and surrounding worker cottages. Within a few months he had all weaving activity transferred to the new facility and the original factory was converted entirely to yarn production. That same year Bloomfield expanded and improved the Athens Flour Mill across the river and installed new machinery, at a cost of \$16,000, so that by Christmas, the mill was yielding 4,000 pounds of flour daily.

The mill in the Armory building had started making gingham check fabric which was sold under the trademark of "Daisy Checks" and became known all over the country for its high quality. The Daisy Checks exhibit at the New Orleans Exposition of 1876 won the Gold Medal award. From that product, the mill became known as the "Check Factory," which it retained until 1920. Yarn for the Daisy Checks was transported from the original plant on the lower Oconee River to the Armory building by flatboats, which were operated by two men with long poles.



When an Athens newspaper reporter visited the factory homes to find new subscribers for his paper, he noticed many favorable situations as he toured the homes of the mill workers. All of the families were comfortably and conveniently fixed. Every house was scrupulously neat and clean, as were the inhabitants. Mr. Bloomfield was spoken of in the highest terms by all of the employees. They said that to them he was a true friend and protector, and through his agency, their salaries had been raised sufficiently high to enable them to not only have a comfortable living, but to put by something for a rainy day.

Bloomfield was concerned and provided for the physical and spiritual well-being of his workers. On May 1 of each year, a picnic

ATHENS HISTORIAN

was given for the employees on the spacious front lawns of the Bloomfield home. And each spring he plowed a garden for their use. Toward the close of 1869, the foundations were laid for a neo-Gothic chapel on Oconee Street. He had marked the lines for the walls and put masons to work when he was called away from town. He told them to build the walls straight up until he returned; being retained longer than he expected, he found four walls about 20 feet high without a single door or window in them. This amusing tale was circulated about Athens for many years. St. Mary's Chapel was completed in 1871 with gothic features and a fine English bell hung in its unique belfry. On Easter Sunday, April 9, 1871, the first service was held and the church was consecrated for Protestant Episcopal services, which were held every Sunday night. A Sunday School was organized by Mr. Bloomfield and each Sunday he and his daughter Annie taught classes.

In 1871, Bloomfield provided the first meeting place for a little band of Jews who had come to Athens during and after the Civil War, forming the nucleus of the Children of Israel congregation.¹ He later gave the first \$100 toward the church building for the Catholic congregation.

Bloomfield's introduction to the railroad had occurred at the very early age of five years on a trip to New York City, at a time when there were only three or four railroads in the United States. The steam locomotive had been invented only a few years earlier and it was a curiosity with its big stack spouting out a cloud of smoke and scattering chunks of fire along the way. The following story was told by R.L. Bloomfield to Mr. T.W. Reed, who later printed it in the *Athens Banner-Herald* newspaper:

News had reached Rahway that a train was going to pass through on its first trip to New York City and a large number of citizens of the little village had gathered at the depot to see it go though. In the crowd was a little five-year-old boy, Robert L. Bloomfield, who had slipped away from home and joined the crowd to see the phenomenon when it arrived. Presently it came puffing and blowing at a rate of speed somewhere between five and ten miles per hour. The little boy's eyes were sparkling with excitement. A gentleman in the coach saw the

¹ See the *Athens Historian*, 2002, vol. 7, pp. 1-8, for the history of the Athens Jewish congregation by Steven Bush.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

interest of the youngster and reached out and grabbed him by the hand. "How would you like to go to New York with me?" "Fine," said the boy. The man was thoughtful enough to send word to Robert Lee's parents concerning the train ride to New York. With that, the boy was lifted into the coach and he was off on his trip to the metropolis. It was a wonderful trip. He saw fields, forests and little settlements along the way and finally the big city with all its wonderful sights. Upon his return he had wonderful things to tell his father and mother and his young companions.

Many years later, Bloomfield was again involved with railroads. He was very concerned about Athens and its future growth. At a public meeting held in the Dupree Opera House, he presided over a meeting to hear reports from the committee appointed to solicit funds to build the Northeastern Railroad.²

He told those present that unless they were content to live in a one-horse town, they must build a railroad to the coal fields, for no business man would invest money in a manufacturing plant unless assured of power to operate it. He said that all the water power in and around Athens was now utilized and in order to operate the check factory that he had recently bought, he had to dam Carr's Branch and back water eight miles up Sandy Creek. His next work would be to develop Barnett Shoals. We could and should make of Athens one of the best business and manufacturing centers in Georgia, but it took money to build a city and every person in Athens must put hands deep into their pockets.

We must move the Georgia depot from the top of the hill in East Athens to the business center; he would give the company a right-of-way through his property in the city. We must have waterworks and a sewage system; we must then pave our streets and sidewalks, establish a modern fire department, and have the best free schools in the state. We must build up our churches and all else for the moral advancement and elevation

² For more information on the Northeastern Railroad and its history, see the *Athens Historian*, 2002, vol. 7, pp. 42-61.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

of the people. Athens must extend its business to Clayton Street and he would buy a section of lots and erect handsome business houses.

The above newspaper article was written by Mr. Gant, who had just recently moved to Athens, bought the *Athens Banner-Herald* and attended that public meeting of the 1870s. At the conclusion of that article, which was written many year later, he added that Mr. Bloomfield lived to see every suggestion that he had made at that meeting adopted and "no man who ever lived in Athens has done more to build our city into the fine place it is today than R.L. Bloomfield."

In September 1872, ground was broken for the Northeastern Railroad tracks behind the Prince Avenue home of Mrs. T.R.R. Cobb. R.L. Bloomfield became the first president of the Board of Directors of the Northeastern Railroad. Later he and others established the Athens and Western Railroad, for which he also served as president.

Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Bloomfield were both devout and very active members of that first Emmanuel Episcopal Church, a small white clapboard, New England style building with a steeple that stood on the corner of Clayton and Lumpkin Streets. He served on the church vestry for many years. He, along with Dr. James Camak, helped the minister, Dr. Matthew H. Henderson, work toward enlarging the church for an increasing attendance. In regard to their family prayers each day, little conscientious Lizzie asked her mother why she let Jamie attend. When her mother asked her why, Lizzie replied, "All he does is squall."

By 1881 Clayton Street business had increased so that it was decided to move the church out to Prince Avenue. The old church was taken down in 1892 and a small, temporary chapel was constructed at the back of the lot on Prince Avenue. The move caused a decline in membership and financial support. The plans of Mr. Bloomfield and others for a new church languished. Finally, Mr. Bloomfield sent his own ox carts to Elberton to bring granite blocks here to build the new church. They lay in piles, unused. He then brought his masons to the site and ordered the foundation footings to be laid; the walls of the nave and transepts began to rise. Many people remain astounded by his vision; the church which could seat over 300 people was built for a congregation of about 50.

Those granite walls reached ten feet high, but no money was available to continue, so they remained unfinished for seven years. It

ATHENS HISTORIAN

soon looked like ruins with weeds and small trees growing inside. Townspeople called it "The Ruins of Athens."

In the spring of 1897, the Rev. Troy Beatty arrived as the rector and found a very discouraged congregation. His tremendous energy raised the flagging spirits of Mr. Bloomfield and Mr. Thomas Nickerson, the church treasurer. Those three men led the congregation into completing the church building within two years. Bishop Cleland Nelson led the first service on October 15, 1899. Later, in May 1903, Bishop Nelson consecrated a debt-free Emmanuel Church.

New business enterprises were established by Bloomfield during the 1880s. A pottery near the Georgia depot was developed which turned out sewer and drain pipes and jug ware of all kinds. Clay was brought down the river in flat barges and landed at the pottery through a short canal. Another enterprise was the popular suburb of "Bloomfield" east of Milledge Avenue to house the town's middle class. Being so near the Milledge Avenue streetcar and the appeal of its park-like setting, adjacent to the great houses on Milledge, made Bloomfield one of the town's most attractive and popular suburbs.

After extensive investigation, Bloomfield found many possibilities and advantages at Barnett Shoals for the purpose of building factories to lease and for generating electricity to light the city of Athens and run its factories. Barnett Shoals, located two miles below the confluence of the Oconee and Middle Oconee Rivers, would give a united volume of both streams, with a natural dam across the entire width of the river. Just above the shoals, the water was 16 feet deep.

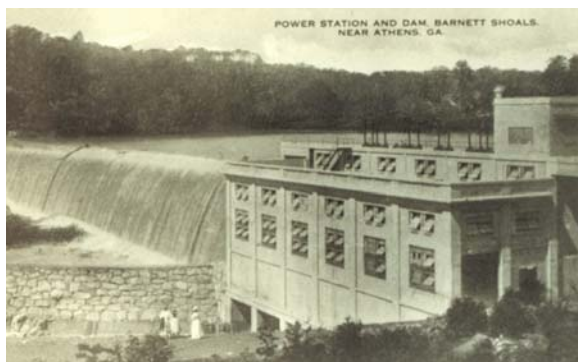
Mr. James Coates of the firm J. & P. Coates of Philadelphia came to Athens to investigate the shoals and found it to be an excellent piece of property, providing a fall of water rarely seen in his experience. Mr. Geylen, a noted hydraulic engineer who had placed the water wheels in the King mill at Augusta, estimated the power of the shoals to be 3000 horsepower, which would be capable of running 300,000 spindles. Also the Macon and Athens Railroad was to be built within two or three miles of the shoals.

Satisfied with his findings at Barnett Shoals, Bloomfield purchased 700 acres in 1887, including the property on both sides of the shoals, and several months later the Bloomfield Water Power Company was organized with R.L. Bloomfield, President, and F.W. Cheney, J.H. Rucker, James Camak and A.L. Hull as the board of directors.

By 1888 plans had been completed to begin work on a 5000-spindle mill. As building progressed and activity increased, Athens

ATHENS HISTORIAN

newspapers gave it headline news with extensive coverage. The Barnett Shoals factory was completed on November 18, 1890, with plans to operate around the clock. An electricity generating plant was also to be located at the site. On the hills above the mill, 25 cottages for the workers had been constructed, each with space for a garden.



Bloomfield managed the company for several more years until the death of his beloved wife, Ann Warren, on December 4, 1896, after a short illness. She was buried in the Bloomfield family

plot in Oconee Hill Cemetery and several months later Bloomfield sold their home to the Talmadge family.

Then, at the annual meeting of the Athens Manufacturing Company on April 9, 1897, R.L. Bloomfield, at the age of 70, announced his retirement after a service of 35 years. Under his management during those 35 years, the Athens Manufacturing Company had prospered and paid dividends averaging 13% per year to its stockholders. The stock had sold as high as \$165. Mr. Asbury Hodgson then was elected president of Athens Manufacturing; the Star Thread Company was sold to James White of Whitehall, and the electrical facility building was sold to the Athens Street Railway Company.

Bloomfield moved to Augusta where he lived for several years before returning to Athens to live with his son, Dr. James Bloomfield, on Milledge Avenue. During this time he enjoyed traveling and being with his family and the grandchildren. As he approached his 89th year, he continued his travels, visiting family around the country until he became ill with pneumonia while on a visit with his cousin, Alfred Bloomfield, in Cincinnati. After only a few days' illness, he died on January 14, 1916, at the age of 89. He was laid to rest beside his wife, Ann Warren, in the family plot in Oconee Hill Cemetery.

The Athens newspapers recognized and honored R.L. Bloomfield with many fine tributes, one of which read:

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Mr. Bloomfield was devoted to the city of Athens and one of the men who laid the broad and deep foundation upon which the city rose to its present eminence. He was essentially a builder. He believed in Athens and with his every energy backed every movement inaugurated for its benefit. Almost the entire front of a Clayton Street block is made up of store buildings erected by him. Athens is in many ways indebted to him for her present standing as a city.

Through the years, numerous family events took place in the Bloomfield home. Ann's father, the Rev. Ravaud Kearney Rodgers of Bound Brook, New Jersey, retired in 1874. He and his wife came to live in Athens with their daughter and her husband in the Bloomfield home, where they enjoyed the companionship of their grandchildren for the remainder of their lives.

On October 4, 1875, there was a grand reception after the marriage of their son Robert Kearney Bloomfield to Cornelia Olivia Bancroft. An Athens newspaper gives the following description of that reception:

There was quite a brilliant reception given last night at the house of Mr. R.L. Bloomfield to Mr. and Mrs. R.K. Bloomfield. The grounds were brilliantly illuminated and spacious rooms were crowded to the utmost. The young ladies of course were out in full force and all went as "merry as a marriage bell;" while the magnificent supper served up, together with the "rich weeping of the vine," which flowed in abundance, rendered the delightful entertainment complete. We wish our young friend all happiness and may the field of prosperity bloom with the choicest of flowers of earth, which shall add delicious fragrance around the altar of connubial bliss.

The Bloomfield family suffered great sorrow upon the death of their son Robert Kearney. He had been very ill for two weeks with typhoid fever and death came to that young man of 28 years on February 22, 1882. He had been part-owner of the retail store of Bloomfield and Sanford, and was at that time president of the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company. On the afternoon of the funeral, out of honor and respect, the stores of Athens closed their doors and the factory ceased work. Members of the Pioneer Hook and Ladder

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Company and the Hope Fire Company met at their halls, marched to the R.L. Bloomfield home and from there escorted the remains downtown to Emmanuel Church. The service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Eppes and the Rev. Mr. Davis. After the church service, the coffin was escorted by members of the two fire departments to Oconee Hill Cemetery for the burial service. R.L. Bloomfield then moved his son's grief-stricken young family, his widow Nela and their three young children, Olivia, Marion and Robert, into their home. They lived there until R.L. built a home for them on Pope Street. In R.L.'s last letter to granddaughter Marion, dated December 20, 1916, he thanked her and her sister Olivia for their nice long Christmas and birthday letters. He commended Marion for being a teacher, especially of poor children. It seems that the grandchildren were continuing the philanthropic ways of their grandfather.

Daughter Annie married Dr. S.C. Benedict, a surgeon and professor at the University of Georgia, who later became dean of the School of Pharmacy. Son James graduated from Jefferson College of Medicine in Philadelphia, the first medical college in America. James married Lillian B. Evans of Berwick, PA.

Daughter Elizabeth Lee studied art at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts and became an instructor of charcoal drawing at the Drexel Institute of Art, also in Philadelphia, in 1896. She became a distinguished portrait painter and painted several family portraits, of her mother, her father, and great-grandfather Rev. John Rodgers, D.D. Her portrait of her father, R.L. Bloomfield, hangs in the common room of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Athens. At the time of her father's last visit and death, she was serving in the mission field in the Springfield Diocese, working with elderly women and young boys and girls.

The marriage of his granddaughter Olivia Bloomfield to John E. Talmadge on April 27, 1896, was held in the double parlors of the Bloomfield home, followed by a reception. This wedding was held in the Bloomfield home as the parish hall of Emmanuel Church had not yet been completed.

Ann Warren Rodgers Bloomfield, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, provided a most satisfactory home life with fun and laughter, where children were happy doing children's things. She saw that their growing-up years were full of interesting experiences. They had many trips to Michigan to visit cousins and to enjoy winter sleighing and ice skating. They were active in many social occasions both in their home and in the community. When she died December

ATHENS HISTORIAN

4,1896, after a short illness, R.L. sold their home to the Talmadge family.

Soon after his death in 1916, a memorandum from the Annual Parish Meeting of Emmanuel Episcopal Church praised Mr. R.L. Bloomfield as an honorable leader in the business life of this section of the South and as a tireless philanthropist. It urged the congregation to complete the North Vestibule by building the church tower as “a beautiful and fitting tribute and memorial” to Robert L. Bloomfield, “since to him, under the blessings and guidance of Almighty God, is due very largely the fact that we have this beautiful and substantial church, built of granite rather than of frame or brick as was first contemplated.”

In 1931 the Bloomfield Memorial Tower was consecrated to the memory of the “great-hearted man who,” Mrs. Hart had written, “had put into that rock his whole heart, that rock he had brought from Elberton so many year ago.” At that service of June 21, 1931, Bishop H.J. Mikell consecrated the tower to the memory of Mr. R.L. Bloomfield. Among the attendees was the author, age 11, along with other family members.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

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The Black Journalists

by Michael L. Thurmond¹

We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. Too long has the publick been deceived by misrepresentations, in things which concern us dearly. ... Freedom's Journal, 1827
(America's first black newspaper)

Before and immediately following the turn of the twentieth century, five black newspapers were born in Athens. They thrived intermittently for about 40 years. Then the black press was silent again until the *Athens Voice* was heard in 1975.

It all began in 1879 with the *Athens Blade* which published religious and social news about blacks in Athens and some surrounding counties, in addition to substantial amounts of national news. This 25¢ weekly had a surprisingly large circulation: it was distributed in several northern cities, including New York and Washington, D.C., as well as about 25 cities and towns throughout Georgia.

The *Blade* was doubtless named for its ability to cut when necessary. Neither of its outspoken editors shrank from controversy. In fact, they welcomed opportunities to rail against any form of injustice. Here, for example, is an excerpt from one of William Henry Heard's fiery editorials:

These prejudiced white men do all they can against schools, so that they may be able to cheat the ignorant colored man out of his wages and to keep him ignorant so they may keep him poor. Young colored men, are you willing these things should continue – I am willing to die for liberty and every man that has a heart should be.

A closely contested municipal election campaign raged the year the *Blade* was founded. The paper endorsed mayoral candidate J.H.

¹ Reprinted with permission from *A Story Untold: Black Men and Women in Athens History*, 1978.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Carlton, whose slogan was “Free Schools for Everybody,” and openly condemned his opponent, a Mr. Talmadge.

In spite of its bellicose style, both black and white merchants advertised in the *Blade*. J.C. Wilkins touted the virtues of his \$8.50 coal-burning stove on the same page that former slave Ike Derricote advertised his boot and shoemaking establishment on Jackson Street. That issue also carried Atlanta University’s announcement of registration for the fall term. It advised prospective black students: “Tuition in common English branches one dollar, and in higher branches two dollars a month.”

Elsewhere in the paper you would have seen an ad for Smith’s Worm Oil suggesting, “If your child has no appetite and is restless at night, give him a dose of worm oil and relieve him.” In those days before the FDA and the consumer movement, “the greatest worm oil ever discovered [with] over 25,000 bottles sold to one honse [*sic*] in five months” was among the many quick cures which appeared in the *Blade* as well as other papers of that era.

The *Blade*’s popularity doubtless had a lot to do with the fact that it was published by two well-known activists. Both men were staunch proponents of equal rights for blacks, although each man pursued his goal in his own way.

Col. William A. Pledger was described in his obituary as “one of the most unique and forceful characters that have moulded public sentiment for more than a quarter century.” His co-editor, William Henry Heard, was equally unique and forceful. He had to flee to Athens in the late 1870s to take refuge from angry whites in South Carolina who objected to his winning a seat in the legislature.

Pledger was a lawyer, best known for his political talents. He served as a delegate to every national Republican convention from 1876 to 1900, and was honored four successive times by being selected as a delegate-at-large from the state.

As early as 1876 when he attended his first convention, the *Athens Georgian*, a white newspaper, described Pledger as “one of the shrewdest leaders of the Republican Party in this part of the state.” Four years later, he was elected chairman of the Republican State Central Committee of Georgia – the first black man to serve in that important post. However, his attempt to become Clarke County’s third black legislator failed eight years later.

At the first meeting of the Afro-American League in 1890, Pledger made what many of his contemporaries considered a “militant” address

ATHENS HISTORIAN

by “declaring that disobedience to the constitution was at the bottom of the race question” in the racially segregated South. Five year later he shared the speaker’s platform at the Atlanta Cotton Exposition with Dr. Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The exposition was the site of Washington’s famous address in which he urged blacks to “cast down your buckets where you are” and seek economic parity rather than social equality with southern whites. Although Pledger would later adopt Washington’s conciliatory philosophy, in 1895 he assumed a more demanding posture concerning the rights of American blacks. He told the exposition audience, “The Afro-American asks only for justice. He knows that he is entitled to that much ... and it is his duty to ask for it.”

Pledger risked his life on several occasions to back up his opinions on civil rights. Once he led a group of armed men to the Athens jail to rescue two black men, who had shot and killed a white university student, from the clutches of an angry lynch mob.

A native of Jonesboro, Pledger was born in the 1850s and died in Atlanta in 1904. A writer for the *The Colored American* newspaper summed up his life this way:

As a journalist he wielded a fearless and trenchant pen, and was among the first to edit a paper in his native state. He ... attended all the national conventions and [was] a potent factor in directing the course of thought that emanated from the colored press for thirty years.

Frederick Douglass, the prominent abolitionist, credited Pledger with possessing the unique qualities of mind that make men great. He predicted, “In the future, the hope of the race would come from the South,” because of the achievements of men like Pledger.

Pledger’s cohort, William Henry Heard, was also a native Georgian, who was born a slave in Elberton in 1850. He moved to South Carolina at the age of 23, taught school in Mount Carmel, and attended the University of South Carolina for two years.

At 26, he won a seat in the legislature, but an outraged white citizenry refused to let him serve his term. He therefore fled to Athens where he set up a school for black children in the basement of Pierce’s Chapel A.M.E. Church in 1876. That same year, Heard met Pledger when he began to study law under his tutelage.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

In 1879 – the year he helped to found the *Blade* – Heard was converted to the Methodist faith. He abandoned his study of law to devote himself to studying for the ministry and helping to edit the newspaper. Four years later, shortly before the *Blade* ceased publication, Heard left Athens to assume the pastorate of a Methodist church in Aiken, South Carolina.

He was later assigned to the Bethel Church, the African Methodist-Episcopal mother church in Philadelphia. By 1908, at the age of 58, Heard was ordained the 35th bishop of the AME Church, a position he held for 29 years until he died at the age of 87 in his home in Philadelphia.

The *Athens Blade* was a short-lived newspaper. Only one year after it was founded, Pledger changed its name to the *Atlanta Defiant* and moved it to Atlanta. He brought the paper back to Athens two years later, but it lasted only a year or two more. Heard and his “radical pen” moved to South Carolina in 1883 and the following year the *Blade* disappeared from the scene.

Athens was without a black newspaper for only three years until the first copy of the *Athens Clipper* came off the press in 1887. Its editor, S.B. Davis, continued to publish the four-page weekly for at least 20 years from his office at 116 East Clayton Street where the main office of the C&S Bank is now located.²

Billed as “the only colored paper published in northeast Georgia,” the *Clipper* had a weekly circulation of 700 copies. A one year subscription cost \$1.25, or about 3¢ a copy. Unlike its predecessor, it confined itself to religious news and other strictly local events in the black community.

On page one of a typical issue, a letter from a correspondent in Comer tells of a “sad occurrence” – the fatal shooting of an old black man named Jarrels by a white man named Moore. While Jarrels lay on his deathbed

... he was shot three more times by Moore’s brother who went to Deacon Jarrels’s house. ... shot 15 times in the house ... shooting Deacon Jarrels’s wife’s finger off.

² The southeast corner of the intersection of East Clayton Street with North Lumpkin Street.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

The report concludes with a warning that the Moore brothers were still on the loose and were allegedly looking for another old man and his wife, intending to shoot both of them on sight.

More routine was a report by editor Davis of a meeting of the Savannah River Baptist Association in Middleton, Georgia. Davis praised the quality of the sermons delivered at the convention, then added “The *Clipper* man was kindly treated by the whole association, and especially the ladies.”

The *Clipper* advertised the Uptown Barber Shop’s 15¢ haircuts, the South Atlantic Railway Line’s schedules, and S.L. Hicklin’s Newtown Colored Enterprise - Grocery Store. The latter promised potential customers that Hicklin “will sell to you cheap for cash, give you your money’s worth, and treat you white.”

Following Davis’s death, his widow Minnie published the *Clipper* for a short period of time, and then sold the newspaper to A.T. Jackson around 1912. Unfortunately, few copies of this newspaper are in existence today. The only known copies were found by the author in the possession of Rosa Mae Strickland, a retired teacher in Athens. They were subsequently presented to the Special Collections section of the University of Georgia Library.³

Even less is known about the *Progressive Era*, the third of Athens’ five black newspapers. We do know it was published by W.D. Johnson, D.D., a Methodist bishop, and W.H. Harris, a black dentist. While its predecessors emphasized political and religious events, the *Progressive Era* was apparently interested mainly in more and better education for its black readers.

By 1914, Monroe Bowers “Pink” Morton, a local black entrepreneur, had purchased the *Era* and was serving as its publisher and editor. Almost nothing is known about Morton’s journalistic career, principally because not one copy of the *Progressive Era* published during his editorship is extant. But his success in the business world and his activities as a political power broker within the National Republican Party are well documented.

In 1914, the *Athens Daily Herald* described the three-year-old Morton Building in downtown Athens as the “largest building of its kind owned exclusively by a colored man in the world.” Morton owned the four-story building as well as 25 or 30 other houses in Athens.

³ Now known as the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, Georgia.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

“Pink” Morton’s business career began when he was six years old. What he lacked in formal education (he had very little), he made up in motivation. From his first important job as hotel porter he went into the contracting business on a small scale. It wasn’t long before he turned it into a profitable business. “Without friends to back him or in any way to encourage him, but with indomitable energy, thrift and industry [Morton] forced his way through every obstacle,” according to the *Daily Herald*.

Morton retired from the contracting business temporarily in 1897 in order to accept the appointment of postmaster of the city of Athens – the second black man in Athens history to hold this prestigious position. He and former state legislator Madison Davis had sought the position, but Morton won the appointment largely on the strength of the publicity he received by having his picture published in the *New York World*.

Morton had the added distinction of serving as a delegate to the 1896 Republican National Convention, and was subsequently elected to the committee that notified William McKinley of his selection as the GOP presidential candidate. Morton’s daughter Maude also recalled being told that her father went to Washington, D.C., in January 1897 to participate in the inaugural activities following McKinley’s presidential victory.

During his five-year tenure as postmaster in Athens, Morton instituted many progressive reforms and improvements. When his term was up, the 43-year-old Morton went back to the business world with renewed enthusiasm. Investing large amounts of capital in land and building construction, Morton became one of the richest, most influential black men in Georgia and the Southeast.

The courthouse in Washington, Georgia, and the government building in Anniston, Alabama, are among the prominent buildings he financed or constructed. In Athens, his hometown, he built a \$10,000 marble building on Clayton Street. Another still bears his name, on the corner of Hull and Washington streets.

Built in 1910, the Morton Building began as a showplace for vaudeville productions featuring mostly black entertainers for black audiences. In the 1920s, when vaudeville was in full swing, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and other top-flight entertainers thrilled audiences with music, comedy and dance routines. The theater was renovated in the 1930s so patrons could see silent movies and, later on, talking pictures.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Eventually the Morton Building became the center for all important gatherings in the black community. For example, local black schools held their annual operettas in the theater in May. But the observance of the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1 of each year was the most important annual event held at the Morton Building, which became a proud symbol of the power and wealth of Athens' black middle class.⁴

The first black newspaper to be founded in Athens after the turn of the century was the *Athens Republic*. This paper filled the journalistic void that was created in the Athens black community after the *Clipper* and the *Era* disappeared from the newsstands around 1920. The *Republic* was published for an unknown length of time by a black minister whose office was located on Hancock Avenue in the Callaway Building.

Another black newspaper, the *Athens Republique*, may have been related in some way with the *Republic*. First published in November of 1919, the *Republique* was printed in Athens for at least four years. According to its motto, the eight-page paper was "Devoted to the Religious, the Educational and the Industrial Development of the Colored Race." The paper and its editor, Julian L. Brown, were closely associated with the Jeruel Baptist Association and Jeruel Baptist Institute.

Touting itself as "Small but Newsy," the *Republique* carried a variety of stories about black religious and social affairs in its November 3, 1923, edition. The lead story in this issue concerned the annual meeting of the Order of Good Samaritans in Hawkinsville, Georgia, on October 24th of that year. The nearly 200 delegates who attended the convention were addressed by Professor H.A. Hunt, principal of Fort Valley High and Industrial School. The reporter noted:

The business sessions of [the] Grand Lodge showed great progress and improvement in their methods of legislating and in the handling of business. Not one time in the whole of the sessions did the body become disorderly or unruly.

⁴ Editor's Note: The Morton Building sat unused for many years until a group of concerned citizens undertook its restoration in the 1980s. The building was restored in 1991 by the Morton Theatre Corporation and the Athens-Clarke County government. Today, the 544-seat theater hosts numerous performances and events each year.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Another story urged readers to “Remember the ‘Colored Boys of ’18.” A mass rally in honor of black World War I veterans was scheduled for the following Sunday at Union Baptist Institute. The *Republique* editorialized:

If the dominant race has failed to keep its pledges to these men; if they have accorded them even less consideration than they did before the war, let us – their own flesh and blood – show these men all the honor due to blood-stained warriors who returned from the battlefields with palms of victory in their hands.

The paper featured a lodge and church directory along with the inevitable advertisements. The Nemo Self-Reducing Corset Company proclaimed, “Good News for Stout Women.” Their \$3 corsets were real bargains, according to the ad. On that same page, Madam Lela Wright, a “Poro Hair Dresser,” asked readers to come to her hair salon in the Morton Building.

Editor Julian Brown also advertised himself as a licensed notary public and a “Maker of All Kinds of Legal Papers.” Beneath this solicitation, Mrs. Mary Causey of 89D Carr Street announced the availability of her “Scalp Curing” and “Smokeless Hair Treatment.” Finally, an apparently new product called *Musterole* was said to “do all the work of the old-fashioned mustard plaster – without the blister.” According to the ad, *Musterole* would give prompt relief from “bronchitis, sore throat, coughs, colds, croup, neuralgia, headache, congestion, rheumatism, sprains, sore muscles, bruises and all aches and pains.”

Following the demise of the *Republique*, there was no black newspaper to take its place until June 12, 1975, when the *Athens Voice* was founded by two students, Fred O. Smith and Michael L. Thurmond. They conceived the idea of a black newspaper while both were in their senior year at Paine College in Augusta. Less than a month after their graduation and return to Athens, the weekly *Athens Voice* was being sold on the streets for 25¢ a copy.

In the front page lead editorial of the inaugural issue of the newspaper, the editors stated that the *Voice* “has bridged a communicative chasm which has existed in the city of Athens” since the *Athens Republique* ceased publication during the mid-1920s. The editorial also highlighted the fact that the *Voice* grew out of a long-

ATHENS HISTORIAN

expressed need for a newspaper in Athens “of, for and by black people.”

Published by J. Lowell Ware of Atlanta, the *Voice* featured a variety of national, state and local news items, as well as editorial opinions. Rick Dunn and Harold Moon were members of the editorial staff.

Black journalism had another first not long after the *Voice* was launched. *Image* magazine, published and edited by Robert Harrison, was the first magazine ever published by a black man for black readers in Athens. The first issue appeared in February 1976.

Almost 100 years have passed since the first black newspaper was published in Athens in 1879. Throughout this period, black editors and publishers of the various news organs have informed and entertained their readers, while they pleaded the cause of the traditionally voiceless segments of the greater Athens community. Armed with the printed work, the *Heards*, *Pledgers*, *Davises* and *Smiths* have been the vanguard of movements to bring political and social equality to all the people of northeast Georgia.

The Power to Destroy: Taxation as a Cause of the Civil War

by Carl Vipperman¹

The dominant political philosophy of the Founding Fathers of the nation was traditional republicanism, an idealized system of government inherited with few modifications from classical antiquity. It furnished the main lines of argument leading to revolution and to the basic framework of government as established in the Constitution.

Republicanism rested on the foundation of the Platonic virtues of courage, justice, wisdom, moderation and the paramount rule of reason. These virtues served as standards of conduct for the man in public life. The essential requirement for citizenship was personal independence, being your own master, for a man not in a position to govern himself was not qualified to participate in the government of others. The selfless subordination of private interests to the public interest represented the ideal of civic virtue, and deviation from that ideal defined corruption. Private interests were never to be set in competition with the public good, for the good of the whole citizenry was the supreme law.

To see how our modern ideals differ from those of the Founding Fathers, it might be helpful to examine them within the context of what we now would call the “rights of citizenship,” then called “republican liberties.” Citizenship today is thought of as the birthright of all Americans, giving to each person the right of self-government and the basic freedoms associated with modern democracy, so that “liberty” means “equality.” This was not the case prior to the Civil War.

To the men who founded the American Republic, “liberty” meant property, including property in slaves. And because they believed that only the possession of property could guarantee personal independence, they limited the full rights of citizenship, including the right of self government, only to men of property.

¹ Editor’s note: This essay briefly summarizes the main thesis of the author’s biography of William Lowndes, congressman from South Carolina from 1811 to 1822, published by the University Press in 1989.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

All other persons were subject to oppression in one way or another. The Constitution recognized enslaved human beings as the property of their masters. They were to be counted in the apportionment of congressional seats, but otherwise slaves stood entirely outside the republican system with no legitimate claim to its benefits. The Constitution let the states decide who should vote, and in the beginning, every state in the Union imposed a property qualification on the right to vote. The states also relegated women, along with children, slaves, Native Americans and village idiots, to the status of dependent persons, incapable of self government.

The Founding Fathers had no desire to exchange a tyrannical monarchy for a tyrannical majority. What determined the legitimacy of government was not its form, but the interest it pursued. The fundamental purpose of all legitimate government was the distribution of justice to all citizens. Because what was conceived of as democracy created the kind of system in which numerical majorities exercised power, without taking into account the differences between the groups within the body politic, and consequently judged the validity of one measure or another on the assumption that the interests of all citizens were basically the same, the Founding Fathers rejected democracy in favor of the republican ideal. A constitutional republic was to be distinguished by a mixed and balanced distribution of power among constituent elements of society, traditionally categorized as the One, the Few and the Many, so as to prevent the abuse of power by any one of the three. Hence, any government in which the dominant individual or group ruled as if its own interests were that of the whole, was despotic, even if that group constituted a majority, for nothing in the classical republican tradition would authorize the majority interest to exercise an unshared power over the whole.

However, the remarkable consensus that the Founding Fathers achieved, compromising their differences to produce the Constitution and establish their new republic, began to unravel in the first years of the new government. One major difference of opinion lay in the question of how the new nation should grow, whether across space through territorial expansion, or across time toward economic maturity.

Thomas Jefferson and his followers favored the first, in the general republican belief that the independent yeoman farmer who labored “in the earth” and could “stand on his acres and vote his conscience” was the safest repository of republican virtue. The Jeffersonians went a long way toward achieving their “empire for liberty” by doubling the size of

ATHENS HISTORIAN

the country with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. With abiding faith in the good sense of the ordinary citizen attached to the soil, Jefferson wanted America to remain a nation of small farmers, essentially one huge Virginia.

Alexander Hamilton became the principal advocate of accelerated growth toward economic maturity. As historian Major Davis has pointed out, peoples who form new nations generally pass through four stages of economic development: nomadic hunter-gatherers, settled agriculture, commerce, then the exchange of goods with other peoples, and finally manufacturing. Since America was overwhelmingly agriculture, Hamilton saw it as mired in the second, agricultural, stage with gradual movement toward the third. He felt that until it began to develop its own manufactures, Americans would be the perpetual losers in commercial exchange with the British, forever serving as a colonial supplier of raw materials to the mother country despite independence.

To stimulate more rapid economic growth, Hamilton recommended a 50% increase in import taxes, from 8% to 12% ad valorem, which would discourage the purchase of foreign manufactures and encourage their domestic production. A personally honest and clear-headed realist, Hamilton had little faith in the notion of civic virtue. In setting up a government, he said, "Every man ought to be supposed a knave" whose loyalty might best be secured by appealing to his self-interest. For this reason, governmental programs such as his, programs which promised to give direct benefits to the leading class of citizens, were not only permissible, but desirable. Congress, however, rejected his tariff proposal, the only failure in his brilliant four point program for the national economy.

Following this setback in 1792, the tariff issue remained essentially dormant over the next 20 years, through the War of 1812. During the years leading up to that war, however, Congress passed several measures restricting trade with England and France, the chief belligerents in this phase of the Napoleonic wars, belligerents who routinely violated America's neutral rights. The pivotal measure was the Embargo of 1807 which banned all exports from America, including gold. This effectively idled America's merchant fleet, centered in New England, and raised a storm of protest from that region which eventually threatened secession during the War of 1812.

Some historians believe 1807 should be considered a watershed year in American economic history because of the pivotal effect the embargo had on beginning a wholesale shift of New England capital

ATHENS HISTORIAN

from commerce into manufacturing, and because of the ramifications of that shift on the post-war tariff policy. For example, New England had only eight textile mills in 1807. Within a year, that number had almost doubled to 15, and by the end of the war, the region had 110 textile mills in operation. The embargo, followed by the Non-Intercourse Act, Macon's Bill Number Two, and other restrictive measures, plus restraints on trade imposed by the war itself and the wartime double duties that raised the tariff to an average of 25%, all served to provide these "infant American industries" with a protective shield against foreign competition during their early years of growth. But the return of peace in 1815 brought the return of ships heavily laden with British imports "dumped" on the American market, threatening those infant industries with immediate ruin.

In response to rising clamor from northern manufacturers, Congress passed the Tariff of 1816, the first in a regular series of tariff legislation which became increasingly controversial. A general consensus, North and South, recognized the need for temporary protection at moderate rates. After researching the condition of manufactories in 1815, the South Carolina congressman who chaired Ways and Means set the average rate at 25%, essentially extending the wartime double duties into the postwar era, which, with a two-year limit, gave enough time for the "dumping" crisis to pass. Southern support in that period of postwar patriotism and prosperity hardly seems remarkable, but it serves as a fair example of civic virtue in voting not in the interests of a narrow constituency, but for the good of the whole.

The postwar prosperity of the Low Country rice planters lasted only one year, however, disappearing in a bewildering sequence of drought, flood and pestilence which deprived South Carolina's leadership of the means for continued largess toward their manufacturing friends in the North. Then national prosperity vanished everywhere in the Panic of 1819, prompting a renewed chorus of appeals from Northern manufacturers for higher tariff duties in 1820.

Congress divided its time during this session between two volatile issues: a protectionist crusade to raise tariff rates to an average of 33 1/3%, and a simultaneous crusade to exclude slavery from the future state of Missouri. An overwhelming majority of Northern congressmen supported both measures, the first a distinctly Northern interest promoted at Southern expense, and the other perceived as an unprovoked assault on a distinctly Southern interest. Sectional

ATHENS HISTORIAN

promotion of these twin objectives marked the beginning of the end for Southern faith in republican virtue in public office.

This is the point worthy of being called the “Machiavellian Moment” in Southern history, when the young and idealistic Southern nationalists saw themselves as a virtuous minority confronted with a corrupt majority engaged in a blatant display of sectional self-interest. These young Southerners could claim republican virtue because of disposal of their staple crops required no federal assistance. Having always traded their exports for imports of manufactured goods, and preferring British manufactures because of their acknowledged superiority over American-made products, Southerners regarded protective tariffs as special interest legislation, imposing a tax on Southern agriculture for the benefit of Northern manufacturers. And as everyone knew, with each rate increase on foreign imports, the price of the American-made article would also rise, so that whichever he purchased, foreign or domestic, the Southern planter would pay a higher price. This simple fact was the driving force behind the protectionist crusade: increasing tariff rates was the simplest way to increase manufacturing profits.

In making their case, protectionists claimed that the 1816 Ways and Means rate of 25% was too low to be effective and consequently was the principal cause of the present problems. This could be corrected by raising the rate to 33 1/3% which was the Treasury Department's recommendation in 1816. They borrowed their main argument from Hamilton's famous report on manufactures back in 1792, arguing that a nation cannot be truly independent until it produces its own manufactures.

But advocates of higher duties steadfastly refused to furnish proof of need for higher rates on specific products. Instead, they rested their case on broad generalizations concerning the depressed condition of the national economy as sufficient proof that tariff rates should be raised. Despite strong protests and near unanimous opposition from Southern members of the House, the tariff increase easily passed the House, but failed by one vote in the Senate.

That failure of the tariff increase in 1820 unleashed a torrent of abuse on the slaveholding South. Protectionist journals across the free-state North proclaimed that the manufacturing North had only exchanged British oppression for the “black despotism” of a Southern oligarchy whose policies were calculated to hold national industry in the “iron grasp of slavery,” refusing to the rest of the union the means

ATHENS HISTORIAN

of prosperity, treating Northern interests with contempt, making tributaries of the manufacturing states, impoverishing the free people of the North and West, and entailing misery on the black population of the South.

To the Southern minority, the conduct of the protectionist majority in 1820 marked an alarming departure from republican tradition into the unstable realm of democracy and potential tyranny under majority rule. From an early Southern appeal to “common sense and common honesty” to a final plea for a rational approach to tariff legislation based on research, the protectionist majority remained as steadfast in their refusal to furnish specific proof of need for higher duties as in their obvious indifference to the negative impact of their program on minority issues. Such conduct, it seemed to the Southern citizen, violated republican principles as ancient as Aristotle and as current as the latest republican petition.

The intersectional debates of 1820 over the protective tariff and the Missouri Controversy marked the end of an idealistic era and the dying dream of a classically mixed and balanced constitutional republic. In an ideological sense, it was a collision between antagonistic strains of traditional republicanism, the one more liberal and predominantly Northern, and the other more traditional and predominantly Southern. These antagonistic strains would collide repeatedly in the decades leading to civil war.

After 1820 the protectionist majority pursued their numerical advantage to the brink of disunion, raising their arbitrary import taxes to 33 1/3% in 1824, and then to a whopping 47% in 1828. This prompted John C. Calhoun to formulate his theories of nullification, the concurrent majority, and the dual presidency in an ultimately futile effort to protect the minority from the abuse of majority rule. In the process, Calhoun laid out the philosophical justification for disunion along with detailed instructions on the mechanics of secession. Following Calhoun’s guidelines, South Carolinians attempted to nullify the Tariff Act of 1832, but before they could get it done, the issue was compromised through gradual reduction of rates over a period of years, and that brought an effective end to the controversy over the tariff.

Although most Southerners disagreed with South Carolina’s radical response to the protectionist’s relentless drive to enlist the powers of the national government to benefit one portion of the population at the expense of another, the minority South never fully recovered the disillusionment, distrust and fear of the growing Northern majority that

ATHENS HISTORIAN

the controversy spawned. These sentiments gave a sharper edge to Southern reactions to another burgeoning crusade to exclude slavery from the western territories and thereby contain the slaveholding South to its current limits.

These controversies over slavery and the protective tariff were two symptoms of a nation undergoing profound change. One of the most influential areas of change was in the concept of citizenship, as discussed above, which was moving steadily away from its basis in property in the traditional republican sense toward John Locke's view that the three "Ls" were the only property a free man required for full citizenship: his life, his labor and his liberty. State after state abolished the property qualification for the right to vote, eliminating the elitist concept of citizenship it rested upon, until every state in the Union had adopted universal white manhood suffrage before the Civil War. This was all but inevitable in a republic of free men where an ever-increasing percentage of the population provided services and consequently measured their personal worth in terms of their labor. With these changes, the elitist concept of "liberty and property" became obsolete, and the modern concept of "liberty and equality" came into its own. The elitist republic had evolved into an American democracy.

This evolution and the way it changed the meaning of liberty and property brought enormous pressure to bear on the institution of slavery. The slaveholding South, acutely conscious of its minority and increasingly defensive, became a bastion of traditional republicanism, insisting on state and constitutional rights and protesting that the Northern majority intended to prevent the distribution of justice to Southern citizens who held property in slaves. Northerners appealed to what we would call "human rights" and they called on a higher law than the Constitution. In the process each section developed such a distorted image of the other that neither could compromise, and the war came.

And when the war came, it seems to this writer, it came as a collision between an emergent American Democracy and the last remains of the Old Republic.

Mame

by Mary Stark Bowers

The Woodlawn Years

When Mother and Daddy married, October 15, 1913, Grandpa Davison built a house as a wedding present for them on Woodlawn Avenue in the Five Points area.¹ It was a short street running from Milledge Avenue to a dead-end at Judge McWhorter's pasture. It was and still is a wonderful family street. There were many young couples with children, and we never lacked for a playmate. At night after supper we would all gather in someone's front yard and play the games children play – statue, giant steps and others that I don't remember.

When I was born, Mother had a nursemaid for me. Her name was Tempie Muckle. She was there for only three years and, unfortunately, I don't remember much about her. Then came Hattie Hobson, who became a part of our family. She was short and wide and she always wore a painted straw hat, which she repainted every year to "spruce up for spring." She lived in a nice little house in the back yard. In there she had a beautiful brass bed of which she was so proud. I don't know what happened to the bed when she died, but I'm sure by now it would be very valuable. Her niece, Mattie Green, whom we called "Sis," was our cook. She came to work at 7:00 a.m. riding the streetcar. Many maids rode together and they gathered much news of what had happened overnight. She stayed – cooking breakfast, cleaning, cooking dinner – and left about 3:00 p.m., when Hattie took over. I can see Hattie now sitting in a chair in the dining room while we ate. She didn't eat with us, but always sat there and joined in the conversation, a lot of which took place at our table. Mother and Daddy were very interested in politics and world affairs and there was much talk of these things. Daddy was a city councilman for many years, representing the Second Ward.

¹ Mary Stark's mother was Stark Cobb, daughter of Andrew Jackson Cobb, and granddaughter of Howell Cobb. Her father was Albert Edward Davison, son of Alexander H. Davison and Ida M. Dorsey, and a descendant of the Dorseys and Erwins of Athens. Many of her ancestors and kinfolk are buried in Athens' historic Oconee Hill Cemetery.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

In those days, turning six years old was a big event. It was the custom to have one's tonsils and adenoids removed before starting first grade. This happened automatically whether there had been any trouble with them or not. Then came the real big event of the sixth birthday. Although everyone had a birthday party each year, the sixth one was special. Daddy brought home some catalogues from which Mother ordered favors. I don't remember how many guests there were, but I'm sure it was a sizable crowd. Everyone arrived, gift in hand, and accompanied by a nurse or occasionally a mother. Mother and I stood at the end of the sidewalk to receive guests. According to Mother, I was far more interested in the gift in the hand of the guest than I was in hospitably welcoming that guest to the party. She said I would just snatch the present right out of their hands without so much as a greeting. I'm sure this caused great embarrassment for Mother. (Spoiled? Not me!)

For two years (rather than the normal one year), I attended kindergarten at Lucy Cobb Institute, causing some remarks later to this effect: "You mean you couldn't even pass kindergarten?" then I entered first grade and attended through the seventh grade. There would be only seven or eight students in a grade, and we certainly received a good education. Miss Carrie Walden, of whom we were scared to death, was the principal. She and her sister, Miss Julia, who taught third grade, were staunch Presbyterians, their father having been a Presbyterian minister. Much stress was put on learning scriptures from the Bible. The first year we were required to commit to memory the 23rd Psalm, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostle's Creed, for which we received a New Testament with our name in gold on the cover. The second year we were assigned various more difficult Psalms and passages from the Bible for which we received a King James Version of the Holy Bible, also with the name in gold on the front. In the third year, our passages were even more difficult and were rewarded with a book of our choice. Mother suggested I get the works of Alfred Lord Tennyson, which I did.

Every morning we all gathered in the first grade room and said prayers. Then we went to our respective rooms. The curriculum was the usual one for schools, but added Latin and French. No one ever became very proficient in these, but it did give a background for further study.

At the end of the year, there would be a play performed by some of the students, a Commencement Service with recitations of poems, and I don't remember what else. And then on the final Sunday there would

ATHENS HISTORIAN

be a Vespers Service in the Chapel. And the poor parents had to attend all of these occasions every year. The poem chosen for me, a fourth grade student, to memorize and recite from the Lucy Cobb stage at Commencement was *L'Envoi* by Rudyard Kipling. This, however wasn't my last time on stage at Lucy Cobb. I was in a play one year. Hattie had brought Ida, my little sister, and they were sitting in the balcony. As I came on stage, Ida hung her foot over the railing and said, "Mary Stark, look at my new shoes." That was probably the highlight of that performance.

Ida was born six years after I was. Just before she was born all the children on Woodlawn contracted whooping cough. That is, all of them except me. In those days people didn't pay as much attention to childhood diseases as they do now. So everyone else was playing outside, but I had to stay inside so I wouldn't catch it, probably because a birth in my household was imminent. Despite this precaution, however, I came down with whooping cough, and when Ida was born, I couldn't go see her. Hattie would take me to the front yard of the hospital and Daddy would hold Ida up in the window so I could see her.



Me and my little sister Ida

After Ida came home she was fed from a bottle, and I'm sure my reaction was natural for a first child, so I said I wanted a bottle also. They humored me in that, and here I was approaching my sixth birthday. While we were planning the party, Daddy said, "Now, Starkie, don't forget to give Mary Stark her bottle when the ice cream and cake are served." That was all it took to make me get "off the bottle."

One of the best things that happened at Woodlawn was when Papa Cobb built a new house next door to ours and became our neighbor. It was just wonderful to have him so close, and I got to see him even more than I did before. I would usually ride downtown with Sadie in the Tin Lizzie to pick him up at the Southern Mutual building after work, and we would laugh and tell stories all the way home. Those were joyous times for me.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

University Drive

In 1924, Daddy purchased a house and a large piece of property on University Drive. The house, a big, beautiful Victorian home, sat in the middle of the block on the corner of University Drive and O'Farrell. The back of the property extended to and included what is now Southview Drive. Daddy cut Hampton Court and Southview Drive from Agriculture Drive to Pinecrest. Daddy's dream was to open a subdivision, sell lots, build a few houses and make some money. The dream was thwarted by the Great Depression.

We move to University Drive in the winter of 1924. The house was a large three-story house, the third story being the attic. While delightfully cool in the summer, it was anything but delightful in the winter. There was no central heat, but there was a fireplace in each room, including the bedrooms and bathrooms. Burning these fires did little more than striking a match unless you sat really close to the fire. In one of the downstairs parlors where we spent our time, there was a big stove that heated the room and adjoining bathroom.

In that cold first winter, I had a severe attack of sinus trouble, the only time in my life that I had sinus problems. I was in bed for weeks with the most severe headache I've ever had. I was in an upstairs bedroom that was heated with some space heaters and the fireplace. It was also in this room that Ida had a severe case of pneumonia. I believe there was a time when they weren't sure she would make it. Of course, penicillin would not have worked for her, as it later turned out she was very allergic to penicillin.

One Christmas morning I came downstairs expecting the usual things – dolls, clothes, etc. Instead of these I saw a red saddle and a red pony cart harness. That gave me a clues as to what might be in store. I ran outside and saw a red pony cart. Then I rushed to the barn and found a brown Shetland pony standing there eating hay. Daddy told me the pony's name was Billy, so that's what I called him, although even at that young age, I recognized this to be an unimaginative name for a pony.

Jarret, our handyman, put the harness on Billy, hitched him to the cart, and off we went – my aunt Sadie², Ida and me – for a ride around the block. At that time University Drive was not paved and when you turned on to a side street there was always a deep gully. Billy pulled us into one of those gullies and when he tried to go up the other bank, he

² Sarah Tinsley Cobb, sister of Mary Stark's mother, never married.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

fell back and almost sat in Sadie's lap. Sadie shook at the reins and urged Billy on just the way she had seen it done in the movies, and at that urging Billy tried again, and with great effort made it to the top of the gully, after which we continued our journey around the block.

Sadie and Ida decided that they'd had enough of Billy for one day and returned to the house. But I was just starting. Jarret saddled Billy up and I went for the first of many rides around our part of Athens. Although I enjoyed riding the pony, it never became the serious hobby that it was for Ida when she got older. But I rode him a lot. I used to ride with one of my friends, Lois Burton, and we would ride down as far as the river on the Ag campus and all around that area. I also rode Billy to my piano lessons at Miss Kate Anderson's home on Henderson Avenue. I'd ride right up into her yard, dismount and tie Billy to an oak tree in the front yard, and go take my lesson. Then I'd ride over to my grandmother Davison's house on Prince Avenue and spend the night. They had a barn and people to take care of animals so it was easy for everyone.

One day I was heading for Miss Kate's and had gotten as far as Pinecrest when Billy decided to stop and eat some of the grass growing on the side of the street. I couldn't get him to move. I tried to pull his head up away from the grass. Stubborn thing that he was, he'd stomp his front hoof in protest and continue to eat. So I dismounted and pulled his head by the harness. He stomped his hoof again and struggled against my pull. Finally Billy had his fill and we continued on to Miss Kate's and my piano lesson.

Although Miss Kate never stomped her foot at me like Billy did, my efforts at music were similar to my efforts at horsemanship, and I never became either a great pianist or equestrienne. Contrary to me, my younger sister Ida was an outstanding horsewoman. She was a serious rider from the days of her youth until she was in her 30s. I can remember Ida coming home from school when she was young and dashing right out to the stable where she would saddle up and off she'd go and be gone all afternoon.

March 27, 1925, when I was 11, was one of the worst days of my childhood. I was downtown with my friends, the Haywoods. As we were coming out of Kress's, the local five-and-dime, someone said to Mrs. Haywood, "Have you heard that Judge Cobb died today?"³ Mrs.

³ Andrew Jackson Cobb was the youngest son of Howell and Mary Ann Lamar Cobb.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

Haywood replied, "Oh, that must be a mistake because this is his granddaughter." And I knew it couldn't be true because I had seen him just that morning. On the way home I realized that it might be true, and I was horrified at the thought. When I got home, I sat in the kitchen with Mother, and she confirmed that it was true. He had a heart attack while walking on Washington Street, near my father's store, and he said to the people who picked him up, "Take me to Albert Davison, which they did and laid him on one of the counters in the store until the ambulance arrived. He was taken to St. Mary's Hospital where he died that afternoon. I was inconsolable at our loss; I cried and cried.

I graduated from Lucy Cobb Institute in 1931, whence I went to Athens High School. Those four years were among the happiest of my life. It was my first experience of being in a co-ed school, and it was in my second year that I came to know Newton Bowers, who was to become the light of my life.⁴ I had always made good grades in school. With every report card I received an Excellence slip. In the fourth year, I was elected president of the Senior Class, my blow for woman's lib! I was one of five superlatives that year; I was voted "most popular girl," although I could still be a wallflower at dances.

After several years in the old Victorian house, Daddy decided that it was just too big, too hard to heat, and too much trouble to maintain. In addition, the property on which it was located took an entire block, and we really didn't need this much land. So he had the old house torn down and built a new one using the beautiful old dark wood doors, stairs, and wainscoting in its construction. This house is more of a cottage than the mansion it replaced and was located on a new lot that took up only 1/4 of the block. Daddy then sold the rest of the property, which had been subdivided into small lots. The new house – 320 University Drive – has been a place of much joy over the ensuing years and I hope it will continue to be so long after I am gone.

I entered the University of Georgia that fall. Rush week for sororities was far different from what it is now. There were fewer students and rush rules were quite different. Every night I would go to the Rush Week headquarters to pick up invitations from the sororities for the next day. There were only four sororities on campus then. Women had been permitted to come to the university only a few years before that. In fact, one of Newton's sisters, Polly, was one of the first

⁴ Newton Bowers was the youngest of the eight children of Dr. A.N. Bowers, Sr., a dentist in Athens for many years, and his first wife Mattie Bond.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

coeds. The sororities on campus were Phi Mu, Chi Omega, Kappa Delta and Alpha Gamma Delta; and I am proud to say I was rushed by all four and received a bid from all four. But I chose Chi Omega. Phi Mu was the first on campus, followed a year later by Chi Omega.

I thoroughly enjoyed my college years. The social life was wonderful – all the dances and sorority events. I also enjoyed the academics, at which I excelled. I majored in French, a language I still love. The only thing I didn't like about life at the University were the requirements that all undergraduates take and pass a course in physical education. I was terrified at the thought of having to take field hockey, as most of my friends were doing. So I enrolled in "Riflery." I don't recall much about shooting except that I was surprisingly good at it. So good, in fact, that on vacation one year in Daytona Beach, I mentioned to Daddy and Ida that we should go to the boardwalk and shoot the rifles at the arcade. They thought this was hilarious until we finished our little competition, and I had out-gunned them both by an embarrassing margin.

Editor's Note: This article consists of excerpts from Mrs. Bowers' memoir of the same title. Mrs. Bowers was a third-generation Athenian, kin to many Athenians through both her mother and her father. She and Aaron Newton Bowers, Jr., were married April 6, 1940, in the University Drive house, and spent the next 24 years as "Navy gypsies." They retired to the beloved homeplace on University Drive in 1964 and lived there for the rest of their lives; Newton died in 1994 and Mary Stark in 2000.

ATHENS HISTORIAN

INDEX

- 1896 Republican National Convention 40
- 1915 World's Fair, San Francisco, CA 12
- 1936 Olympic Games, Berlin, Germany 13
- A History of Emmanuel Church 1843-1993* 34
- A Man of Letters in the 19th Century South: Selected Letters of Paul Hamilton Hayne* 3, 9
- A Portrait of Historic Athens and Clarke County* 34
- A Qualitative Study of a Defunct Pottery* 34
- A Story Untold: Black Men and Women in Athens History* 35
- African-American athletics in Athens 15
- Afro-American League 36
- Aiken, SC 38
- Alabama 2
- All-American football 14, 15
- All-American Tennis 17
- Alpha Gamma Delta sorority at UGA 57
- American Republic 44
- American Studies in Honor of William Kenneth Boyd 7, 9
- Anderson, Charles R. 7, 9; Kate 55; Paul 19
- Annals of Athens* 34
- Anniston, AL 40
- Antebellum Athens and Clarke County* 34
- Appleton's Journal* (magazine) 2
- Armstrong, Louis 40
- As We Were* 34
- Ashford, John 19
- Athens Banner-Herald* (newspaper) 10, 11, 26, 28, 34
- Athens Blade* (black newspaper) 35, 36, 38
- Athens Clipper* (black newspaper) 38, 39, 41
- Athens Country Club 12, 18
- Athens Daily Herald* (newspaper) 39, 40
- Athens Flour Mill 25
- Athens Georgian* (newspaper) 36
- Athens High School 56
- Athens Manufacturing Company 23, 24, 30
- Athens Red Sox (black baseball team in Athens) 15
- Athens Republic* (black newspaper) 41
- Athens Republique* (black newspaper) 41, 42
- Athens Sports Hall of Fame 10, 15
- Athens Street Railway Company 30
- Athens Treasures*, AHS exhibition at Georgia Museum of Art, 2001 13
- Athens Voice* (black newspaper) 35, 42, 43
- Athens Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) 10, 13, 19, 20
- Athletics in Athens 10-20
- Atlanta Cotton Exposition 37
- Atlanta Defiant* (black newspaper) 38
- Atlanta University 36
- Atlanta, GA 12, 14, 23
- Atlantic Monthly* 1, 2
- Augusta Chronicle* (newspaper) 5
- Augusta, GA 3, 22
- Bacon, Delia 5
- Baltimore, MD 2, 24
- Bancroft, Cornelia Olivia 31
- Barnett Shoals 27, 29
- Barron, Captain Ellis 21
- Barrow, David Crenshaw, UGA Chancellor 11, 15
- Baseball at UGA 10
- Basketball in Athens 19
- Battle of King's Mountain 3
- Beatty, Rev. Troy 29
- Beaumont 34

ATHENS HISTORIAN

- Benedict, Annie Bloomfield 32; Dr. S.C. 32
 Bethel Church A.M.E. Church, Philadelphia, PA 38
 Birchmore, Becky 17; Danny 17; Fred 17
 Black, William 2
 Black activists in Athens 36
 Black entertainment in Athens 40
 Black entrepreneurs in Athens 36, 39-42
 Black journalism 43
 Black newspapers in Athens 35
 Black World War I veterans 42
 Blackmore, R.D. 2
 Blacks in the GA Legislature 36
 Bloomfield 32; Alfred 30; Ann Warren 30; Ann Warren Rodgers 21, 32; Annie 22, 24; Cornelia Olivia Bancroft 31, 32; Elizabeth Lee 22, 24, 34; James 24, 30, 32; Marion 32; Olivia 32; Robert 21, 32; Robert Kearney 22, 24, 31; Robert Lee 21-33
 Bloomfield Memorial Tower 33
 Bloomfield residential neighborhood, Athens, GA 29
 Bloomfield Water Power Company 29
 Bond, Mattie 56
 Bound Brook, NJ 21, 24
 Bowers, Dr. A.N. 56; Mary Stark 51; Mattie Bond 56; Newton 56; Polly 56
 British authors 2
 Brontë, Charlotte 5; Emily 5
 Brooks, Robert Preston 18
 Brown, Julian L. 41, 42; Wedford 16
 Bryant 2
 Burton, Lois 55
 Bush, Steven 26
 Business in Athens 21, 27
 Cairo, GA 16
 Calhoun, John C. 49
 Callaway Building, Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 41
 Calloway, Cab 40
 Calvin 4
 Calvinism 4
 Camak, James 28, 29
 Candler Hall Barons (fraternity at UGA) 15
 Carlisle, Olivia B. 21
 Carlton, H.H. 15; J.H. 35
 Carr's Branch 27
 Carr's mill pond 22
 Catholic Church 26
 Causey, Mrs. Mary 42
 Cedar Shoals High School, Athens, GA 15
 Charles Gayarré and Paul Hayne: The Last Literary Cavaliers 7, 9
 Charleston, SC 1, 3, 7, 16, 23
 Check Factory 25
 Cheney, F.W. 29
 Chi Omega sorority at UGA 57
 Chi Phi fraternity 15
 Childhood diseases 53
 Children of Israel Jewish Congregation, Athens, GA 26
 Childs, A.K. 22
 Civil War 11, 23, 26, 44, 50
 Clayton Street, Athens, GA 21
 Clothing, ready-made 22
 Cloverhurst Avenue, Athens, GA 15
 Cloverhurst Country Club 18
 Cobb, Andrew Jackson 51, 55; Howell 51, 55; Mary Ann Lamar 55; Mrs. T.R.R. 28; Sarah Tinsley "Sadie" 54; Stark 51
 Coleman, Kenneth 34
 College Park, GA 16
 Collins, Wilkie 2
 Confederacy 1, 3
 Confederate Army 23
Confederate Athens 23, 34
 Connors, Jimmy 17
 Constitution 50
 Constitutional republic 45
 Construction in Athens 40
 Cook & Brother Armory, Athens, GA 25
 Cooke, John Esten 2
 Copse Hill, home of Paul Hamilton Hayne 2-4, 8
 Cothran, L.A. 16
 Crackerland Championships 16

ATHENS HISTORIAN

- Cunningham, Alex 15
 Curry, Willie "Red" 19
 Daisy Checks 25
 Davis, Madison 40; Major 46; Minnie 39; Rev. Mr. 32; S.B. 38, 39
 Davison, Albert Edward 51; Alexander H. 51; Ida 52, 53; Ida M. Dorsey 51; Stark Cobb 51
 Daytona Beach, FL 57
 Deep South 11
 Derricote, Ike 36
Dictionary of American Biography, The 2, 9
 Dooley, Vince 18
 Dorsey, Ida M. 51
 Douglass, Frederick 37
 Drexel Institute of Art, Philadelphia, PA 32
 Dunn, Rick 43
 DuPree, Barbara 17; Sterling 17
 Dupree Opera House, Athens, GA 27
 Elberton, GA 28, 33, 37
 Electricity generating plant at Barnett Shoals 30
 Ellington, Duke 40
 Embargo of 1807 46
 Emerson 3
 Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Athens, GA 21, 28, 32, 33
 Emory College at Oxford, GA 11
 England 46
 Entertainment Tonight 17
 Eppes, Rev. Mr. 32
 Erwin, Goodloe 19; Howell 19
 Evans, Lillian B. 32
 Feild, Henry 17
 Fire protection 22
 First Methodist Church, Athens, GA 20
 Five Points, Athens, GA 14
 Football at UGA 10, 19
 Forbes, W.T. 19; Walter, Jr. 19
 Fort Sumter 22
 Fort Valley High and Industrial School 41
 Fortson, Blanton 18
 France 46
 Free Schools for Everybody 36
 Freedom's Journal 35
 Frierson, Jack 17
 Front Street, Athens, GA 22
 Gabrielsen, "Bump" 18; Jimmy 18
 Gant, Mr. 28
 Gayarré, Charles 2, 6, 7
 Georgetown Military Academy 2
 Georgetown, D.C. 2
 Georgia founding sesquicentennial, 1883 3
Georgia Historical Quarterly 1
 Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA 14
 German 11
 Geylen, Mr. 29
 Gingham check cloth 24
 Golf in Athens 12, 18
 Goss, Ralph 18
Graham's Magazine 1
 Grange, Red 19
 Granite 28
 Grant Field, GA Tech 14
 Greece 10
 Green, Mattie 51
 Grovetown, GA 2, 3
 Growing up in Athens 54
 Hamilton, Alexander 46
 Hamlet 5
 Hampton Court, Athens, GA 54
 Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 41
 Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library 39
 Harper's New Monthly 2
 Harris, Dr. W.H. 39
 Harrison, Robert 43
 Hawkinsville, GA 41
 Hayne, Mary Middleton Michel 8; Paul Hamilton 1-9; William Hamilton 9
 Hayne Circle, local literary society 3, 5
 Heard, William Henry 35-38
 Henderson, Dr. Matthew H. 28
 Henderson Avenue, Athens, GA 55
 Henry Feild Stadium, UGA 17
 Herring, W.F. 23
 Herty, Charles 10
 Herty Field, UGA 11, 13-15
 Hicklin, S.L. 39
 Hobson, Hattie 51
 Hodge, Bo 17

ATHENS HISTORIAN

- Hodgson, Asbury 30; Fred 19; John 19;
Morton 15; Morton, Jr. 19
Holland 12
Holmes 2, 3
Home and Farm (magazine) 4
Hooper, Charles Herty, Jr. 11
Hope Fire Company, Athens, GA 32
Howells, William Dean 2
Hudson, Jimmy 19
Hull 34; A.L. 29
Hunt, Professor H.A. 41
Hynds, Ernest 34
Ice skating on the Oconee River 22
Image (black magazine) 43
International Cotton Exposition,
Atlanta 3
Irving, Washington 3
J. & P. Coates, Philadelphia 29
Jackson, David K. 7, 9
Jackson Street, Athens, GA 36
Jarrels, Deacon 38
Jefferson 45
Jefferson College of Medicine,
Philadelphia, PA 32
Jeruel Baptist Association 41
Jeruel Baptist Institute 41
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore,
MD 10
Johnson, Andy 20; W.D., D.D. 39
Jones, Clarence "Jonesy" 19
Kappa Delta sorority at UGA 57
Kelly, Cobern 20
King Mill, Augusta, GA 29
Kipling, Rudyard 53
Knoxville 24
Lamar, Mary Ann 55
Lanier, Sidney 2, 6
Last Poems of Paul Hamilton Hayne 9
Law in the South 1
Leathers, Milton "Red" 16
LeConte Hall, UGA 16
Lenoir, Billy 17
Linton, Dr. John S. 23
Lipscomb, Andrew Adgate, UGA
chancellor 2-9; Phoebe Adgate 2;
William Corrie 2
Literature in the South 1, 4-6
Locke, John 50
Longfellow 2, 3
Louisiana 6
Louisiana Purchase 46
Lowell 2
Lowndes, William 44
Lucy Cobb Institute, Athens, GA 5, 52
Lumpkin Hill 10
Macbeth 5
Machiavellian Moment 48
Macon and Athens Railroad 29
Macon's Bill Number Two 47
Magill, Dan 10; Ham 17, 20
Maame 51
Manufacturing in Athens 23, 24, 26-31
Manufacturing in the South 47
Marine Corps Boot Camp, Parris
Island, SC 13
Marston, Philip Bourke 2
Martin, Charlie 14
McFarland, Packy 19
McKinley, William 40
McWhorter, Hamilton 15, 18; Judge
51; Robert Ligon "Bob" 14
Medical supplies 23
Memoirs of Lizzie Bloomfield 34
Mercer College, Macon, GA 11
Merchant of Venice, The 5
Meriwether, James B. 7, 9
Methodist Protestant Church 2
Miami Dolphins (football team) 20
Michel, Mary Middleton 8
Michigan 32
Middle Oconee River 29
Middleton, GA 39
Mikell, Bishop H.J. 33
Milledge Avenue, Athens, GA 29, 30
Milledge Circle, Athens, GA 18
Milledgeville, GA 22
Milton 4, 5
Missouri 47
Montgomery, AL 16
Moon, Harold 43
Moore, Rayburn S. 1, 7
Moran, Julie 17
Morris, Charles Ed 11; John 11
Morton, Maude 40; Monroe Bowers
"Pink" 39, 40
Morton Building, Athens, GA 39-41

ATHENS HISTORIAN

- Morton Theatre Corporation 41
 Mount Carmel, SC 37
 Muckle, Tempie 51
 Musterole 42
 Nashville, TN 11
 National Football League 16
 National Football Rules Committee 12
 National Republican Party 39
 Native Americans 45
 Negro All-Star League 16
 Neighborhoods in Athens 54
 Nelson, Bishop Cleland 29
 Nemo Self-Reducing Corset Company 42
 New College, UGA 10, 22
 New England 47
 New Haven, CT 12
 New Orleans Exposition of 1876 25
 New York 12
 New York City 21, 24, 26, 35
New York World (newspaper) 40
 Newtown Colored Enterprise - Grocery Store 39
 Nickerson, Thomas 29
 Non-Intercourse Act 47
 Northeastern Railroad 27, 28
 Oconee Hill Cemetery, Athens, GA 30, 32, 51
 Oconee River 25, 29
 Oconee Street, Athens, GA 26
 Olympic Games 10
 Olympic high hurdles, 1936 12
 Order of Good Samaritans 41
 Ordinance of Secession 22
 O'Farrell Drive, Athens, GA 54
 Pagem Satchel 16
 Paine College, Augusta, GA 42
 Panic of 1819 47
 Parris Island, SC 13
Paul Hamilton Hayne and Andrew Adgate Lipscomb, Brothers of the Guild 1
Paul Hamilton Hayne as Editor, 1852-1860 7, 9
 Paynem Jimmy 15
 Perkins Library, Duke University 3
 Pharmacy School, UGA 32
 Phi Beta Kappa 17
 Phi Mu sorority at UGA 57
 Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts 32
 Philadelphia Eagles (football team) 16
Philip II of Spain 6
 Pickens, Francis, SC governor 1
 Pierce's Chapel A.M.E. Church, Athens, GA 37
 Pinecrest Drive, Athens, GA 54
 Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, Athens, GA 22, 31
 Pledger, Col. William A. 36, 37
 Pneumonia 30, 54
 Poet laureate of the South 3
 Poetry in the South 1
 Polygamy 4
 Pope Hill, Athens, GA 22
 Pope Street, Athens, GA 32
 Postmaster for Athens 40
 Potomac River 24
 Pottery manufacturing in Athens 29
 Presbyterian church 21, 52
 Preston, Margaret Junkin 7
 Prince Avenue, Athens, GA 28, 55
Progressive Era (black newspaper) 39, 41
 Quantico 24
 Quartermaster's Department, CSA 24
 Rahway, NJ 21, 26
 Railroads in Athens 26
 Raleigh, NC 11
 Ramsey Center, UGA 18
 Rationing in Athens 23
 Reed, T.W. 26
 Republican Party in Athens 36
 Republicanism 44
 Revolutionary War 21
 Rhodes Scholar 18
 Richmond, VA 23
Robert Lee Bloomfield of Athens 1827 - 1916 21
 Robinson, Jackie 16
 Rodgers, Ann Warren 21; Dr. John R.B. 21; Rev. John, D.D. 21, 32; Rev. Ravaud Kearney 21, 31
 Rucker, J.H. 29
 Rush week at UGA 56
 Russell's Magazine 1
 Sandy Creek 27

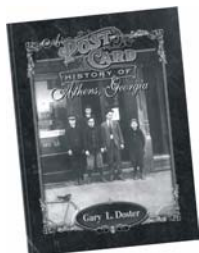
ATHENS HISTORIAN

- Sanford, Dr. V. 13, 14
 Sanford Field, UGA 10, 14
 Sanford Stadium, UGA 13, 15, 16
 Savannah River Baptist Association 39
 Schools in Athens 36, 52
 Science Center, UGA 16
 Scott, Jake 20
Scribner's Monthly 2
 Seed Visions 3
 Segregation in Athens 37
 Seibels 16
 Sewanee, TN 16
 Shackelford, George 10
 Shakespeare 3, 5
Shirley, novel by Charlotte Bronte 5
 Shoemaking in Athens 36
 Silversmith 22
 Simms, William Gilmore 2
 Slavery 37, 47, 48, 50
 Slavery in Athens 22
 Smith, Dr. R.M. 22; Fred O. 42; W.H. 22
 Smith College 3
 Smith's Worm Oil 36
 South Atlantic Railway Line 39
 South Carolina 37, 47, 49
South Carolina Journals and Journalists 7, 9
 Southeastern Conference basketball 12
 Southern Championship baseball 12
 Southern Collegiate Tennis Championships 16
 Southern Conference basketball 12
Southern Literary Gazette 1, 7
Southern Literary Messenger 1
 Southern Mutual Building, Athens, GA 53
Southern Watchman (newspaper) 22, 34
 Southview Drive, Athens, GA 54
 Spanish-American War 19
 Sports in Athens 19
 Springfield College, MA 19
 St. Mary's Chapel, Athens, GA 26
 Stagg, Amos Alonzo 12
 Star Thread Company 30
 Starks, Pleas "Clegg" 15, 16
 Stedman, E.C. 2
 Stegeman, Herman "Stege" 12, 16; John F. 10, 34
 Stewart, Theyx 19
 Strickland, Rosa Mae 39
 Suffrage 50
Sunday School Times 8
 Swimming in Athens 19
 Swinburne 2
 Talmadge 33; John E. 32; Olivia Bloomfield 32
 Tanyard Creek 10
 Tariff Act of 1832 49
 Tariff of 1816 47, 48
 Tariffs 46, 48, 49
 Tarkenton, Francis 20
 Tate Center, UGA 13
 Taylor, Bayard 2
 Tech High School, Atlanta, GA 20
 Tennis at UGA 11, 16, 17
 Tennis Hall of Fame 17
 Tennyson 2, 5, 52
The Black Journalists 35
The Century (magazine) 2, 6
The Colored American (newspaper) 37
The Galaxy (magazine) 2
The Ghosts of Herty Field, Stegeman 10
The Guest, poem by P.H. Hayne 8
The Independent (magazine) 6
The Power to Destroy: Taxation as a Cause of the Civil War 44
 Theater in Athens 40, 41
These Men She Gave 34
 Thomas, F. T. 34
 Thurmond, Michael L. 35, 42
 Towns, Forrest Grady "Spec" 12
 Track at UGA 10, 11
 Trains in Athens 22, 24
 Tuskegee Institute 37
 Typhoid fever 31
 Tyrannical majority 45
 U.S. Navy 20
 UGA Board of Trustees 2
 Union Baptist Institute 42
 Union blockade 23
 Union Point, GA 11, 22
 University Drive, Athens, GA 54
 University of Chicago 12

ATHENS HISTORIAN

- University of Georgia 2, 10, 22, 56
- University of South Carolina 37
- University of the South, Sewanee, TN 16
- Uptown Barber Shop 39
- Vaudeville in Athens 40
- Vipperman, Carl 44
- Virginia 7
- Wade, John D. 2, 9
- Walden, Carrie 52; Julia 52
- Walker, Herschel 15; L.P. 23
- War of 1812 46
- Ward, William Hayes 6
- Ware, J. Lowell 43
- Washington, Dr. Booker T. 37; George 21
- Washington, D.C. 2, 24, 35, 40
- Washington, GA 40
- Wee Willie Cottage, Athens, GA 3
- Weekly Athens Banner* (newspaper) 34
- West Lake Country Club 18
- Wheaton College, IL 19
- Wheeler, M.B. 17
- White, James 30
- Whitehall 30
- Whittier 3
- Wickliffe, Billie 17; Jo 17
- Wilkins, J.C. 36
- Women's Soccer at UGA 10
- Woodlawn Avenue, Athens, GA 51
- Woolson, Constance Fenimore 2
- Wordsworth 5
- World War II 12, 17
- Wright, Madam Lela 42
- Yale University 12, 14
- Yeoman farmer 45
- YMCA 12
- Yorktown, VA 3

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