

PHILLIPS COUNTY
HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

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The transfer boat, PELICAN, is pictured on
the front cover.

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FROM THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

By Eugene A. Roper, Sr.

WITH OTHER OLD BOATS GONE,
HELENA'S PELICAN STILL CHUGS

Helena, Ark., June 5 (year of clipping unknown, though probably 1948)--Chugging backward and forward monotonously across the Mississippi River thousands of times over the years, her innards stuffed each time with a gasping locomotive and a dozen loaded freight cars, the historic PELICAN, transfer boat of the Illinois Central Railroad at Helena, has outlived all of her oldtime playmates on the Big Triangle and is headed for many years more.

She has run the Mississippi for 46 years and has never been lifted from the water--not even to have her hull scraped or painted.

Her massive form is 305 feet long and her beam spreads across 91 feet--like a fat old dowager squatting majestically over her watery domain.

Her Contemporaries Gone

She has survived the famous old Memphis transfer boat, the CHARLES H. ORGAN; the saintly packet boat, KATE ADAMS, and even the "Big Mama" of the Federal Barge Line--the SPRAGUE.

She has been buffeted by ice gorges and tornadic winds; she has plowed through heavy driftwood during high water, but she has never suffered the slightest damage--a charmed life, indeed.

Her shepherd and master these last 18 years has been Capt. James A. Burnett, who ties in the job of skippering the PELICAN with that of being Uncle Sam's official weather observer here, too.

The PELICAN is the single link of the I. C. Railroad with the west bank of the Mississippi River. It shuttles freight cars to and from the State of Mississippi so that the long hauls up to

Memphis and down again by rail can be eliminated.

Through this method, the I. C. is saving shippers many valuable hours and princely sums in freight rates annually. For instance, a saving of \$173 is chalked up on a tank car of fuel oil consigned from Helena to Clarksdale or Greenwood or Grenada from the "Project Five" oil terminals here--just by moving the tank car directly across the river.

The PELICAN was built at Dubuque, Iowa, and was launched there in 1902. She went immediately into service of the old Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad in transferring cars across the Mississippi at Vicksburg. Later she was in similar service with the Alabama & Vicksburg Railroad that runs from Vicksburg through Jackson to Meridian, now a part of the I. C. system.

Came To Helena in 1930

But in 1930 when the bridge was built in that region, the PELICAN turned her back on the Lower Mississippi and chugged regally up to Helena to make her nest.

Her frame is believed to be the most powerful on the river today--and she'd be about the hardest to sink. Her hull drops down 8½ feet from her main deck and that hull has 54 compartments--small chance for ice or a drifting tree to do her much damage!

Loaded with box cars and a locomotive, she will draw 6½ to 7½ feet of water; empty, 4½ feet. The hull of the PELICAN was made in the days when steel was wrought in charcoal and there is no rust or oxidization. Those ¾ inch steel plates are as firm and staunch as they were in 1902, Captain Burnett says, and they'll probably not come out of the water for any purpose for years to come.

The PELICAN, of course, was not the first transfer boat at Helena. In fact, the I. C. built its first incline here in 1889 when the little transfer

boat, the JOY, could carry only three box cars. The JOY was lost in the river--the details are not recalled by oldtimers--and was followed by the CHARLES BERTRAM, which had a capacity of four box cars. The CHARLES BERTRAM was replaced in 1912 by the DEKOVEN, which could safely transport five box cars--and there is where Captain Burnett came upon the scene.

Around St. Louis, young Jimmy Burnett had been a pilot for the I. C. for six years when they asked him to take over the Helena transfer boat, at least temporarily. Burnett arrived in Helena one rainy night. Cherry Street--the main drag--was the only paved avenue here. The others were hub-dep in sloppy mud and it looked like every other business house was a saloon.

Didn't Like It But Stayed

Burnett immediately made up his mind he didn't like this town. But he's still here--35 years later, and on the same job. In fact, it was a pretty young lady who waited on him in the hospital when he got sick that made him change his mind. He married her.

Skipper Burnett, whose father was a river pilot and whose granddad was a river flatboat runner as well as pilot before him, began to like Helena, stayed on here and when the DEKOVEN was removed, he was given command of the W. B. DUNCAN in 1918. This was a still bigger boat, of 10-car capacity.

Twelve years later the PELICAN was brought up from the lower river and Captain Burnett took charge of her for the I. C.

The PELICAN has a sister, too, that was built at the same time in Dubuque--the ALBATROSS. The ALBATROSS has been made into one of St. Louis' most palatial river cruisers in that area and it has been renamed the ADMIRAL.

The nearest touch of disaster to the PELICAN during her years at Helena was in 1939 when an ice gorge formed in the river and pushed her aside.

She was forced into a list, but when the gorge disappeared, the PELICAN was riding the waves just as sound as she ever was.

FROM THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
October 25, 1956

CAPT. J. A. BURNETT TO BE BURIED TODAY

He Was River Boat Pilot For 42 Years

Services for Capt. James A. Burnett, retired river boat pilot will be held at 9:30 a.m. today at National Funeral Home with the Rev. I. H. Noe officiating. Burial will be in Little Rock. National Funeral Home has charge.

Captain Burnett died at 7:45 a.m. yesterday at his home at 340 South Parkway East from a heart ailment. He was 72.

Born in Evansville, Ind., Captain Burnett served on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers before moving to Helena about 40 years ago.

For years he piloted the Illinois Central Railroad steamboat PELICAN which ferried trains across the river at Helena. Captain Burnett retired three years ago and came to Memphis. He served as Cooperative Observer for the Weather Bureau for more than 40 years.

Captain Burnett was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena and the Supervisors Club of the I. C.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Camden Burnett; a son, William G. Burnett of Chattanooga; two daughters, Mrs. William Farrimond of Memphis, and Mrs. Fred Sperry of New Orleans, and three granddaughters.

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A LISTING OF THE TOMBSTONES AT THE COOK FAMILY CEMETERY

by

Alan T. Belsches
Chapel Hill, N. C.

In the 1850s as pioneer families crossed into the new state of Arkansas, many were the tasks that faced them before permanent signs of civilization could be erected in this vast new homeland. For the James Cook family who came to Phillips County from Yalobusha County, Mississippi in 1856, land had to be cleared, barns built, and a dwelling constructed to house the large family consisting of a husband, a wife, and seven children. As the years passed, the surrounding forests receded against the blows of mankind, and each family's residence in the new state was permanently established.

Yet death from disease or war remained a constant threat for all of the new families like the Cooks. In the absence of such modern institutions as funeral homes and public cemeteries, each family learned to provide for the dead with the only resources available. In most cases, because of the lack of an established church with grounds suitable for burial sites, families were forced to set aside a small plot of their own land to serve as the resting place for the remains of deceased family members. For the James Cook family, only four years were to elapse before the death of their five year son, James Henry Cook, necessitated the allocation of a small area of the surrounding fields as a family cemetery and the purchase of a marble tombstone from Memphis.

Ironically the permanence for which these early citizens of the state strived so hard to

attain seems to have remained illusive. Most of their original barns and houses have now long since rotted and disappeared. Through a century of buying and selling, their small farms usually consisting of only a few cleared acres, have been absorbed into the vast homogeneous fields that spread throughout the delta today. Only in the names and dates carved on the tombstones in the family cemeteries can be found the final reminders of the people who cleared the land and coped with death in their self-sufficient way. Frequently the grave markers lie scattered and broken beneath the shade of the ancient oaks and cedars, and these last traces of the pioneer families are being erased by the wind, rain, and ever-enfolding honeysuckle.

In contrast to the common fate of most of these early family cemeteries, that of James Cook and his descendants has not been reclaimed by nature. Located eleven miles west of Helena, Arkansas on the northern side of U. S. Highway 49, the fence-enclosed site lies behind the frame house owned by Raymond Kummer and can be seen from the highway. From its beginning with the burial of the five-year-old child in 1860 to the most recent burial of Bessie Winbourn who died at the age of ninety-one in 1975, the remains of twenty-eight members of the Cook family and their relatives lie within the cemetery. The following list of inscriptions was compiled by Mrs. Betty M. Faust and myself from the tombstones in the Cook Family Cemetery on August 8, 1978.

<u>FAMILY</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>DIED</u>
COOK		
ANNIE W. "Wife of R. J. Cook"	3-14-1867	10-21-1901
BROOKSIE "Son of A. L. & R. B. Cook" "Our darling one hath gone before to greet us on the blissful shore."	10-19-1879	8-14-1889

<u>FAMILY</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>DIED</u>
COOK		
"In memory of" FRANCES "C. G. Matthews, Memphis"	2-2-1814	8-7-1876
"In memory of" INFANT "Son of R. J. & Lucy F. Cook"	9-13-1883	
"In memory of" JAMES "T. Maydwell, Memphis"	4-8-1810	11-16-1872
"In memory of" JAMES H. "Son of Jas & Frances Cook"	9-11-1854	7-4-1860
LUCY F. "Wife of R. J. Cook"	3-18-1842	10-11-1898
LUCY W. "Daughter of R. J. & L. F. Cook"	12-22-1873	7-23-1879
"In memory of" MARY FRANCES ROLAND JAMES "Son of James & Frances Cook"	9-13-1867 10-27-1839	10-27-1964 4-21-1915
SUSIE L. "Daughter of R. J. & Lucy F. Cook"	3-3-1883	9-27-1889
HICKS		
ANNIE E. "Daughter of E. A. & S. E. Hicks" "Age 2 yrs, 2 mos, 1 day" "J. White & Son, Memphis"		10-15-1873
EDWIN A. "At rest in Jesus"	7-24-1888	11-29-1892
FRANCIS B. "Son of E. A. & S. E. Hicks"	1-17-1879	8-22-1889

<u>FAMILY</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>DIED</u>
HICKS		
GEORGE SMITH	1896	1899
"Son of J. C. & M. S. Hicks"		
"Early plucked is early bliss"		
JACK E.	9-13-1875	7-19-1889
"Son of E. A. & S. E. Hicks"		
JAMES	1895	1899
"Son of J. C. & M. S. Hicks"		
"The lovely flower has faded"		
J. C.	1868	1901
"Gone but not forgotten"		
"Holy Bible"		
LUCRETIA D.	1-28-1870	8-6-1876
"Daughter of E. A. & S. E. Hicks"		
MARION SMITH	1866	1936
"Mother"		
MARY SUE	5-3-1881	9-21-1883
"Daughter of E. A. & S. E. Hicks"		
SALLIE	12-27-1884	8-8-1889
"Daughter of E. A. & S. E. Hicks"		
"Our precious darling"		
SUSAN	1844	1912
"Wife of E. A. Hicks, Sr."		
"Mother"		
WINBOURN		
"Sacred to the memory of"		
MISS A. M.	10-17-1825	3-8-1873
ANN MARY		7-2-1916
"Heaven retaineth now our loved one"		
BESSIE	12-29-1883	8-13-1975
LUCY	3-4-1883	8-30-1900

"She was the sunshine of our home"
 "Daughter of Alex & L. J. Winbourn"
 "At rest"
 "Holy Bible"

<u>FAMILY</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>DIED</u>
WORD		
WILL BEATY	8-27-1898	7-18-1946
"Arkansas, Pvt 165 Dep Brig World War I"		

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A vivid contrast to this brief listing of Cook family members is provided by the multitude of family names found on the grave markers in the modern public cemetery located directly opposite the Cook Family Cemetery. Each of these burial grounds has fulfilled a need for the families living in this vicinity, but at different times and in different ways. Though the names of those buried in the Cook Cemetery may be unfamiliar to most people living today, the continued existence for over a century of this well-tended sample of a family cemetery should serve as an inspiration to others to preserve such similar historical sites.

For more information of the James Cook family see the article by Betty M. Faust entitled "The Cook Family Cemetery" in the June 1965 issue of the QUARTERLY, Vol. 3, No. 4, and in "The Diary of Sue Cook, 1864-1865, in the QUARTERLY of March 1968, Vol. 6, No. 2.

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On the page following this article is a photo of the Cook Cemetery, taken by Kate Faust in 1978.

On the page following that is a picture of some Cook family members and relatives. Reading from left to right, the adults are: Roland James

Cook, Janie Clark Cook Vineyard, Mary Winbourn, E. D. "Ras" Vineyard. The children, reading from left to right are: Annie Cook McGinnis, Mary Moore Vineyard, Jennie Cook, Winnie Vineyard.

April Meeting

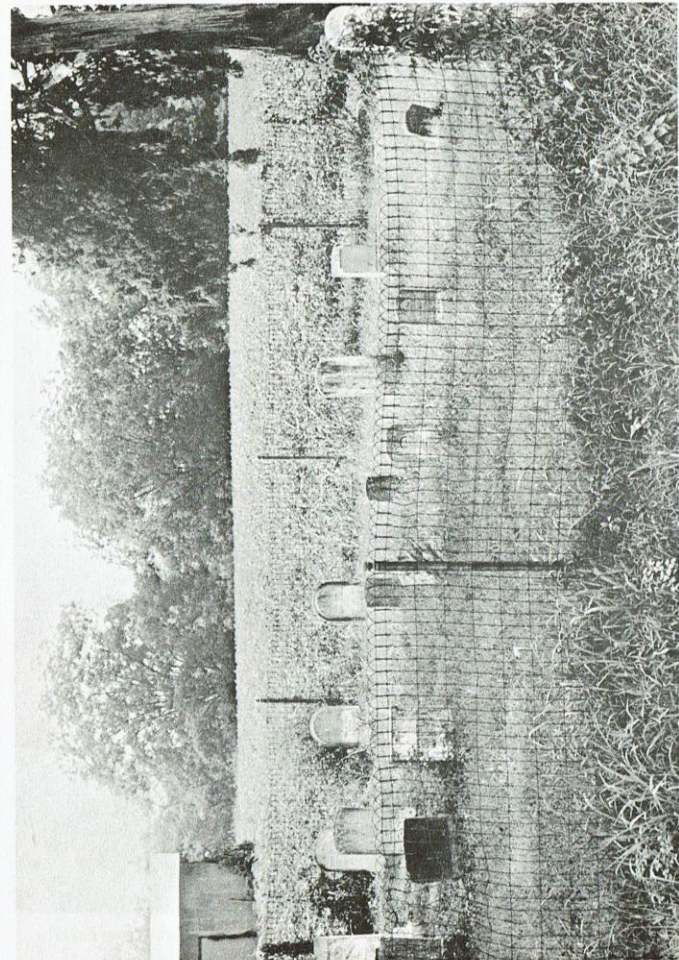
The April meeting of the Historical Society was held on the 22nd at the United Methodist Church in Elaine, with more than fifty people attending.

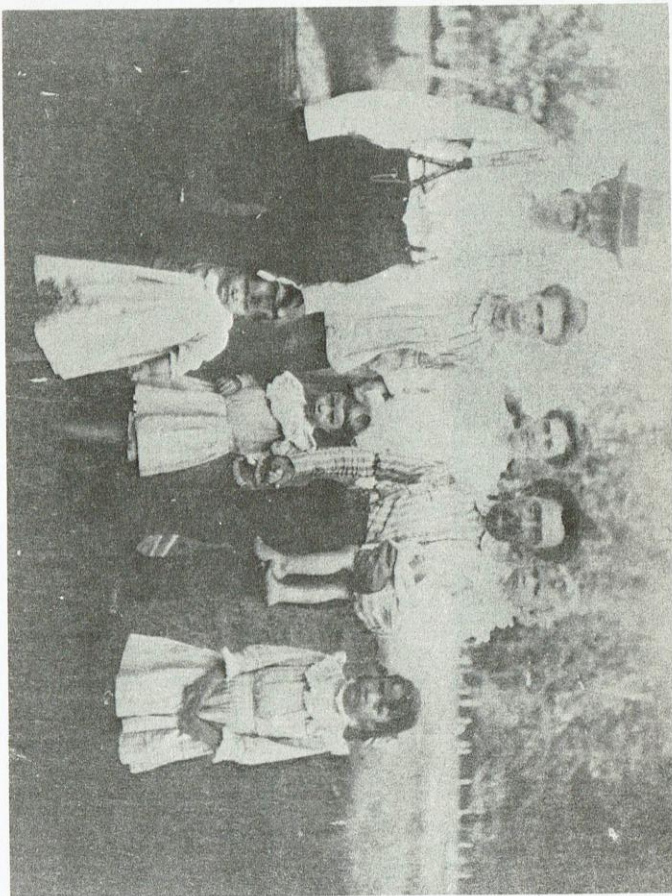
Mary Louise Demoret Jones, a native of Elaine, was in charge of the program on the History of Elaine. She had done a great deal of research to obtain the information, documents and pictures for the meeting. Some of these were shown on an opaque projector during the program. They were all on display for viewing after the meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Mrs. Jones gave a brief history of Elaine, relating several conflicting stories as to the origin of the town's name. Other longtime residents who spoke were as follows: Mrs. T. M. Mills, the Schools; Mrs. Ralph Kyte, Sr., the Methodist Church; Mrs. Lamar Marks, the Baptist Church; J. T. Moore, the Logging and Lumber Industry.

The Society is grateful to Mrs. Jones for her efforts to make this such a good meeting.

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THE HISTORY OF LEXA

by

Gloria J. Sands Gentry

(Note: This article was written as a school assignment in 1962.)

Lexa is a small "Dixie Land" town situated in the northeast corner of Phillips County in the state of Arkansas. Through the years Lexa has seen the coming and going of many fine people and buildings, yet through it all it has remained a true figure of the real South. What could give you a clearer picture of Dixie Land than living in this small community? Here you not only find the very new and modern but also the very old. Take transportation, for instance; it ranges all the way from the latest model cars to the old wagon, drawn by horses or mules.

Lexa has a wonderful history, one to which I cannot do justice even if I had written a novel about it. Some of it is dull in fact, but some is romantic and gay. After you've read it, perhaps it will come alive for you as it has come alive for me.

Lexa began not as a town at all, but as two very large plantations, one of which was owned by Judge John T. Jones who was once Circuit Judge of the 1st Judicial District, yet was a land owner in what is now the south part of Lexa. His land ran all the way from the Bonner place out on the other side of the mile pavement which comes into Lexa from the east. The other plantation owner was Charles Coolidge, whose land ran the same way but was on the north.

Nathaniel Lexington Graves owned the land which was needed for the right-of-way for the St.

Louis-Iron Mountain Railroad. He agreed to give the railroad company the land with the understanding that he could name the town. With some difficulty the town was finally named Lexa. Lexa is unique in that it is the only town in the United States bearing that name.

In the year 1907, Judge Jones died. His estate was unsettled for a number of years. But at last it was settled and by 1914 it was sold and divided into lots and all the streets named. Some of them were as follows: from east to west, First Street (which is now the main pavement); the street running directly in front of the Methodist Church was named Second Street. Main Street runs on the south side of the Methodist Church and Fourth Street runs from the Lexa School down to Cecil Speck's home. The street which runs north and south from J. R. Baker's down to the main pavement is Walnut Street. Spruce Street runs from Mrs. Gordon's to Mrs. McDonald's. The street I live on, which runs north-south in front of the Baptist Church, is Cedar Street. Going west, the next street which also runs north-south is Poplar Street where the Fred Griffins live.

Later Mr. Coolidge thought his side of town would prosper also, so it was divided into subdivisions, but it never really grew.

The Missouri Pacific Railroad is given credit for bringing Lexa to life overnight in 1908, and it was also used as the dagger to kill it in 1927. The Missouri Pacific bought out the Iron Mountain Railroad and they built shops for servicing engines, cars and other equipment at what was called North Lexa. This necessitated the employment of so many men that it sprang into a large size town overnight.

In 1909, the Hotel Vannoy was built so that the service men would have a place to stay. It was a large brick building which was later moved

up to the main part of Lexa, and from there it was dismantled when Lexa was abolished as a rail terminal in 1921. It was abolished because of the increase in the size of engines which made it unnecessary for the trains to stop to be serviced. The railroad shops were moved and as there was no longer sufficient employment, many families sold their homes and moved away, leaving Lexa practically a ghost town.

Although most of the people moved when the railroad did, there were still some jobs left so that everyone did not move. The depot has worked a 24 hour shift ever since the early 1900s, even through the depression. But last week for the first time since 1909, the depot had a lock on its doors.

Perhaps now after giving you both the birth and death of Lexa it would be appropriate to show you just how it was at its height, which was in 1911. A newspaper man made a visit to Lexa and, in his own words, this is how he found it:

I arrived at Lexa on the morning train, the M. & N. A. I found on every hand, building, painting, cleaning up and most of all a hopeful spirit for a grand future. Among the 25 or more men we met, merchants, doctors, mechanics, railroad boys, farmers, etc., there wasn't a grouch. Everyone was cheerful as they went about building a new town. Within the past year more than 100 new houses have been erected.

Lexa is in the heart of a rich agricultural section. The farmers there are growing every thing; strawberries are a leading crop.

J. H. Davis is the principal strawberry grower, while C. E. Todd, his son-in-law, is the nurseryman selling the plants.

Lexa has five general stores, one new and first-class drug store, three hotels, a high class restaurant open day and night and several boarding houses. It is a freight

division of the Missouri Pacific and this company maintains a 13 stall round house and a machine shop there employing men sufficiently to create a semi-monthly payroll of \$9000.

My first halt was in front of a great concrete store building being built for C. M. Warfield, a substantial merchant there. Next I met Thomas A. Mansfield, a contractor and builder. He had moved his family to Lexa where he has erected 110 houses. Then I met M. B. Houser who is one of Lexa's leading merchants. He and his clerks were too busy that day to spare use of any time so we hurried on.

From there we went into Tony's restaurant, as well a place as you would find anywhere. Tony Muscalino is the proprietor. His place is lighted by electricity of his own production. Dr. E. T. Brown is the local surgeon.

I left Lexa with hope of returning soon for a much longer visit.

I'm sure this will give you a view of the boom town Lexa once was.

As Lexa grew so did its schools. Let's take the Negro schools first. The first one was Renrich Grove and the teacher was Fred Edmond. The name of the second school is unknown, but it is still standing on the road going out to Southland; then it was consolidated with Oneida.

The first white school was the Ford School on the George Kloene place. The first known teacher was Mrs. Lizzie Warfield, second was Mrs. Gist, and third was Al Bonner. It was a one room school.

Later Mr. Ruth and Mr. Davison who were real estate men from Pine Bluff, built what is now the

Methodist Church, but at this time it was the first real Lexa School. Some of the teachers who taught here were Miss Carrie Boone, Miss Sue Keesee, Mrs. Dora Hanly, Mrs. Beulah Warfield, Miss Minnie Foster and others whose names I could not acquire.

Some years later, Tony Muscalino gave the land where the small white school stands now. In 1923, a large two story building was erected. It had three large classrooms downstairs, two upstairs and a big auditorium. It had first through the twelfth grades. The first superintendent was Mr. Slaughter. Some of the first teachers were Mrs. Aunthy, Mrs. Slaughter, Miss Barker, Mrs. George Howe and Mrs. Charles Warfield who taught music and was later superintendent. The courses offered were in domestic science and agriculture. They also had two years of Latin. The school boasted of good basketball and football teams which were coached by Johnny Geagle. They even played schools as large as West Helena. The number of students enrolled were about 125. Most of the classes were combined yet it offered complete high school courses.

Before this school could actually take root, it burned. I could not discover the exact year. In its place a much smaller school was built which had only the grammar school. Mrs. Doug Herring taught the first and also the second and third grades, while Miss Countrail taught the fourth through the sixth. But as time went on there were only the first three grades left, with Mrs. Herring teaching them. I had the joy of going to this very small but adequate school. I remember well how different classes would take their turn with the teacher for reading or spelling lessons. We had all the same subjects as before, but now there were fewer of us. When I left Lexa school to go to Barton in the fourth grade I left behind a classroom which only had nine students in the first through third grade. But as I remember, it was all great fun, and a wonderful experience. Now there is no

school in Lexa at all. It is now consolidated with Barton High School.

In 1925, a large ice manufacturing and storage plant was built, which employed a large number of Lexa residents. But it took a big number of men to accomplish the jobs of this plant. The plant supplied ice for the surrounding area before the days of so many electric refrigerators, and up until a very short time ago it supplied ice for summer use to a number of towns like Helena, Elaine, Forrest City and Wynne. But now the ice plant has had to close its doors. Now there is little work to be found in Lexa.

An event which all lovers of tales of the early West would like, is that of Jesse James's visit to Lexa. He and his gang had robbed a bank near Bricks, and in the get-away he fell off his horse and broke his arm. Dr. Graves, of Lexa set it for him.

The people of Lexa still remember some of the first things they saw of this modern world; the Graphophone. The Negro women I talked with said that one Saturday night after Mr. Coolidge had paid all his hands, he called them all up to the store, saying he had something to show to them. That night they were all there to hear the first Graphophone they had ever seen. They well remember how it looked, with the two horns and the mummy dog sitting between them. They also remembered the first automobile they saw in 1908.

One of the most interesting events connected with the history of Lexa is the founding of a college in 1866. The Quakers, sometimes called "Friends," came down from the North and built a college for the Negroes who had been freed from slavery. They called it Southland College. It was located about three miles east from the city limits.

Teachers were mostly young white women who lived at the college, a most unheard of thing in the South at that time. It has been said that the white

people would have nothing to do with any of these teachers.

Farm land was acquired and the pupils were able to work for their room and board by tilling the soil. Most of the produce used at the college was grown on their own land.

The Quakers maintained the school for a number of years, but it closed during World War I. The Negro Free Masons bought the property, but it was not operated long under that management.

The ownership passed to the Negro Methodist Church under the able management and direction of Bishop W. W. Matthews, a very well educated Negro from Washington, D. C. The name was then changed to Walters-Southland Normal and Industrial Institute. It became an accredited college with courses offered in higher education, religious education, music, farm and business management and many others.

The school flourished. Several new buildings were built, including a large brick administration building with classrooms and a well equipped gymnasium, and also two dormitories and a teacherage. They acquired 167 acres for a farm. Students were registered from all states, north, south, east and west. It was not long, however, before lawsuits involving ownership developed and the school closed again. The buildings are now empty and are offered for sale.

One of the main reasons for the failure of the old Southland College was its inaccessibility because of the dirt roads which were impassable several months of the year. But in the last six or seven years these roads have been replaced with good gravel roads, so Southland College which added much to the history of Lexa, may flourish again.

My search for information took me out to Southland College where I was shown through the administration building and the girls' dormitories.

I found the administration building in almost complete ruin due to neglect. Some of the stairs were no longer passable and the floor of the auditorium and gym had fallen through in places. Part of a new heating system had never been installed. Next I was shown through the girls' dorm, a large two story building in which a Negro family now lives. Here I found shelves of books which had belonged to the college, and also several pianos. As I walked up the stairs I noticed the beauty of the carved railing. On up in the attic I saw evidence of more rooms being added which were never completed. This is how I found Southland College in 1962.

While Lexa flourished several small businesses were built but didn't last. Lexa once had a movie house, whose name and owner I could not obtain. It also had a pool hall owned by Tony Muscalino. Lee Yeager was the mortician, 1918-1930. Lexa also had a cleaning plant in 1913, owner unknown.

No history of Lexa would be complete without a sketch of the growth of the post office, probably the only institution in Lexa which has shown a growth through the years. It grew from a small fourth class post office, conducted in a store, to a high third class.

The first post office was in Charles Warfield's store, 1897-1910, and he was the first postmaster of Lexa. From there it was moved to one side of a little depot which burned, and from there to several stores. Then a little white frame building was built, and in 1956, a brick structure was built.

North Creek, Southland and Latour post offices all consolidated with Lexa. These communities are still known by these names but they are serviced from the Lexa post office by rural routes. Two rural routes emanating from the Lexa postoffice serve a total of a thousand families, covering a territory of nearly one hundred and twenty-five miles. Although the actual population of Lexa is

listed at five hundred in the last census, actually nearly twenty-five hundred people have this town as their mailing address.

The pride of Lexa is its two churches. The Baptist, with a membership of nearly two hundred and fifty, owns its building with educational rooms and also a modern seven room parsonage. The Methodist has a membership of about one hundred and fifty. This building, which was formerly the Lexa School, has been remodeled and an educational building has been added. These two churches, working harmoniously, build the spiritual life in Lexa. There was once a time in Lexa when there were no churches, so the people that remember those days are even more grateful for our churches.

The depression in 1929 hit Lexa like it did every other town. The people say it was a great summer, but in the fall many of them lost everything they had. Land changed hands as it never had before in Lexa's history.

Prohibition was the same here as anywhere else. Some people respected the law and went along with it, while others continued to make "white corn liquor."

During both wars the people of Lexa pulled together just as everyone else in the United States. They worked hard for one thing--the winning of the wars. It has been said, yet I can find no real proof, that during World War II President Franklin D. Roosevelt saluted Lexa for having more men in the armed forces by population than any other city or town in the United States. (I do not know this as fact.)

Now as best I could I have given you the facts I have been able to find about Lexa. But the events and happenings are not what made it all. The depot has closed its doors and now the ice plant also has shut down. There is little left of this once boom

town, as far as the business world goes, but what is left is by far the most important, and that is the people who chose to stay. Most of these are retired railroad men or widows with children. Some have jobs here and some work in Helena and continue to make this community their home. What these people have kept through the years is a real love for each other. Lexa is noted for its friendliness and charity to those in need. A stranger has yet to pass through and leave as a stranger. Here you always find a helping hand and friends. When someone loses a home by fire or there is a death or tragedy in a family, there is nothing overlooked that can be done for them.

So as long as I live I will be grateful for the privilege of growing up in this wonderful little village. I will long remember the way the first warm days hit Lexa, a busier place you'll never find. All the yards and households have to be spotless. The people here seem to love their work and do it with enduring cheerfulness.

Each Sunday morning as I hear the Negro church bell toll, it reminds me to go to church and it also reminds me of how grateful I am that I can call Lexa "my home town."

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Oscar Crouch, Lexa	Lillie Stephens, Lexa
Anne Frierson, Lexa	Mrs. Chas. Warfield, Lexa
Elizabeth Garth, Lexa	Assessor's Office, Helena
The late Mrs. F. H.	Sarah Richardson, Lexa
Holland	

**

The author of this paper had many footnotes in it, telling exactly where her information had come from. We did not follow her in this, but only listed her sources as shown in her BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EARLY REVIVALS

by

Gene Bradford

On June 21, 1899, a fiery Methodist preacher came to Helena to hold a city wide tent revival. A tent large enough to seat 1000 was set up on the Jefferson School grounds and the Reverend John B. Culpepper and his two sons, Burke and Marvin, held daily services. When they left two weeks later, Helena had two new organizations--Women's Christian Temperance Union and Young Men's Christian Association.

The HELENA WORLD of June 28 reported that "Mr. Culpepper was deeply interested in his subject (home) and spoke at length begging his hearers to give him a little more time. He was very appreciative and expressed himself so of the kindness of the businessmen who had closed this morning to attend the meeting and allow their employees to do so."

In the same issue there was also a report of the temperance rally held by Evangelist Culpepper at his tent the night before. Two hundred and thirty-seven names were given as a result of a call to sign the pledge to "abstain from all intoxicants as a beverage." The next morning seventeen more names were added.

The next issue of the HELENA WORLD, July 5, carried several articles about the Reverend Culpepper and his crusade.

One report said in part: "Probably the most far-reaching good work of the Reverend Culpepper has fermented up to an enthusiastic beginning of the YMCA movement. After opening the doors of the WCTU at the temperance rally yesterday afternoon, Mr. Culpepper thought it a most propitious time to

reap from some of the seed he had sown.....so he proceeded to make a call for men who were willing to father and attempt to organize a YMCA. The response was inspiring--just an even one hundred men walked up to the front and volunteered to take up the great work...Later four more names were secured and the enterprise seems to have bright prospects."

Two other articles told of the final service. One stated that after two weeks of work the Reverend Culpepper had succeeded in winning over 100 souls for Christ and that his two Godly sons, Burke and Marvin, had been great factors in the success of the meeting. (One of that one hundred was my aunt, Henrietta Kloene, who seventy years later still loved to tell of the great Culpepper revival.)

The other article began, "The Culpeppers, father and sons, have left the city," and proceeded to report on the final service. "At services last night the Reverend Culpepper, though physically weak and worn, was at his best.....At the close of the services the Reverend Rosamond, First Baptist Church, made a call that resulted in some 1300 people standing as one in a vote of thanks to the great evangelist." Burke and Marvin made farewell speeches followed by a response from the Reverend C. H. Lockwood, rector of the Episcopal Church. The Reverend Culpepper left the next day for Kentucky.

In July, 1916, one of the sons, Burke, returned to Helena to hold another city wide revival. An even larger tent was pitched on the Jefferson School grounds and services held for three weeks and two days. The revival was cut short, when on July 23 the Reverend Culpepper returned to his room at the Nicholas Hotel and found a telegram telling him that his father in Olathe, Kansas, was to be operated on.

The Reverend Culpepper held meetings in several parts of the city in addition to the nightly

tent meetings. The HELENA WORLD reported a noon meeting at Pekin on July 5, services downtown on Cherry Street after each morning meeting beginning with one on the Palace Drug Store corner and in front of the Ridgeway City Drug Store, a 3 PM meeting on July 16 at Beechcrest attended by from 2000 to 2500, and a Sunday afternoon service for Negroes with about 2000 present, including 20 pastors.

FROM THE HELENA WORLD

July 7, 1916--In spite of terrific winds which prevailed yesterday afternoon doing considerable damage to the big tent and in spite of last night's rain more than 1000 enthusiastic persons greeted the Reverend Culpepper. It had been announced he would preach his famous sermon on Pig Track Honesty and many, no doubt, had come to hear that sermon.

July 12--The meeting this morning was one of the most remarkable yet held in that Evangelist Culpepper had least to say of anybody. He simply had no chance. At the opening of the meeting he asked if anyone had heard of any good that the meeting had done so far. At once the news spread that the business organization referred to in last night's meeting had torn up their cards and thrown away their dice.

July 14--Signs of definite results already achieved as reported to the Reverend Culpepper.....parimutual betting machines would be missing from the race tracks when the District Fair is held in October and possibly the bathing suit dances may be discontinued.

July 19--Last night it looked like it was not going to be Culpepper's meeting at all. Brother Reeves got the stand first and made things hum for a while.....Yesterday there arrived from Little Rock a list of the names of the signers of the petition to refer the prohibition law to a

vote. Brother Reeves did not read the list..... The actual reading will take place soon. (Time was being given for all who wanted their names removed to do so.)

On July 25 there appeared a letter from the Reverend Culpepper who thanked the Board of Trade for its stand against lawlessness. He went on to thank, first--the Reverend Reeves (Methodist minister) for the invitation to come to Helena, Mrs. C. M. Reeves and Professor Pomeroy for the splendid work at the pianos and Mr. Graham for the splendid write ups, and second--"Thanks to Ridge City, Draper Carter, And Govan drug stores for cool refreshing drinks sent to my room during my illness. I trust that in closing the drug stores on Sunday, God will prosper you."

On August 10, 1916, the ARKANSAS METHODIST reported:

It can no longer be said that Helena is past being reached by the gospel...A large tent that would accommodate 3500 people was rented and put up in the center of town. With the exception of two nights when it rained, this was filled with hundreds of people standing around on the outside. People came from every part of Phillips County and from all towns around about Helena as far north as Jonesboro. All churches took active part....Every church in the town was genuinely revived. As to conversions, there were many. Already the First Methodist Church has received 91 members and many others have given their name for membership....we were just beginning to reap our harvest when we had to close.

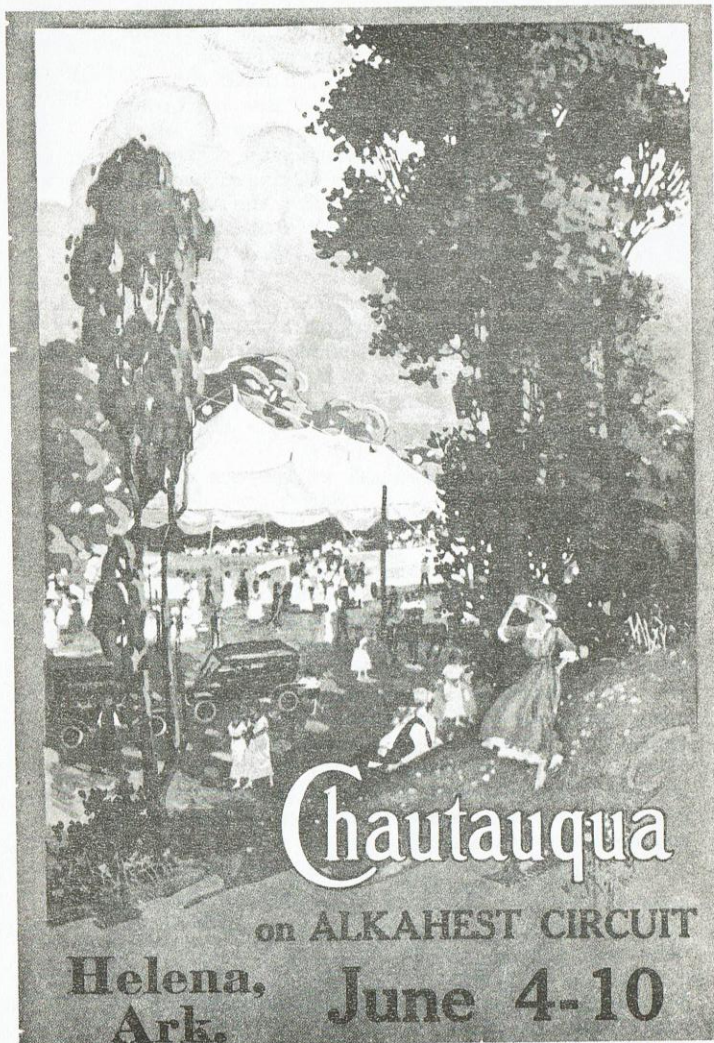
But great as was the ingathering of the souls, perhaps the greatest results were in creating sentiment against the many

forms of lawlessness for which Helena and Phillips County are noted.....The citizens of the town met in the courthouse on Monday night after the meeting closed and organized one of the strongest law and order leagues ever organized in the state. Many predict that through the efforts of this organization, composed as it is of the best citizens of the whole county, the liquor men will not be able to carry Phillips County for the repeal of the prohibition law.....

The man who led this great campaign was the Reverend Burke Culpepper. Not a few of his friends predicted that in spite of his success at other places, he would not be able to wake up this place. But the results of the meeting justify the statement that no place is too hard for him. The gospel which he preaches will reach any place.

The next page shows the front of a program of the Alkahest Chautauqua Group which visited Helena in 1916, during the month before the revival led by the Reverend Burke Culpepper. The booklet said that the "Chautauqua Movement combines the great uplifting qualities of the old-time barbecues, camp-meetings and country fairs." It was explained that "there is an insistent demand for a moral and religious association broader than the sectarian church, closer to the needs of the people and more in touch with modern ideals and the new education."

On the first day of the Chautauqua, the main speaker was the Honorable William Jennings Bryan whose subject was "The Prince of Peace." There were many musical groups with the Chautauqua, including an orchestra and a concert company. The Reverend Culpepper had some real competition in that summer of 1916. *



OUR ESSAY CONTEST

At our January meeting, the Historical Society decided to sponsor an Essay Contest in cooperation with the History Department of Phillips County Community College, for students of the College. A prize of \$150 was given for the best paper on some subject concerning the history of Phillips County. Daryl Aikman of Helena won the prize and he presented his paper at the meeting of the Society on June 24.

THE CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL IN HELENA

by

Daryl T. Aikman

The Maple Hill Cemetery became the main local burial ground after the destruction of the Old City Cemetery atop Grave Yard Hill during the Civil War. The new cemetery, a marvel of terracing, was carved out of the side of Crowley's Ridge.

The Maple Hill Cemetery may have been used for burials long before the Civil War took place. With the destruction of many of the old grave stones on Grave Yard Hill in the Battle of Helena, many graves had to be moved to Maple Hill. The City of Helena's cemetery history began again in 1865. The focal point of the Maple Hill Cemetery since 1930 has been the Hindman Shaft, standing on the hillside facing the Mississippi River.

In 1869, an organization was formed to provide a Confederate burial ground within the Cemetery. This group, called the Phillips County Memorial Association, helped raise money for the monuments in the Confederate Cemetery. The Association hoped to gather all the Confederate dead

buried elsewhere in Phillips County in one spot. More than half of the re-burials were of men who died in the Battle of Helena. Union dead were buried in Memphis. Many of the Confederate soldiers at rest in the cemetery were unknown soldiers whose head stones can no longer be read. Many soldiers died from wounds, and were buried first at the temporary hospital at the Polks' home on Little Rock Road.

In May, 1889, the Phillips County Memorial Association elected J. C. Barlow, Robert Gordon and Simon Seelig to aid the United Daughters of the Confederacy in raising funds for the Confederate Memorial.

By 1892, against great financial odds, the Phillips County Memorial Association and the United Daughters of the Confederacy had raised money for the two shafts presently standing in the Confederate Cemetery. One shaft is a memorial to General Cleburne; the larger of the two is the Confederate Memorial.

The Confederate Memorial was dedicated on May 30, Memorial Day, in 1892, in one of the most well attended events ever to be held in the county. Military units came from far and near to honor their relatives and old friends.

The Confederate Monument was made in Louisville, Kentucky. It is a granite shaft topped with a life size statue of a Confederate soldier done in Italian marble. The soldier faces the river. The column is thirty-seven feet high. The monument came to Arkansas by railway. After arriving in Helena it was loaded on wagons and moved to the cemetery. Mules and pulleys raised it into place.

Research in Helena to determine the cost of the monument has so far provided only an approximate figure of \$25,000.00. The best present estimate may be that of Mrs. E. Taylor, owner of the

Two State Monument Company in West Helena, Arkansas. She believes that work of that quality is no longer done and that the monument is "priceless."

Research reveals that there is no longer a monument company old enough in Louisville to have made the Helena Memorial. It is likely that any records have been long since lost. The actual price is not known for this beautiful monument, but it stands for more than money could buy.

The battles whose names are inscribed on the monument are: Shiloh, Chickamauga, Belmont, Murfreesboro, Helena, The Wilderness, Perryville and Atlanta. The Association chose these battles because one or more of the seven Confederate Generals from Helena saw action in them. These battles also bring to mind the memory of the First Arkansas regiment.

No inscription on the Confederate Memorial pays tribute to the women of the South who showed their courage, trust and devotion. The men of the South would not have been equal to their own tasks had it not been for their noble example.

Finally, the inscriptions on the Confederate Memorial stand for all those men whose names are unknown.

The memory of the gallant men who fought and died may be forgotten by many people, but the glory of the dead to whose memory the monument was erected will never fade or grow dim. The monument reminds us of all those who gave their lives for the Confederacy.

CONFEDERATE CEMETERY, HELENA ARKANSAS

Agnew.	A. S. Bibb
Dewitte Anderson	Abner Beard
Lieut. Bagwell	John Brown
C. C. Barker	Lucien B. Burrus

Dr. R. A. Burton
C.
W. T. Calvert
James Casteel
Capt. John C. Clark
John S. Cleaveland
Major-General P. R. Cleburne
J. W. Cook
Major Sam Corley
R. H. Crews
S. C.
Theodora Jerome Davis
P. H. Dilliard, M. D.
S. H. Dooling
Fleming Fine
Watson Foley
D. G.
C. C. Hall
John Hastecock
John W. Haynes
Wm. Head
L. B. Henderson
H. V. Higgins
James Hooker
Jones
Jones
William Henry Jones
Jack Jordon
Wm. Kelly
W. E. Kerr
A. P. Lambert
J. E. Lambert

A. Lane
Richard J. Lanford
W. H. Lanford
Larkin Lewis
Ed. Litrell
Maj. Joe Martin
J. W. Moore
George Morgan
W. A. McClellan
J. R. McCulloch
Col. J. T. Oates
Pernellon
Pom Quarles
Capt. Thos. Quinlin
Henry Rounstill
J. H. Royal
Lieut. Sewell
Smith
Maj. Smith
John A. Stone
John Sullivan
W. T.
O. T. Tackett
Wm. Tolbert
D. T. Treadway
Fred Underwood
B. W.
John F. Walker
B. F. Watson
Wm. S. White
D. E. Williams
E. G. Williams
L. D. Wynne

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to several residents of Phillips County for helping in my research.

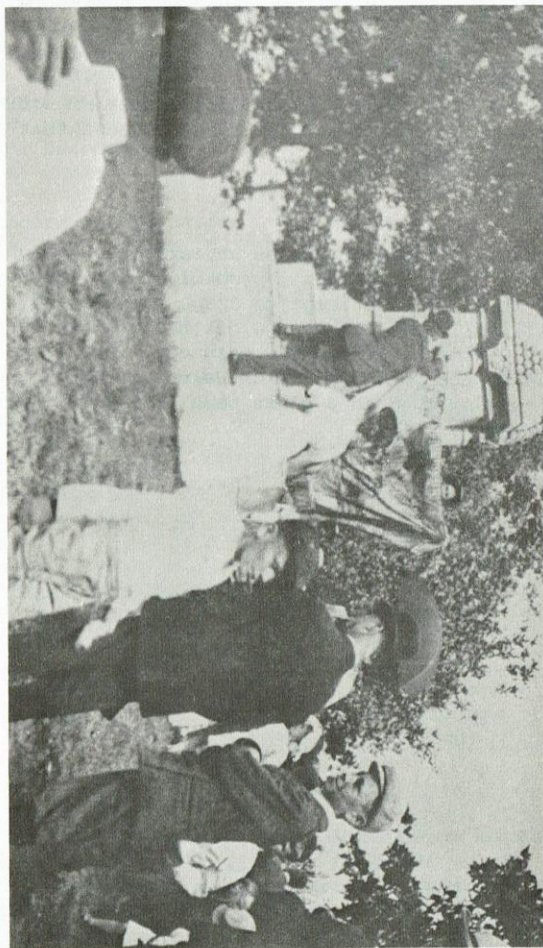
Special thanks go to Mr. C. Tappan, Mr. Jim Mayer, and Mrs. Carolyn Cunningham for taking time to talk with me. Mrs. E. W. Taylor tried to help

me find the price of the monument. Also, Mrs. Macon Kirkman and the staff of the Helena Public Library led me to the collections of news articles and old scrapbooks in the Library. Dr. Brandon H. Beck and Mr. James R. Douglas of the History Department at Phillips College gave their advice and encouragement.

Finally, I thank the Phillips County Historical Society for sponsoring the essay contest that prompted my research.

On the following page is an early photograph of the Confederate Memorial, probably taken in the 1890s. It shows an attempt to drape the flag of the Phillips Guards, Company G of the 15th Arkansas Infantry Regiment, around the monument. This flag was made by the young ladies of Helena in 1861, and it is now displayed in a glass case at the Phillips County Museum.

*



INDIANA TROOPS AT HELENA: Part IV

S. C. Bishop letters continued

—
Helena, Oct 29th/62

Dear Mother,

I received your letter last week but I concluded not to write till the box came. We have no regular express agent here but theirs a man appointed by the Government to go to Memphis once a week and bring the express here.

The box came yesterday and I was right glad of it for I began to need my overcoat and shirts very bad. We are beginning to have cold weather. It snowed a few days ago. The mittens fit me nice, the shirts I have not tried on yet I think I shall keep all of them, though three or four of the boys are beseiging me all the time to sell them one.

This has been a gay day with us, a grand review of all the troops and a general salute fired by all the Artillery and Gunboats in honor of the "Fort" which is now finished.

Two new Regts have arrived here within the last two or three days. A good many more are expected, we are glad to see them even their presence will relieve us from a great deal of hard duty.

Their was a boat load of Secesh prisoners passed down yesterday. Their was also a boat in from dixie floating the rebel flag. She was from Little Rock, and brought two hundred or more of our men to exchange. While the boat was at the landing their was so many insulting remarks made about the flag that the officer commanding the boat took it down.

The rebels still make themselves quite annoying around here. They captured one of our trains a few days ago only a short distance from town and succeeded in carrying it away though hotly pursued

by our cavalry. The Guerrillas across the river killed three of our men and wounded two others. They belonged to the 43 and 46 Ind. One of them was a son of Mr Brand who lives south of Brazil.

I had a letter from Aunt Purdys folks last week. They were all well. They sent a file of papers.

We finished our little house today. My health is still good.

Write soon From your
Affectionate son S. C. Bishop

Helena. Nov. 14th/62

Dear Mother,

Your last expelled considerable anxiety from my mind for it had been a good while since I had received a letter from you. I am glad to know you and Willie are still well. It is a great comfort to a soldier to know that the folks at home are well.

Everythings so quiet here we hardly know we are in the midst of war. The rumor of an attack here by Hindman which was so prevalent sometime ago has entirely passed away and we are certain of one thing. No fighting will be done in this department unless we are the attacking party.

General Hovey is commanding this Army now, Genl Carr being sick. Our numbers are being largely increased here of late, mostly from Iowa. They are very hearty looking men but like all other green soldiers are given to bragging. They have an idea that they can whip the S. C. or any other man. The Col and 5 captains of the 24th Iowa are Methodist preachers. The Lut Col and Major of the 26 Iowa were taken prisoners while selecting a camping ground for their Regt.

I got the shirts you sent me and they were very acceptable. I only had one old shirt and it

was nearly gone. Their are a good many of the boys in the same fix that I was. Our officers made arrangements to have our shirts made at Indianapolis, they are to be of the same materiel that this Regt had during the three months service. So far as other clothes are concerned we are well enough provided for. I dont see how the boys in the East are so ragged, they either have poor Quarter Masters or they have not learned how to take care of their clothes. It is now nearly one year since we drew jackets and half the boys could wear theirs another winter? without being called ragged. Mine is now out in the sleeves as usual. We expect new ones before long.

If you can sell the Newburg property you had better do it. What the property is worth now I am hardly capable of saying, yet it seems to me that one hundred and fifty or two hundred is low enough. The property should in fact sell for great deal more than either of these estimates. I expect you will find others about Newburg more capable of advising than I.

From your affectionate son,
S. C. Bishop

Helena, Ark. Nov 29th

Dear Mother,

It has been three or four days since I received your letter, but being away on duty from camp I had no way of writing you. Your letter finds me well though I have been exposed to bad weather a great deal here of late. It rained and blew nearly the whole time of our expedition down the river.

The expedition I spoke of started from this place last Sunday week. Then we were on the boats Saturday evening but were detained at the wharf all night and twas late in the afternoon of Sunday before we were out of sight of Helena.

We were just gone seven days and as far as I can see did nothing. Whether the thing was intended for a mere feint is more than I can guess. It seems that the expedition if in earnest intended something up White river. We ran up White river a mile or so and the water was so shallow we could get no further.

After we got out into the Mississippi again our boat was dispatched farther down the river on a reconnoitering expedition. We went as far down as Napoleon at the mouth of the Arkansas river, landed and scouted around a little. We destroyed some ferries that the rebels used to cross the river on.

The people of Napoleon are the most poverty stricken of any I've seen yet. Three or four families came away with us and no doubt a good many more would have come if they could have got away. One poor woman is literally starving to death. We gave her all the coffee we had, true it wasn't much yet to her a considerable gift. The people of the North should be thankful for they know as yet but little of the sufferings caused by war, and I hope they may never see the fruits of an invasion of their territory. The haggard countenances of the women and children of the South tells with pitying effect the nature of their sufferings "lack of proper food."

The Regt had hardly got rested after reaching Helena before we were ordered to get ready to leave again. They started last Tuesday and at last accounts were marching to some point in Mississippi. The reason I am not along, I was on a guard detail uptown and Col McCauley couldn't get relieved in time to go.

We got a letter from Kelly's Mother, his body reached home in safety and was interred in the Catholic cemetery at Geneva (?). She says the funeral was a very large one.

I like the shirts and suspenders well. I would have to pay here a dollar for such a pair of suspenders. I will not need any more shirts for a year and I think you had better use the one at

home for whatever you wish.

I wish you would send me a half dozen postage stamps, I had mine all spoiled on the last march. I was so wet for two days that the water soaked through my pocket book and spoiled the stamps.

Write soon.

Helena Dec 27th 62

Dear Mother,

Your letter was received Christmas eve night but I was on picket next day so I was hindered from writing till now.

I am still well and was glad to hear that you and Willie are still in good health. Christmas passed off very quietly with us. I was on picket and saw nothing nor they of relating with the exception of a Negro funeral. As the grave yard was near my post I saw the whole proceedings. The darkies pay a good deal of respect to their dead. When one of their number dies they house is soon filled with the friends to prepare the body for the grave. The whole concourse forms and starts, the preacher commences a hymn and they keep the singing up till they reach the grave. Their airs are similar to those used in the Methodist church, though their singing has very mournful sound.

The stillness of Christmas night was disturbed by some rebels Guerrillas attacking our advance pickets. Luckily nobody was hurt the troops in camp formed in line of battle expecting an attack. Their was considerable excitement among the new Regts who have not become used to things of this character.

We have a new General commanding the post here. His name is Gorman. He's from the army of the Potomac. If strict discipline is any sign of a good General I think he is one, for since he came

here every thing has been reduced to the strictest rules of war.

Col McGinnis is now in command of a Brigade composed of the 11th, 24th and 34th Indiana Volunteers. Lieutenant Col Macauley commands our Regt. He visited the picket line on Christmas day and told us boys that this would be the last Christmas we would have to stand picket.

McClernands expedition has passed down. It was a fine sight to see boat after boat pass by completely loaded with men. I dont think that Vicksburg can stand long against such a formidable expedition.

We still have nice weather here. The rainy season has not yet set in. The days are so warm now that I run about in my shirt sleeves half time. Burnside's defeat made a good many dark countenances here. It seems we never will be successful in the art. The rivers are beginning to raise in this part of the country and the Secesh had better begin to scamper to the interior. Our new officers have got back from Indiana. Woods the orderly Sergeant of Company G is our first Lieutenant and Budd our own orderly Searg is second Lieutenant. I dont know what has become of Capt Wallace, we have not heard of him lately.

Write soon.
S. C. B.

Helena, Ark. Jan 7th/63

Dear Mother,

Your letter of the 29th reached me yesterday. I think I have received every letter you have written me. I have forgotten the dates of my letters but I am certain that I wrote two or three in Dec and I think you will get them before this reaches you.

Their is such a dearth of news at present I

hardly know what to commence with. We have been expecting a boat from Vicksburg for the last 4 days but their is none in sight at the present hour. Our latest from Vi- is by the grapevine telegraph and we are told by it that Jeff Davis and General Sherman are both killed. I hope that the first reliable news may be that V- is taken. The rebels have a strong force at Vicksburg and to be successful G. Sherman should have the cooperation of Banks army before(?) the city can be captured. From what we have learned of the fight so far, it has been very severe. The loss on both sides is heavy. Colonel Smith of the 8th Missouri is killed and his brother M. L. Smith is also wounded and is thought mortally too.

If General Smith dies we lose one of the bravest men in the Army. He commanded our Brigade both at Donelson and Shilo and when the shells and balls were thickest their was General Smith with a smile on his face encourageing his men.

Their are a great number of boats at our wharf. They may be here to take troops in case of need to Vicksburgh, though I suppose a good number are loaded with supplies ready to follow our victorious Army down the river.

The Army here is still laying on its rass. We havent much to do except guard duty and we have plenty of that. The rebels make themselves quite annoying around our picket lines and every few nights they carry off some four pickets. Our Regt and the 34th Indiana have never lost a man yet but these Iowa and Illinois Regts are losing men all the time.

The health of our Regt is pretty good. The Doctors are short of quinine and Dozers Powders. This no doubt accounts for it. We still have nice weather though tis some colder than usual. The old Mississippi is rising and if it keeps on we will have to move our quarters before spring. Write soon to your affectionate Son

S. C. Bishop

Helena Jan 25th/63

Dear Mother,

Your letter of January 5th reached me last Tuesday, The mailboats came down just as we got to Helena. I might have written sooner if I had known what we were going to do or where we were going to stay.

We did not get off the boat until Wednesday noon. It was raining at that ? and we have not seen a dry ? since. What makes our situation so bad, we had we have no tents or cabins, our present camping place is two miles west of Helena. Tis the old camp of the 46th Ind. When they left they fired all their cabins. We are as mad as we can be because we did not get our old camp again. When we left (a week ago last Sunday) our cabins were just as good as when first made. The 4th Iowa took possession the same day we left.

Our present camping ground is a very nice place on a high hill but to get logs for our cabin is the worst thing as we will have to carry them on our shoulders. The Government furnishes but meagre facilities towards helping us in our work. Their are but six waggons to forage and rations.

I did not think when I left H- that we would come back again but would turn up river when near Vicksburgh ?. We are back again and its not likely we will leave again this winter.

Our expedition up White river so far as I know was successful. Tis true we had no fighting to do but the rebels were forced to abandon their forts and rations at St. Charles and Davall's Bluff. We got ten very fine seige guns at D. B. It seems that the Rebels had intended to keep the guns to Little Rock.

We had some of the coldest weather while we were gone that I have experienced South. Snow fell to the depth of a foot. We had a pretty cold time for three or four days. A steamboat's a very mean place to be in bad weather. Our company was quartered in the outside passage of the ? deck so

far as being shelled we might as well have been right in the open air.

As White river is all over the bottoms we were saved the annoyance of guerrilla scouting (?). We are all in good health so far. I am sorry to hear of Gill Ston and Mr. Carters death. It was so unexpected to me. Write soon and tell me all the news. I have not seen a paper or got a letter from the North except yours for nearly a month.

My love to you and Willie
S. C. Bishop

-to be continued-

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An apology is in order to Diane Childs Taylor. She wrote an article for the last QUARTERLY, March, 1979, entitled "Victor Herbert at Helena." The author's name was given as Doris C. Infield. Please accept our apology for this error.
