

Front cover photograph. John J Truemper of Helena, and later of Little Rock, took this picture of Sacred Heart Academy in the 1930s. His vantage point was from the scaffolding around the spire, which he had climbed, during the construction of the present St. Mary's Catholic Church.

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THE LUMBER INDUSTRY IN HELENA
AND PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS

by Winston Mosby

In 1827, at Helena, Arkansas, a man named Porter built a sawmill in the vicinity of the present intersection of Perry and Pecan Streets, there being a large Cypress swamp just north of that location.

This is said to be the first steam sawmill erected west of the Mississippi River at that time. It was only a very small mill in comparison with the mills erected about fifty years later when the lumber industry first began its move from the lake states and the Ohio Valley into the south.

The Mississippi Valley was originally one vast forest of fine Hardwoods and Cypress, in most places so dense that visibility was limited to a few hundred feet. Wild game, fur bearing animals, turkey, ducks, swans and other migratory birds abounded. There were no railroads, so transportation was limited to rafts, flatboats and later steamboats. The first commercial timber business was wood yards established on the riverbanks selling firewood to the steamboats. Millions of feet of fine Oak was cut, racked up and sold to any steamboat pulling up to the bank. Later, when coal mines were first established in western Kentucky and Illinois, the coal yards put the wood yards out of business.

Little is known about the lumber industry between the establishment of the first mill until about 1875. There were probably a few other mills established near Helena, being only small mills built to furnish building material for their neighborhood trade, operating only part time, when crops were laid by or during the winter season.

About 1875, the Arkansas Midland Railroad was started. This railroad ran westward from Helena, going through the Barton neighborhood, Poplar Grove, and westward. The town of Marvell was established. The railroad ran on to Postelle, Holly Grove, and Clarendon. A branch line turned off at Pine City and ran on to Brinkley and connected with the railroad running from Memphis to Little Rock.

Mr. McCoy built a mill at Postelle, which he operated for a number of years. He then moved to Helena, built a large mill on the river and later sold to Mr. Dick Reeves (father of the late Frank Reeves). Mr. Reeves operated it for about five years, when it caved in the river during a flood. Mr. Reeves built another mill in its place, which he operated until about 1915, when he was killed in an automobile accident.

About 1885, the McDonald family moved to Phillips County from west Tennessee. They built one of the largest Hardwood Lumber businesses in the state. Their first mill was at La Grange, later having a large sawmill at Marvell, another one at McDonald, Arkansas, which was on the railroad, east of Wynne, also other mills in south and southwest Arkansas. Mr. Sam McDonald, grandfather of Mrs. Lewis Powell was the General Manager. Upon his death, about 1910, the business was divided up among the other members of the family.

About 1905, the American Washboard Company built a mill on the riverbank at Fair Landing which was about 30 miles south of Helena. Mr. John Campeau who had just arrived in Helena heard they were hiring men; he and another man got on the levee and walked all the way from Helena to Fair Landing, where they were promptly hired. There being no railroad, they shipped all lumber

via barge to Memphis, Cairo and St. Louis. This mill operated until about 1910, when it was sold to C & W Kramer Company of Evansville, Indiana. They rebuilt it about 1/2 mile south of Helena Crossing, on property leased from the S.B. Carpenter Estate. They operated it until about 1916, when it was sold to Stimson Veneer & Lumber Company of Memphis.

The real emergence of Helena and Phillips County came with the advent of the railroads. About 1885, the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Pacific was extended from the north coming through Wynne, Forrest City, and Marianna to Barton where it built a branch line into Helena. About 1900, the Helena and Jonestown Railroad was built, running from Helena to Jonestown, primarily for handling cotton and cottonseed. Crossing the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad, it also gave Helena an additional railroad into Memphis. This railroad gave Helena an additional source of transportation of logs into Helena and of lumber to Memphis. In 1910, the Missouri & North Arkansas Railroad was completed into Helena. All of the above listed railroads went broke, which still seems to be the way of life for railroads. The Helena & Jonestown went broke, was taken over by the Yazoo & Mississippi Railroad, which in turn was taken over by the Illinois Central who operated it until about 10 years ago, when they abandoned the Helena branch. The "Iron Mountain" was taken over by the Missouri Pacific and the Missouri & North Arkansas went broke so many times that it was finally sold for scrap iron. Mr. Homer Thompson said the only good thing about the M & NA was that it provided a quicker way to get to the University of Arkansas. He said that he would get on it at Aubrey, ride to Harrison, then take the stagecoach to Fayetteville.

About 1907, the Missouri Pacific started

extending their track from Barton to McGehee, opening up acres and acres to railroad service. The land was covered with virgin timber from the banks of the Mississippi to the banks of the White River with the exception of a few plantations close to the river banks.

The Helena Box Company was organized about 1900, it later had financial difficulties and was foreclosed by the Bank of Helena. They hired the writer's father to manage it, which he did, later buying it from the bank. About 1905, he had a young man named J.B. Miles working as a lumber inspector. My father purchased a block of Cottonwood lumber from a mill in Jonestown, and sent Mr. Miles over there to inspect it as it was loaded. He stayed for two weeks in Jonestown and when he was finished, came back to Helena and quit the job. The reason for quitting was that since a mill in Helena had to send all the way to Jonestown to purchase lumber, the supply would soon run out.

My father sold the Helena Box Company to the Paepky-Leight Manufacturing Company of Chicago around 1910. Two years later it was merged with Chicago Mill & Lumber Company who ran the plant until about 1918, when they shut it down, having built a large plant in West Helena which is still operating.

Other early plants in Helena included the Helena Hoop Company erected about 1900. It operated until 1916, when it burned and was never rebuilt.

Several other mills in Helena included "The Arkansas Oak Company" owned by Mr. A.W. McKnight, father of Mr. French McKnight, built about 1910. He operated it for several years after which he sold it and bought property in West Helena and started the McKnight Veneer Company which is still

in operation; sold in 1972 to Mr. John Brooks. There was also a sawmill operated by Mr. Jim Buchanan which operated until 1927 when it was burned. Kurz-Downey Manufacturing Company built a mill in Helena in 1913. This was a large operation consisting of a sawmill and box factory, which operated until 1926 when it too was destroyed by fire. They did not rebuild, as they had just purchased a large tract of timber near Tallulah, Louisiana and moved their operation.

Other plants in Helena included Theo Fathauer Company, Archer Lumber Company, (later sold to Shannon Bros. of Memphis), Rex Hoop Company, owned by Howe Lumber Company, Thale Mill & Box Company, American Cooperage Company, Smith & Hopkins Company, Stimson Veneer & Lumber Company, and Perkins Bros.

About 1910, the West Helena Consolidated Company, laid out and developed "West Helena". They surveyed and developed streets, water and sewer lines, built interurban street car lines from West Helena into Helena, put in Beechcrest Park as an amusement and recreation park, donated 40 acres for a Country Club, etc. The street car line had its turnaround at the point where Plaza Street crossed the M & NA railroad. When Chicago Mill began operating in 1914, the track was extended making the turnaround just in front of Chicago Mill's office.

As West Helena began to develop, other mills located there--The Buckeye Veneer Company, Penrod Jurden Company, Pekin Cooperage Company, Van Briggles Veneer Company, McKnight Veneer Company and Superior Oak Flooring Company, which was later sold to Long Bell Lumber Company of Kansas City.

My father and Mr. Joe Denison purchased a mill from Farrel Locomotive Works in Brinkley,

moved it to West Helena and rebuilt it. About 1919, my father sold his interest to Mr. Dennison who continued operating the mill, later selling it to Poinsett Lumber & Manufacturing Company who built an additional mill on the property. Both mills were operated for several years until they cut out all their timber holdings. They sold the big mill to Chicago Mill, who moved it to Waterproof, Louisiana. They shut the small mill down and it sat idle until 1933, when Mr. Fred Faust purchased it. He operated this mill until 1947, when it was destroyed by fire. After the fire, Mr. Faust built another mill which is still operating.

Penrod Jurden mill was sold in 1934 to Mr. E.N. Beisel who operated it until it burned in 1974. At the time it burned, it was one of the last mills in the United States manufacturing wooden basket hoops.

Until the outbreak of the 1st World War, the lumber industry's biggest customers were the wagon and automobile factories, furniture factories and the building trades. When war broke out, there was a terrific demand for all types and species of lumber to be exported to Europe, mostly to France and England. About 30% of the lumber exported never made it to Europe, due to submarine warfare. Many new mills were built throughout the south and many ran day and night trying to keep up with the demand. This boom ended suddenly on November 11, 1918. The lumber business came to a sudden halt and did not begin to recover until 1920.

During the period of 1920 until 1927. Helena was recognized as the second largest Hardwood Market in the U.S., exceeded only by Memphis. The Southern Hardwood Traffic Association established an office in Helena, the National Hardwood Lumber Association stationed a Chief Inspector and two

deputies in Helena. The local lumbermen formed a "Lumbermen's Club of Helena", having two luncheon meetings a month at Habib's Cafe and held an annual Golf Tournament each summer.

In 1922, the Chrysler Corporation purchased the old Pekin Cooperage mill, and converted it into a plant manufacturing wooden parts for automobile bodies. They operated this plant until 1956 when they shut it down.

One of the most prominent of all companies to locate in Phillips County was the Howe Lumber Company. It was a family owned corporation, with the business office in Helena, and mill in Wabash. They came from Indiana to Greenfield, Arkansas about 1900. Later, when it was announced that the Missouri Pacific Railroad would be extended from Barton to McGehee, a large tract of timberland was bought that extended from Old Town Lake westward to White River and erected a large modern mill at Wabash. Mr. W.H. Howe, President of the company, established his home in Helena and Mr. Deck Howe and Mr. John Howe established their homes in Wabash. The company did not follow the usual pattern at that time of cutting the timber and letting the land go back for taxes. They cleared the land and started cultivating it, finally developing a large plantation. They were the first people to put in a rice crop in Phillips County, hiring Mr. George Huff to come from Texas to put in the rice crop. They also dug many of their own drainage ditches and private levees. The sawmill was shut down in 1944, due to labor shortage, but they continued to develop and operate their plantation until December of 1979, when they sold the complete unit to Prudential Insurance Company.

Other lumber and wood products industries in Phillips County included the Garner Stave

Company at Marvell, the New Madrid Stave Company at Elaine, the Elaine Stave Company, the Countiss Lumber Company at Countiss Crossing, and the Crowe Mill, just south of Elaine. My father operated a shingle mill at Elaine and another one on the Straub Plantation at the north end of Old Town Lake. There were many other small shingle mills scattered throughout the county--wherever Cypress timber was available. The shingle industry collapsed about 1922 when asphalt shingles came on the market.

After the disastrous flood of 1927, several of the mills in Helena went out of business. The good timber, close to the railroads, had all been cut and many of the roads going out from the railroad tracks were washed out, even some of the highway bridges were washed out. There were only a few paved highways and trucking logs, even a short distance was very expensive. Today, with large trucks and mechanized log handling equipment, logs can be hauled from sources 150 miles away. (Of course the prices for the finished products are now much higher than in 1930.) By 1930, the only mills operating in Helena and West Helena were Shannon Bros., Theo Fathauer Company, McKnight Veneer Company, Van Briggles Veneer Company, Long Bell Flooring Mill, Chicago Mill and Pekin Wood Products. These mills were only operating part time, due to the slowdown in business.

In 1947, the writer started a small "Groundhog Mill" on property rented from Mr. David Solomon, which was across the railroad track and just under the spot where the approach to the Helena Bridge turns off in front of the Holiday Inn. In 1950, I moved to property belonging to Helena Northwestern Railroad, 3/4 mile west of Helena Crossing. When the railroad went out of business, I purchased the property and built a

larger mill. This mill operated until March, 1960, when it caught on fire and burned to the ground, there being no fire protection in that end of the city. After the fire, another mill was built, this last mill being steel and concrete. This mill was operated until October 1969, when the State Highway Department condemned right of way down through the middle of the site of the mill.

As of today, there are no mills in Helena. In West Helena, there remains McKnight Plywood Company, which produces finished plywood panels which are used by the building trades, and furniture factories. They purchase foreign and domestic veneers, lay it up and cut it to whatever dimension the buyers specify. They ship their products all over the United States, also to foreign markets. The plant is owned and operated by Mr. John Brooks.

Midsouth Woodcraft, located in West Helena, manufactures furniture parts. It was started by Mr. E.M. Polk, Jr. of Helena and Mr. John Austin of Memphis, about 20 years ago. Mr. Polk has recently retired and sold his interest to Mr. Austin.

Chicago Mill & Lumber Company, which came to West Helena in 1913, is still operating, manufacturing hardwood lumber, veneers and shipping containers.

The Faust Band Saw Mill, also in West Helena, is still operating. This mill is a completely modern plant, including resaw, dry kilns and planing mill. The mill was built in 1950, following a fire that destroyed the previous mill. It has operated continuously, never missing a day except for occasionally, when they shut down for repairs or replacements.

Within the County, there are three crosstie mills operating, Gene Smith Sawmill located at

Barton, Jim King at Lexa and Carelton Golden at Lexa. The crosstie business had been experiencing a boom for the past ten years, due to the many extra heavy freight cars that have been built. The old track system cannot hold up the heavy loads.

There are also a number of smaller mills cutting furniture squares. These squares are cut to the various lengths and thicknesses desired by the buyers. They are sold to "Turning Plants" which put them in lathes and dress them down to the designed shapes needed for making table legs and other various designs needed in the manufacture of furniture.

Another development in the lumber industry is the production of wood chips, sold to the paper industry. This business developed about 1965. Prior to this time, the paper mills used only pine pulpwood and chips, but about 1965, there was a process developed that would use hardwood chips; this business proved very profitable. Until the advent of the demand for hardwood chips, the sawmills first had to remove a slab which had bark on the outside, throwing the slab into the incinerator for disposal, along with the sawdust.

To manufacture these chips necessitated the installation of a debarker to remove the bark before the log went onto the carriage, then at the back end of the mill, the installation of a chipper to reduce the slabs and other offal to chips. This equipment at that time cost a minimum of \$40,000, however, experience shows that it recovered \$150 per day from material that had been going into the burner to be disposed of.

The general decline of the forests products industry in the Mississippi delta began shortly after the end of the second world war. The cotton crop began its decline with the introduction of synthetic fibers, the compresses being loaded

with unsold cotton. The soybean crop began to move into the delta, first taking over the cotton fields, then as it began to grow, thousands of acres of good second growth timber were cleared to make additional ground available for planting beans. In lots of places, the timber was pushed over, piled up and burned...not even a windbreak is left.

Today, one can stand on the Mississippi River Levee at Mellwood and see the White River Levee twelve miles to the west, the game is all gone, except in the White River Game Refuge, nothing left except beavers and coyotes. The mechanized soybean equipment has all replaced the mule drawn cotton equipment which was sold to scrap iron dealers and the mules were sold to the dog food manufacturers. When the mules were all gone, the buzzards left, and the farmers who used to drive Fords and Chevrolets are now driving Cadillacs and Continentals.

With practically no reforestation in this area, someday in the near future, one by one, the remaining sawmills will "blow the whistle" for the last time, due to lack of supply of timber, which has happened before in other areas.

On the following page is a picture of Mosby Lumber Manufacturing Company, removed in 1969 to make way for the new highway.



From the HELENA WORLD, May 8, 1901
CHAPTERS IN PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORY
CHAPTER II

by
Major S. H. King

In '46 and '50 the people in the country and their mode of life differed but little from that in the town. All were kind, hospitable, generous and with a high sense of honor, even though for the most part uneducated and pioneer-like in manners. In some of the older communities, as on the old wire road to LaGrange, about Lick Creek, the old Lock school house and Trenton, were planters of education and refinement who had moved from the old states and were cleaning up fine farms and making for themselves comfortable homes. The names of these would include many of the best and leading families of Phillips county, and we cannot leave out the names of such men and citizens as Heywood Hicks, W.F. Moore, Col. Burke, Judge Adams and McKeil on the Wire road, Judge Jones, Walter Nelson, Shell, Lex Graves, at Lick Creek, the Blounts and Wetherlys at Lock school house, and the Kendalls and Millers at Trenton.

Fifty years is but a short period, yet it is long enough for many and great changes. What a difference in the life of our county today and that of half a century ago! If somehow we could be changed from this time to that, how irksome and "inconvenient" would we find our life. Food and clothing were perhaps very good, though there was a scarcity of flour. But suppose you had business in town: Get on your horse and go, buy your goods and then send them out on the train? Not at all, but have your home made ox-wagon and negro driver there, load up and start him home,

then in process of time your goods will arrive. The home made wagon was not the only rude implement in use on the farm. Most of the plows would be considered clumsy affairs now with their wooden stocks and inseparable points. Cotton and corn were almost the only farm products. We have all seen the large old-fashioned horse-power gins and the huge wooden presses by means of which the cotton was prepared for market. Each plantation of moderate size had its own gin, and as the gin could clean only two or three bales per day it was kept running most of the time during the fall months. Three or four hands would be required to run the gin. One hand would feed it, and the loose cotton would be blown into a large room. All day long did the great old room receive the softly falling cotton, and when at night it had been filled with the white drift the dusky laborers stopped the ginning and rolled the soft white lint out to the press. There it was tramped into the box, then the huge block pressed it down and the bale was soon wrapped in bagging and ready for the market, whither it was hauled in the ox-wagon. The Helena merchants bought but little of the cotton as they preferred shipping it to New Orleans. The merchants built their own cotton sheds, in which their customers' cotton would be stored until it was ready to be sent off. All the cotton was carried by boat to New Orleans, none at that time being shipped to Northern points. The smaller farmers traded with the Helena merchants, but the larger planters would usually get most of their supplies direct from New Orleans. What money was made they usually invested in more land and negroes.

In as new a county as Phillips county was then, there were no very large slave owners, the

wealthiest owning probably not more than a hundred negroes; then down to the small farmer with his two or three blacks. And where the life of the master was the rough laborious one of an early settler, that of the servant must have been indeed hard and toilsome. Holidays were rare. The Fourth of July was usually celebrated on a large scale, and a day or two was spent in the Christmas festivities. A part of the Saturday evenings were sometimes allowed them, but for the rest of the time there was no idling or loafing. When crops were laid by or gathered the intervals were spent in cleaning up land or doing other work so necessary in a new country. The servant's spiritual needs were not neglected, for although the negro preacher was not very much in evidence, the negroes would be gathered in some of the larger cabins and there from the mouth of a kind white servant of Christ listen to the story of the One who gave Himself for the poor black slave as freely as for the rich white master.

In those early days of '46 and the following years, Phillips county had an unenviable reputation for chills and fever. No one seemed to be exempt. The prevalence of such malarial diseases was attributed to the decaying timber and partially drained swamps that followed the development of a new country. Blue-mass, calomel and quinine were taken in prodigious quantities, and many of the settlers soon assumed the lean and sallow hue which in the eyes of outsiders were typical of the Arkansan. Whisky then was a very cheap and common article, and on some of the plantations bitters were made by a combination of it with quinine. The first task then of the slaves at the beginning of each day was to render themselves proof against the chills by taking a huge dose of

that delicious preparation which if not a cure-all for malaria must have been a mighty promoter of temperance.

The levees on the river below Helena were flimsy little banks of earth. Uncle Sam then did not believe it proper to use his money in efforts to confine the Mississippi and the farmers were left to protect themselves as best they could. They threw up ridges of earth four, six and eight feet high, but of course if there was any considerable rise at all, such levees were wholly inadequate, and a total destruction of crops was frequent.

About '48 and '50 began an influx of settlers and from that until the breaking out of the war the country was on a boom. Large slave owners from the old states bought lands and moved in and the land was cleared up by the hundreds of acres. Many of the fine old farms of today had their beginning during that period. Churches were built and in some communities school houses, but not from public funds. The public school was still unknown, and after the farmers from their own private means had built a house, a teacher was employed in the same way. Such a school system was very inefficient, but as the condition of the people improved, so did the school become better. In the years just before the war the prosperity of the country began to show itself in the erection of larger, finer houses, many of which still stand as monuments to those old ante-bellum days. Roads were improved and bridges built. The roads were worked by taxation, but if the planter did not wish to pay the tax he had the privilege of working it out with his slaves. Larger and stronger levees began to be erected on the river, but still without government aid.

As the old South was pre-eminently agricultural, it is hardly to be expected that the town would keep pace with the development of the country, and such we find to have been the case as regards Helena and the county. During the decade in which we have just noticed the rapid development of the county, the town to be sure improved, but not so fast. The gradual caving of the river forced the buildings back and in about 1850 the first store was built on Main street. Others followed and in a few years the block in the west side of Main street just opposite the court house square became filled up and was the principal business part of the town. The only store left on the river front was the one occupied by Col. Moore, who did a large furnishing business.

HELENA WORLD, JULY 22, 1896

By far, the most elegant, well constructed and roomy residence Helena can claim for its own, is now making long strides towards completion on Perry Street. We speak of none other than the new residence of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Pillow. The frame work is receiving its last touches and when the trimmings are all put on Helena will be glad and proud of the handsome residence in her midst, and can point with no hesitation to the Pillow residence to all visitors who come to Helena.

THE CIVIL WAR IN PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS

by

Carl H. Moneyhon

This paper was given as a talk before the Phillips County Historical Society at its spring meeting, in April, 1981, by Dr. Carl Moneyhon, who is a member of the Department of History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The paper was in part made possible by research funded by the Arkansas Endowment for the Humanities.

One hundred and twenty years after Appomattox, the story of how the Civil War affected Southern society remains one clouded by mythology. Much of the story was purposely created by later Southerners as political propaganda. Among historians the problem remains, in large part because they accepted the later stories and never tested them with regard to the postwar South.

No one can question the fact that the war imposed severe hardships on Southerners of all classes. All the investigator has to do is look at the remembrances left to us to see a chronicle of violence, deprivation, and social upheaval. Often the individual case becomes the basis for broad generalizations that may or may not be applicable to an entire community. Further, the unique incident, even the death of a child, while it has an incredible impact on the participants, may not in fact make any change in the broad sweep of events.

The story of the Civil War's impact on Southern society is one which all of us know well. Perhaps no author better expressed it than Margaret Mitchell in her novel GONE WITH THE WIND. Mitchell, while a novelist, nonetheless drew upon

half a century of tradition and memories to produce this epic tale. The story was that the war had broken down the great planters and their plantations and made it possible for the lowliest member of Southern society to mingle with their social betters. In other words, the war destroyed the aristocracy of the antebellum South. When Will Benteen sought the land of Scarlett O'Hara, Mitchell captured the new order of things. She wrote, "Of course, before the war, Will would certainly not have been an eligible suitor. He was not of the planter class at all, though he was not poor white. He was just plain Cracker, a small farmer, half-educated, prone to grammatical errors and ignorant of some of the finer manners the O'Haras were accustomed to in gentlemen. In fact, Scarlett wondered if he could be called a gentleman at all and decided that he couldn't . . . Scarlett knew that Ellen would have fainted at the thought of a daughter of hers marrying such a man, but now Scarlett had been by necessity forced too far away from Ellen's teachings to let that worry her. Men were scarce, girls had to marry someone and Tara had to have a man." For Mitchell, and for others such as William Faulkner, the grand world of the plantation had been turned upside down making it possible for men such as Will Benteen or Faulkner's never do well Snopes to rise to the top.¹

Historians have reproduced this story. The noted Southern historian C. Vann Woodward called the war and immediate postwar years a period in which there was a "veritable revolution in land titles." In the sugar country around Louisiana he indicated that at least half of the planters were now either Northern men or men supported by Northern money. Frank L. Owsley, a historian who was concerned with writing the story of the common people of the South, argued that these "plain

folk" survived the ardors of war and reconstruction better than the planter since they had fewer adjustments to make in lifestyle. Owsley went so far as to suggest that they became the backbone of a restored Southern economy. "It is not too much to say," he would write, "that the plain folk thus rescued the South from complete, and, perhaps, final ruin with little or no aid or sympathy from any sources whatsoever outside the borders of their own section."²

These generalizations remain largely untested. Recently, historians concerned with the postwar economic life of the South have discovered that many of the old planters persisted into the postwar period. Roger Shugg in an investigation of Louisiana suggests that in counties he examined, the old planters not only survived but concentrated their landholdings. Others have replied, however, that in many of the cases examined, the war had no direct impact. James Roark points out that in counties actually disrupted by warfare the persistence of planters was at a much less significant rate than in those beyond the war's path. Further, no matter what actually happened to the planters, we do not know about the plight of the other people who constituted the Southern community.³

What was the impact in the South of the Civil War? This is a question that I am trying to answer currently by looking at Arkansas. At this point I have completed a study of Phillips County, the first of several Arkansas counties to be examined intensively, and can make some tentative suggestions relative to this community. The methodology is fairly complex, involving a combination of the traditional narrative with an analysis of the census and tax lists of the county, perhaps the best set of documents that exists on

the social and economic life of a community.⁴

To begin with it is important to say something about what Phillips County looked like before the war. Part of the mythology of Southern history is that before the war the section was a land of great planters and poor whites. Of course that is simply not true. White society existed in a continuum that ran from the great planters down through every level of status and economic position to the unemployed, unpropertied, and impoverished farm laborer on the bottom. Without going into the reasons behind these breakdowns, at the top of the social heap were the planters who will be defined as those with more than one thousand acres of land, these represented only 4.4 percent of the population and owned 48.5 percent of the land. Under them were smaller planters who were not yet able to compete in the market at the same level. There were only 3.5 percent of the population with land between 600 and 999 acres, their share of the wealth was 17.2 percent. Another 7.9 percent were large farmers with 300-599 acres, controlling 19.3 percent of the wealth. About 19.5 percent, or the yeoman farmers, possessed 15.0 percent of the landed wealth. No land at all was owned by 64.7 percent of the adult males. These people included tenants, renters, and a variety of skilled and unskilled laborers. Slave holding was even smaller, with only 17 percent of the males owning slaves.

In the secession crisis of 1860-1861 in Phillips County, as elsewhere in the state, considerable opposition to disunion existed. Nonetheless, the secessionists controlled political machinery in the county and sent a pro-secessionist delegate to the Little Rock convention in the spring of 1861. Charles W. Adams, a lawyer, owner of about 480 acres and 25 slaves, told the delegates

TABLE I: Structure of Antebellum Landholdings in Phillips County (1860)

Size of Holding (Acres)	Percent of Adult Male Population in Category	Percent of Land Held by This Group
1000 +	4.4	48.5
600 - 999	3.5	17.2
300 - 599	7.9	19.3
1 - 299	19.5	15.0
0	64.7	0

that although his constituents had imposed no instructions upon him, he had the honor of voting aye to taking the state out of the Union. Once the decision had been made, however, Phillips countians appear to have unified behind the war effort. Thomas B. Hanly wrote that secession sentiment locally was nearly unanimous in the face of the firing upon Sumter and Lincoln's calling out of troops to suppress the insurrection.⁵

With the spread of the war furor in the summer of 1861 young men flocked to the Confederate banner. The Yell Rifles, John Clendenning's Company or Company B of the 23rd Arkansas Volunteers, Company F of the 2d Arkansas Regiment and cavalry companies under Capts. William Weatherly and John Swan formed up in the community. The leaders and men of these units were, for the most part, young. For the most part they did not come from the great planting families. John Clendenning, for example, was 34 and a man with no property. Swan, only 23, had just 170 acres, and Weatherly, the oldest at 41, had virtually no property. On the whole around 400 men out of 2000 adult males went off in the first months, others would follow.⁶

Many of the local soldiers went east of the Mississippi to fight, but the real threat to Phillips County quickly came from the west. After Pea Ridge, Union forces under General Samuel B. Curtis began to move eastward along the White River, hoping ultimately, to be able to attack Little Rock. When they found themselves too far removed from their supply base, Curtis decided that he would have to establish another base along the Mississippi from which he could provision his land forces. The choice was Helena from which federal gunboats and supply ships could move up the White, the St. Francis, or even the Arkansas Rivers.

The movement toward Helena finally brought the war with its fullest destruction to Phillips County. In March, 1862, General T.C. Hindman would call up the local militia and other volunteers to attempt to stop Curtis and destroy his force before it could get to the Mississippi. The calling of these men immediately threw the entire state into disorder. Up until March local residents had been actively preparing to put in the year's crops, but the call for troops had left everything at a standstill. A correspondent of the GAZETTE informed readers--"the plows are rusting in the furrows; the hoes resting in the corners of the fence; the horses, mules, and oxen are browsing in the commons, and the men who were left to cultivate the soil are absent from home."⁷

The implications of this general mobilization were apparent to all. Curtis' march through Arkansas could effectively hinder the state's war effort because it deprived the state of the provisions necessary for the civilian population to survive. The GAZETTE, again, noted that the call-up was being filled mainly by the small planters who produced the grain and meat of the country. The editors feared that 20,000 laborers were going to be withdrawn from production of provisions necessary to sustain life. They desperately called upon planters to divert their slaves from the production of cotton and other market staples and instead place their lands into the cultivation of food stuffs.⁸ For the planter or farmer who required the production of cash crops in order to pay off outstanding notes, the decision between patriotism and self-survival was a difficult one to make.

Unfortunately for Confederate interests in the state, Hindman's men could not be concentrated quickly enough to force Curtis to fight. On June 24, 1862, Hindman issued a call to all citizens of

Arkansas to participate in the effort to keep Curtis from the Mississippi. His proclamation called upon Arkansans to "attack him day and night, kill his scouts and pickets, kill his pilots and his troops on transports, cut off his wagon trains, lay in ambush and surprise his detachments, shoot his mounted officers, destroy every pound of meat and flour, every ear of corn and stack of fodder, oats and wheat that can fall into his hands; fell trees, as thickly as in rafts, in all the roads before him, burn every bridge and block every ford."⁹

The fact that many citizens decided not to take Hindman's advice indicates that many preferred to save whatever they could than save the Confederacy. The GAZETTE complained that people had simply not responded to the call to lay waste the land before Curtis. "They appear to have preferred to risk the damage that Curtis' army itself might do, even though that was not a small measure. Again the GAZETTE reported that "no country ever was, or ever can be, worse devastated and laid waste than that which has been occupied, and marched over, by the Federal army." Editors complained that food had been taken, fences and improvements burned, houses robbed, and 2,000 Negroes stolen--not just men who might work on the roads but also women and children. Nonetheless, most Arkansans preferred to take the risk that Curtis would not come their way, than the certainty of destroying their own livelihood.¹⁰

By July, 1862, Curtis' army had managed to enter Helena without much dispute. Curtis quickly fortified his position strongly and had gunboats brought up to keep the Confederates off his back,

but for the local residents this was only the beginning of deadly fighting. Hindman realized that he did not have the forces to deal with Curtis, so instead authorized small groups of ten men, guerilla bands if you will, to harass the Union troops wherever possible. As a result, the Federal troops never completely controlled any area in the county other than the town of Helena itself and the areas in the immediate vicinity of Federal encampments. Colonel William Vandever of the 9th Iowa Infantry reported to Brigadier General Frederick Steele on September 20, 1862, that his pickets on the Little Rock road west of Helena came under constant fire during the night from small bands of men. Vandever argued that only with cavalry would he be able to dispel the bands of men who hovered on all sides of town sniping at the occupation forces. Confederate guerilla activity included severe reprisals against any local residents who might make concessions to the Yankees and went to the point of destroying property in areas of federal control. Vandever set about trying to control the terrorists in his area, writing that he had made a number of arrests of local inhabitants who rode about a great deal at night to give the guerillas information about federal activities.¹¹

The failure to control the area by either side left civilians in the midst of a violent and uncertain situation.

As might be expected, these mosquito attacks only further infuriated the Federals who resorted to more representative measures to halt them. William H. Barksdale, a local minister, wrote in his diary after the occupation that: "Everywhere, they are devouring and laying waste the labor of man's hands. Our wives are not free from their insults--but they walk in armed with pistols and sabres, and thus compel with arms our wives to

cook for them! The surrounding country is, for miles around, swept by foraging parties. Farmers have both negroes and all kinds of stock stolen from them. Some of my dear bretheren, are all stripped of nearly everything by these ruthless invaders." In 1863 Mary Sale Edmondson would note: "They have shut us in all sides, have stripped us--everything but bedding, clothing, and house, with a few tools, farming utensils, cows, and hogs. They have taken from us the means of supporting ourselves and refuse to let us have anything unless we lie or smuggle (and they) have rendered the latter difficult (and) dangerous."¹²

In addition to the guerilla war raging in the countryside, the Federals brought another plague, collection of war taxes. For those who could not pay, either because they had left the county or did not have the resources, their lands were liable to confiscation. By 1863 the government had seized over 8,000 acres of land, although of this over 6,000 belonged to General Gideon Pillow, best known as the Confederate commander at Fort Donelson. In turn these lands were either leased out or settled with the numerous freedmen who fled to Helena and Federal lines. The Pillow plantation was designated a "home farm" and the government built a blockhouse near the slave quarters. Freedmen received parcels of the land which they used to cultivate cotton, corn, and vegetables. It is important to note that most of the lands seized were much smaller in size than the Pillow place, and frequently the land seized did not include an individual's full holdings. In addition to the Pillow seizure, the largest were 500 acres belonging to William Sales, 395 acres belonging to Robert Casteel, 400 acres belonging to Thomas and William White, and 250 acres belonging to Thomas Maney.¹³

As the war lengthened economic upheaval worsened. Two major factors contributed to the problem--inflation and relations between debtors and creditors. Throughout the war inflation presented a very real difficulty for people throughout the state, including the inhabitants of Phillips County. Prices at Little Rock are a fair indicator of the general trend. Bacon climbed from 1861 to 1865 from 16 cents per pound to over 40 cents. Coffee went from 18 to 50, potatoes from \$1.25 per bushel to over \$6. During the war the general index of inflation was something like 100 percent on all commodities. Increased military purchases and declining productivity led to the shortages that fed the rapid increase. All available cash flowed into the purchase of necessities, leaving mortgages and other debts unpaid. Freeman H. Morring indicated the problem when he wrote to William E. Woodruff early in 1862 that "This is the first time in my life that I was ever brought to a deadlock in money matters. I fear that it will continue until we can sell cotton." But the cotton could not be moved to market because of the increasing presence of the Union forces. The TRUE DEMOCRAT at Little Rock complained that only the merchant was making money in this difficult time.¹⁴

In Phillips County and elsewhere inflation and decreased production created severe problems especially for the debtor, often the small farmer who had borrowed at 8 to 10 percent in a four year note to buy his land. As a measure of patriotism, and perhaps indicating how short the war would be, the secession convention at Little Rock passed a stay law prohibiting the collection of debts during the time of war crisis. This only created problems for the creditor who found himself deprived of the cash necessary to pay taxes or meet his own obligations to merchants elsewhere. Judge John S. Hornor complained in 1861 that one debtor in Helena had lost sight of all

personal liabilities and was resting easy because the government was so indisposed to collect on debts. When the Yankees occupied Helena the problem was worsened because it was no longer clear whether or not the law was still operating. Further, the courts, which were necessary agents for the creditor to collect from the debtor no longer appeared to be functioning. The war created a highly volatile situation between creditors and debtors. Would the creditor be able to collect for the entire period? Would the debtor be able to escape? If the former was true the war was only plunging the smaller farmer and the borrower deeper into debt.¹⁵

At the same time the devastation of the countryside around Helena continued. Federal troops remained in town unable to move in the rural areas unless in force and incapable of crushing guerilla activity. The destruction worsened in the spring of 1863 when regular Confederate troops moved back into the vicinity where they prepared an attack upon Helena to help relieve the Confederate garrison at Vicksburg from the stranglehold that Grant had placed upon it. With a regular Army in the field local farmers found their limited resources even more sorely pressed. By 1863 the farmers had become wary of the soldiers of both armies and quickly hid from them everything that might be consumed. One soldier camped in the vicinity complained that there was plenty of bacon available in the countryside, but only if it was paid for and the Confederate government did not have the necessary resources to do so. Local farmers, as a result, fared almost as poorly from their own as Federals.¹⁶

Confederate forces attacked Helena in July, 1863, but to no avail, then moved out of the county. Because Helena was the center of federal

operations however, Confederate strategy continued to require action in the vicinity. Throughout most of 1864 there were small scale actions and raids. The chief result of these activities were more reprisals against the local inhabitants by the Union forces. In 1864 the largest of these raids, led by Colonel Arch S. Dobbins of Helena, attacked the farms leased on the river below Helena. By then local inhabitants had come to dread such actions, although they accepted them with resignation. Sue Cook wrote that the Union Army would exact retribution, noting, "I fear we shall have to suffer for it." Mary S. Edmondson had written of earlier guerilla raids that the federals had warned the locals that they would be punished if such took place. The Confederates had orders, however, and she believed that they would go ahead and attempt these attacks. "We cannot help it, or help ourselves, and must endure what we cannot cure."¹⁷

Following the attack of Dobbins the situation in Phillips County remained relatively quiet until the end of the war. Clearly, the community had suffered deeply from the movement of armies. The qualitative data presents ample evidence of the impact. What remains unanswered, however, is exactly where was the incidence of the war most strongly felt. Who bore the brunt of the war? It is an old soldier's saying that the Civil War was a rich man's war and a poor man's fight. I have always considered this to have been a complaint typical of all soldiers at all times and not necessarily an objective assessment of the situation. We can analyze, however, exactly who carried the burden of the Civil War by looking at the changes that had taken place in Phillips County as a result of the war and attendant problems.

For the wealthier class, which tradition

asserts was hardest hit by the conflict, the war seems to have worked to their benefit rather than to their disadvantage. Immediately following the war the Federal government began a policy of rapid return of lands seized during the war. Gideon Pillow, for example, who had his land confiscated had it returned by October, 1865, five months after Appomattox. Despite threats of land confiscation, by the end of 1865 almost all the land seized during the war had been returned to its owners. Other lands would fall into federal hands later as a result of tax problems, but by the end of 1865 all had been returned that had been taken away during the war years.

While such evidence suggests that the impact of the war may not have been as disruptive of patterns of wealth and land ownership as imagined, an examination of persistence provides another useful way of assessing the problem. Persistence is the rate of survival of individuals or classes from one time to another. It can be measured simply by following individuals listed in tax rolls across the period under examination. We find that the elite group actually survived better than it had from 1850 to 1860. Further, the elite group appears to have actually improved their actual holdings. We can see this from the data, unfortunately the why of the phenomenon is more difficult to explain.

Some people at the top did lose as a result of the war. Colonel Arch S. Dobbins presents us with a case demonstrating the types of problems confronted by such men. Dobbins had entered the elite in the decade before the war but he had done so in part with mortgage money. Off with the army, the taxes and payments on loans backed up to the point that when the war was over Dobbins found himself simply incapable of sustaining these

payments. In addition, a constant threat existed that he might be arrested and punished for his role in leading guerilla raids in the county. By 1866 he no longer owned the land that he had possessed before the war because of foreclosures. His wife and children waited for him to send for them, but he never did. Finally he simply disappeared, perhaps a victim of jungle Indians.¹⁸

The survivors appear to have possessed the capital and a family that helped them persist. The Hornor family was such a group. The sons Albert, John, and Hamilton joined the Confederate army despite their father's Unionism. The father took his slaves and left for Texas, leaving a fourth son, Sidney, in charge of the property in Phillips County. The war brought about deprivation, and the Hornors had to sell over several hundred acres of their land in order to survive, but in the end they remained among the elite landowners in the community. By 1874 in fact they had recouped the losses during the war and had expanded their holdings some 400 percent. Luck, family size, no casualties, allowed these planters to maintain their position into the late nineteenth century.¹⁹

What does all of this mean? First, the plantation did not die and the planters did not disappear. In fact, it might be argued that the war helped them stabilize a highly volatile social situation that existed in the prewar years. Further, all landowners below the great planters lost proportional shares of local wealth, suggesting that many of them had to pay the price of the war. Ultimately however, it was the bottom, the landless who paid the greatest price. It might to a certain extent be said that the war helped to polarize local society and split it increasingly into rich and poor. The war and its taxes, its

TABLE II. Comparative Persistence Rates
of Select Landowning Groups

Size of Holding (Acres)	Rate of Persistence 1850-1860	Rate of Persistence 1860-1866	Percent of Persisters who Improved their Position
1000 +	50.8	80.6	28.4
600 - 999	17.8	68.8	20.8
300 - 599	32.1	60.3	20.1
1 - 299	26.2	43.9	16.6
0	19.4	6.9	6.6

TABLE III: Structure of Postwar Landholdings
in Phillips County (1866)

Size of Holding (Acres)	Percent of Adult Male Population in Category	Percent of Land Held by This Group
1000 +	4.4	51.4
600 - 999	4.0	18.5
300 - 599	8.0	16.2
1 - 299	16.7	13.9
0	67.9	0

demands for manpower, settled hardest on those least able to sustain them. The constant complaint that the war was a rich man's war and a poor man's fight appears to have been much more than simply the grouching of the common soldier. It appears rather to have been a true estimation of the impact of the American Civil War on Southern society.

FOOTNOTES

¹Margaret Mitchell, *GONE WITH THE WIND* (New York: Avon Books, 1973), p. 505; See William Faulkner's *THE HAMLET* (1931), *THE MANSION* (1955), and *THE TOWN* (1957), all published by Random House.

²C. Vann Woodward, *ORIGINS OF THE NEW SOUTH* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951), p. 179; Frank L. Owsley, *PLAIN FOLK OF THE OLD SOUTH* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1949), pp. 137-138.

³Roger Shugg, *ORIGINS OF CLASS STRUGGLE IN LOUISIANA* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968), pp. 244-246; see also Roger Ransom and Richard Sutch, *ONE KIND OF FREEDOM* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1977), pp. 78-80, 88; Jonathan Wiener, *SOCIAL ORIGINS OF THE NEW SOUTH: ALABAMA, 1860-1885* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1978), pp. 3-34; and Dwight Billings, *PLANTERS AND THE MAKING OF A "NEW SOUTH": CLASS, POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1865-1900* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1979), pp. 70-71. For the argument

against Shugg's stability thesis see James L. Roark, *MASTERS WITHOUT SLAVES: SOUTHERN PLANTERS IN THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1977).

⁴The following statistical data is based on landownership reports in county tax rolls for 1850, 1860, 1866, and 1874; slave ownership reported in the same sources in 1850 and 1860; and personal data from the census of population for 1860.

⁵(Memphis) *APPEAL*, March 23, 1861; Thomas B. Hanly to David Walker, April 17, 1861, David Walker Papers, Manuscript Collection, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

⁶Muster roles are printed in *PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY*, II (September 1963), 30-33, and IV (September 1965), 33.

⁷(Little Rock, Arkansas) *GAZETTE*, March 15, 1862.

⁸*IBID.*, March 1, 1862; For another discussion of the need to divert agriculture from cotton to food stuffs see (Helena) *SOUTHERN SHIELD*, February 8, 1862.

⁹"T. C. Hindman to the Citizens of Arkansas," in *GAZETTE*, June 28, 1862.

¹⁰*IBID.*, July 12, 1862.

¹¹*OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE WAR OF THE REBELLION*, Series 1, Vol. 13, pp. 272-273.

¹²Russell Baker (ed.), "Journal of William H. Barksdale," *PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY*, XV (December 1976), 40-41; Russell Baker (ed.), "Diary of Mary Sale Edmondson," *PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY*, XI (March 1973), p. 5.

¹³For lands held at end of the war see "Monthly Report, September, 1865," Field Office

Records (Helena), Records of the Assistant Commissioner of the State of Arkansas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, Record Group 105, National Archives.

¹⁴These figures are based on commodity prices printed in the *GAZETTE* through this period. Freeman H. Morring to William E. Woodruff, April 6, 1862, Woodruff Papers, Arkansas History Commission; *TRUE DEMOCRAT*, October 24, 1861.

¹⁵John S. Hornor to William E. Woodruff, March 12, June 15, 1861, Woodruff Papers, Arkansas History Commission.

¹⁶"Letter of an Arkansas Confederate Soldier," *ARKANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY*, II (June 1943), 176.

¹⁷"Diary of Sue Cook (1844-1912)," introduced by Betty M. Faust, *PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY*, IV (March 1966), 30-31, 38; "Diary of Mary Sale Edmondson," 4: for a report of the Dobbins attack see N.B. Buford to E.R.S. Canby, August 1, 1864, *OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE WAR OF THE REBELLION*, Series 1, Vol. 41, Pt. 1, p. 191; see also Dale Kirkman, "The Leased Plantations Below Helena," *PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY*, IV (September 1966), 8-15.

¹⁸Bob Dalehite, "Arch Dobbins," *PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY*, IV (September 1965), pp. 15-31.

¹⁹Joseph Mosby Hornor, "Some Recollections of Reminiscences by My Father," *PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY*, IX (December 1971), pp. 10-17.

MRS. CAROLINE HANLY

The death of Mrs. Caroline Phillips Hanly removes the last member of the family of Sylvanus Phillips, who with his co-partner, the late William Russell, of St. Louis, laid out and founded the town of Helena about the year 1820. As Mrs. Hanly was born in 1819, it will be seen that she had lived the whole of her eventful life right here in Helena. As the County was called for her father, and the City for the beautiful sister who died in her youth, it will be seen that this aged woman occupied a unique position with reference to the history of the metropolis of Eastern Arkansas. It was the more unique, and even pathetic, because of all the eleven children she bore her husband not one is alive today to follow her remains to their last resting place. Grandchildren she has, a few, but not one of the babes that came to her in her happy young wifehood was left to smooth her way to the grave.

Nevertheless she was a cheerful woman. She bore all her sorrows nobly and with a Christian spirit, and did not fritter her last years away in useless repinings. She has gone to her last reward, and let us hope to meet those whom she loved and from whom she has long been separated.

From a little sketch of the early days of Helena, written by Mr. Price Tappan, a young brother of Gen. J. C. Tappan, himself long dead, written in 1860, shortly after the incorporation into a city of the old village or town of Helena, we take the following with reference to the naming of the city:- "In the winter of 1856, an act was passed by which Helena was incorporated and recognized as a city- voted by Charter and 'City Fathers.' Thus the village was no longer a village- the town no longer a town: the one forgot the existence of the other, and were united,

'South Helena,' 'old Town of Helena,' 'the middle addition of the town of Helena,' were all merged in one common appellation. Great was the excitement, and large the gathering, when a name was to be given- men, women, children, all, came from woods and forest, traveled long and traveled far, from all portions of the county, to attend the mighty 'christening.' Some said 'Phillipsville,' in honor of Col. Sylvanus Phillips; some said 'Russellville,' in memory of Col. Russell; others declared neither would do; some were for compromising on 'Russelvanus,' as being the most appropriate and by far the best; but that wouldn't do, and they all agreed that the name should be 'Helena,' for a young daughter of Colonel Phillips, he being one among the first of those old pioneers of that day, who assisted in planning and building the town."

That was written when Helena had been forty years a village or town, and when it had grown to such proportions as to be entitled to incorporation. In another place Mr. Tappan says; speaking of the manifold changes that had come to the little village in these forty years.

"Could those old octogenarians in town-making come back again among the people now; could they be present at this great 'progressive age,' and witness the favorable 'signs of the times;' could they for a moment burst their peaceful ceremonies, answer to their names, and behold the remarkable changes that have taken place since their last sleep; could they look down from their distant, yet happy homes, and watch the continuation of their works for years past, great would be their admiration, and unmeasured their terms of pleasure and praise."

In another place Mr. Tappan says the people

then living, (1860) who were present at the time Helena was made a village, were "Col. H.L. Biscoe, Boyd Bailey, Judge T.B. Hanly, Darby Pentecost, and Fleetwood Hanks." Helena then had 2,000 people. Now she has 8,000 and the woman who is the subject of this sketch was a babe when the village of Helena was laid off in 1820, and 41 years of age when Mr. Tappan wrote this sketch from which we have quoted. From this it will be seen how intimately connected with the history of Helena this woman's life has been.

But there is much to remind us of the Sylvanus Phillips name. There is Phillips county, the best county in the state as we are wont to say; the city of Helena, the metropolis of Eastern Arkansas; Caroline and Phillips streets, and some graves up there in the cemetery, in one of which repose the dust of fair young Helena Phillips.

This morning all that was mortal of this woman of many years, many sorrows and many virtues, was laid to rest beside those of her long since departed husband, and her children. Peace to her ashes,- repose for her weary soul.

The following gentlemen acted as pallbearers; Gen. James C. Tappan, Major J. J. Horner, Judge P. O. Thweatt, Judge M. Hanks, Judge Samuel I. Clark, Major Greenfield Quarles, and Messrs. Chas. R. Coolidge, Sr., and Robert C. Moore. St. Mary's Catholic church, of which Mrs. Hanly was a life-long member, was crowded with the friends of her young womanhood, her middle age and her old age, and the crowd that followed her to the grave attested the esteem in which she was held in this community.

Mrs. Hanly leaves a half-sister, Mrs. Keller, and several grandchildren, among whom are Mrs. W.B. Lewis, who is the daughter of her son John;

Sylvanus, Chism and Carrie May Hanly, the children of her son Robert, and the children of her son Sylvanus, who died recently in Pennsylvania, and who married a sister of Mr. John F. Woodin of this county.

From an issue of the HELENA WORLD of 1898.

HELENA WORLD, JULY 15, 1896

A large party of gentlemen went out in the neighborhood of Stamp Creek yesterday and spent the day barbecuing. A very nice spot was selected and a right good time was enjoyed by the pioneers. Several tables and a number of chairs were taken out to the grounds and cards were indulged in most of the day. About one o'clock the dinner was served. Mr. J. H. Norman, that veritable Prince-of-good-fellows, superintended the cooking and serving of the elegant dinner. Three or four cooks were taken along, but Mr. Norman saw that everything was managed properly. From four o'clock on the picnickers began returning to the city, and by seven o'clock the last lot drove in. Among those who enjoyed the barbecue were: Messrs R.W. Nicholls, Jacob Trieber, Y. F. Harrington, J. C. Rembert, J. Stein, of Memphis; Aaron Meyers, Jas. A. Tappan. Lee Pendegrass, Walter Lucy, R. C. Burke, Joe Hudson, Andy Govan, Walter Bush, W. R. Lake, H. S. Hornor, J. J. Hornor, Moses Burke, H. H. Norman, Sam Solomon, Davidson, W. B. Lewis, B. R. Fitzpatrick, H. A. Washington, Col. Cad Polk, A. N. Tanner, and John Ike Moore.

SACRED HEART ACADEMY

HELENA, ARKANSAS

The wrecking effects of the Civil War were still evident on all sides, especially in the Sunny South. Just fourteen years had elapsed since "The Blue and the Gray" had blended into a new nationalism before the historic Appomattox Court House, when it happened that Right Reverend Fitzgerald, Bishop of Little Rock Diocese, comprising the whole state of Arkansas, made appeal to the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth for a community of Sisters to work this forsaken portion of the Master's vineyard. His S.O.S. was heard and answered. Think you that it cost no sacrifice to heed that summons? Review then, just what were the conditions which these pioneer Nazarenes faced. Theirs was not the glorious discovery and settlement of an entirely new sphere. Ah, no! But the reclamation of a waste and desolate district. To them was not held out the lure of new conquest, but the labor and trial of resuming arms that had been laid down in despair. Into this unpromising and forbidding district, in generous quest of souls and ready for all the sacrifices which such pursuit entailed, a valiant band of six Sisters came on August 22, 1879. They were Sister Estelle (Superior), Sisters Dominica, Nina, Etienne, Emerita and Symphorosa. After a very interesting, if not convenient trip down the river, they arrived at the Helena wharf (a miserable landing in those days), on the twenty-second of August. Truly those were the days to try men's souls. The weather, always hot in the summer months,

was oppressive on the night of their arrival in the land of beckoning sacrifice. But the welcome of the dear, old Pastor, Reverend J.M. Boetzkes, who had been anxiously awaiting their coming, mitigated the otherwise unfavorable circumstances. Indeed, it was like a strain of music to hear his kindly voice give orders, "Drive around the udder way," to the darky drivers of the dilapidated cab in which they had travelled from the station. How their zealous hearts rejoiced at realizing that now in truth theirs was a task like Blessed Veronica's to console the afflicted Christ where few there were to love or serve Him. So they presented their religious lives once more to Him, begging that they might serve, and since then all the works of the Sisters of S.H.A. have borne the imprint of the features of the "Suffering Master." Hence their capacity for work and trials has ever been almost unlimited.

In September, 1879, a school was opened under the name and patronage of the Sacred Heart. No doubt the founders foresaw how very much of His all-absorbing zeal they must acquire in order to bear the numerous trials in their course, trials the more bitter because so unlooked for and so unprovoked.

To the young Helenians pursuing the seemingly thorny paths of knowledge, it would indeed be a revelation to learn how much more of convenience is theirs than was their forefathers'. The beginning of the present splendid buildings comprising Sacred Heart Academy and Convent was one eight-room building, once the home of a well-to-do Southern family, afterwards the home and school of the Sisters of Mercy who were forced to abandon the post. To this novel and comparatively speaking good-looking school, the

youth of Helena, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, flocked. In fact, although no exact record of enrollment is on hand, yet from every statement bearing on the subject, the average attendance in the first days was fifty day scholars and twenty boarders. During her term, Sister Estelle made many improvements, including the building of two class rooms and the two large, airy dormitories for the boarders.

Though the draw-backs and petty inconveniences were many the buoyant spirit of the Sisters survived, making sport of such elegancies as a tin-can sugar bowl, ever-flicker lamps, etc. But the presence of Jesus in His tabernacle under the same roof with themselves made life more than worth the living. Religion was indeed at a low ebb. Attendance at Mass on the first Sunday after the Sisters' arrival, consisted of themselves and Father's hired man, Tom, who, in sanguine terms assured the newcomers that with the Sisters' work the Church would soon be filled.

The one great and estimable feature of these early times was the whole-hearted cooperation between Pastor and Sisters.

In 1887, Sister Crescentia succeeded Sister Estelle as Superior of the then promising Academy. Her stay though but of one year's duration, was long enough to admit of erecting the very picturesque and useful colonnades joining the various outlying buildings to the main one. The present structure, St. Mary's Church of Helena, was built by Father Boetzkes during the time of Sister Crescentia's term.

Sister Carmelite's administration as Sister-servant of the Helenian community, extended from 1888 to 1895. Under her able guidance many

improvements were achieved. The present kitchen, laundry, dairy, etc., together with a set of wooden steps at the convent entrance stand as memorials of that good soul's solicitude for the humble places of life. Three pastors succeeded one another to St. Mary's Church during these eventful years. First, the dear, pioneer soul of Father Boetzkes returned from its sojourn in the unknown land to His Father's Heavenly mansions. This was the cause of untold grief to the Sisters, each of whom regarded him as a true Father ever kindly solicitous about the spiritual and temporal care of those dear ones whom he considered as angels of light and peace sent to cheer and help him. No doubt the interment of his body led to the removal of many bodies which were buried in the Sisters' garden. Tradition has it that this was also the cemetery hallowed with the dust of Arkansas' first Bishop, Right Reverend Andrew Byrne.

The Reverend Father O'Reilly came to fill the pastorate in Helena. His three years' stay abounding in the eloquence of his voice reechoes to this day. Due to his energy the old wooden church was located behind the new one and was dwelt in by the genial priest. From 1894 to 1901 Father Mazaret took hold of the ecclesiastical labors. Father Mazaret accomplished the paying off of the heavy debt on the church, had the electric lights put in and so planned their installation that they could be first used at Midnight Mass on Christmas, as a practical reminder that this was the hour when the "Light that illumineth every man came unto His own."

Many were the general improvements effected during Sister Evangelista's ten year regime. One point of especial solicitude to the sorely tried

Superior was the care of her own household, where both Sisters and boarders were rendered as comfortable and happy as thoughtful love could make them.

Sisters Geraldine, Mary Lawrence, and Emiliana succeeded one another in 1905-1906-1907. The first mentioned was a woman noted for her executive ability. Sister Emiliana in her first term as Superior in Helena gave promise of the wonderful ability that she possesses. Besides unnumbered general improvements and repairs, she supervised the building of the compact set of wardrobes which, at present, occupy the wall space of the passageway to the Sisters' quarters. Three years of incessant and enthusiastic endeavor bore fruit in a revival of spirit around Helena. The very efficient device of publishing the doings and interests of the school was adopted with unrelenting vim. Soon a realization was awakened that Sacred Heart Academy was a very real and living institution. Following Sister Emiliana in 1910 came Sister Columbia, probably one of the most learned and capable school workers of the Nazareth Community. How untiringly she labored to promote the cause of education, even her pupils of that period realized. After four years of strenuous and seemingly unrequited effort, it was almost decided to recall the Helena Council to Nazareth. Upon further consideration, the Nazareth Council reassumed the burden of maintaining this school and sent Sister Emiliana to take charge once more.

Entering upon this undertaking with her natural vim supernaturalized by zeal, Sister Emiliana by hard strokes and clever aims set to work to transform Sacred Heart Academy. Upon her arrival, query discovered none of the former teachers had been left to help in the suggestion

of plans. School re-opened as usual, early in September, but owing to rumors of its discontinuance, many of the pupils did not return. Immediately the "Search Apostolate" was begun, and resulted in a rather limited recall.

The Reverend P.J. Higgins had succeeded Reverend Michael Enright as Pastor of St. Mary's Church. Interest in Catholic affairs assumed an especially bright outlook in the spring of 1915 when Right Reverend Bishop J.B. Morris of Little Rock came to Helena for the purpose of administering the Sacrament of Confirmation. The beautiful reception tendered him revealed a marked change for the better in the condition of Catholicism in Helena. The growth of the school demonstrated the necessity of larger accommodations. An appeal made to the Motherhouse for permission to build was not granted. Nothing daunted, the Sisters kept steadily busy towards upbuilding the standing and activities of the school. Public programs presented by the pupils exhibited the caliber of the training given. Little by little, confidence grew, so it is not surprising to learn that in December, 1915, the Hospital Association requested the Sisters to take charge of the City Hospital. Because of liabilities connected with such a procedure, the proposition was declined by the official voice of the Nazareth Motherhouse.

In May, 1916, the deferred permission to assume building debts was granted. At once, the matter was clearly stated to the people of Helena, proving that the Academy was a financial asset to the city. A rather successful campaign was conducted to raise funds for the erection of a new school building. In February, 1917, ground was broken preparatory to the beginning of work on the new structure. On May 24, the cornerstone

was laid by His Lordship, the Bishop of Little Rock. The following December witnessed the formal opening of the present "Sacred Heart Academy" beautiful, durable and inspiring.

Busy is a very weak descriptive of these years at the Academy. September, 1916, witnessed the introduction of the Commercial Department in connection with the Academy. For years, Helenians had been anxious for such a school, since up to this time all desiring to equip themselves for business careers were forced to gain their training outside the city. This branch of the school has flourished from its first foundation. The scarcity of men during war-time gave fresh impetus to it, making the 1917-1918 enrollment number eighty pupils. In its eight years, three hundred thirty-eight pupils have received business instruction as students of Sacred Heart Academy's Commercial Class.

Terrible as were the ravages of "The World War" it awakened dormant powers in many lines. For instance, the Senior Class formed a very active Red Cross Unit and devoted all their spare time to plain sewing in order to provide "Our Boys" with necessities. Every Wednesday of the year 1917-1918 was given exclusively to this work which was undertaken under the direction of several prominent Catholic matrons of the city. The output as estimated in June, 1918, was almost fabulous. In the numerous drives, rallies and contests of the time, Sacred Heart Academy took a prominent part. Several public programs were presented to raise funds to promote the Red Cross Work. Special praise was allotted to our showing in the great Red Cross Parade of May 19, 1918. A good indication of the patriotic strain of these

times may be the fact that the first prize in the patriotic word list April, 1918, was awarded to Estelle Davis, a freshman at Sacred Heart Academy. In addition to this some awards have always been claimed in every contest by the exponents on Helena's only Catholic school. Boy Scout Troop 3 was started to keep the boys alive to national interests.

Another feature of highest importance in our history was the organization of the School Improvement Association April 29, 1917, with the election of the following officers: President, Mrs. B.J. Cunningham; Vice-President, Mrs. Ben Lyford; Secretary, Mrs. Charles Young; Treasurer, Mrs. A. Cotten. Never can too much encomium be paid the work of this club. Its activities have been as broad and comprehensive as the minds and hearts of the members. An enumeration of the improvements made would be impossible, so we must be content to name the most significant: a set of sectional bookcases, a victrola, a piano, electric fans for the auditorium, fifteen young trees for the adornment of the Arkansas street entrance, stereopticon slides, and the monumental playground equipment. In addition to these benefits, the members of this S.I.A. annually preside at a Linen Shower given for the Sisters. In the furtherance of every desire for the upbuild of the school, the faculty turn with confident appeal to the cooperation of this association. Nor are its deeds simply commercial, one of its first undertakings was the loving and devoted reception extended to the beloved Mother General Rose at her canonical visit of 1917. This stay of the Mother General was so encouraging and the welcome received so hearty that the Reverend Superior returned to Nazareth with her ideas of the state

of affairs in Helena quite reformed. And even to this day, she recalls with joy the happy occasion of her first visitation of the convent in Helena.

Foremost always in partaking of progressive action, the pupils of S.H.A. at the close of the term 1916-1917 celebrated Shakespearian Tercentenary with a most novel program introducing the best known and loved of that master's characters. The costumed actors traveled from the school to the Opera House on beautifully decked floats. The pageant was undoubtedly a masterpiece in plan and execution giving each participant good and substantial reason for remembering the most noted works of England's greatest bard.

The episcopal visit of 1918 was attended with wonderful rejoicing, for besides his pontifical duties, his desire led him to give this very striking proof of his appreciation of the Nazareth Sisters by officiating at the laying of the cornerstone of the new Sacred Heart Academy. So impressive were the ceremonies of this occasion that I take the liberty to re-quote Thomas Moore's lines, which were used at the close of the account of this event:

"Let fate do her worst, there are
moments of joy
Bright dreams of the past which she
cannot destroy,
Which come in the night-time of sorrow
and care
And bring back the features that joy
used to wear."

The spirit of the Helenians was most commendable at this time and reflected the beauty of persevering effort to win "all for Christ."

In the following fall, the terrible influenza epidemic necessitated the closing of the school during the month of October. However, during this time those able to be on duty were kept busy nursing the Sisters and the boarders who had contracted the disease. This did not keep the faculty from dispatching two volunteers to nurse at St. Vincent's Infirmary, Little Rock. The weeks spent in hospital work opened up ever lengthening vistas to these young enthusiasts.

Owing to war-times, the school building was not completed until November. And then who could measure the exultation of all in the grand immigration to new and beautiful quarters! Though this moving took place in November, the Formal Opening of the new building was not held until the feast of the Immaculate Conception when it was duly marked by an appropriate program, including a drama entitled "An Echo of Our Times."

For many years there had been requests for the foundation of a kindergarten in connection with the school, so in January, 1919, this new department was opened. Its success may be read in its products and growth.

At present it is a most stable establishment, counting an enrollment yearly of twenty-five tiny folk who after their training thus received are equipped to make rapid strides in their future scholastic work. The annual program presented by the little ones is an event of no mean interest to all patrons and friends of the school.

The pupils during the school-year 1918-1919, were entertained by some very excellent speakers, chief among these was the world-renowned Shakespearian impersonator, Mr. C.E.W. Griffith.

Very touching accounts of war experiences were given by Captain Flynn, Army Chaplain, Reverend James Manley, and Lieutenant O'Brien. These speakers were introduced by the Reverend Pastor J.J. McGrath.

June 19, 1919, witnessed a truly beautiful presentation of the drama, "Joan of Arc." This selection was quite in keeping with the times and with the spirit of the institution, religion and patriotism.

Beyond the fondest hopes of pupils and faculty, the first Commencement Exercises held in the new School Auditorium were graced with the presence of His Lordship, Right Reverend J.B. Morris of Little Rock. This visit of our Bishop was celebrated with a perfectly appointed banquet served by the members of the S.I.A. The most prominent citizens were present to evince their esteem for this most estimable Churchman.

The Fall of 1919 was full of joy and promise. The war-cloud had passed and once more civic and social enterprises began to revive. So we discover all departments rising with high zeal to new undertakings. Very early in the first term of school, the Expression Class staged an altogether novel program entitled "All About Helena." The purpose was to raise funds by advertisement of the various business houses of the city. The undertaking was highly successful and enough was realized to buy the durable rubber covering that shall for many, many years adorn the stairs and corridor of the new building. By public performances on two other occasions, funds were acquired for the pipe organ installed in the chapel, the chairs for the auditorium, and the artistic stage curtain for representing the picturesque

old convent.

Upon the anniversary of the formal opening, the Sisters and pupils celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the much loved and devoted Superior, Sister Emiliana. No pains were spared to make this an occasion long to be remembered by all partakers. Reverend J.J. McGrath delivered a most beautiful discourse congratulating the Jubilarian and inciting all to a deeper appreciation of the life of a Sister. Various little festivities commemorated this event for several days.

Reverend Father Polk came during Holy Week of 1920 as a missionary to keep alive the effects of Father Luke Callahan's work of 1919. Both these missions were faithfully attended and accomplished very much toward establishing a better spirit among Catholic Helenians.

Toward the close of her second three-year term at this mission post, Sister Emiliana's health failed and she was compelled to submit to a change of residence. This caused no small amount of regret among her Sisters and the people in general. However, she returned for a space in order to adjust matters for her successor. During the annual retreat of 1920, conducted at Sacred Heart Academy for the Southern Sisters of the Community, word was sent to Nazareth asking that some one be sent to relieve the Superior of her tasks, so on July 10, 1920, the present acting Superior, Sister Ursula, arrived to assume the onerous work of director of affairs. Coming as she did during retreat and during the residence of her predecessor, those Sisters who were not previously acquainted with Sister Ursula did not even know that the new Superior was present. Sister Emiliana withdrew from among these charges of her adoption in August, 1920.

Two new features marked the opening of school in September, namely, the initiation of gymnasium training and team work, and the opening of the experimental department in science. This latter was rendered possible by the generous gifts of the Knights of Columbus and of the ever faithful friend of S.H.A., Mr. J.L. Solomon.

One of the most admirable features of the present incumbent's term of office has been and is a most delicate solicitude for the comfort and happiness of her charges. With insight given to but few, Sister Ursula immediately took hold of the situation in Helena. Realizing that many years would elapse before this community would be free of debt, it was decided to use all funds on hand as payment on the pending cost of the lately erected school. This meant that the money obtained from the sale of the building lots into which the upper section of the Arkansas frontage had been laid out should be used towards reducing the big debt and incidentally decreasing the interest. Since 1917, when these lots had been put on sale six had been disposed of at a good price. This money had been kept on hand towards a new convent but now was paid to the loan company. One more lot was sold in 1921 and to date only one remains. In view of the fact that the old convent must yet be used as a Sisters' residence, repairs and general renovation of its shabby condition began. On October 7, 1920, the Sisters moved into a substantially renewed Community Room. This was but a single feature of the many improvements set on foot. Whilst making the interior not only livable, but even attractive, Sister also assumed extensive interest in the farm and outdoor environs. The excellent equipment of the children's playground which was formally installed in October, 1921,

is a monumental testimony to the belief that "happiness makes for goodness." Another memorial of far greater significance is the truly devotional "Grotto of Lourdes," erected about midway between Church and School. The greater portion of the money used for its erection was the gift of the faithful School Improvement Association.

The School had been the fortunate recipient of a durable flagpole, the gift of the Helena Council of K.C.'s in 1919. Columbus Day, 1920 was selected as a suitable occasion for a formal celebration of its erection. And so amid cheers and smiles of these hearty Americans a handsome new flag was raised to its summit to be greeted by that most honored of patriotic strains, "The Star Spangled Banner."

Reverend Father A. Biever, S.J. after conducting a mission at St. Mary's Church, gave two very instructive, illustrated lectures at the school auditorium in November, 1920. In the course of the following year, the Reverend Pastor, Father McGrath, began to fail in health. October found him incapacitated for pastoral duties and soon he withdrew to St. Vincent's Infirmary, Little Rock, whence on the vigil of the Immaculate Conception of his Queen and Mother he left for her realms of bliss. Reverend J. Van Oudenhoven remained in charge of St. Mary's from October 21, 1921, to January 1, 1922. Though his stay was short, he endeared himself to the Sisters to whom he showed every mark of care and solicitude. On January 6, 1922, Reverend J.A. McQuaid, entering upon his duties as Pastor in Helena, was given a hearty greeting by the Sisters and school children, who found in him a most solicitous father, a most kind friend. Father is first in every movement for our School.

Two of the assistant-Mothers from the Nazareth Home honored Sacred Heart Academy with a most unexpected visit in February, 1922. Their impressions of the Helena status suffered a complete transformation during this time. In fact the early days of the house had been so overshadowed with various troubles that for a long period its reputation had suffered. The visitors from Nazareth beheld with more than pleasure the beautiful buildings, the splendid school equipment, the healthy surroundings, the goodly number of pupils, their manifest susceptibility to the training, and above all the truly congenial spirit that prevailed among the community which in the past four years had been increased from ten to fourteen Sisters. Without a doubt S.H.A. was coming into its own share of praise and regard. The children entertained these guests with an impromptu program, followed by a dress rehearsal of their Washington Birthday drama, which was exceptionally well done.

Feeling the need of a strong spiritual force to awaken the enthusiasm of the children, the League of the Sacred Heart was reorganized in March, 1922. A grand rallying meeting inaugurated this most excellent undertaking. The Diploma of Union, enclosed in an appropriate frame, was given a prominent position in the auditorium, to be a constant reminder to the newly-enlisted leaguers. In June of this same year, the Twentieth Century Club gave the Academy a flag of Arkansas. Upon this occasion, one of the presentation committee delivered a very clear and satisfactory explanation of the origin and plan of the emblem. Thus in all civic matters the School received just and gracious attention and co-operated in generous measure.

The year 1922 was of particular importance

in one point especially, namely that the Academic Diploma was then for the first time conferred upon a boy, Elton Winfield. To many readers this fact may require explanation. But there is only one reason to give and that is that Helena boys have no other accessible facilities for High School education under Catholic auspices.

The second canonical visitation of Mother Rose occurred in October, 1922. Five years had effected a world of change and chief among these were the improvements in the buildings and general appearance of the property. Mother noted with woman's discerning eye the beautiful new asphalt walks and steps which had replaced the antique and precarious wooden ones of former days. This time, the Superior-General travelled from Pine Bluff to Helena and, missing connections in Clarendon, she became the honor-guest of an old pupil of S.H.A. The stay in this town was interesting to Mother Rose, who has a keen sense of humor and who inwardly smiled at the amazed and questioning glances of all save her young hostess. Poor little Clarendon was not intimate with Catholic Religious!

Owing to political and religious factions in Helena and its vicinity, the school enrollment had been somewhat diminished this year. But the general tone of Helenians had not altered to any great extent except in those departments patronized by non-Catholics.

The jolly sounds of the Yule-tide holidays were just dying out when, in January, 1923, S.H.A. presented the Concert Program of the gifted young pianist, Miss Gertrude Henneman of Washington, D.C. This production was under the auspices of the Music Department, as was also the touching program of the Foster Memorial in February, 1923. The

St. Cecelia Choral Club was affiliated with the National Confederation of Music Clubs early in the spring of this same year.

May 4, 1923 was designated by the American Legion as a general Flag Day to be observed by all schools. Mr. Luther Wilkes, representing Commander Clancy, addressed the assembly in regard to "Reverence to the Flag."

The most inspiring act of this year was the establishment of The Ignatian Knights, our unit of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade. How zealously these young missionaries entered into this great work may best be estimated by the fact that this infant unit was represented by Bernard Cunningham at the wonderful Convention held at Notre Dame University August, 1923. Sacred Heart Academy and Subiaco College were the only schools in the Southern States who sent delegates.

How proud and happy the Ignatian Knights felt in their new found activity was again testified by their generosity in subscribing to "Mission Causes." Before three months of existence had passed, in September, 1923, our beloved Bishop Morris was sent a fifty-dollar donation toward the Bishop Byrne Burse. His Lordship was highly pleased with this mark of co-operation and responded in most laudatory terms. The fact is that Mission Work absorbs all hearts so that almost any youngster gladly foregoes his usual treat to help the great cause. The Crusade Meetings are events of importance, while the rescuing of Chinese babies has become the pastime of the hour. The first achievement of each year is for our "Home Missions in Arkansas."

Step by step the boys at S.H.A. had grown in numbers and years so that in October, 1923, the

work of organizing a Boys' Choir was taken up. Splendid material was on hand and by the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the lads were trained to sing High Mass. Previous to this they had presented a public operetta. It is hoped that this work will aid in the endeavors of preserving the adult choir. Since 1922, the Commencement Exercises had been held in the Convent Chapel in preference to the auditorium. Each year this event seemed to grow in beauty and impressiveness. This was especially so in 1924, when the singing was enhanced by the full, rich tones of the boys. St. Cecilia's Orchestra, a long established fixture to the Academy, has lent its yearly tribute to the loveliness of graduation, likewise to every "big event" of the School.

A beautiful fraternal spirit has arisen and grown in the hearts of loyal pupils of S.H.A. This is clearly evinced in the hearty response to each invitation received from Alma Mater, whether it be a summon to a Sodality meeting, a program, or a fete, but above all to the Graduates' Banquet. This last affair was initiated in 1919 to honor the first graduate in the new building.

If some of the dear ones, who labored in Helena during her "dark ages," should return now, how overjoyed would they not be to witness the fruits of what to near-sighted vision were futile efforts. One scene alone must rejoice their hearts, namely the numerous efforts of the four Sodalities, who approach Holy Communion regularly on the third Sunday of each month.

The time has drawn too close to afford proper prospective to the sketcher of this panorama so the pen must stop when the sight calls "Halt." All good wishes to Sacred Heart Academy of the

great, unknown future! Around thorn-crown and cross may the rays of divine love brighten her darkest day!

*

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Mrs. J.E. Tucker	Elaine
Mrs. Gibson Turley*	Helena
Gibson Turley*	Helena
Berry E. Turner	Poplar Grove

Mrs. John T. Turner	Clarendon Hills, IL
Mrs. N.B. Turner	Poplar Grove
Robert W. Turner	Colt, AR
Thomas B. Turner	Marvell
William L. Turner	Marvell
University of Central Arkansas	Conway, AR
Mrs. Catherine M. Vineyard	Dallas, TX
Dr. J.P. Vineyard, Jr.*	Austin, TX
Mrs. W.D. Vining	Helena
Mrs. J.F. Wahl	Helena
Miss Dorothy Walker	Helena
Mrs. Roy Warren	Helena
Mrs. Harry J. Webb	Helena
Miss Nora Webb *	West Helena
Mrs. J.M. Webster	Helena
Mrs. Rose White	Marvell
Mrs. T.H. White, Jr.	Marvell
Walter A. White	West Helena
Mrs. Giley Wilkerson	Poplar Grove
Earl W. Wilson, Jr.	West Helena
State Historical Soc. of Wis.	Madison, WI
Mrs. Gerald Wise	West Helena
Mrs. Donald Wood	Helena
Mrs. T.E. Wooten *	Helena
Robert L. Wright, Jr.	Helena

Kenneth Yancey	West Helena
Porter C. Young	Helena
Earl Johnston	West Helena
Mrs. R. Eugene Orr	Jacksonville, FL
Capt. Frederick Way, Jr.	Sewickley, PA

*Sustaining Member

d Deceased

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

Department of History

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC HISTORY AT UALR

In the last decade there has been an increasing awareness of the uses of history outside of the classroom. This type of history, public history, brings the historian's skills and methods to such diverse activities as museums, historical societies, archives, parks, businesses and government. In the Central Arkansas area alone, there exists a large and growing number of both state agencies and private organizations dedicated to the preservation of Arkansas' historical and cultural heritage. The tremendous growth in the efforts to preserve the State's heritage have presented a unique challenge and an outstanding opportunity for members of UALR to join their professional skills with those of agency directors and resource specialists and provide a service to the students and citizens of Arkansas.

The Master of Arts in Public History (MAPH), which beginning this fall semester is offered by the Department of History at UALR, is a professionally-oriented program designed to serve the need for graduate education in this expanding career field. Designed to train historians for work in both the private and public sector, the MAPH Program combines instruction in the research methodology of the historian with practical experience in the form of an internship.

The first offering in the program will be this Fall. Dr. C. Fred Williams will direct a Seminar in Arkansas History. This course, co-sponsored by the Secretary of State, will be held at the State Capitol. This Spring a Seminar in Twentieth Century America and the Introduction to Public History will be offered.

For further information contact:

Patricia Mooney Melvin
Coordinator, Public History Program
Department of History
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Little Rock, AR 72204
501/569-3235

INDIANA TROOPS AT HELENA: PART VII

CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF ARTEMUS W. ALLEN

43rd INDIANA INFANTRY REGIMENT

Helena, Arkansas. October 2, 1862.

Dear Father,

As Lieut. Burley starts for home this evening, I will write a few lines and send by him as it will go directly and probably I will not have another chance as there is strong talk of a move from this place. We thought we had marching orders several days ago but we are still here, at least we had orders to have ten days rations and hands and be ready to move by the 27th. The 27th came and is past, but we are not gone, but the ten days rations are nearly gone, and so there is no telling when we will go, but I think a move would be very desirable. I understand since this army came to this place two thousand soldiers have been buried, so you may know it not a very desirable location. Our Regt though, have not suffered very severely by deaths, only five in the two months, but a great many are sick out of six hundred reported present, one hundred and seventy five are reported sick, though I believe now they say the health is improving. Jonathan Fisk has been quite sick, though he is able now to knock around the camp, but looks very bad, none of the rest of the boys of your acquaintance have been anyways bad. I have been hearing for sometime that Jimmy has volunteered and would be here in a few days, my private opinion is that he had better stay at home, and I venture to say he will be of the same opinion before he is here a week. I think he could serve his country better at home than in the Army, in fact I don't see how you

can get along without him, and you had better keep him there and I see there will be no draft in Greencastle Township, so that will not interfere with his arrangement. I suppose though as he is a coming he will be here in a few days at farthest. I see in the Commercial of the 25th, that Jim Ballard was wounded at the battle of Antietam, though it don't say where or how bad and several from Greencastle was killed and wounded. As I said at first I will send this by _?_ Burley, who has a twenty days leave of absence, his health is very bad, and he is going north to recruit up. I believe I have nothing more of interest. My health is now very good. Write soon.

Affectionately your son,
A. W. Allen

In Camp. Helena, Ark. February 15, 1863.

Dear Father,

I saw a letter you wrote to Gonny yesterday which put me in the notion to write you a few lines though not in answer to any that I have received for if I remember right the last one from you was written the last (25th) of December, but I see the rests letters, so get generally all the news: In Gon's you deal rather harshly with me from something I had said in some former letter in regard to the way this war is carried on and that I should be a little more patient and all will be well, come out right. I have been trying to cultivate that kind of disposition, but I am beginning to think that forbearance has ceased to be a virtue and that there has been so much of this blundering and so many incompetent leaders

that its almost enough to discourage the most enthusiastic. I say there must be something "rotten" somewhere, that we with an Army a million strong cannot subdue and put down this rebellion whose entire available force is not over eight hundred thousand. I say to consider this and see the progress we have made is anything but flattering to our Army, but this is from no fault of the Soidiers! we have them, as good fighters, and as brave men as the world ever saw, but simply for the want of some leader, and then when we have one that is competent, one that will do something, the Powers that be soon throws him out of command. I'm a McClellund man, and I believe if he had been supported as he should of been, the Flower of the Rebel Army, would have been captured, and Richmond ours; Rocencrans is a brave and good General, but if he gains another battle or so, Hallack will suspend him, this is what discourages me, that we have such an ambitious selfish man as Hallack as commander in Chief, who never did anything, but march an Army of a hundred thousand men thirty miles in Six weeks, and then let the Rebs escape without knowing it for two days; this is all he ever done for this war in the way of good, but holding others back, and protracting this war. I was a Lincolnite as you know, when I entered the Service, so I suppose I should not say anything against him or his famous Proclamation, it may do a great good thing but I know it will have to accomplish wonders to overbalance the harm. The only effect that I have saw that it has done, is creating dissatisfaction in the Army, and discord in the North. Three hundred Officers have resigned on that account, just from this District. This may be an excuse, but wouldn't it have been better for Mr. Lincoln not to have let them

have this to work on. The good its going to accomplish, I can't tell, and will drop this subject. I don't wish to be understood that I am tired of the Service, or that I wish to get out, only on account of not doing any good. I came out to help put down this Rebellion. I expect to stay until its done if its done atall, but if they think of Recognizing the Southern Confederacy(which I believe is intended) I want to get out as soon as possible. I have an easy time, not much to do but this is the very cause for part of the dissatisfaction. We want men that will lead us, take us against the enemy, and end the war not lay here in Helena for a year, where Soldiers are dying off like "Sheep with the rot", by laying in mud and water where the stench from dead stock (when warm weather comes)will make this place intolerable. I say I want to leave this hole, but the talk is that our Brigade is to remain here to do garrison duty all summer, this is what makes me impatient and tired (not from the duty I have to perform or from any anxiety to be at home. I have written enough on this subject and only want this war prosecuted to the bitter end and am not concientious in the least about the "Rebs "property", but am desperately tired of "doing nothing" and want enough work to keep my "spirits up".

We are now under a new Commander (U.S. Grant)and probably may have something to do, this army has been assigned to his command. The talk is the great part of this Army will start down the River soon. I learned from Mr. Hamlin that you have a surplus of apples on hand. I hardly know whether it would be safe to start them here by express or not, but I'm willing to risk it if you are, and if the Paymaster will only come willing to pay all expenses. I'm nearly starving for apples, and none to be had, so if you will only send three or four barrels, they will be eagerly devoured, they sell here for 5 cents apiece. Milt I suppose

told you he had tendered his Resignation, it has come back, with a little monosyllable, that spoilt it, "not accepted." I was glad of it, but he says he is going to try it over and keep trying until he gets out. You mus'nt be surprised at this letter as I have expressed myself in a way to you that I never have before, all I want is for them to prosecute this war with energy and accomplish what we came out for and then send us home. The boys are generally well, Bob Allison is still in poor health. John I think will get him discharged, Milt, Gonny, Jim Bob and myself are all in good health. Write as often as possible.

Affectionately your son,

A.W.A.

Camp 43rd Ind. Inftry.
Helena, May th 1863

Mr. Allen

Dear Sir:

I received your letter of the 5th yesterday and it being a leisure time I concluded to be prompt in replying at least once. I am much gratified to learn that you are regaining your fine health and hope you may continue well. My health continues extraordinarily good. The weather here is very pleasant and mild in temperature rather cool than otherwise at times. I have not been able to dispense with my flannel yet , a thing I always was compelled to do once the season was this far advanced at home. The nights are very cool. I think if you can sell my pony for \$75 you had better do so and hereafter in transacting any business for me use your own judgement and I will be satisfied with the result. She will be entirely too small for as "large a man " as I

intend to be after I return to ride anymore. The health of the boys is very good there being less sickness in the Regt. now than there ever was before. I have but three men in hospital taking medicine and only eighteen men excused from duty in quarters. The sick list cannot be smaller than that in a regiment of men. Our relatives are all well. Milt appears to be very well satisfied just at present. Tell Mary that picture she claims belongs to Mag. I cannot write to Mag. anymore until she furnishes me with her post office address as I understand she had run off and gone to some obscure place (probably Frogtown) in Ill. I would have quite an easy time if our Regt was all together but in consequence of it being scattered I am kept busier than I otherwise would be. I think a company of those at the out posts will be ordered in shortly. As it is I am idle two thirds of the time if they were all here I would not be employed over one hour each day. I can use the time to good advantage as I have some new medical books that I am much interested in. It costs a man so much to live in the army that he cannot make any money. Clothing more than costs double what it does at home. A common "blouse" that cost me six dollars in Indianapolis is selling here for 14 and everything else in proportion. A dress suit here cannot be bought for less than \$35, pants \$10 to \$18- these things I shall be compelled to have before long and it goes very much against my inclination to pay such fabulous prices for them. The army here is in good spirits notwithstanding the unfavorable news from the east. We think the rebellion is certain to have to succumb sooner or later and I for one intend if my health will permit to see it out.

give my respects to all the friends and write soon.

Yours respectfully,

A. W. A.

Artemus W. Allen

Record in Civil War, from Adjutant General Cards in Archives Division, Indiana State Library:

Allen, Artemus Private Co.B 43rd Regt. 3 years
Enrolled Oct.3, Bainbridge, by Capt. Darnall
Mustered Oct.3, 1861, at Terra Haute, by
Capt. Morris Age 21
Discharged at Indianapolis Oct.3, 1864,
expiration of service.

Allen, Artemus Q.M. Sergt.

This card has same information as above.

Allen, Artemus W. Recruit Co.C 73rd Regt. 1 year
Enrolled Nov.1, 1864, Indianapolis by Capt.
Cooper
Mustered Nov.1, 1864, Indianapolis by Lt.Ewers
Age 24
Eyes Hazel; hair dark; height 5-10; complexion
dark
Nativity: Montgomery, Ky.
Occupation, farmer
Promoted to Adjt. 149th Indiana

Allen, Artemus W. Adjt. F&S 149 Regt. 1 year
Enrolled Feb.11, 1865, Terre Haute by Gov.
Morton

Mustered Feb. 11, 1865, Terra Haute by
R.W. Thompson
Age 24
Mustered out at Indianapolis March 1, 1865.

Allen, Artemus W. Capt. Co. A, 149th Regt. 1 year
Enrolled March 2, 1865, Indianapolis by Gov.
Morton
Mustered March 2, 1865, Indianapolis by Maj.
Hayman
Complexion dark
Nativity Montgomery Co., Ky.
Farmer
Mustered out at Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 27, 1865.

5025 Lynn Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Phillips County Historical Society
623 Pecan
Helena, AR 72342

Dear Sir:

I have cleared with Mr. Dennis F. Walle, Librarian, Illinois Historical Survey, to which organization my brother and I conveyed all publication rights to the papers in our family's collection. He agrees that we will be happy to have you print the letters from our uncle, Artemus W. Allen. Because of our natural interest in the matter, both Mr. Walle and I will appreciate having copies of the "Phillips County Historical Quarterly" in which the article appears.

I enclose a copy of the service record of Artemus W. Allen as reported by Mrs. Leona Alig, manuscript librarian of the Indiana Historical Society, with the thought that it may furnish you

with biographical notes on Artemus.

In addition to the expected information from the five letters covering his early period of service (from Helena and Little Rock), I have been most struck by Artemus' statements that it was preservation of the Union rather than the slavery question that motivated his enlistment and that the boredom of inaction was so overpowering although the latter was to be taken care of, according to rumor, by the assignment of a new general, thought to be named Grant.

Also enclosed is a copy of a complete inventory of the papers from our family to the Illinois Historical Survey to the present. More recent papers are to be given them soon.

Very truly yours,
Charles M. Allen

P.S. Aside from your letter, my wife joins me in pleasant recollections of Helena. She was along for the trip at the time I was chairman of the North Central Association committee visiting your then new Community College. There was even talk of the possibility of a training program for pilots for the inland waterways, which I note is a reality now. (Although the news magazine did not say it was associated with your community college).

A BOAT PARTY

Miss Zipporah McCoy entertained her friends yesterday afternoon with a delightful boat party on the steamer Maude. The steamer left port with a large, gay party of young folks on board and steamed down the Father of Waters as far as Friars Point. While enroute down the party divided its time in conversation and listening to the sweet strains of music made by several of the young men who took their musical instruments along with them.

During the journey back these young men furnished music for those who wished to dance. When the Maude had steamed back up the river as far as the Williamson break in the levee an accident happened in her engine rooms which compelled her to put in to shore. A messenger was dispatched to the city and soon the little steamer Grace Velie went down to the Maude's aid and relieved her of the excursionists, returning to the city at half past eight o'clock in the evening. The entire party expressed itself to the sweet young hostess as having enjoyed the excursion immensely.

HELENA WORLD- April 21, 1897.

The ferry ROCK ISLAND

by

T. E. Tappan

" Capt. C. W. Stoll is the source for this unusual photograph. The ferry ROCK ISLAND, towing a decked barge, is crossing the Mississippi at Helena, Arkansas in June 1920 with U. S. Army trucks and personnel enroute from Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles. In all 70 trucks and 170 men were involved in the operation. This old-as-the-hills ferry was built in 1875 at Clinton, Iowa, originally named the AUGUSTA and operated between there and Garden Plain. After the Clinton bridge was built she was sold, renamed briefly T. J. ROBINSON, and then became the ROCK ISLAND in the Davenport-Rock Island ferry run. Capt. Nettie Johnson bought the ferry c. 1918 and transferred it May 26, 1919 to Arthur C. Johnson, Capt. Fontain's father. It served as the Helena Ferry, sometimes taking excursionists to the St. Francis River, until it beached on shore. Then, something like the SOUTHERNER in our last issue, it became the home of the Johnsons until they built their home at 834 Arkansas Street, Helena. After moving day the old ROCK ISLAND was scrapped, and her machinery went to another ferry built by A. C. Johnson in 1922 named CAROLYN. For some of this factual information we are indebted to Capt. Fontain M. Johnson, Route 3, Box 714, Golding Acres, Greeneville, Miss. 38701."

The picture of the steam side wheel ferry boat, the ROCK ISLAND, and the above text appeared in Volume 16 #3 September 1979 issue of the S & D REFLECTOR, editor Capt. Frederick Way, Jr., who is a long time member of the

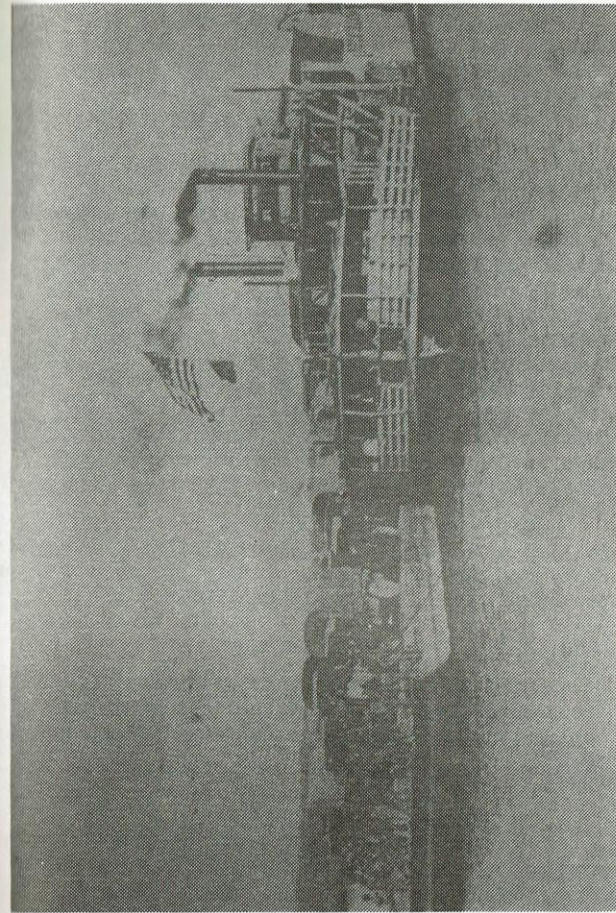
Phillips County Historical Society.

We wrote Capt. Fontain M. Johnson for a copy of the photograph, which appears in this issue, as we had never run across this picture before. We also researched the Helena World of June 1920 and found no reference to this troop movement.

We did run across an article dated June 11, 1920, "BULLETIN-The steamer ROCK ISLAND grounded at the lower end of the chute between Buck Island and the mainland late this afternoon and sank in fifteen feet of water. There were twenty passengers aboard, but all were taken off safely to the shore. Half a dozen automobiles composing part of the cargo went down with the vessel."

The next day the WORLD issued a correction, stating that it had just run aground and was rescued later in the day by passing boats, and that the six cars had suffered minor water damage and could be salvaged.

A picture of the ROCK ISLAND is on the following page.



Included here is a brief synopsis of the last two meetings of the Historical Society. These reports were prepared by Betty M. Faust, President of the Society.

MEETING, JUNE 1981

The June meeting of the Historical Society was held on Sunday, June 14, at 3 P.M. at the Museum in Helena. The meeting was rescheduled because of the availability of the speaker on this date. The guest speaker was Nan Mulvaney from the Fine Books Division of Taylor Publishing Company in Dallas. She discussed with the group the possibility of having Taylor Publishing Company publish a county history or what they call FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS. No decision was made at the meeting as to whether or not the Historical Society would undertake this project.

Officers for the 1981-1982 year are as follows: President, Mrs. Ivey Gladin; Vice-President, Mrs. Basil Jones; Secretary, Elton Batchelor; Treasurer, Mrs. C.M.T. Kirkman; Directors; Jesse Porter, Mrs. Thomas E. Faust, Mrs. Louis Wood, and Mrs. David R. Straub.

Note: The Historical Society Directors have decided not to have Taylor Publishing Company publish a county history or a "Family History Book."

MEETING, SEPTEMBER 1981

Otis Howe, local insurance executive and member of the Historical Society, spoke to a standing room only crowd on Sunday, September 27, at 2 P.M. at the Museum in Helena. Wabash, a farming community in south Phillips County, was the subject of his talk. Howe is a native of Wabash and a grandson of one of the founders.

In 1905, two brothers, O.D. and W.H. Howe, came from Logansport, Indiana, to Phillips County looking for timberland to buy and cut. They rode the train to the site of what is now Wabash. The Howe brothers bought a large tract of timberland. They named the town Wabash for the Wabash River in Indiana which flowed through their former home, Logansport. Two sawmills were built, one at Wabash and one at Helena.

After the timber was cut and the land was cleared, the Howes began extensive farming operations, cotton, rice, wheat, soybeans and even tobacco were grown. "The reason for coming to Phillips County was the timber, and farming was secondary," said the grandson Otis Howe.

Pictures from the extensive collection belonging to the Howe family were shown at the meeting. These pictures depicted the development and changes that have taken place in that part of Phillips County in the last 75 years. These included floods, levee breaks, logging, farming and camping on the banks of Big Creek.

In 1979 Howe Lumber Company was sold to Prudential Life Insurance Company.

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be on Sunday, January 24, 1982, at the Phillips County Museum in Helena. Winston Mosby, veteran lumber manufacturer from Helena, will speak on "The Lumber Industry in Helena and Phillips County, Arkansas."

Visitors at the Phillips County Fair at Marvell in September had an opportunity to experience the Mid-America Center Museum. Volunteers from the Historical Society manned the traveling exhibit from the Hot Springs facility.

"The museum is owned by all the people of Arkansas, and I feel a real responsibility to share it with persons in every area of the state," explained Sterling Hankins, Museum Director. "Outreach to those who live too far from Hot Springs for a comfortable one day trip has been the problem, and this idea of an exhibit at the county fair is one solution," he said.

The director came to Marvell to instruct the volunteers in the operation of the exhibits which were duplicates of those on the museum floor in Hot Springs.

Historical Society volunteers included Mr. and Mrs. Ivey Gladin, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Davison, Mr. and Mrs. Elton Batchelor, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Crisp, Betty Faust, Mrs. Basil Jones and Rose C. White.

On the next page Morvene Gladin, President of Phillips County Historical Society, and Sterling Hankins, Mid-America Museum Director, are pictured at the Phillips County Fair in September.



THE HUSTLERETTES and the LULA HOTEL

By Virginia Merrifield Straub

In a series of articles for the Helena-West Helena TWIN CITY TRIBUNE, Ted Woods recently wrote about sports in Helena in the 1920's. In one such article about the revival of girl's basketball with a powerhouse team known as the Hustlerettes in 1927 with Edna Campbell as coach, Ted wrote:

"The first team after the revival of the sport featured Viola "Sissy" Rightor, at jump center, Peggy White and Cippi Rabb alternating at side center - are those terms confusing you?... the coach's sister, Ruth Campbell and Charlene McCabe as forwards, and the Southard twins, Dorothy and Helena, at guards.

"If memory serves correctly, only Sissy Rightor and Peggy were lost through graduation, and the Helena teams continued their domination of the Fifth District for another couple of years."

This inspired a response from me as manager of the team for in retrospect I felt one of the Helena Hustlerettes greatest victories was not on the court but in the dressing room. This was the first girls team to be allowed to have a uniform of shorts and jerseys replacing navy blue voluminous bloomers and white middie blouses. Talk about Women's Lib - this was it!

"Another memorable victory was over the Lula-Rich (Mississippi) Consolidated School in 1928 or early 1929.

"The Hustlerettes left Helena Friday afternoon from the Illinois Central station transferring across the Mississippi River on the predecessor of the Steamer Pelican. The railroad

car was picked up on the Mississippi side by an engine and switched into Lula.

"It was winter and the train was heated by a small pot-bellied stove that the conductor kept stoked with coal, which put out quite a bit of soot. You can believe that ladies in those days wore gloves to keep their hands clean as well as warm.

"After a glorious victory, the team spent the night in the Lula Hotel which was upstairs over the drug store. It had seven rooms, a bathroom, one telephone in the hall, and sheets that had not been changed since the hotel opened. Just across the street were the Illinois Central tracks, along which the freight trains lumbered all night long.

"Lots of complaints about not being able to sleep are heard to this day, but the truth is that the Helena Hustlers, the boys team, had played that night in Tunica and it was the phone calls back and forth that kept everyone awake, not the freight trains."

The poor landlady, (a Mrs. Baker) had as her only other customer a travelling salesman from St. Louis whose name she invoked repeatedly in her futile efforts to quiet the Hustlerettes.

"We checked out our recollections of that trip with Cippi Rabb Lindsey and Sissy Rightor Fletcher, now of Philadelphia.

"It was Sissy who told us that in celebration, the victory theme was 'bringing home the bacon' and that they bought a pound of bacon in Lula which the team cooked on the pot-bellied stove on the trip home.

"The Lula Hotel is no more and it's just as

well, but a generation of ladies remember it yet."

When Dale Kirkman read this exchange of reminiscences in the TWIN CITY TRIBUNE, she asked if I knew anything more about the Lula Hotel since its existence was a surprise to her.

There was not a lot to know about the Lula Hotel even in the old days and a phone call to long-time Lula resident Lillian Dowdy Hill, formerly of Helena, confirmed there is still not much to tell.

Because of road conditions in Mississippi and distances between towns, such small hotels must have been a godsend. Mississippi had few 'hard roads' until the 1940s; in the 1920s most were Mississippi mud and the better roads were gravel. A trip to Memphis by car through Mississippi was not undertaken lightly.

Mary Mac (Eddins) Powell tells of a trip her father made with her as a year-old baby, her mother, a nurse, and a chauffeur. Just getting from the Helena ferry to Lula took so long Mr. Eddins was afraid they would not make Memphis by nightfall, so he left wife, nurse and baby to spend the night in the Lula Hotel while he and the chauffeur plowed on to Memphis in their open touring car. Baby and her entourage came to Memphis by train the next day.

Most people of course took the train and changed in Lula along with many suitcases and the trunks necessary if the trip was to be of any duration. Lula probably did not have the 'red-caps', such sophistication being more likely in Memphis or New Orleans, but there were certainly people to move bags, and none of these little wheeled carts the weary traveller uses today.

The train from Helena, with an observation deck on the back such as presidential candidates always waved from, passed by the Powell Plantation on its way to Lula where passengers changed cars north to Memphis or south to New Orleans. According to Lewis Powell who was born and lived most of his adult life there, the Powell Store by the tracks had a ticket office for a time and they flagged the train if a passenger wanted to board.

Though not a notable structure, he did recall the Lula Hotel and its predecessor, the Craven House, a two story frame building also known as the "Green Beetle" for reasons requiring no editorial comment. Miss Claudine, his mother, had to stay at Craven House on one occasion but found it not to her liking and moved hastily to the Lula Hotel.

Today Lula is no longer on a highway and trains carry no passengers. Only the occasional freight train goes through, just often enough to keep motorists watchful. And there's a Holiday Inn just ten miles over the bridge in Helena.

Volume 19

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The Phillips County Historical Society

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Meetings are held in September, January, April, and June, on the fourth Sunday in the month, at 3:00 P. M. at the Phillips County Museum.

The Phillips County Historical Society supplies the Quarterly to its members. Membership is open to anyone interested in Phillips County history. Annual membership dues are \$5.00 for a regular membership and \$10.00 for a sustaining membership. Single copies of the QUARTERLY are \$1.25. QUARTERLIES are mailed to members. Dues are payable to Mrs. C.M.T. Kirkman, Treasurer, 806 McDonough Street, Helena, Arkansas, 72342.

Neither the Editors nor the Phillips County Historical Society assumes any responsibility for statements made by contributors.

LATE ARRIVAL

The photograph on the following page shows the girls' basketball team of Helena High School during the 1927-1928 school year. The girls were wearing their new uniforms of shorts, replacing the old bloomer and middie outfits. The trip to Lula that Virginia Merrifield Straub describes in the article, was made the next year when she was team manager.

Left to right:

Sissy Rightor, Glenn Thompson, Joan Schrantz,
Cappi Rabb, Charlene McCabe, Ruth Campbell,
Wilma King, Peggy White, Edwynne Gordon,
Edna Campbell.



VOLUME 19

NUMBER 3

PHILLIPS COUNTY

HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

VOLUME 19

NUMBER 4



JUNE 1981

SEPTEMBER 1981

Published by

THE PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Helena, Arkansas

PRICE: \$2.50