

## PROGRESS

Until 1900 most of the interior of Bolivar County was a vast forest with muddy and impassable trails connecting the cleared areas. There was only the natural drainage which was inadequate. Forest land values were low, and the Railroad Company was allowed to acquire about 225,000 acres of these woodlands in Bolivar County at  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cents an acre in 1881. This land was then put upon the market and sold for from \$10 to \$15 an acre, mostly to individual owners. Sawmills sprang up all along the line of railroad that was built through the eastern part of the county in 1884-1885, and slowly the forests were levelled. This timber era was a period of concrete development in Bolivar County. The timber stood in the way of utilization of its immense agricultural resources, and timber at that time was as valuable as the land. Timbered land sold for from \$10 to \$20 an acre, and often the timber sold from the land would pay the cost of it. After the timber was cut and sold, the clearing for cultivation began. The line of railroad called the Peavine, connecting Rosedale and Boyle, was built through almost virgin forest in 1900, while, now that entire section is in cultivation. The year 1910 saw the waning of the timber period and the increase of the farming lands. Between 1910 and 1920, the population of Mississippi decreased, while that of Bolivar County increased nearly 10,000—a remarkable development. The voting records show the following phenomenal increase in white vote:

In 1911—1,206

In 1915—1,276

In 1919—1,802

In 1923—2,970 (women voting)

Progress was calm and deliberate until 1917. War came—and the price of cotton doubled, trebled, and even went to four times as much as had ever been received since the Civil War period. Land values soared from \$50 an acre to \$300 and over. Long-staple cotton was at a premium, and these long-staple-cotton lands were held cheap at any price. A riot of extravagance followed with unparalleled prosperity.

During this period of inflated values, extensive drainage systems were inaugurated, consolidated high schools were established in every district, housed in fine brick buildings with the best educational facilities; gravelled roads connected these schools with every part of the county; handsome new churches and homes were built. It was a story of enlightened progress, showing the spirit of the people.

In the fall of 1920, the crash came. The price of cotton fell from eighty-five cents and a dollar a pound to fifteen and twenty cents a pound, within a month, though the price of every other necessity remained high. Land values fell, banks closed, and failures were many.

This financial storm of 1920 was bravely met, and the waves of disaster beaten back. The golden period forced the growth of the county at least ten years. In an agricultural way, four important things may be attributed to this era: large increase in land values—stable values; a great influx of good, stable white people; vast internal improvements; it inculcated a progressive spirit such as was not known before, which was responsible for many things, especially for the promulgation of the Staple Cotton Cooperative Association.

Land values did not return to the pre-war levels. Every child in the county is given the opportunity to attend a modern up-to-date school. Good roads lead to every door. The county is drained. The mosquito is eliminated, and the malaria problem is solved, while the increase in the population is Bolivar County's greatest triumph.

To gain a clear conception of the topography of Bolivar County, think of a rippling surface of a calm lake—a vast, open stretch of the most fertile land in all America! There are no hills, only a few scattering Indian mounds. Because of its topography every foot of land is capable of cultivation. There are no waste lands or obstacles in the way of tillage, and a rock to be seen must be imported.

With a thorough knowledge of this wonderful topography and fresh soil, it is easy to perceive why Bolivar County leads the world in the production of cotton—and long-staple cotton at that—producing from 85,000 to 125,000 bales annually.

The chief industry of Bolivar County, of course, is cotton, although the finest corn, alfalfa and all standard crops are raised in luxurious profusion. The finest fruits, melons, berries and vegetables of every variety and kind are grown to perfection.

The manufacturing interests are ginneries, sawmills, spoke factories, cottonseed oil mills and compresses. There is one of the largest fish markets in the United States in Rosedale. The fish are taken from the White, Arkansas, and Mississippi Rivers and contiguous lakes, and shipped from Rosedale to all points of the country.

Walter Sillers, 1924

## AGRICULTURE

The soil of Bolivar County as stated is sandy soil, buckshot, and loam—all fine rich soils. The analysis of these soils show phosphorous for more than 100 crops of corn, yielding 100 bushels per acre; potassium for 95 crops of corn, yielding 100 bushels per acre. These lands yield from 4 to 7 tons of alfalfa per acre and before the boll weevil came, from one to two bales of cotton per acre. As much as a bale of cotton of  $1\frac{3}{8}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches staple has been grown to the acre. The cotton now, however, since the appearance of the boll weevil is from  $1\frac{1}{8}$  to  $1\text{-}5/16$  inches, the longer staples being abandoned because

they could not be produced in sufficient quantities to pay the cost of production.

The late Dr. Knapp of the Agricultural Department and one of the greatest agriculturalists this country has ever produced, who conducted a number of experiments at Scott's Station in 1911, to show what other things could be raised besides cotton, said of the Delta:

"I visited the Valley of the Yangste and the Ganges. I consider both of these valleys far superior to the valley of the Nile, but they are not to be compared with the Yazoo Delta. It is possible that they were equal to it when their soils were in virgin condition. I simply refer to them as they are at present. I do not see how any body of land could be richer or more fertile than the Delta lands. Farm problems do not consist in restoring wasted soils but in the most intelligent management of a soil marvelously fertile."

As Dr. Knapp truly says the farming problems of the Delta consist in intelligent management of a land marvelously fertile. A few years of experience in this section will demonstrate to the intelligent agriculturist that the problems relate to intelligent labor and up-to-date methods of farming. The Delta needs the touch of the hand of the white man. It is now ready for him. Here is a most delightful climate; the purest water; the richest soil; the most varied products of any section of the country, which makes it the most desirable agricultural country in the United States and Bolivar is the richest section of the Delta.

Walter Sillers, 1924-25

## WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE

### WATER SUPPLY:

In Bolivar County prior to the Civil War, the concrete underground cisterns were successfully used to supply drinking water, but after the war the drinking water became a problem.

Wooden tanks caught the rain water from the roofs and houses, or shallow wells were dug or driven.

Underlying the Yazoo Delta is a stratum of sand 800 to 1200 feet below the surface of the land which furnishes an abundant supply of artesian water, practically free from impurities.

The first artesian well was driven in Leflore County in the 1890's, and the pure drinking water problem was solved for the Delta.

### DRAINAGE:

Prior to 1909 drainage in Bolivar County had presented grave problems and wide discussion, but aside from following the natural drainage, with a little physical assistance, very little had been done.

In 1908 the Bogue Hasty Drainage District was organized by the firm of Sillers and Owen, attorneys. In 1909 another district, known as the Northern District, was organized by the same firm. Actual work

did not begin until 1914 because of legal delays over projects so new to this section.

Bond issue is the financial basis of drainage after the creation of a district by popular vote. By 1926 Bolivar County had about twenty-five drainage districts, with 654 miles of completed canals, costing \$3,600,000. These canals drained around 352,620 acres of land.

Farm land drainage in Bolivar County must not be confused with swamp land reclamation, as the swamp area in this county is very small. Practically all the drainage canals in the county are to benefit farm lands in cultivation. Bayous, flats, and sloughs that should be drained are found on every cotton plantation in the county.

Generally land drainage in the county costs from \$6.00 to \$12.00 an acre for lands benefitted. This is paid in the form of a tax which is spread over the land and divided into twenty annual payments.

With proper drainage in the county there has been a very substantial decrease in malaria and marked improvement in the health of the people. The reason for this is well known to all.

Drainage has brought an increase in cultivatable acres of the county and an increase in value.

Thousands of dollars annually are used for maintenance of this fine system of drainage canals. Cost of maintenance of the drainage system is derived from annual tax levies.

During the years 1945 and 1946, more than a thousand miles of small drainage canals were constructed through the AAA program, whereby part of the cost was paid from Federal funds, part by the interested land owners.

## HISTORY OF RAILROADS IN BOLIVAR COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

*Compiled from the files of E. D. Holcomb, Superintendent of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad, Memphis, Tennessee*

The development of railroads in Bolivar County begins with the construction of the Louisville, New Orleans, and Texas line, now the main line of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad between New Orleans and Memphis.

On August 8, 1870, a group of enterprising Delta planters, M. S. Alcorn, John Jones, J. L. Alcorn, A. S. Dowd, B. Harrington, P. C. Legg, D. M. Childress, and James A. Peace obtained a charter for the construction of the New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Vicksburg and Memphis Railroad. Construction was started at Vicksburg to the north between 1870 and 1872, and grading was partly completed from the Yazoo River north to the present station of Valley Park. Lack of money forced the abandonment of the project at that time.

In 1882 Mr. Collis P. Huntington, one of the most romantic figures

in the history of American railway development, acquired the old New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Vicksburg and Meridian Railroad charter. The building of the line was begun at New Orleans, Vicksburg, and Memphis in the fall of 1882. By the close of 1883 fifty-two miles of road had been completed from Memphis to Dundee, in Tunica County; and fifty-eight miles of line between Vicksburg and the Washington County line had been opened for operation. During the spring of 1884 the line was built south across Coahoma County, reaching Shelby in Bolivar County before May 1, 1884.

The decade 1880-1889 witnessed a remarkable development throughout the Delta. In addition to the completion of the New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Vicksburg and Memphis Railroad some 300 miles of other railroad, now included in the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley System, were built.

Among these lines was the 125 mile Riverside District, extending from Coahoma south through Bolivar and Washington Counties to connect with the line already built at Riverside Junction in Sharkey County. This line was started by the Memphis and New Orleans Railroad and Levee Company, which was organized in March, 1882, to build a railroad which would promote agricultural development adjacent to the river and at the same time afford levee protection, by its embankment, to the rich alluvial territory lying east of its right-of-way. In granting this railroad's charter, the Mississippi legislature declared it to be "a work of great public importance and in strict accordance with the true policy and interest of this state . . . indispensable to the reclamation and development of the Mississippi Delta." Portions of this levee railroad were constructed in the summer of 1884-1885; but financial difficulties at that time forced the company into receivership, and its properties were acquired in the year 1885 by the Huntington-Wilson interests and became a part of the Louisville, New Orleans, and Texas Railroad. The line was extended north to Rosedale in the spring of 1889 and was continued and completed to a junction with the main line at Coahoma in the fall of 1889, thus completing another line through Bolivar County.

The "golden spike"\* in the construction of the 456 mile line between Memphis and New Orleans was driven in the vicinity of Boyle in Bolivar County on September 14, 1884; and on the 6th of October the first through passenger train schedule between Memphis and New Orleans was initiated, providing this section with rail communications to and from all parts of the country.

On August 12, 1884, the New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Vicksburg and Memphis Railroad Company was consolidated with several other railroads to form the Louisville, New Orleans and Texas Railroad with Major R. T. Wilson as president.

\*This golden spike has been claimed by almost every town along the line. As this comes from the files of the superintendent's office in Memphis, it must be authentic.

On October 24, 1892, the Louisville, New Orleans, and Texas Railroad was consolidated with the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad, under the latter name, with Stuyvesant Fish as president.

In direct charge of the building of this line was Major James M. Edwards, vice president and general superintendent of construction, assisted by Captain William A. Grant, chief engineer, and R. T. Elliott, principal assistant engineer, in charge of lines north of Vicksburg.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in the construction of this line. The country from Vicksburg north, except little strips of land along the streams, was almost a wilderness in 1882. It was subject to frequent overflows from the Mississippi River, the whole country being overflowed in 1882 almost from Lake View to Vicksburg.

The line of railroad between Rosedale and Boyle was constructed by three railroads. The part between Rosedale and Phalia (now Malvina) was constructed by the Rosedale and Mississippi Central Valley Railroad Company as a narrow gauge line. In October, 1898, the company was in process of reorganization and was acquired by the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Company in 1899.

The line between Lake Kimbail (now Kimball Lake) and Boyle, Mississippi, was constructed by L. V. Boyle and Company under the charter of the Boyle and Sunflower River Railroad Company in 1896 as a narrow gauge railroad. The line was originally constructed as a lumber road to reach timber along the Sunflower River. It was acquired by the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Company in 1900. The connecting link between Malvina and Kimball Lake was constructed in 1900 by the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley at the same time the line between Rosedale and Malvina was changed from narrow gauge to standard gauge.

Today Bolivar County is provided with 117 miles of railroad; and the investments, running into millions of dollars, adds substantially to the taxable wealth of the county, while the railway payroll contributes materially to its prosperity.

## THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH

BY FLORENCE SILLERS OGDEN

In 1931 passenger service on the Riverside from Coahoma to Vicksburg was discontinued because of the encroachment of automobile and bus transportation.

The "Peavine" (named by the negro workmen who laid the tracks because of the wild peavines along the way) continued to make its daily run from Cleveland to Rosedale, thence to Greenville, until August 1, 1942, when the tracks were taken up and all cross county service discontinued. The last run of the "Peavine" was July 31, 1942.

The trains brought the people their gay visitors, their news of the



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outside world, their meat, meal and molasses. Like a shuttle they carried a silver thread of cheer, easy bustle and slow hurry back and forth through the homespun of every-day life, a life which might have grown dull and colorless but for the shining steel rails of the railroad tracks.

Freight trains still bring meat, meal and molasses on the Riverside but the gay days of the passenger service are gone forever in west Bolivar County.

Two familiar personalities of those early days, and today as well, are Conductors H. J. Lawrence and A. C. Henry who watched the growth and development of the Delta from the platforms of the trains through fifty years.

H. J. Lawrence still serves on the Main Line run from Memphis to Vicksburg. He began his service as flagman in 1891 and was conductor on the Riverside from 1902 to 1916. His first train was Number 29, engine 16, Engineer Mason. In 1916 he was transferred to the Main Line where he still serves (1946). In 1941 he was presented with the "Gold Pass" by the Illinois Central Railroad Company in recognition of fifty years of continued service.

A. C. Henry, known to all as "Mr. Red Henry", first served as flagman in 1895, then as conductor on the Riverside until he, too, was transferred to the Main Line. He was retired in 1945.

## NEWSPAPERS IN WEST BOLIVAR COUNTY 1856-1946

ROSA BELLE SHELBY

<i>Title</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Editor</i>	<i>Date</i>
The Beulah Republican .....	Beulah	.....	1869
The Bolivar Times .....	Beulah	C. A. Cummings	1870
The Bolivar Times (re-established) .....	Beulah	F. A. Montgomery	1870
The Riverton Record .....	Riverton	..... Ward	1872-73
The Floreyville Star .....	Rosedale	.....	1873
The Weekly Leader .....	Rosedale	W. A. Yerger	1876
The Rosedale Journal .....	Rosedale	John Robb	1877-79
The Weekly Leader .....	Rosedale	Harry Herndon	1880-82
The Rosedale Leader .....	Rosedale	L. E. Owen	1882-84
The Bolivar County Democrat .....	Rosedale	Charles Hull	1888-89
The Bolivar County Review .....	Rosedale	Editor Weissinger	1888-89
The Bolivar County Review .....	Rosedale	Frank Wingfield	1888-90
The Weekly Leader .....	Rosedale	Frank Wingfield	1891-93
		later, J. E. Bowers	
The Rosedale Journal .....	Rosedale	John Farrar	1893-95
Bolivar County Democrat .....	Rosedale	R. J. McGuire	1893-98
		H. A. Marschalk	1899-1902
		A. D. Linnell	1902-1928
		Lois Linnell	1928-1932
		(with John Linnell, assistant)	
		George Shaddock	1939-1946
		Jeff Montgomery	1900-.....
Gunnison Enterprise .....	Gunnison		



## NEWSPAPERS OF WEST BOLIVAR COUNTY

By FLORENCE S. OGDEN

The oldest newspaper in the county is the *Bolivar County Democrat*, a weekly, published in Rosedale by George R. Shaddock at the present time. The *Democrat* was established in 1888 and edited by Charles Hull, but it was by no means the first paper published in Rosedale, and it may be an outgrowth of one of the earlier organs. Subsequent publishers of the *Democrat* were: R. J. McGuire, 1893-98; H. A. Marschalk, 1899-1902; A. D. Linnell, 1902-1928; Mrs. Lois M. Linnell, widow of A. D., 1928-39; G. R. Shaddock, 1939-46.

For more than a half century the *Democrat* has faithfully served the people of the west side of the county and is at the present time their only local news organ. A special feature during the war period, February, 1942, to February, 1946, was a personal "Letter to the Boys in the Service," written by Mrs. Florence S. Ogden, as a contribution to the war effort, and published every week. It was sent to the four ends of the earth as a gift from the editor to the men and women in service from this locality, and hundreds of grateful answers were received.

## EARLY PAPERS

Early newspapers were located at the county seats. One can easily visualize the importance of the news journal in a community which had no railroads, telephones, radios, or other lines of communication, except the steamboats.

The first newspaper in Bolivar County of which there is any record was the *Bolivar Times*, published at Prentiss in 1856. The *Times* next made its appearance at Beulah in 1870, being published by Colonel Frank A. Montgomery and C. C. Cummings. There was the *Beulah Republican*, published in 1869, which, from its title, may have been a Radical organ.

The *Floreyville Star* was published in Floreyville in 1873 by a man named Ward. W. A. Yerger published the first paper in the town of Rosedale, the *Weekly Leader*, 1876.

In 1888-89 there were two rival newspapers published in Rosedale, the *Bolivar County Democrat*, by Charles Hull, and the *Bolivar County Review*, by a Mr. Weissinger.

Early newspapers of Bolivar County had a colorful and sometimes violent history. Editors were much more personal in their comments than they are today and often waged heated battles with the printed word. One such battle ended in tragedy and bloodshed when Charles Hull of the *Democrat* and Weissinger of the *Review* indulged in a prolonged editorial controversy in which insults were hurled and threats made.

In August 1889, after a bitterly sarcastic reply by Hull to an attack made on him by Weissinger, Hull was shot and killed as he walked across the street from his noontime dinner at Mrs. Ida Owen's boarding-house. Weissinger fired the fatal shot from the doorway of the noted "Sky Parlor" saloon, which was being moved to a new location down the middle of the street across which Hull was walking. The street was the one which runs east and west from the railroad station to the business district.

Hull's assassination caused feeling to run high, so to prevent violence, Weissinger was spirited from the jail at night to be put on the *Kate Adams* at Terrene Landing. While passing through a dense thicket on the outside of the levee, Weissinger leaped from the spring wagon in which he, the deputy, and two leading citizens were riding, and disappeared in the underbrush. Shots were fired after him, but he escaped. It was learned afterwards that he had been wounded, but had made his way to a friend's home and escaped from the county. It was said that he settled in the West. At least he never returned to Bolivar County.

During the heated political campaigns of the Scott and anti-Scott factions, 1893-95, Rosedale again had two rival papers which fought the bitter political battles in their weekly editorial columns. These were the *Bolivar County Democrat*, R. J. McGuire, editor; and the *Rosedale Journal*, John Farrar, editor. These editorials were unsigned, but everyone knew that they were written by the political leaders and not by the editors.

These erudite leaders, in their attacks on one another, quoted Shakespeare and other classics, and woe to the one misquoted by a word or syllable, for the other pounced on it like a trout after a rich morsel. One devotee of Sir Walter Scott, in the *Review*, committed the unforgivable sin and wrote, "This is my own *dear* native land," instead of, "my own, my native land." Immediately his rival in the *Democrat* took him to task and ridiculed him for his blunder. In the very same editorial he quoted from Hamlet, writing, "Alas, poor Yorick, I knew him *well*," rather than, "Alas, poor Yorick, I knew him." It is easy to imagine with what glee the *Review* came back.

These editorials were masterpieces of sarcasm and wit and were eagerly read; and while they were not written in a friendly spirit, for it was war to the finish between the factions, no serious results followed among the leaders.

It is all past and gone now, the old fires have died out, but this journalistic rivalry formed an important and interesting chapter in the turbulent history of Bolivar County.

## THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN BOLIVAR COUNTY

BY ELEANOR WALTERS

"October 7, 1839

Resolved, by the Board, that the Judge of Probate of this county be requested to attend the above stated term of this board, to be held on the second Monday of November, next, to take into consideration the propriety of establishing a common school in the county of Bolivar, under the provisions of the late act of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi in relation thereto."<sup>1</sup>

This resolution, recorded in the minutes of the Board of Police of Bolivar County, marks the official beginning of the history of public education in the county. It was not until seven years later, however, that the first school commissioners were selected. On July 13, 1846, Matthew Farrar, Isaac Hudson, Joseph McGuire, John R. Patterson, and John Thomson were appointed by the Board of Police to serve as commissioners. The first funds from the state for education were received in 1852. Joseph McGuire was sent to Jackson to collect from the state treasurer the county's share of the common school fund—\$360.50.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, no real system of public education was in existence until 1886.

This does not mean that the education of the boys and girls of the county was completely neglected. In the early years of the county, education was largely in the hands of tutors, employed by individual families, or of teachers in neighborhood schools, supported by private funds. In the early 1850's, after Dr. Hiram B. Brown bought land between the Glenn place and the W. N. Brown place, he built a small Methodist Church, in which Robert H. Brown taught school in 1856 and 1857. About that same time a school was started in the Beulah neighborhood. The first two teachers in that school were Mr. Berger and Mr. Skyland. Judge J. C. Burrus employed a tutor for his children. Just before the Civil War, Mr. William Payne taught a school at the cemetery on what later was the Boyd place, near Gunnison. During the war, Mrs. Jane Love taught at the same place for a few months, and then Columbus Arnold opened a school at what is now Gunnison. These and other private schools like them, were small and often ran for only a few months, but they represented an earnest effort on the part of parents to give their children some sort of education. Reading, writing, arithmetic, and spelling were the usual subjects, but there is evidence that occasionally piano and singing lessons were given.

There are no names more closely connected with the early schools in Bolivar County than those of J. B. Brander and his wife, Jennie Elder Brander. Mr. Brander was a native of Scotland, who had come to Arkansas to teach in a boys' school. There he married Miss Jennie Elder,

<sup>1</sup>Minutes of the Board of Police, October 7, 1839.

<sup>2</sup>Anna Alice Kamper, *A Social and Economic History of Ante-Bellum Bolivar County*, page 270.

who was then teaching in a girls' school. In 1860 they came to Prentiss and with their niece, Miss Maggie Burnett, as assistant, began the first school to be attended by the children of more than two or three families. When the town of Prentiss was burned in 1862, the school of course closed, but that did not end the teaching activities of Mr. and Mrs. Brander. During the last two years of the Civil War, Mrs. Brander taught school at Holmes Lake, near the present town of Shelby, while Mr. Brander taught a boys' school at Stamps Lake, near what is now Gunnison. In 1866 and 1867, Mrs. Brander taught at Beulah, and later at Concordia and Rosedale. Many of the older residents of the county are the sons and daughters of people whose education was received in schools taught by this couple who are so closely connected with Bolivar County's early educational efforts.

It was in 1870 that a uniform system of public schools was organized in Mississippi. Provision was made for a term of at least four months, under the supervision of a board. The average monthly salary paid teachers in the state was \$55.47. Ten years later it had dropped to \$28.74, but by 1887 it was up to \$33.97. In the decade 1879-1889, there was a marked increase in the enrollment of pupils—about fifty percent.<sup>1</sup> In Bolivar County, as in the rest of the state, progress was being made in public education. In 1886 provisions were made for a new system of school districts, institutes for teachers, uniform examinations for teachers, and a county superintendent of education. The average term was to be four months, and the monthly salary \$36 in rural schools and \$54 in separate school districts. At first these schools were one-room, one-teacher concerns, often taught in a church, as was the case at Rosedale and Beulah. Within a few years, however, most of the towns in the county had small schoolhouses. The names of many teachers in these schools, including Miss Tillie Montgomery and Miss Elizabeth Toney (later Mrs. Fred Clark), are very familiar to residents of Bolivar County.

In the early 1900's several towns, including Cleveland and Rosedale, issued bonds to provide money for erecting new and larger school buildings. Bigger buildings and more teachers had become necessary because of increased enrollments. Some of the schools still did not give a full high school course, but in 1911 the Bolivar County Agricultural High School opened in Cleveland, with provision for dormitory students. A. K. Eckles, who had served as superintendent of the Cleveland public school, became superintendent of the new institution. This school was in operation until 1922 or 1923, providing educational opportunities for those students whose local schools did not offer a four-year high school course. Although the school is no longer in existence, its buildings still have a part in Bolivar County education,

<sup>1</sup>Lowry and McCardle, *A History of Mississippi*, pp. 417-435.

for they are taken over by the Delta State Teachers College and still serve the youth of the county and of the state as a whole.

One of the very important periods in the history of Bolivar County schools is that period from 1916 to 1923, during which widespread consolidation of schools was taking place. Several small schools, joining together, were thus able to have larger and better equipped buildings, better faculties, and other advantages growing out of increased enrollments. One of the first of these consolidated schools was organized at Skene in 1916. By 1923, of the twenty-one schools in the county, eleven were consolidated schools, with districts of from forty to sixty square miles. The following figures, given in 1924, show something of the size of the leading schools in the county:

Cleveland .....	1,250 pupils	24 teachers
Merigold .....	420 pupils	11 teachers
Shaw .....	400-500 pupils	10 teachers
Shelby .....	400-500 pupils	15 teachers
Rosedale .....	350 pupils	10-12 teachers
Boyle .....	300 pupils	12 teachers
Skene .....	250 pupils	10 teachers
Pace .....	200 pupils	7 teachers

During the last twenty years, the schools of Bolivar County have continued to show notable progress. The 1939 bulletin of the State Elementary School Commission shows that six of the elementary schools—Boyle, Cleveland, Hill Demonstration School of the Delta State Teachers College, Merigold, Rosedale, and Shaw—had AA ratings which is the highest rating given by the commission. Benoit, Duncan, Pace, Gunnison, Shelby, and Skene were in class A, and Litton, the only school in the county in a rural district, was in class B. No other county in the state had more than four class AA elementary schools, while over one-half of the counties had one or more class C schools.<sup>1</sup> Bolivar County can be proud of the excellent ratings of these schools.

Some progress has been made in the field of negro education in the county. Until recent years the schools for Negroes were very inadequate, because of short terms, poorly prepared teachers, and poorly equipped buildings. In many of the towns, however, there was at least some form of school. In Rosedale, the first negro school was a private one. Then in 1902 the Bolivar County Baptist Association built a normal school, known as the Rosedale Industrial College. This was sold in 1910 to the county, which then operated it as a public school. After that building burned in 1939, a new five-room schoolhouse was built and is now in use. In 1924, a school for Negroes was built in Shelby at a cost of \$30,000. Most of the equipment for the school was furnished by the Rosenwald-Smith-Hughes fund. In 1939 the citizens

<sup>1</sup>Bulletin No. 95 of the Elementary commission, pp. 20-25.

of Cleveland, almost unanimously, voted \$20,000 of bonds for the erection of a school building for the Negroes. This amount was matched by the Federal government, the building was constructed, and is now serving the negro children of the community. An effort is now being made to have better trained teachers and better buildings for the negro schools of the county, and the work done in these schools is beginning to show improvement.

Not only in the field of secondary education, but also in the field of teacher training, there has been progress in Bolivar County. On September 16, 1925, the Delta State Teachers College, founded by the state for the training of teachers, opened for college work. In February, 1929, the college was admitted to full membership as a senior teachers college in the American Association of Teachers Colleges, and in 1930 to full membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. During the first year of the college it had a total enrollment of 228. This number steadily increased from year to year until the war years when, as was the case with almost all colleges in the country, the enrollment fell far below normal. Since the close of the war, the number of students has begun to increase again, and there is every indication that it will continue to do so. Instead of the three buildings in which the college began its work, there are now four dormitories, an administration building, science and music building, library, dining hall, demonstration school, gymnasium, home management house, swimming pool, laundry, and heating plant.

As we look back over the progress that has been made in our county since that day in October, one hundred and seven years ago, when the first resolution concerning education was made by the Board of Police, we find evidence that the people of Bolivar County believe the words that are to be found over the doorway of the administration building at Delta State Teachers College:

The State has said that only free men shall be educated, but God has decreed that only educated men shall be free.

## THE DELTA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

BY W. M. KETHLEY

The Delta State Teachers College was organized in 1925. The Mississippi Legislature during the regular session of 1924 passed Senate Bill 236, Chapter 284, entitled "An Act to Create and Establish the Delta State Teachers College." The events leading to the passage of this act reflect credit upon the citizens of the Delta and of Bolivar County. The vision and concept of need for an institution of higher learning was expressed by the citizens of Cleveland in a mass meeting held at the county Courthouse in January, 1924, and attended by many promi-

nent representatives from Bolivar County. It was decided to offer to the state the Bolivar County Agricultural High School Plant located one half mile west of Cleveland for the establishment of a state college for the Delta.

Bolivar County offered 120 acres of land and three brick buildings valued at \$125,000 for the beginning of the college. In addition, the sum of \$50,000 in cash was contributed by the City of Cleveland, which was to be used for the operation of the college.

After a careful study of all sites offered and the advantages of each, the legislature decided to accept the Cleveland offer. It passed a bill creating Delta State Teachers College and ordered the Board of Trustees to elect a president and set the school in operation.

In section 2 of the enabling act, the object and purposes of the Delta State Teachers College are set out. "The object of said Delta State Teachers College shall be to qualify teachers for the public schools of this state, by imparting instruction in the art and practice of teaching in all branches of study which pertain to a common school education, and such other studies as the Board of Trustees may from time to time prescribe."

The Board of Trustees named J. W. Broom, prominent state educator and then assistant superintendent of education, to be the first president. It authorized the first regular summer school to begin June 5, 1925. Thus began the work of a new teachers college in America, and thus did the Delta's institution of higher learning begin its program of work.

The Board of Trustees authorized the first regular session to begin on September 16, 1925, with a faculty of twelve officers and teachers. It is significant to note that three members of the original faculty, Dr. William H. Zeigel, dean and head of the department of education; Mr. W. A. Williams, head of the department of social science; and Dr. A. L. Young, professor of psychology, are today continuing in their original assignment.

President Broom was named in January, 1925, and served as president only a little over a year before he died. His passing was mourned by a host of Mississippians. Especially did the people of Cleveland and Bolivar County mourn his death. President Broom had the rare quality of making and keeping friends, and he had become tremendously popular in the short time he lived as president of the Delta College. W. M. Kethley, then assistant superintendent of schools in Jackson, was named president. He came to Cleveland, in July, 1926, and has served continuously since that time.

In the beginning of the college history, the classes were taught in the Hill Memorial Building, named in honor of Edward Bibb Hill, prominent Bolivar County citizen. The boys' dormitory, Hardee Hall, was named in honor of William Guy Hardee of Cleveland. The girls'

dormitory, Taylor Hall, was named for Mr. and Mrs. Starkey Taylor of Cleveland.

Thus, the first college work was offered in a classroom building and two dormitories, all bearing the names of prominent citizens of Bolivar County.

The legislature of 1926 gave a building program of \$175,000 to Delta State Teachers College with which Cleveland Hall, women's dormitory, and two cottages, a laundry, and a frame gymnasium were built.

With a growing enrollment of students, the Delta State Teachers College began a program of development which gave the Delta and the state a beautiful college, useful and popular with all. In 1928, \$375,000 was appropriated to erect an administration building, girls' dormitory, dining hall, and central heating plant.

In 1936, \$300,000 Federal funds and \$100,000 in state appropriation were provided for additional buildings consisting of the Doolittle Annex, Whitfield Gymnasium, Roberts Memorial Library, Field House, Swimming Pool, Marshall Home Management House, and athletic field. The library building, named for Senator W. B. Roberts of Rosedale, is one of the best housed libraries in the southern states and would be a credit to any college plant.

The Delta State Teachers College is a fully accredited school. Since 1930 the college has been a member of the Southern Association, American Association of Teachers Colleges, Mississippi Association of Colleges. It holds membership in the Southern Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association, the American Council on Education and the National Education Association. Its graduates may enter any reputable graduate school in America without loss of credit.

At the present time, three degrees are offered—the Bachelor of Science degree in Education, the Bachelor of Arts degree, and the Bachelor of Science degree.

Postwar plans include new departments and a broader teacher training program, the development of the library, and the construction of new buildings. Departments of health education, resources use education, radio and physical education are being organized. Work in these divisions will be advanced in the future.

The training of more teachers is needed in Mississippi. In order to increase the usefulness of the Delta State Teachers College, additional teaching force and dormitory space should be provided. It is expected that all teacher training will be greatly strengthened and stimulated with increased appropriations from the legislature.

The Delta State Teachers College has pioneered in many social and educational problems. The only narcotics education clinic in the state has been conducted regularly as a part of the summer school for teachers. A reading clinic and laboratory has been fostered by the



college for the past seven years. This important work has helped thousands of elementary teachers to a better understanding of the problems of the teaching of reading to elementary children. The college has cooperated in the movement for in-service training of teachers in community health. The Delta State Teachers College is now operating one of three guidance centers for veterans in Mississippi. The Elementary Forestry Textbook now used in teaching conservation to Mississippi children is a product of the college.

New buildings for the development of a great teacher training program are proposed. These include a science hall and an elementary training school. Plans also include the erection of dormitories for men and women.

On the entrance of the Broom Memorial Building is a legend which expresses the philosophy of the Delta State Teachers College and reflects something of the character of the school:

The State has decreed that only free men shall be educated, but God has decreed that only educated men shall be free.

Thus, in establishing the Delta State Teachers College, the creative spirit of the citizens of Bolivar County and of the State of Mississippi works for service to society and for the glory of God.

## LIBRARIES IN BOLIVAR COUNTY

Up to the time the governmental agencies started functioning in Mississippi, Bolivar was one of forty-eight of the eighty-two counties in the state which had no public library system. Several clubs, including the Madam Hodnett Chapter of the D. A. R. of Cleveland, the Woman's Club of Shelby, the American Legion Auxiliary of Merigold, the Woman's Club of Rosedale, and the Rosedale Library Association had maintained public libraries of various sorts, but none of them was affiliated with the state commission. Alone of all these, the D. A. R. library in Cleveland was affiliated with the county. It had a monthly donation of twenty-five dollars and a librarian in charge of it. However, it had not been functioning for a year previous to the advent of the Federal agencies.

In 1934 a survey was made and the need and earnest desire for public libraries was determined. Many families in the county were literally without a scrap of reading material, and would treasure even an old newspaper for weeks until forced to use it to wrap the children's lunch.

Mrs. Lorine R. Goza was appointed West Bolivar County librarian under the Emergency Relief Administration, and Miss Vera Elmore for East Bolivar. Miss Elmore resigned and was succeeded by Mrs. J. T. Robbins. The libraries of Rosedale and Cleveland were located in the courthouses, the latter receiving the book collection of the Madam Hodnett Chapter of the D. A. R. Mrs. Ira Rayner, under the

auspices of the American Legion Auxiliary, assembled a sizable collection of volumes for Merigold, the town contributing five dollars per month toward its support. The Woman's Club of Shelby, assisted by a donation of five dollars per month from the town, helped Shelby start its library under the direction of Mrs. Bordon Wilkinson.

By 1935 approximately 4,000 volumes had been assembled and catalogued in the various libraries over the county. At this time Mrs. Lorine Goza was district director of Bolivar, Washington, and Coahoma counties. One noteworthy achievement of the county library system has been the library extension in rural communities. In one month, January 1936, 1,693 books were circulated, and 1,327 magazines were distributed. Bolivar County then had a library on wheels, and the farmers and their wives looked eagerly for the coming of "the Book Woman," for her coming meant somebody new to talk with, to bring a bright magazine or an interesting Western to break the monotony of existence.

There were fifty of these home stations, distributing points for rural communities. One farmer stated that no inconvenience whatever, was caused from the use of his home as a distributing point, since his wife was pleased to let the books out. She declared that she had not enjoyed so much fun in years, that she had been lonely, but that after the books came she had company all the time—neighbors coming to get books.

Prior to 1943 the county provided financial help to the Cleveland and Rosedale libraries, giving a monthly allowance for the purchase of books; but with the discontinuance of the governmental agencies in that year it assumed responsibility for them, allowing each fifty dollars a month for a librarian's salary and ten dollars for the purchase of books. These grants were supplemented by monthly contributions from the two towns. In 1945 the county increased its grant to seventy-five dollars a month for salaries, and thirty-five for books.

Mrs. E. T. Clark is librarian for the Cleveland library, Mrs. Rosa Belle Shelby for the Rosedale. A noteworthy accomplishment of Mrs. Shelby for the Rosedale library is the collection of copies of *Life Magazine* for the four-year period of World War II. These have been bound in attractive, maroon cloth bindings, the volumes numbered and lettered in gold. She has a complete file of *Time Magazine* for the same period, which will be bound in the same manner.

## PUBLIC HEALTH IN BOLIVAR COUNTY

Mississippi's interest in public health was manifested by an act of the legislature, passed February 1, 1877, which authorized the establishment of a state board of health. Three years later Bolivar County had as its first public health officer Dr. J. W. Dulaney of Rose-dale, who was appointed April 2, 1880.

Following Dr. Dulaney was Dr. J. E. Halbert of Mound Landing, who was appointed March 12, 1888. The third county health officer was Dr. T. A. Harris of Rosedale, appointed April 7, 1893.

On April 5, 1897, Dr. H. L. Sutherland of Rosedale was named as health officer. Dr. Sutherland was a public health official with a vision far in advance of his time, and he served with credit and distinction until his death, in 1915.

Following the death of Dr. Sutherland, Dr. F. P. Shelby of Shelby served as county health officer for a few months, after which Dr. E. R. McLean was appointed and served until he resigned to enter the military service in the World War in 1918. It was during the tenure of Dr. McLean that the anti-malarial campaign was brought to Bolivar County under Dr. C. C. Bass, as scientific director, and Dr. R. D. Dedwyler, as field director. Dr. Dedwyler's staff at that time consisted of five physicians and twelve laboratory technicians. Dr. Bass and Dr. Dedwyler spent the years 1917-1918 in Bolivar County, after which Dr. Dedwyler and his staff went to Ruleville for further malaria work.

In 1920 Bolivar County decided to organize a full time health department. This was made possible by the work of Dr. W. S. Leathers, then executive officer of the State Board of Health, aided and supported by a public health minded Board of Supervisors consisting at the time of W. A. Speakes, president, with J. L. Smith, V. W. Thomas, L. E. Edwards, and J. W. Yates, members. The State Board of Health recommended Dr. Dedwyler for the directorship of the new department, and his selection was confirmed by the Board of Supervisors. Dr. W. W. Hall of Shelby, who had succeeded Dr. McLean as health officer when the latter resigned to enter the military service, resigned in July, 1920, in favor of a full time health officer.

Public health activities and the direction of the county health department have been under the uninterrupted guidance of Dr. Dedwyler since July 1, 1920. That his selection was wise and the confidence not misplaced is evidenced by the constant willing support given him at all times by county and municipal governing bodies.

In addition to directing a department which is known all over the state for the sound, practical value of the public health work done, Dr. Dedwyler also enjoys the distinction of being the first public health official in the South to administer toxin-antitoxin to rural

school children for immunization against diphtheria. This was done at the Merigold School in 1921.

While the Department of Health is far from being as old as the county, its twenty-six years of service practically date back to the beginning of what is known as modern public health work.

The laboratory, operated as a unit of the Department of Health, was installed in 1921, being the first county health laboratory in the state. It has been an invaluable aid to the physicians of the county in making specimen examinations for diagnostic purposes.

The department has had its ups and downs—at times a staff sufficient to cover partly the second largest county in the state, at others, due to economic depressions, only a skeleton organization; but the work has never stopped. The principal office is maintained in Cleveland, with a branch office having a nurse in charge in Rosedale. The staff at the present time consists of the director, three nurses, two sanitation supervisors, and a laboratory technician.

## THE KING'S DAUGHTERS' HOSPITAL OF ROSEDALE

BY ROSA BELLE SHELBY

The first little hospital was built in 1904. Its story is so interwoven with the course of "Ole Man River" that its history, like that of the Delta, would not be complete without going into the part the river has played in its destiny.

The Viriginia McGuire Memorial Circle of the King's Daughters was organized in 1897 by Miss Matilda Montgomery a few months after a disastrous flood in the county. Its organization was in response to the great need and demand for organized relief for the poor and sick of the community.

Situated as Rosedale is, on the Mississippi River between the mouths of the White and Arkansas Rivers, it is the center of a flotsam and jetsam population that drifts to its shores. There are many who are sick and heavy laden, living in shanty boats, exposed to every ill in life. It was to these, and the usual number of poor and sick to be found in every town, that the King's Daughters ministered. The work was begun with a nucleus of \$100, residue of a flood relief fund granted to the Circle by the War Department.

The first officers of the Circle were: president, Mrs. F. A. Montgomery; vice-president, Miss Matilda Montgomery; secretary, Mrs. Fred Clark, and treasurer, Mrs. Rosa Belle Shelby.

The first home was a tent erected in a pasture, but the work soon outgrew these meagre accommodations, and an old "Poor House" was loaned to these women by the county Board of Supervisors. This house was furnished by individual members of the Circle, and the

sick cared for by each member agreeing to "take a day" to nurse and provide food and fuel for the patients. And it is recorded that never one failed. Dr. H. L. Sutherland gave his services; Mr. H. D. Chaney, druggist, donated all medicines. Later, in the name of the Circle, Mrs. Fred Clark solicited a small monthly donation from the Board of Supervisors, which was allowed.

Because of the great need for it, there was put into the hearts of these women the inspiration to climb higher—to build a hospital. The idea seemed impossible in such a small town as Rosedale, but in six months the hospital was an accomplished fact. Mrs. Anna Cable Wilson, president of the Circle at this time, Mrs. Rosa Belle Shelby, chairman of the finance committee, and Mrs. E. H. Moore, committee member, led in this work and they had the help and cooperation of the entire Circle and community. Mr. Charles Scott donated the site; the Lowrance Brothers, levee contractors, graded the lot free of cost; Mrs. E. H. Moore gave the foundation; Mr. W. H. Fitzgerald donated the roof; and Mr. G. P. Rice donated the coal for the first year; others gave money. It was a piece quilt of love and service. On April 24, 1904, the little hospital was dedicated with ceremony and prayers. The Reverend C. E. Pittman and the Reverend Alfred Todhunter conducted the services.

The frame building consisted of four rooms, a hall, entrance, and back porches, with a four-bed capacity. The only income was the \$50 monthly allowance from the county. Occasionally a pay patient was brought to the hospital, but for many years there were at least twenty charity patients to one that could pay. The first matron employed at this home or hospital, was Mrs. Letty Holmes. It was almost miraculous as to where the money came from to care for these needy patients, but come it did, and the fame of the little "home of mercy" spread afar. Word was carried by those who drifted up and down the big river—even as far as St. Louis—that in a little town way down the river, called Rosedale, the citizens took care of poor sick people free. And so they came—an ever increasing stream of sufferers. One—Lizzie Ainsworth—came and stayed on to serve, giving her faithful service to the hospital until she died.

In 1910 Mrs. A. C. Wilson, the president, Mrs. John Gill, and Mrs. Walter Sillers appealed to the Board of Supervisors for an increase of their monthly allowance. After listening to the plea of these earnest women, the President of the Board said, "I did not know there was any such good work being done in Bolivar County. If these ladies can do what they have done and are now doing, then Bolivar County can and will help." The allowance was raised to \$100 a month, a matron was employed, and gradually the hospital began to build up.

In 1912 Mrs. C. B. Allen was elected leader to succeed Mrs. A. C. Wilson. She, with Mrs. Walter Sillers, treasurer, acted as business

manager of the hospital from 1912 till 1937. In 1912, "Ole Man River" again broke his confines, and Bolivar County was the scene of another flood. The hospital overflowed with refugees. Babies were born by the wholesale, pneumonia patients were nursed back to health, undernourished children were fed.

Again there was a flood relief fund left in the Chairman's hands. The sum of \$90, besides articles of clothing, skiffs, tents, and supplies, was turned over to the King's Daughters after the waters subsided. From the sale of these supplies \$760 was realized. With this money a charity ward was added to the hospital with a capacity of six beds, thus increasing the capacity of the hospital to ten beds. Those in charge of this work were Mrs. C. B. Allen, leader; Mrs. Bonner Richardson, secretary; and Mrs. Walter Sillers, treasurer. They had the willing co-operation of everybody.

In 1914 a wide screened porch was added to the hospital with funds secured by Mrs. Walter Sillers through soliciting the refunded automobile tax from the automobile owners of the county. A wheel stretcher was also bought with the money. During the years that followed the county raised its allowance to \$150 per month. In 1922 Walter Sillers, Jr., member of the state legislature, sponsored the first legislation which provided for a state appropriation for the little hospital.

Again in 1927 the flood brought home to the people the need of a haven for the sick and suffering, as the little hospital served the community. At this time the most urgent need of the hospital was a sterilizer. The King's Daughters appealed to people who were safe and dry in their homes for help and from this appeal \$600 and much household linen was realized. A sterilizer was purchased.

In 1930 there was a re-organization of the board of management. Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Sillers resigned in favor of two gentlemen—Mr. Walter Sillers, Jr., and Mr. D. F. Noel, who were the elected trustees of the King's Daughters. The county appointed Mrs. Rosa Belle Shelby and Mr. G. C. Gardner, and the city appointed Mrs. C. C. Morris and Mr. A. F. Goza, as the city was now donating \$50 per month to the hospital.

When the depression came the city of Rosedale was forced to withdraw its financial support from the hospital. There were no funds with which to pay a superintendent, and the closing of the hospital seemed imminent. Mrs. Rosa Belle Shelby volunteered her services free of charge and took charge of the hospital at this critical time. There was a brief breathing spell. In the early part of 1932 the state appropriation was allotted, and the hospital was enabled to return to a normal basis.

Physicians who have served in this hospital are: 1897-1914, Dr. H. L. Sutherland; 1897-1905, Dr. T. A. Harris; 1907-1910, Dr. W. B.

Johnson; 1909-1936, Dr. C. W. Patterson; 1910-1936, Dr. L. B. Austin; 1914-1936, Dr. E. R. Nobles.

## THE ROSEDALE BOLIVAR COUNTY HOSPITAL

In 1935 the W. P. A. offered the opportunity to secure for Rosedale and community a first class, first rate hospital.

Public-spirited citizens of the city and community, led by Dr. E. R. Nobles who had long been interested in a more modern hospital for Rosedale, launched the movement for the building of an up-to-date modern hospital. The Mayor and City Council of Rosedale joined in the movement and sponsored the program.

The Honorable Walter Sillers, a member of the Legislature from Bolivar County, who has always been an ardent supporter of good health, improved hospitalization and medical care programs, secured the passage of special legislation authorizing the State, Bolivar County and the City of Rosedale to contribute to the building and equipment of the hospital. The act authorized the City of Rosedale to own, maintain, and operate it and appropriate funds for that purpose. Under this authority Rosedale issued bonds and raised its pro rata of the funds with which the hospital was built and equipped.

The City contributed \$10,000, the W. P. A., \$25,000, making a total of \$35,000 with which the hospital was erected and equipped.

It is the first municipal owned hospital of its kind to be constructed in Mississippi and operated for the accomodation of pay patients and charity patients. The pay patients are received on the basis of their ability to pay and the charges made accordingly. In event a patient is unable to pay anything the hospitalization is provided free.

From the success of this experiment similar hospitals have been erected throughout the State and now it has become an established State policy, taking the place of the State owned charity hospitals maintained and operated exclusively for indigent persons.

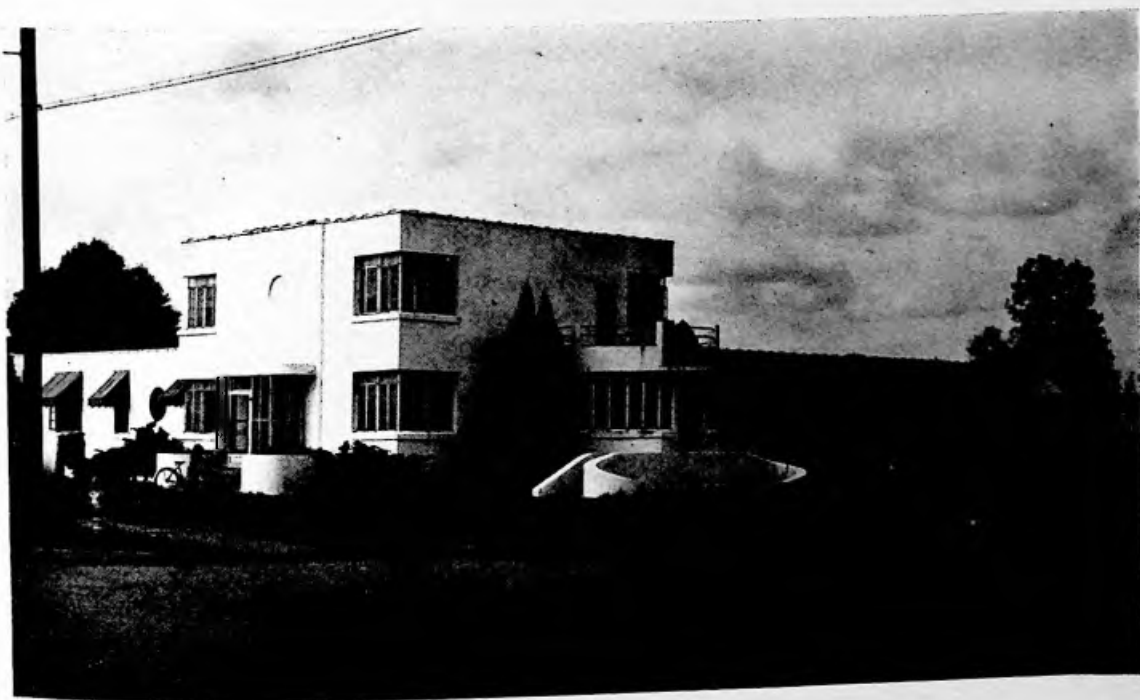
The first Board of Trustees for the Rosedale Bolivar County Hospital appointed by J. L. Wilson, Mayor, were: Lena R. (Mrs. Walter) Sillers, Miss Anne Lobdell, Frank G. Paden, and J. L. Wilson, Jr. Under the law the Mayor is ex-officio a member and chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Mayor Wilson served in that capacity. The first Superintendent was Miss Julia Stout, who came to Rosedale from the nurses' staff of the State Hospital at Vicksburg.

The Rosedale Bolivar County Hospital has a capacity of twenty beds, of which there are seven memorial rooms. Three of these rooms were furnished by J. L. Wilson in memory of Augusta Elliott Wilson, Anna Cable Wilson and Mrs. Sattie Elliott; one furnished by the Sillers family in memory of Walter Sillers; one furnished by the Roberts family in memory of Minnie Elizabeth Roberts; one furnished by Mrs. Otto Wineman in memory of Otto Wineman; one





Rosedale Bolivar County Hospital—1936



Cleveland Hospital—1938



furnished by the Jewish Sisterhood. The conservatory was furnished by the King's Daughters of Beulah.

The King's Daughters' Circle of Rosedale donated the old King's Daughters' Hospital building and all its contents to the new organization. The building and lot were sold and the proceeds applied on the operating room.

Since the construction of the hospital there has been added a comfortable, well furnished Nurses' Home, at a cost of \$10,000.

The hospital is supported by contributions from the State, County, City of Rosedale, and funds collected from pay patients. It is thriving on this income and is rendering excellent service.

The County makes a monthly contribution to the hospital of \$100. Seven thousand dollars have been cleared by the hospital since it was established. This has been invested in modern equipment of the best quality.

The resident physicians of Rosedale are: Dr. C. W. Patterson, 1909-1946; Dr. L. B. Austin, 1910-1946; Dr. E. R. Nobles, 1914-1946; Dr. R. L. Coppedge, 1946.

## THE CLEVELAND HOSPITAL

In the year 1936 the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Cleveland, at the instance of a number of citizens of the City, headed by Dr. E. R. McLean, adopted a resolution declaring their intention to issue bonds to supplement money to be supplied by the Works Progress Administration of the United States, for the purpose of building a hospital in the city, and called an election to determine the will of the people as to whether bonds should be issued for that purpose.

The election was duly held, resulting in the following vote: for the hospital bonds 261; against the hospital bonds 105. Pursuant to this mandate \$17,500 in bonds were issued and sold.

Dr. E. R. McLean deeded the land on which the hospital now stands to the City, as a gift, as a site for the hospital. Plans and specifications were prepared by N. W. Overstreet, architect, of Jackson, Mississippi; and G. C. Gardner of Rosedale, Mississippi, supervised the construction of the hospital building.

The progress of construction was slow, and in the course of the construction the City of Cleveland provided additional funds to the extent of \$6,000, Bolivar County contributed \$6,000, the Works Progress Administration contributed \$31,850, all of which together with the gift of the land by Dr. E. R. McLean, valued at \$1,000, made the aggregate cost of the hospital and equipment, \$62,350.

As the building neared completion, and equipment was being installed, steps were taken to organize the hospital for operation. The following citizens of the city were named by the mayor to serve with

him as a board of trustees for the management of the institution: J.C. Russell, Leo Shoenholz, Mrs. W. H. Myers, and Baxter Wilson. The Board of Trustees selected Miss Bertie Jones, at the time president of the State Nurses Association, as superintendent, and employed nurses and other employees of the hospital as recommended by the superintendent. The hospital continued under the able management of Miss Jones until she entered the military service of the United States as an army nurse. To her able management must be attributed much of the success of the institution which was notable from the beginning.

The hospital opened its doors, having been named "The City Hospital, of Cleveland, Mississippi," on the 11th day of July, 1938. From the beginning the City of Cleveland has made a monthly contribution of \$100, and Bolivar County a like monthly contribution, to the maintenance of the hospital, and with this aid the hospital has never at any time been unable to meet its obligations but from its inception has gradually built up what is now a very substantial bank balance, running into several thousands of dollars.

The doctors in Cleveland at the time of the establishment of the hospital were the following: Dr. E. R. McLean, Dr. J. P. Wiggins, Dr. Lawrence Beall, Dr. E. E. Farmer, Dr. J. D. Simmons, and Dr. O. E. Ringold. Dr. J. C. Russel, Jr., soon entered the practice in the city and has been closely identified with the hospital since that time. The doctors here at the time of the opening of the hospital organized themselves into a medical staff for the hospital, arranged a schedule whereby a designated one of their number was available for stipulated periods of charity cases and state aid cases, have faithfully supported the institution, and are largely responsible for its success.

The hospital has grown in usefulness and service but is now beginning to be inadequate to meet the demand for hospitalization, and the time is now ripe for a substantial enlargement of the hospital and its facilities.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Cleveland at the time of the establishment of the City Hospital of Cleveland were the following: mayor, W. W. Simmons; aldermen, C. I. Bagwell Howard C. Williams, W. G. Lowery, Lawrence Feduccia, and S. C. Bedwell. Hugh F. Causey was city attorney.

This hospital is a credit to the city of Cleveland and to all those who were instrumental in procuring its establishment. It is thoroughly well equipped to discharge the functions for which it is intended and is one of the outstanding hospitals in cities of like size and importance in the State of Mississippi.

## THE TABORIAN HOSPITAL

The Taborian Hospital, logically located in the all-negro town of Mound Bayou, was built by the International Order of Twelve of Knights and Daughters of Tabor of Mississippi, incorporated, organized in the state in 1889. This Negro fraternal order has been operating in Bolivar County as well as other sections of the state for fifty-seven years. The hospital project was proposed twelve years prior to the beginning of erection, and the cornerstone was laid in the summer of 1940, with a great public demonstration. Thus the building program was well under way at the beginning of the trying years of World War II, and the doors of the hospital were officially opened February 12, 1942, to begin its state-wide mission for better health.

The hospital was built and equipped at a cost of more than \$100,000, raised mainly from the aggregated low income of Negroes who compose the membership of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor of Mississippi, though white citizens of the vicinity from many fields of business and industry made liberal contributions.

From the beginning the institution has enjoyed the unanimous good will of all people of the community contiguous to Mound Bayou—members and non-members, white and black—and it has a high rating as a health institution and is rendering a great service. At the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the Taborian Hospital on February 12, 1946, the record showed that more than 6,000 patients had been admitted for hospitalization; and according to a statement issued by Dr. T. R. M. Howard, chief surgeon, and Dr. P. Moise George, chief of medical department, they had handled an out-patient host of 60,000 during the four years. With only seven-tenths of one hospital bed per thousand for the Negro population of one million in Mississippi, the Taborian Hospital is at least one step toward solving a serious situation.

The furnishings and equipment are as complete and modern as limited means permit. The hospital has laboratory and X-ray technicians and a dietician, and a complete history of patients is kept on standard record forms. The present capacity of the hospital is sixty beds, which is hardly half sufficient to meet the urgent need; but an annex is to be built in 1946 to bring the bed capacity up to one hundred, and other rooms are to be added to facilitate the service.

## THE DELTA AND PINE LAND COMPANY

MRS. EARLY C. EWING

Sixty-five years ago where what is now the Delta and Pine Land Company there were just a few cabins on the lake bank, and each cabin had its path down to the water through the cypresses and willows that grew thickly along the banks. The lake was full of minockinut lilies, which the flood of 1890 washed out. Deer Creek was crossed

only by ferry, and all cotton from the north side was ferried across and shipped by river, and supplies were brought in the same way. Stops Landing was a little town of stores and saloons. An old history book showed Deer Creek running out of the river, and as late as the Civil War gun boats came up it.

There have been five floods since then, 1882, 1890, 1897, 1912, and 1927; but the only time the water was deep enough to go into the houses on the lake bank was in 1927, and that was the only year the water receded so late that making a crop was completely impossible.

In 1910, Mr. J. W. Fox, then director of the Mississippi Experiment Station, in Brussels attending the World Cotton Conference, met directors of the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers Association of Manchester. They became interested in buying cotton lands in the Mississippi Delta and after consultation and investigation spent \$3,000,000 in properties which later became known as the Delta and Pine Land Company. Mr. L. K. Salsbury of Memphis was president of the company until 1927, when he was succeeded by Mr. Oscar Johnston. Mr. Fox was general manager almost from the beginning until the time of his death in 1944, when Mr. B. J. Young succeeded him.

On November 20, 1911, Mr. Young came from California as engineer. There were few houses, no deep wells, few roads. In winter transportation was by horseback over the railroad. The section foreman tore up the cattle guards and put them back every day. Travel was frequently by river down from Memphis, and up from Greenville by rail. The plantation got going just in time for the flood of 1912. The company sacked the levee with its own labor with no outside help, though the water rose from one to four feet high around its entire holdings. Labor was sent to the levees in wagons drawn by six mules. The levee broke at Beulah Lake that year. All the bayous filled up, and the water backed into the low places of the property, but when the time came to plant, the men swam the mules across the bayous and planted the high spots. In 1916 when the river was up, the company, again with no outside help, sacked and held its front. In 1922 and 1927 there was help from the government and the neighbors.

In respites from the river, land was put into cultivation, and a sawmill and logging road built. A bridge was built across Lake Bolivar in 1914, and additional plantations were cleared from virgin timber on the other side. Thousands of rattlesnakes were killed in those clearings. The company dug ditches and drained lakes. In the bed of Grassy Lake 126 bushels of corn per acre was made in 1915.

The Delta and Pine Land Company is interesting in many ways. It was the first concern to poison commercially for the boll weevil—with hand operated machines on muleback in 1917, then with motor driven dusters, and finally in 1926 by airplanes. The airplane is also

used now to distribute fertilizer and to plant vetch and other seeds. At the present time the plantation is in the throes of a gradual change over to mechanization. The company operates a hospital for the benefit of its tenants, under the capable direction of Dr. I. I. Pogue. The tenants pay according to the number of acres worked. There are no charges for any patients while in the hospital, whether for a broken leg or to have a baby.

The land that was unsuited for cotton growing after the flood of 1927, some three thousand acres, has been transformed into a modern and impressive cattle ranch where hundreds of white faced cattle graze. These will, in time to come, restore to fertility land that was overlaid with from two to six feet of pure sand by the flood.

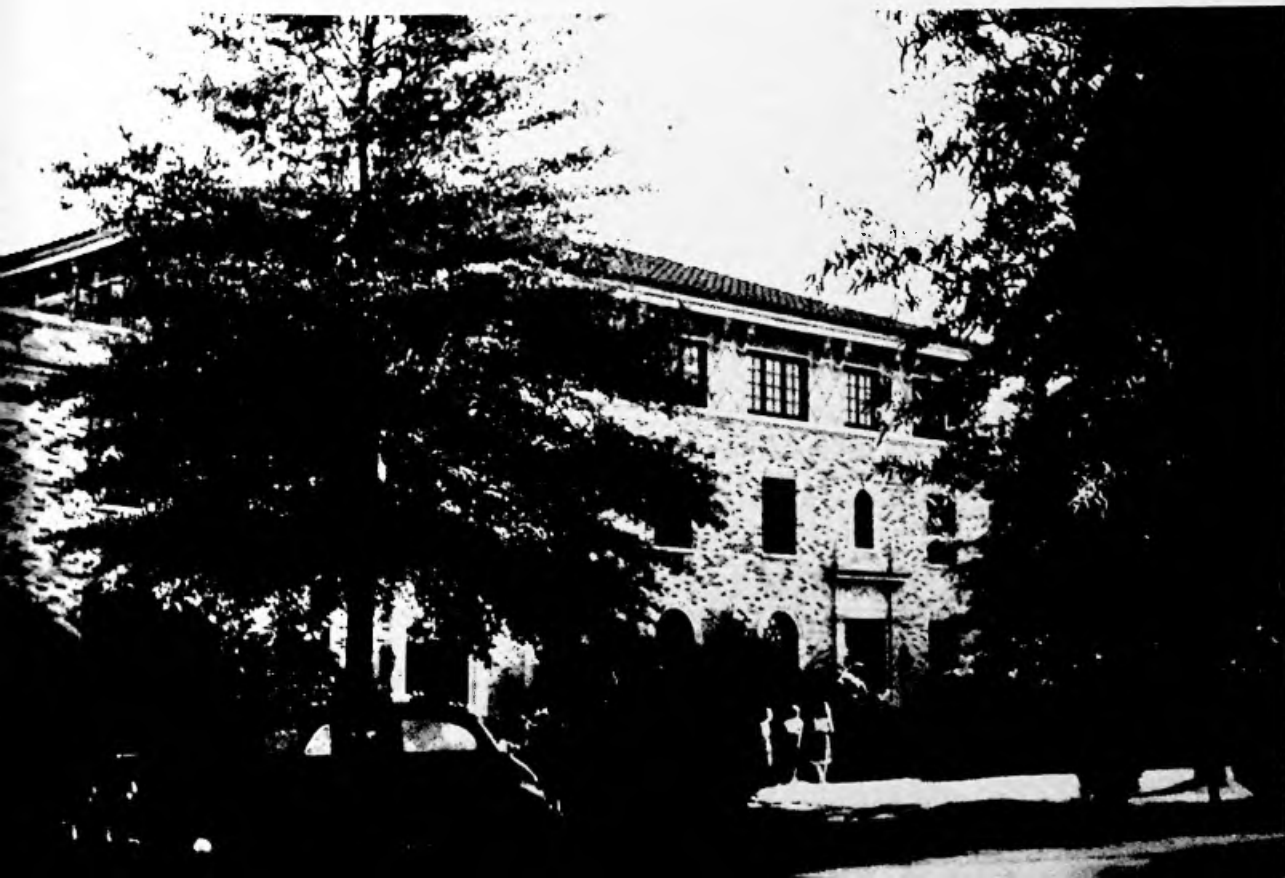
Cotton breeding and other experimental work under the direction of Mr. Early C. Ewing has been from 1915 an integral part of the policy of the company, primarily for the purpose of obtaining more profitable varieties of cotton for their own plantations. This project has expanded until Deltapine cottons, developed here, are planted throughout the entire cotton belt from the Carolinas to Texas and in many countries abroad. The value of the seed produced on the property approaches that of the lint. At the present time seed is flown to experiment stations in South America where it is grown in what is our winter time and flown back in time for spring planting. Thus a whole year is saved in the experimental processes.

Scott, with its connections in England, in Mexico, and in South America, through its president, who is also president of the National Cotton Council, and through the Experimental Department with its close contacts with all cotton investigations in Washington, as well as in all the cotton growing states, has always had many interesting visitors. Some come to spend a few days; some spend several months; and they have come from England, Turkey, France, Australia, Egypt, Tanganyika, South Africa, Uganda, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, China, India, Argentina, Peru, and Mexico, as well as from all parts of the United States—students, scientists, economists.

As large farming corporations go, the Delta and Pine Land Company has enjoyed unusual longevity, having existed almost half a century. The cause is not difficult to see: able and alert management, which, taking advantage of forward trends in agriculture, has been able to make a contribution to the welfare of cotton growing in the entire belt as well as to raise its own level of productivity by improved methods and techniques.



BROOM MEMORIAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT DELTA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE



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