

Contents

Preface	▪ <i>Curt Lamar</i>	<i>ix</i>
Editor's Note	▪ <i>Curt Lamar</i>	<i>xi</i>
1 Rosedale's Beginnings and Municipal Development		
	... <i>Evelyn Lowry</i>	<i>1</i>
2 Rosedale's Economic Development: Agricultural Aspects		
	... <i>William M. Cash</i>	<i>17</i>
3 Rosedale's Economic Development: Commercial Aspects		
	... <i>James Robinson</i>	<i>29</i>
4 Rosedale's Educational Development 1876-1976		
	... <i>Douglas McDonald</i>	<i>45</i>
Illustrations		following page <i>68</i>
5 Religion in Rosedale		
	... <i>Rush G. Miller, Jr.</i>	<i>69</i>
6 "To Build Up a Country Worth Living In" The Cultural Development of Rosedale		
	... <i>William A. Sullivan, Jr.</i>	<i>97</i>
Editor's Postscript: Rosedale and the Future		
	<i>Curt Lamar</i>	<i>115</i>
Note on Bibliography	... <i>Curt Lamar</i>	<i>117</i>
Index		<i>121</i>

Preface

With the approach of the culmination of this nation's bicentennial celebration, many towns in many states are assessing and evaluating their past in conjunction with their present and, insofar as is possible, their future. Through such a process of evaluation and assessment the project to have a history of the community of Rosedale, Mississippi, written and published came to fruition.

A small community on the Mississippi River in the Delta area of the state, Rosedale is not one which would appear at first sight to be unique. A lovely town, it is nevertheless similar to many other small Delta hamlets. However, its languid small-town appearance is rather deceptive in terms of the political, social, and economic impact it has had in the area and, to an extent, in the state as well. For this reason the citizens of Rosedale initiated the compilation of a history of their community jointly to celebrate their centennial and the nation's bicentennial.

Under the leadership of M. J. Dattel, Mayor of the community, the Rosedale City Council approached Delta State University in Cleveland as the logical source of supply for the compilers and writers of this history. Thus was undertaken a project which has been a labor of devotion both for the community and for the University.

It was decided that the undertaking should be a joint effort in terms of the research and writing. Moreover, the activity has been a cooperative one between the University participants and many citizens of Rosedale and Bolivar County. Such cooperation and participation among the University scholars and the people of the community and county is the key to the success of the project.

Those who wrote the respective chapters did so under less than ideal circumstances, for they have received no release time from their normal teaching and/or administrative duties. Furthermore, none of the authors has received any remuneration for his or her effort. The

fact of the matter is that these individuals undertook their tasks because they have a true love of learning and because they saw the need for and the value of this project. The editor cannot over-emphasize his appreciation of their labors or his awareness of the debt he owes to each contributor.

In any effort publicly to express thanks to persons who have aided in an undertaking such as this study, one inevitably risks the danger of omission or oversight. Nevertheless, special thanks must go to Mayor Dattel and the members of the Rosedale City Council, for without their interest and involvement the history never would have become a reality. The efforts of Pam Bullard as coordinator and liaison agent deserve special recognition and acknowledgement. Also, the work of two Delta State University students, Liz Coward and Mellie Bolen, proved indispensable in the completion of the history. Last but certainly not least, the efforts and helpfulness of the staffs of the Bolivar County Courthouse in Rosedale and of the Bolivar County Courthouse in Cleveland, of the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland, and of the Roberts Library at Delta State University are deeply appreciated. The same is true of the efforts of our publisher, The Reprint Company, Publishers, of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

The purpose of this local history is simple in that the town of Rosedale is indeed rather unique. For that reason it has been the goal of the contributors to write a solid but readable history to reveal this uniqueness. The style of the history is unpretentious. The reader is asked to consult the bibliography for more specialized reading and investigation.

As editor of this history, I am pleased with the final product and am proud to be associated with the undertaking. At a time when interest in local history is rapidly gaining momentum throughout the nation, I am happy to offer this study and am certain its readers will find it to be informative and stimulating.

Editor's Note

CURT LAMAR

The history of Rosedale, Mississippi, is not unlike that of many other small communities. Moreover, a recounting of Rosedale's one hundred years of existence will not have wide-ranging impact. But to the people of Rosedale, living and dead, its history has had tremendous significance, for it is their history, their story.

It is with this circumstance in mind that the following pages were written. For that reason, the *History of Rosedale, 1876-1976*, is not a conventional history, chronologically structured with emphasis on the political record. Rather, it was written primarily to jolt memories, to precipitate reminiscences, to appeal to nostalgia. It was written for the people of Rosedale and those who are somehow connected to Rosedale, past, present, and future.

The narrative is intentionally free of footnoting and cumbersome language. However, this history is based upon intensive scholarly research and is professionally written in terms of style and content. It is a history dedicated to those who appreciate and love Rosedale. It is a history of the people, for the people, and, indirectly, by the people of Rosedale.