

The BOLIVAR COMMERCIAL

821 North Chrisman Avenue
Cleveland, Mississippi 38732

Foreword

This pictorial "Reflections" of Bolivar County, Mississippi, was undertaken as a special project of *The Bolivar Commercial*. Our primary purpose was to preserve old photographs that might otherwise have been lost.

The response of the people of Bolivar County to our call for photographs was, to say the least, fantastic and overwhelming. By the time the deadline arrived, we received more than three times as many pictures as could be used in the book. From these, a selection was made that represented our heritage.

Denise Strub, lifestyles editor of *The Bolivar Commercial*, should be credited for doing much of the work. She spent countless hours and days assembling captions and copying details from our readers with a little help from me.

Captions were written from information supplied by the

photo owners. In many cases, not everyone in the photo could be identified, and those individuals are usually represented by a question mark. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy of information and the spelling of family names. However, we know because of the passage of time and sheer number of photos handled, errors will occur. We apologize in advance for any such errors.

We thank the individuals who loaned us their personal photographs for this collection and regret not being able to use every photo submitted. Please express your thanks to the advertisers, who participated with us to make this book possible.

We hope that Reflections of Bolivar County provides as much enjoyment to you as it has to us assembling it.

Special thanks to those of *The Bolivar Commercial* staff who were directly involved on a regular basis: Coretta Bell, Vicki Bledsoe, Caroline Crawford, Deanna Halliburton, Diane Makamson and Bill Moses.

Also a special thanks to Tara Zachary and Lisa Alford from the Delta State University Archives Department and Ronnie Wise with the Bolivar County Library System.

Mark Williams
The Bolivar Commercial

Mark Williams has already acknowledged those who have seen this publication to fruition and I would like to add my kudos to them also. It is a fact, without all their help it could not have been accomplished. However, if it had not been for Mark's insistence and then willingness to head the project, it would not have been undertaken. Congratulations on a job well done.

I sincerely hope you all are as pleased with the finished product as I am.

Norman C. Van Liew
Editor and Publisher
The Bolivar Commercial

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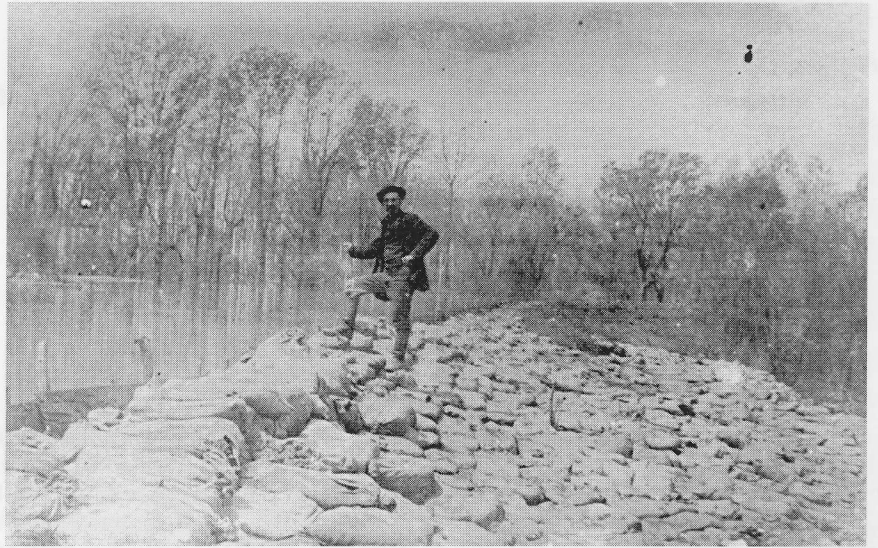
Cover Photo of Lake Bolivar Courtesy of: Mrs. Richard Shelby

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Guarding the weak levee near Perthshire during the flood of 1897. *Courtesy of the Walters-Boyd Family Papers at the Delta State University Archives.*



Perthshire Depot during the flood of 1897. *Courtesy of the Walters-Boyd Family Papers at the Delta State University Archives.*

Perthshire Depot during the flood of 1897. The box cars were used as stables for the livestock. *Courtesy of the Walters-Boyd Family Papers at the Delta State University Archives.*



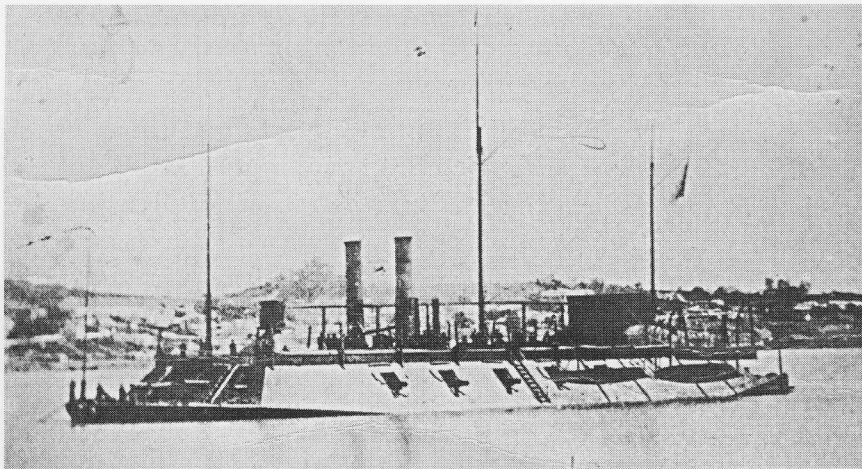
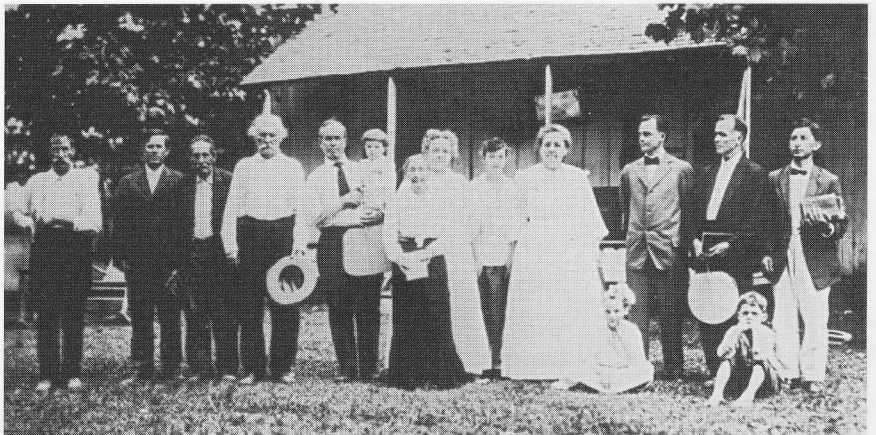


A preacher from Rosedale, George W. Gayles, served in the House from 1872 to 1875 and from 1892 to 1894. He was elected to the Senate for 1880-1888. Prior to his election in 1872, he served on the Board of Supervisors for Bolivar County. This photo was taken from a composite of the 1872 Mississippi Legislature. *Courtesy of the Delta State Exhibition Collection at the Delta State University Archives.*

Early settlers. James M. Switzer (center), with Moses Coleman and a Grimmett. Circa 1890. *Courtesy of Helen Sultan.*

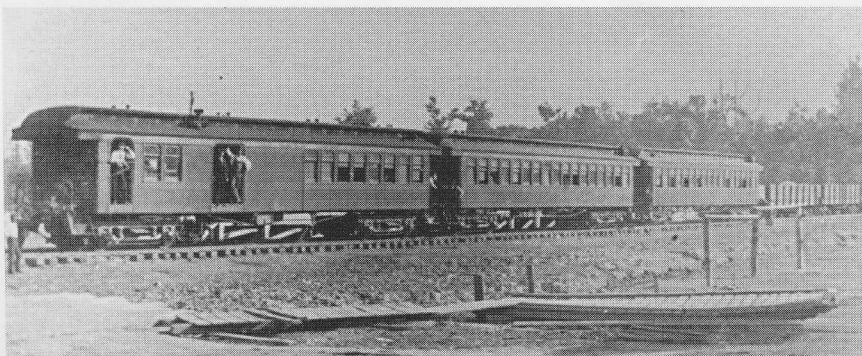
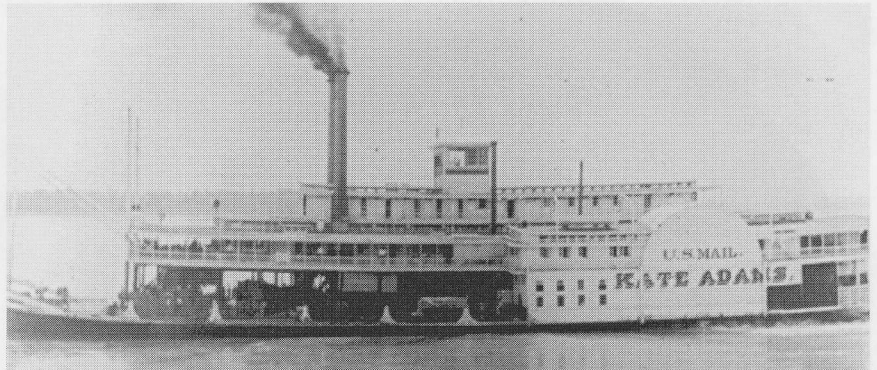


Members of the Tabernacle included (left) Tom Howell, ?, ?, Doe Beevers, Sam Dreer and child, Clara Beevers Burnside, Usula Beevers Howell, Robbie Howell and Louella Beevers Taylor, (others unknown). Tom Howell, Starcky Taylor and others built the Tabernacle and Houses, which included a men's dormitory and women's dormitory. Circa 1900s. *Courtesy of the Bolivar County Library System.*



A gunboat in the convoy at Napoleon, Ark., where Gen. Sherman and Gen. Grant met on Jan. 18, 1863, to conceive the idea of burning all villages along the Mississippi river. The convoy swung into Prentiss and burned the County Court House. Their objective was Vicksburg. This information was written on the back of the picture and signed by Henry C. Cook, Adjutant General Grand Army of the Republic. Circa 1860s. *Courtesy of Mrs. Richard Shelby.*

The Kate Adams, a mail packet that serviced the riverside. There were three Kate Adams. The first one, 1882-1888, burned near Tunica; the second, 1899-1903, burned at St. Louis; and the third, 1899-1927, burned at Memphis. It carried mail to Rosedale until about 1922. Circa 1890-1900s. *Courtesy of the Walters-Boyd Family Papers at the Delta State University Archives.*



On June 6, 1897, the first train came through Perthshire following that spring's flood. *Courtesy of the Walters-Boyd Family Papers at the Delta State University Archives.*



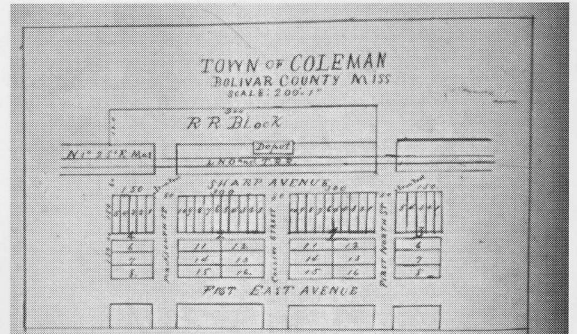
Richard Darden Smith, 1849-1909, was elected Chief Grand Mentor of the Knights & Daughters of Tabor in Mississippi in 1893, just four years after Moses Dickson came to Clarksdale and issued the Organizational Charters in 1889. He founded an "Old Folks" home in Renova, before the days of nursing homes in America came into existence. He obtained a Charter of Incorporation for the Mississippi Jurisdiction from the Secretary of State in 1903 and licensed the Order under the State Insurance Commission in 1909. Circa 1890s. *Courtesy of Kemper H. Smith.*



A fire on Sharpe Avenue. Circa 1900. *Courtesy of the Bolivar County Library System.*



This 2,916 foot white oak log was hauled by George M. Reynolds on an eight-wheel Lindsey log wagon. This log was hauled from Hinchcliff to Clarksdale around the turn of the century. G.M. Reynolds, who came to Mississippi in 1891 from Repton, Ky., moved west to Big Timber, Ore., in 1898 due to flood waters of the Cold Water and Mississippi Rivers. He returned to Mississippi and settled east of Doddsville in 1913. *Courtesy of H.R. "Shorty" Reynolds.*



In 1885, Mrs. Jane P. Moore deeded over a section of her plantation, in what was then the Town of Coleman, to the Memphis and New Orleans Rail Road and Levee Company. Courtesy of the Bolivar County Library System.

*The Jane P. Moore
 Deed
 M. & N. O. R. R. & L. Co. } For and in consideration of
 cash in hand paid, the receipt of
 which is hereby acknowledged, I convey and
 grant unto the Memphis & New Orleans Rail Road
 & Levee Company, the following described real
 estate, situated on my plantation in Bolivar
 County, State of Mississippi to-wit:*

*Beginning, four
 Eight Hundred and thirty feet, by line of Rail Road
 track, south of which the aforesaid said Company
 track crosses the boundary line between my
 plantation and that of J. P. Richards, thence
 to the east side of the right of way of the aforesaid
 Company, with said right of way, one hundred and
 thirty feet south, thence at right angles east to
 an iron post, one hundred and fifty feet, thence
 north with the right of way one hundred and
 thirty feet, thence with one hundred and fifty feet
 to the beginning, and it is a further condition
 that should the said Company remove the building
 erected on the foregoing described real estate, and
 come to use the same for Rail Road purposes, the
 said Company to be met and paid,
 Witness my signature this 22nd day of July 1885.*

*Jane P. Moore
 J. P. Moore*

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,
 OFFICE OF
SHERIFF AND TAX COLLECTOR

GEO. Y. SCOTT,
 SHERIFF. *Worthington & Bruce, Bolivar, Miss. 1889.* BOLIVAR COUNTY.

Rosedale, Miss. 1890

Geo. Arnold

Taxes 1890.

<i>Receipt No.</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>\$ 26-54</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>" 281</i>	<i>292-78</i>
		<i>\$ 319.32</i>
	<i>Exchange</i>	<i>80</i>
	<i>Amk. of Pop. P. Co.</i>	<i>\$ 320.12</i>

Property tax receipts for land owned by G.W. Arnold of Bolivar County from 1890. Courtesy of E.P. Leftwich.

CLEVELAND STATE BANK...90 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CLEVELAND AND BOLIVAR COUNTY 1908-1998



1942 photo of Main St. Branch
L to R: Sue Thweatt King, Wilton Walters, Jean Jackson, Frances Neely, Mimi Cassibry and Nap Cassibry

Times Change...

People Change...

**We still offer the
Same friendly
personal service**



1998 photo of Main St. Branch
L to R: Nap Cassibry Jr., Brenda Mallette, Betty Goodman, Betty Barrett, Kay Sherron and Jane Thompson

Main St. Branch, West Side Branch, Merigold Branch



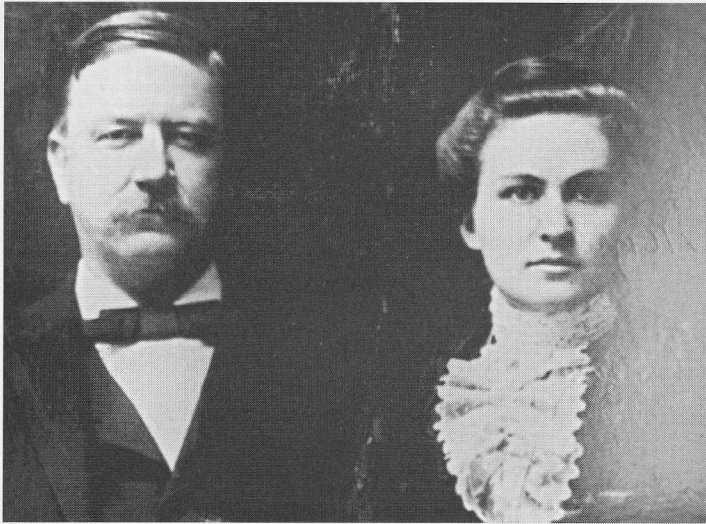
In the year 1869, Mr. W.L. Pearman made a clearing on the bank of the Jones Bayou, now Cleveland, built a house and started farming. This is the site of the present Pearman home on North Pearman Avenue. Here W.L. Pearman stands with his grandson, Lewis Smith. Circa 1900s. *Courtesy of the Bolivar County Library System.*



Below right: Charles Scott, owner of Scott Manor which was considered at its time to be the “showplace of the Delta”, when he rode horseback all over the state as a candidate for governor. Circa 1907. *Courtesy of Mrs. Richard Shelby.*

Born in Rosedale in 1888, Walter Sillers Jr. was elected to the Legislature in 1915 and enjoyed a 50 year tenure in the House of Representatives. For the last 22 years of his service, he held the position of Speaker of the House, the longest speakership in Mississippi history. Bolivar County returned him to the House without opposition after 1936. Circa 1900s. *Courtesy of the Walter Sillers Jr. Papers at the Delta State University Archives.*





James S. Hicks and Myrtle Graham Hicks. Myrtle was the twin sister of Ivy Hill. Circa 1900s. *Courtesy of the Bolivar County Library System.*



William Aurent Shelby was sheriff of Bolivar County from 1900-1904 when the county seat was in Rosedale. *Courtesy of Richard Shelby Jr.*



Members of the Bolivar Troop Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1907 included: (first row, left) Mrs. J.W. Davis, Miss Bessie Burnett, Miss Mattie Maud Garrison, Mrs. Ed Hill, Mrs. Wakefield, Mrs. Weber, Mrs. Margaret Pearman Giggers; (second row) Mrs. Iva Parker Browning, Mrs. Ruth Siper Gyner, Mrs. Florence Bradford Woolard, Mrs. Ella Browne Sparkman, Mrs. W.O. Moore, Mrs. Ida Lee Graham McLean, Mrs. Harry Williams, Mrs. Eva Harris; and (back row) Mrs. Rosser, Mrs. Ridney Smith Hill, Mrs. N.A. Tardy and Mrs. C.A. Smith. *Courtesy of the Bolivar County Library System.*



Dr. James Eugene Williams of Benoit with his wife, Willie Moorman, and young son, Jimmy. Dr. Williams was one of the country's first family practitioners and an original "horse and buggy" doctor who practiced first at Bolivar and later at Benoit. He died on Aug. 25, 1947. He was the father of the late "Charley Boy" and Jimmy Williams of Benoit, the late Lulu Williams Anderson of Gulfport and Margaret Williams Dyer of Memphis. Circa 1901. *Courtesy of Susan W. Farmer.*

Some of the leading citizens of Shelby in the early part of the century were: (from left) Dr. J.R. Murnam, Mr. Lauderdale, Roy Coker, Joe Yates, William Craven, LeMoyné Williamson and J.H. Turney. *Courtesy of Allene N. Yates.*



A graduating class from the Bolivar County Agricultural College. Circa 1900s. *Courtesy of Ms. G.B. Sanders.*

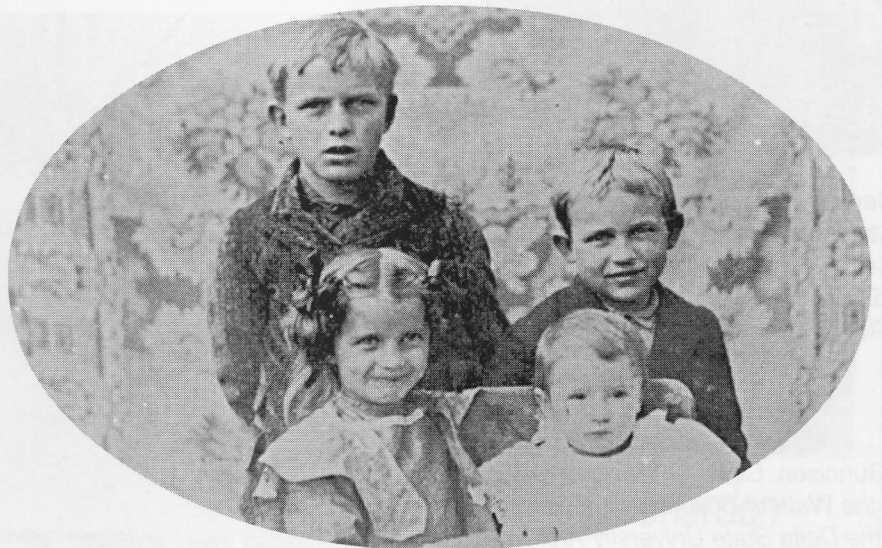
V.W. Thomas and William E. Henry take a moment while at the Peavine Railroad Depot at Pace. Thomas was the father of W.M. Thomas, civil engineer, and Virginia Thomas Rose, both of Cleveland. Henry was the father of Lucille Henry Valentine of Cleveland. Their descendants continue to live on in Bolivar County. Circa 1909. *Courtesy of John White Valentine.*





Members of the Cleveland School class of 1906 included: Mildred Doty, Marie Howry, Annie Mae Champion, Alma Watts, Myrtle Hill, Ethel Davis, Jimmy Kimbrell, Clara Matthews, Austin Shipman, Sumner Glassco, Albert Ganong, Ruby Seelbinder, Kate Woolbert, Freda Woolbert, Florence Stubbs, Pearla Williams, Frances Collins, Lillian Pearman and Keenan Hill. *Courtesy of the Bolivar County Library System.*

Hester McCain, Lexie McCain, Annie M. McCain Shilling and Leva Finley Wiltshire. Circa 1906. *Courtesy of Virginia McCain Gay.*



The daughters of E.J. and Maude Nott, who came to Cleveland in 1901 and opened the Nott & Ward Lumber Company in 1902/1903. When they arrived in Cleveland, the couple brought with them Marcia Ellen Nott, Lida Nott, Etta Louise Nott and Maurine Nott. Their fifth daughter, Dorothy Nott, was born in Cleveland in 1905 and is the oldest person born in Cleveland and still living here. Circa 1907. *Courtesy of Mrs. Nott Wheeler Jr.*



Home of E.J. Nott is the current home of Mr. and Mrs. Nott Wheeler Sr. Circa 1904. *Courtesy of Mrs. Nott Wheeler Jr.*



Bertha Stanford (front, left), Bea Stanford, Jim Stanford (back, left), Cecil Stanford and Al Stanford. Circa 1908. *Courtesy of Hazel Washington Clay.*



Methodist Episcopal Church in Gunnison. Circa 1900s. *Courtesy of the Walters-Boyd Family Papers at the Delta State University Archives.*

W.B. Parks' General Merchandise in Merigold. Parks moved to Bolivar County around 1890 and was a pioneer in settling Merigold. He worked to improve and develop the town. He was a merchant, planter, president of the Bank of Merigold and charter member of the Merigold Hunting Club. Parks represented Bolivar County in both the House, 1912-1916, and Senate, 1916-1920.

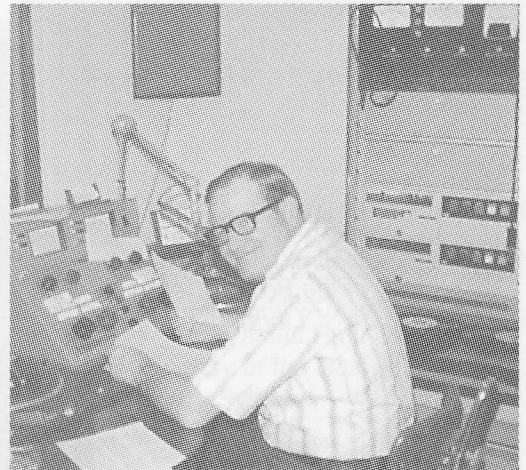
Circa 1900s. *Courtesy of the Miscellaneous Photograph Collection at the Delta State University Archives.*





Radio Cleveland, Inc.

WCLD-AM 1490 Cleveland's First and Oldest Radio Station-Since 1949



George C. Shurden

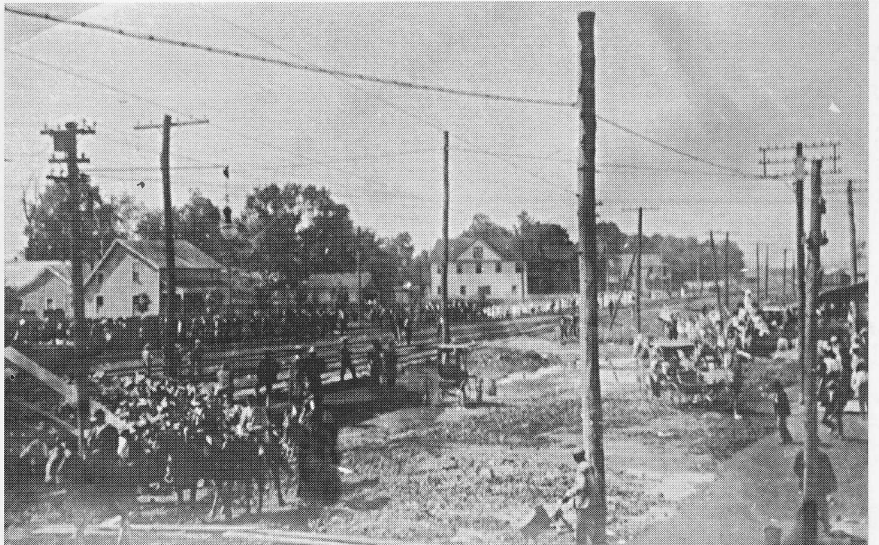
WE ARE PROUD TO BE THE HOME OF THE
DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY SPORTS NETWORK.



An early bridge near Gunnison.
Circa 1900s. *Courtesy of the
Walters-Boyd Family Papers at the
Delta State University Archives.*



Downtown Cleveland. Circa 1908.
*Courtesy of the Bolivar County
Library System.*



Workmen construct the base for
the Confederate War Monument,
which currently stands in the front
of the Bolivar County Court House
in Cleveland. The United
Daughters of the Confederacy
dedicated the monument on May
15, 1908. Circa 1905. *Courtesy of
LePoint Cassibry Smith.*

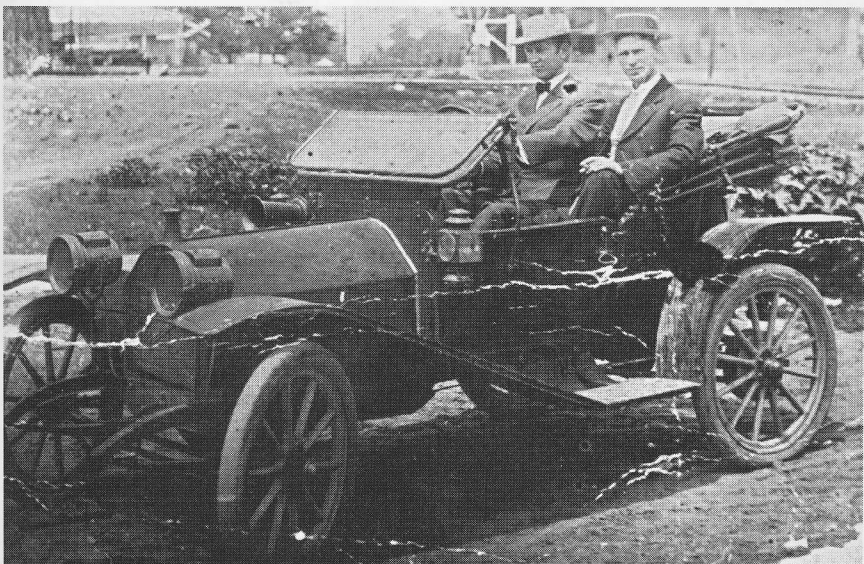




Earth moving machinery, mules and men work on the levee in 1906. *Courtesy of the Walters-Boyd Family Papers at the Delta State University Archives.*



Cotton from the gin to compress in front of the old Boyle Depot. Among those pictured are Pat Criss, Uly Calvert, Uriah Ray Sr., and Beryanius Ray. Circa 1908. *Courtesy of the Bolivar County Library System.*



Stanley Gaines Sr. driving in Boyle with unknown rider. Circa 1908. *Courtesy of Stanley Gaines.*