

# "Souvenir - - of Gunnison, Mississippi - - November 18th, 1890."

(by Dr. John B. Pease, Jr.)

## "BIRTHDAY GREETING"

"I am one year old today. I send cordial greetings to all my sisters, and beg to tell them the story of my puissant babyhood.

It will be brief. My glorious mother, the Yazoo Delta, gave birth to me out in a cotton field, attended by Price Blanchard, Jeff Williams, Arvin Gunnison and E. B. Fitzgerald; and I grew rapidly on her warm bosom.

My baby eyes looked first on cotton and cotton pickers, and I firmly believe that when the shadows have grown long, these will be the only staff to sustain me.

My ambitious father, the L. N. O. & T. R. R., was proud of me from the start, and well he may be, as during my first year of life I have poured into his pockets \$21,493.70, having received 100 carloads of lumber, seven cars of shingles, 20 cars of brick, one car of slate and 96 mules; and shipped 2,443 bales of cotton and 96 cars of cottonseed and sold 5,123 railroad tickets.

I now have in successful operation seven large dry goods stores, two excellent drug stores, five saloons and groceries, two fruit stores, one bakery, two butcher shops, one public gin, two large seed houses, one barber shop, one exclusive grocery, one hotel and restaurant, one extensive lumber yard, two contractors and builders, three doctors, one shoemaker, and a happy peaceful population of 200 souls.

I have seen one marriage and one birth, but I have yet to look on death — or a lawyer.

All hail to our glorious mother, wedded to railroads and rapid transit! On her fecund bosom town and city grow as if by magic. In her makeup the law in the creation of Eve was regarded, and only the best was used.

Other regions had already been formed by instantaneous action, or else by the successive, but equally effective exertion of creative power. When such values and mountains had been made and robed in nature's gorgeous tapestry, it must have occurred to Omnific Thought to indent upon His globe, for man, a garden. He loaded His rivers with the wealth of his former creations, and so adjusted the cargoes of fertility that all waste and worthless parts should be lost on the way. Then layer by layer from the bed of the sea, He built it upward, until in the copious fulness of His bounty, the wondrous mass defied the exhausting energy of man, He left no chasms in the smoothness of its surface, nor barren rocks, nor glade, but throughout this fairest domain, only exuberant richness.

It is in the midst of this after and better work of His that I was born and live. Marvelous though it be, I am only one year old! When Uncle Sam has built up the levees, and I am 'sweet sixteen', — won't I be a daisy?"

## ALDERMEN OF THE VILLAGE OF GUNNISON AND TOWN OF GUNNISON

R. T. Torian, Price Blanchard, S. C. Blanchard, Dr. J. B. Pease, Sr., Dr. W. H. Nance, T. J. Yarbrough, L. E. Plymale, J. A. Burt, N. C. Blanchard, J. H. Zadeck, J. W. Butcher, Sam Hightower, R. L. D. Evans, J. S. Givhan,

E. W. Phillips, Aron F. Goza, Louis Rotchild, W. T. Burt, W. I. Brashears, Silas Stewart (Negro), J. E. Walker (Negro), M. S. Reuter, Mike Griffin, Sam Jacobs, Morris Frankle, Dr. J. B. Pease, Jr., H. A. Furst, W. W. Brashears,

R. W. Nash, J. C. Radjesky, R. E. Humphrey, M. Nemetz, L. S. Blanchard, S. J. Holcomb, Joe Myers, B. F. Morton, E. L. Blanchard, L. S. Pease, H. F. Marshall, Dr. H. L. Cockerham, J. U. Blanchard, Dr. J. D. Simmons,

D. F. Callaway, J. H. Owen, R. S. McKnight, W. H. McNeil, J. W. Vallance, L. L. McGee, O. N. McNeil, M. Block, C. E. Haag, G. F. Warfield, J. G. Davis, N. M. Jacobs, T. J. Bogue, W. D. Bell, Jr.,

Joe Romando, Louis Bassie, E. B. Scruggs, Guy Garrett, Allen Warfield, John Tuminello, W. F. Wienke, John Glorioso, Ameil Earp, Mrs. C. E. Haag, and E. A. Johnson.

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## THE CARSON'S LANDING-CONCORDIA- GUNNISON METHODIST CHURCH

In about 1848 Nelson Blanchard, with slave labor, built the first Methodist Church in Bolivar County. It was a log structure and was located on his plantation near Carson's Landing. He secured a missionary from Louisville, Kentucky, to serve as pastor and Mr. Blanchard was a steward in this church until his death in 1870.

It is believed that a Mr. Calvert and Dr. Oliver L. Deen assisted in the building of this church building, said to have been the first church of any kind between Memphis and Vicksburg.

People from both sides of the Mississippi River attended services here. The scope of the church's efforts were extended to as far east as Holmes Lake (now Shelby) and north and south along the river as far as it was possible to reach on horseback.

During the exciting days of the War for Southern Independence, this little church building — the nucleus of religious activities in this area — was destroyed. However, after the war clouds had vanquished and reconstruction begun, there was great interest shown for building a new church. This was accomplished in 1868, with the new church being located approximately one-half mile south of Concordia on a burial plot known as Concordia Cemetery. There it remained for twenty-four years, or until the Mississippi River exercised one of its vagaries by moving its