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From *The Vidette*, July 29, 1909, transcribed as originally appeared by Cindy Whirley Nelson.

TRIP TO SOUTH TISHOMINGO

The editor of the *Vidette* left Iuka on Tuesday afternoon of last week. We took the Paden road and reached Paden about 5 p.m. In passing through the intervening country we looked on the growing crops with interest, finding a great diversity, some promising and some otherwise.

We met many of our friends at Paden. The town contains the following business establishments: M.W. Clark, Thomas Haggerty, E.E. Massey, W.S. Stephens. C.F. Robinson. B.F. Pounds, J.H. Robinson, N.P. Nixon. There are also two steam mills in operation - Elledge's and Nixon's, and a hotel conducted by J.F. Walker formerly of Iuka. After spending an hour in town we drove down to Dr. T.G. Paden's at whose hospitable home we spent the night. His son John was not at home. He is depot agent at Tishomingo and usually comes home at night. The Dr. has a fine farm and a promising crop.

Next morning we bade this hospitable home adieu and rode over to Tishomingo, reaching there about 8 a.m. We found the following firms in business here: S.G. Holley, H.D. and N.C. Waldrep, J.D. Ramsey, W.P. Russell, J.S. Nagle, J.E. Norman, G.W. McRae and Lovell Bros. There is a steam mill in active operation here. Dr. Carmack was there attending to the shipment of lumber. He said he was getting \$13 per 1,000 for the clear stuff. There is a fine spring at this mill. We met several friends here. About 10 a.m., we left for Dennis and fell into the old Fulton road near James McRae's and were glad to get onto a good road, for we had been traveling some pretty rough ones. We reached Dennis at little after 11 o'clock and remained here taking dinner with Mrs. C. Flurry, until 2 p.m. We found the following business firms in Dennis: L.R. Davis, J. A. Byram, W.A. Phillips, N.S. Davis and the post office presided over by Rev. J.T. Blanchard, formerly of Prentiss County. Mr. L.R. Davis also has a sawmill which is cutting a great deal of lumber for which he finds a ready sale. We visited Old Dennis, looked at the work of the cyclone, stopped awhile at the residence of Mr. N.S. Davis. Here we found our old friend W. M. Gurley, one of Tishomingo's best citizens, who is spending the evening of life with his daughter Mrs. N.S. Davis. Professor J. M.F. Neal was conducting a singing class in Mrs. D's old store which was crowded with students, eagerly studying the rudiments of vocal music.

Leaving here we started over the smooth road to Belmont, three and a half miles distant, and reached this latter place about 3:30. Here we found many acquaintances and the following firms doing business: Branch of Tishomingo Banking Co., W.W. Williams, J.C. Seago, J.T. Sartain, Belmont Hardware and Furniture Co., Crouch & Hellums, Miles Barkley (blind) Misses Rushing, G.S. Jackson, W.T. Clark & Son., Shook and Lindsey, W.T. Shook, Hicks & Gilbert and Dr. K.F. McRae. There is also a mill and livery stable. A handsome new school building is in course of construction. A good meeting was in progress at the Christian church conducted by Rev. E.C. Holt of Florence, Alabama. After spending an hour or two with these clever people we left for Golden, which is about two miles distant. A lovely road leads through the flatwoods from Belmont to Golden. It is a lane almost the entire way and beautiful crops were growing on each side.

We reached Golden in a short time. We found the following business houses in operation here: V.S. Stanphill, Mrs. L.M. Hale, W.H. Patterson, A. J. Wilson, S.T. White, W.T. Shook, J.L. Phillips, M. M. Davis, L. Harris and Gillespie & Nanney. Mrs. M.M.

Davis had charge of the store, her husband being depot agent, assisted by Mr. Thomas Stanphill. They have a nice depot here which was withheld for some reason for a long while. There is also a hotel conducted by W.A. Mann. We spent the night at the pleasant home of Dr. V.S. Stanphill. Mrs. Stanphill showed us a cabbage snake she had taken out of a cabbage head some time previously. It was dead and dried up but looked very much like a snake. Mrs. S. said it had the actions of a snake when alive and had a stripe down its backbone like the real thing. We never did like cabbage anyway. A singing school, well attended, was in progress here.

Next morning we started on our return trip. Soon after passing through Belmont we came upon our friend, J.H. Clark, formerly county surveyor, ploughing the last furrows in some very fine cotton by the roadside. We stopped a few minutes to talk and enroll his name for a copy of *The Vidette and Commercial*. Incidentally, I asked him if that was not the scene of the tory fight October 26, 1863, and he said it was; that most of the fighting took place very near where he was plowing and between that and his brother W.T.'s place. Our readers will remember that we have published an account of this fight in *The Vidette* twice, the last about three years ago. It occurred between two regiments of Confederates, commanded by Gen. S.W. Ferguson and one regiment of North Alabama (Federal) Calvary commanded by C. Spencer. The latter had two Howitzers with which they opened upon the Confederates about the time the column of the latter reached the place where New Valley church now stands. The latter halted, dismounted, formed, charged, and routed the Federal tories twice, the last time the tories broke and fled through the woods south of the road and most of them made their escape down Redbud Creek, but the two Howitzers and about 35 prisoners fell into the hands of the Confederates and they left about nine dead on the field. These we buried near where they fell but we afterwards exhumed, carried to Corinth and placed in the national cemetery. Two Confederates we killed who were carried to Fulton and buried.

Leaving Mr. Clark we drove leisurely toward Iuka, reaching the home of Mr. J.S. Gurley who now lives on the Gable place, about the dinner hour. Here we accepted a kind invitation made by Mr. Tom and remained till after dinner. Notwithstanding that he is living on borrowed time, Mr. Gurley made a regular hand in the field. He said he did not intend to do so, but showers made the grass grow so fast that he felt constrained to join forces in the fight to save the crop. After dinner we came on to Iuka, barely milling heavy shower of rain which fell just ahead.

In regard to crops in the territory through which we traveled, we found great diversity. In one field we would find a promising prospect while in the adjoining one it looked like a failure. Still, upon the whole we were pleased to find the prospect so good; it was certainly better than expected. But the farmers have had an unusually hard struggle to save their crops from destruction. Had it not been for their energy and perseverance the fight would have been lost. The farmers of Tishomingo are, as a rule, industrious, enterprising and intelligent citizens.