

REV. THOMAS COLQUITT HARDMAN



LEONA WRIGHT HARDMAN

HISTORY OF
HARMONY GROVE-
COMMERCE
JACKSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY

THOMAS COLQUITT HARDMAN

1810-1949

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By
T. C. HARDMAN
Commerce, Georgia

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Dedication

This History of Harmony Grove-Commerce is dedicated to the memory of those worthy pioneer settlers who more than a century ago laid the foundation of this town and community on a sound basis of honesty, integrity, and religious conviction and faith in the Word of God. Also to the citizens of this present day and to the youth of this present generation and to their children and grandchildren and to all future generations together with our faith and confidence in the perpetuation of the Christian religion and civic righteousness upon the highest plane of civilization.

T. C. HARDMAN

Commerce, Ga.

1949

FOREWORD

The history of Harmony Grove-Commerce has been undertaken for the information and benefit of present and future generations, especially for those who have grown up in this community and those who are descendants of the men and women who have contributed to make this city and community a congenial place to live.

We have spent several years collecting historical material with much care for accuracy of data and dates. With reference to the early history of Harmony Grove the information has been secured from personal recollections and memory of things experienced sixty-five to seventy years ago, as they were related by those who lived and wrought from 1840 to 1890. We have had access to some old family records, cemetery markers and other sources of information that give a fairly good picture of the village of Harmony Grove prior to its incorporation as a town in 1884. In the successive sixty-four years, we have relied upon documents and records obtained from the City Council books and Public School records, as well as the information obtained from the churches and the various articles contributed, especially the records and sketches from the various industries, institutions and organizations. These with a number of personal contributions have rendered this historical narrative a pleasure. Our personal knowledge and experiences in this city for seventy years have been an additional reliance for the material used.

In this history special and chief emphasis is placed on the Harmony Grove era as this period is less familiar to the present generation. The dates and figures used are for the most part exact and accurate. In some instances they are approximate but are the best obtainable.

It would be impossible to enumerate all the families and individuals who have lived, labored, conducted, or contributed to the business growth of Commerce in the last forty-five years.

We began this history with the date 1808. This was the first reliable date obtainable. Doubtless there were families living in the vicinity prior to this time, probably the Hargroves, Borders, Woods, Wilbanks, Pricketts, Gobers, Haggards, and others. No accurate data is at hand and it would not greatly serve the purpose of this sketch, which is designed to trace the growth of the town of Harmony Grove and the city of Commerce.

Credit is due and is herewith graciously accorded to my beloved companion, Mrs. Leona W. Hardman, who has equally shared with me in the preparation and the publication of this volume.

T. C. HARDMAN,
Commerce, Ga.

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| I LOCATION | I |
| II EARLY HISTORY AND PIONEER SETTLERS..... | 4 |
| III ROADS, SPRINGS, TREES AND LANDMARKS..... | 10 |
| Roads | 10 |
| Springs | 11 |
| Trees | 14 |
| A Northeast Storm | 15 |
| Another Phenomenon | 16 |
| IV IDENTIFICATION OF HOUSES BY STREETS..... | 17 |
| V DEVELOPMENT OF HARMONY GROVE FROM 1810 TO 1884..... | 22 |
| Men who came to Harmony Grove between 1810 and 1900 | 25 |
| Post Office and Postmasters..... | 28 |
| Individuals and Business Firms..... | 29 |
| Harmony Grove Crowd does not want to be bracketed with Early Commerce..... | 36 |
| VI TRAVELLERS TO MARKET..... | 42 |
| The Mountain Covered Wagon..... | 44 |
| The North Carolina Covered Wagon..... | 45 |
| VII GROWTH OF HARMONY GROVE FROM 1884 TO 1904..... | 46 |
| Parks | 51 |
| VIII AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND | 52 |
| Drouth of 1925..... | 56 |

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| IX MERCANTILE DEVELOPMENT | 57 |
| X RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS | 63 |
| Highways to and from Commerce..... | 69 |
| XI INDUSTRIES | 71 |
| The Harmony Grove Mills..... | 71 |
| Commerce Manufacturing Company..... | 77 |
| Blue Bell Plant..... | 79 |
| Frozen Food Lockers | 80 |
| Commerce Milling Company..... | 80 |
| Hardman Oil Mill-Southern Cotton Oil Company..... | 81 |
| The Farmers Oil Mill..... | 82 |
| A. C. Carson Planing Mill and Grist Mill..... | 82 |
| Reidling's Ginnery..... | 83 |
| Monuments | 83 |
| Mose Gordon Lumber Company..... | 83 |
| Commerce Fertilizer Company..... | 84 |
| The Siticide Company..... | 84 |
| W. N. Harden Cushion Factory..... | 85 |
| W. T. Stapler—Harmony Grove Manufacturer..... | 86 |
| The Barber Industry..... | 87 |
| XII CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS GROWTH | 89 |
| Methodist | 89 |
| Baptist | 89 |
| Presbyterian | 90 |
| Madison Street Baptist..... | 90 |
| Others | 91 |

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|--|------------|
| Negro Churches..... | 91 |
| Commerce First Baptist Church..... | 92 |
| History of Madison Street Baptist Church..... | 96 |
| Harmony Grove-Commerce Methodist Church..... | 98 |
| The Harmony Grove Presbyterian Church..... | 100 |
| Pastors who served the Commerce Presbyterian Church | 102 |
| Two Pioneer Presbyterian Preaches..... | 103 |
| Rev. Groves H. Cartledge..... | 103 |
| Dr. Henry F. Hoyt | 104 |
| XIII SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS..... | 105 |
| Financial Support..... | 109 |
| Commerce High School..... | 110 |
| Older Order of Schools..... | 111 |
| Exhibitions | 112 |
| Harmony Grove Female Academy..... | 113 |
| Commerce Parent-Teacher Association..... | 114 |
| The Athletic Feature of the Commerce High School..... | 115 |
| Johntown School..... | 117 |
| Johntown, Harmony Grove..... | 119 |
| Williamstown | 119 |
| Three Pioneer Characters of Johntown..... | 120 |
| Immanuel Ragsdale..... | 120 |
| Rev. Pleasant Campbell..... | 120 |
| Uncle Dave Bennett..... | 121 |
| Two Other Notable Characters..... | 121 |

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|------------|
| Mitchell Goss | 121 |
| Elbert Mathis..... | 122 |
| Other Old-Timers of Johntown, Harmony Grove..... | 122 |
| Johntown Debating Society..... | 123 |
| Johntown Band..... | 124 |
| XIV GROWTH OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE FROM 1904 TO 1948 | 125 |
| The Moving Picture..... | 126 |
| The Original Board of Trade in Commerce..... | 126 |
| Road Repairs Important..... | 127 |
| Clean-Up Day | 127 |
| Chicken Coops Moved..... | 128 |
| First Banquet..... | 128 |
| Journal-Herald Tour..... | 129 |
| Glidden Tour..... | 130 |
| Press Association | 130 |
| Four-County Fair..... | 130 |
| First Overall Factory..... | 130 |
| Additional Items about Commerce Board of Trade..... | 131 |
| Mayor and Council Headquarters..... | 133 |
| The City Fire Department..... | 133 |
| XV PROFESSIONS, INSTITUTIONS, CULTURAL INTERESTS | 135 |
| Physicians | 135 |
| The Hardman Sanatorium..... | 138 |
| Dentists | 138 |
| Lawyers of the Harmony Grove Period..... | 140 |
| Lawyers of the Commerce Period..... | 140 |

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|--|------------|
| Banks of Harmony Grove..... | 142 |
| The Harmony Grove Telephone Company..... | 143 |
| Hotels of Harmony Grove-Commerce..... | 144 |
| Hotel Andrew Jackson..... | 148 |
| The Barber Boys Brass Band..... | 149 |
| Cultural and Literary Interest..... | 150 |
| XVI NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLICITY..... | 151 |
| The Commerce Observer..... | 153 |
| XVII ATHLETIC SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES..... | 154 |
| Baseball | 154 |
| Baseball played in Mother-Hubbards..... | 154 |
| Baseball in the period 1875-1883..... | 154 |
| Lawn Tennis..... | 155 |
| The Commerce City Baseball Team..... | 156 |
| Commerce News, July 13, 1945..... | 157 |
| Big Barbecues..... | 158 |
| Noted Lecturers..... | 159 |
| Sports and Recreational Activities..... | 160 |
| Trap Shooting and Hunting..... | 160 |
| Fishing, Ponds and Lakes..... | 161 |
| Horseback Riding..... | 162 |
| Golfing | 163 |
| XVIII PATRIOTIC, CIVIC AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS..... | 164 |
| Commerce Chapter American Red Cross..... | 164 |
| American Legion Post..... | 165 |
| American Legion Auxiliary..... | 167 |
| Veterans of Foreign Wars..... | 168 |

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|--|------------|
| Daughters of the American Revolution..... | 170 |
| United Daughters of the Confederacy..... | 171 |
| Robert E. Lee—Address by T. C. Hardman..... | 172 |
| The Chamber of Commerce..... | 178 |
| The Lions Club..... | 180 |
| The Commerce Kiwanis Club..... | 181 |
| Boy Scouts..... | 182 |
| The Commerce Woman's Improvement Club..... | 183 |
| The Commerce Garden Club..... | 185 |
| The Study Club..... | 186 |
| The Masonic Lodge..... | 187 |
| Odd Fellows of Commerce..... | 188 |
| The Sham Battle | 189 |
| | |
| XIX PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD HOMES AND OTHER BUILDINGS..... | 190 |
| | |
| XX ITEMS OF INTEREST, ANECDOTES, PERSONALITIES..... | 203 |
| Harmony Grove vs Commerce..... | 203 |
| Why the name was changed..... | 203 |
| Grayhill Cemetery..... | 205 |
| Anecdotes | 206 |
| "The Old Buttin' Sheep"..... | 209 |
| Dog Training..... | 210 |
| The Old Man and his Bugle up a Tree..... | 211 |
| Farmers Grange | 211 |
| The Three H's..... | 211 |
| W. T. Stapler's Yarn of "Old Bill"..... | 212 |
| Photographer T. J. Allen | 213 |
| Photographers | 214 |
| Dr. L. G. Hardman—Address by T. C. Hardman..... | 215 |

CHAPTER I

LOCATION

The town of Harmony Grove, now the City of Commerce, is located on an elevated ridge in the eastern part of Jackson County, Georgia, about three miles from the Banks County line and the same distance from the Madison County line. The center of the town is the dividing water shed between the Oconee, Grove, and Hudson Rivers. The present area is a mile wide and about three miles long. The city is located on the Southern Railway eighteen miles north of Athens and twenty-one miles south of Lula. The general topography in the southern part is level, partly hilly, while the central and northern parts slope off on either side to springs and streams. Still farther to the northwest, the land lies gently rolling. The greatest altitude is a bit over 1000 feet in the southern section. Other parts of the town run generally about 950 to 980 feet altitude. This greater elevation which slopes off to the streams on either side with their many diversified hills lends unusual beauty to the scenery which is lavishly bedecked with beautiful trees of varied hues and types of unlimited variety. The virgin forest perhaps suggested the name of Harmony Grove.

The city being on the dividing watershed, the soil is varied in its character, running all the way from a sandy gray loam to a very stiff red type, the former prevailing in the southern part of the town and the latter in the central and western part. All this has a firm clay foundation lying in the Piedmont Section just below the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The original location of Harmony Grove was of interest because it was on the main road from the mountain counties to the markets of Athens, Washington, and Augusta. This was a camping ground for the covered wagon caravans as they

drove their stock and produce to market. There were no streams to cross but springs ample for their use. The noted cold sassafras tree was known to all mountain wagoners which will be referred to in a later chapter.

This tree stood near the railroad one-half mile below the depot at the curve in the railroad track. This tree was more than two feet in diameter. The location of the town was attractive because of its fine and temperate climate with its groves and forest surroundings. The summer temperature averages three to five degrees cooler than Athens, yet it is not so rigidly cold as the mountains in the winter. These environments made it pleasant and beautiful for situation.

In this select spot in Northeast Georgia the author was born and reared and has spent the entire years of his life in what we consider the choice section of the Empire State of the South. Georgia was founded by the English under James Oglethorpe and settled largely by the English and immigrants from Virginia and the Carolinas, with some few coming from the northern states. This state was the youngest of the thirteen colonies that obtained their independence from the mother country in 1783. It has been the home of numerous statesmen of the highest quality for the past 160 years, also of leaders and pioneers in the realms of science, literature and religion. In the religious realm Baptists have had a marvelous growth, numbering, at present in Georgia, some 1,200,000 members. The first settlements of this section were along the rivers and creeks. This was in the period immediately following the Revolutionary War, from 1784 to 1800, as evidenced by original land grants from the United States Government.

In this particular section of rolling hills, fertile valleys, flowing, winding streams, limitless forests of oak, hickory, chestnut, pine, poplar, maple, gum, elm, and every variety of verdant growth of trees and vegetation, in this, the incomparable Piedmont section of our beloved state, the village of Harmony Grove and our now bustling city of Commerce had its nativity.

The above is a picture of this portion of Georgia, with its

unparalleled, delightful climate, at the close of the Revolutionary War when the Cherokee Indians were receding from this section and passing into mountain countries, leaving evidence of their habitat and hunting grounds in the form of flint arrow heads and cooking utensils found in their burial mounds of stone, some of which were found in this immediate vicinity.

CHAPTER II

EARLY HISTORY AND PIONEER SETTLERS

(Some one has said that history is the true record of things in general and inaccurate in some particulars. We accept this definition in recording this narrative.)

The name, Harmony Grove, was first given to a community near Pittman's Bridge on the east side of the Oconee River and on the John B. Jackson place, where there was a school for girls. According to the record of the Post Office Department in the National Archives in Washington, D. C., the post office of Harmony Grove was established here October 24, 1825. Russell Jones was the first post master. The charter for the Harmony Grove Female Academy was granted by the State Legislature December 20, 1824 (see chapter on schools) which was ten months earlier than the establishment of the post office. It is evident that securing the charter for the school had some bearing on the establishment of this post office, which was in the vicinity of the W. M. Potts place, earlier known as the John B. Jackson place. It is well established that the community, or settlement, that was known as the town of Harmony Grove, now Commerce, was settled about the year 1810, or possibly a few years earlier.

Among the first settlers was Hardy Minish, who lived on the small branch between the present Frozen Food Locker Plant and Willoughby Park. Minish Militia District was named for him. He was the father of Pierce Minish from whom C. W. Hood, Sr., bought a large area of land on the west side of Commerce. The younger brother of Hardy Minish, Uncle Dicky, lived at the head of the branch between J. T. Quillian's and W. A. Dale's residences. About 1878, W. B. Power and J. M. Chandler built a tanyard on this branch just below the

old Gibb's foundry and it became known as the tanyard branch. In 1882, W. B. Power and W. T. Thurmond had a public gin just where the Dale house stands.

West of the Minish tract was the Bennett place where Tapley Bennett lived. He was the father of Captain A. T. Bennett and Hosea Bennett. This tract was later the W. C. Hood land. The old home, or house, stood near T. J. Syfan's residence where the old chimney of the original house stood for decades. These boys went to California in the Gold Rush of 1849. Captain A. T. Bennett soon returned and settled near Apple Valley where he reared a large family. Hosea remained in Arkansas. The land of Tapley Bennett joined the land of Hardy Minish and Caleb Wood on the north and Isaiah Borders on the west. The Hardy Minish tract probably ran along about the Blue Bell Overall Plant in line with the depot near the present grammar school ground, lying west of this line and joining the Bennett and Borders line.

The Isaiah Borders tract probably extended to the Oconee River. The old house on the hill left of the Jefferson Road is where Isaiah Borders lived and died and where W. L. Williamson was born. Enoch Borders lived on top of the hill beyond Borders Creek. He was the father of Mrs. C. T. Nash, Mrs. P. G. Thompson and Eugene Borders. The father, Isaiah Borders, lived and died in the old dwelling now standing on the south side of the Commerce-Jefferson highway. He died about 1852 and was buried in the family graveyard as was, also, his son, Enoch, just across the road in front of the late W. L. Williamson's home. Among the children of Isaiah Borders was Mrs. Bowden, who lived in Harmony Grove to a ripe old age. She first married James W. Shankle, son of Eli Shankle, one of the pioneer settlers of Harmony Grove. After his death she married James Bowden. She inherited all the land on the east side known as the Bowden land from James W. Shankle, her first husband. James Bowden's daughter married a Pomeroy. His son was Bill Bowden.

The Bowles place adjoined the Borders tract on the south

where H. E. Hardman lived and where the water works' plant is located. The elder Jesse Bowles had a mill on the creek at the shoals. The old family is buried on the premises with a rock inclosure. It is reported that several hundred dollars in silver and gold were secretly buried on the place.

South of the Bowles place lies the Hardy place up the branch, later known as the Virginia Barnett place and later occupied by Henry Shore who married Tempy Barnett. Amelia Hardy married Jackson Dunson, brother of Linton C. Dunson, who left the country in the sixties and has not since been heard from. He left one son, George Dunson. Virginia Barnett was the daughter of Uncle Johnnie Glenn. Her mother was a Hardy, and her Aunt Temperance Hardy lived with her. Virginia married Joe Barnett, who died in the War of the Sixties, leaving her with two children, Johnnie and Tempy. Tempy married Henry Shore.

G. J. N. Wilson for a number of years was County School Commissioner and author of Jackson County History. He was born and lived on a part of the Bowles or Nash place known as the Wilson place and later the George Martin place near the White Hill School house. During the Civil War, Wilson ran a woodwork shop here, repairing vehicles and blacksmithing.

On the east side of the town was the extensive Shankle land and property, owned by Eli Shankle. This land covered largely the eastern part of the town—a line from the front of the Blue Bell Overall Plant by the depot, school house, now grammar school, to the Harmony Grove Cotton Mill, thence running northeast to the branch adjoining the land of Dr. W. B. J. Hardman, thence north down branch to the Hargrove land, thence west including lands owned by Dave King, Levi Matthews, Dilmas Baugh and the Bowden land. Mrs. Bowden's first husband was James W. Shankle, eldest son of Eli Shankle. Dave King, Levi Matthews, and Dilmas Baugh married daughters of Levi Shankle, the second son of Eli Shankle.

Eli Shankle, born in 1784, married Rebecca Hargroves who

was born in 1786 and whose father lived near the Hargrove Creek on the Carnesville road. Eli married about 1808 or 1809. He settled near a spring at the head of Shankle Branch, known as the Shankle, or Baugh, Spring. He lived here some months under a brush arbor until his house, hewn out of pine logs, was built. This house was among the first, if not the first building in town, and was his residence where all his children were reared. This house became the home of Levi Shankle, Eli's second son. Levi moved later to the home later known as the Dave King place. The old home passed into the hands of Virginia Baugh who in 1883 sold it to Mrs. M. M. Barber of Washington, Georgia. Mrs. Barber moved there the same year and resided there until her death in 1906.

Eli Shankle was the father of the following sons and daughters: Levi, the second son, who inherited the home place; one daughter, who married Linton Dunson and another, who married Linsey Dunson; Ophelia, who married C. W. Hood, and died in 1857; James W., the oldest son, who married the daughter of Isaiah Borders. After James' death his widow married James Bowden who had two children, one boy, Bill, and one girl, Mrs. Pomeroy. The youngest son was S. M., known as Seaborn, who built the Shankle home near the present post office and was for years in the mercantile business.

Levi Shankle, the second eldest son of Eli, inherited from his father the home place. Levi's sons were Ras, Sam, and William (Dr. W. M. Shankle) who went to Texas. Levi's daughters were Virginia, who married William Baugh; another daughter who married Levi Matthews; another who married Dilmas D. Baugh; and Sarah, the youngest, married Dave King.

The W. C. Farrabee land was just south of Harmony Grove and adjoined the Haggard land on the west and the Butler and Hudson land on the north. His father was old Dr. Jesse B. Farrabee who came from Newton County, Ga., in the year 1835.

Just south of the Farrabee land were the places of Major J. P. Hudson and Pink Butler. Major Hudson was the father of Tom, Andy, and Jule Hudson. His daughters were Mrs. Tom Gober and Mrs. L. J. Dunson. The Pink Butler place lay side of Major Hudson on the east. This place was located at the Butlers Railroad Crossing and along side of Butlers Cut in the railroad. Just south of this place was the Henry B. Gober, father of Asbury and Jay Gober, place. North of the Butler place was the R. K. Minish place, afterwards Elijah Whitehead's and W. C. Glenn's place. John Minish was the father of R. K. and John W. Minish.

Originally southeast of Harmony Grove, bordering the Shankle land, was the French Haggard tract which was a government grant. W. B. J. Hardman bought off this place, or grant, one hundred acres, or more, in 1855. He built a house on it and it became known as the Dr. W. B. J. Hardman home place and his doctor's office. J. E. and W. R. Haggard lived on the land adjoining. They were sons of French Haggard. French Lord who lived on part of this grant was the grand son of French Haggard.

North of the Haggard place was the land of Bijah Wilbanks, who was the father of Mrs. Elijah Wilbanks; afterwards this was known as the Hilliard Ingram place. The old Buck Nunn place, before the War of the Sixties, adjoined on the west the Wilbank's land. This later was a part of the Shankle land. Adjoining the Shankle land was the Hargrove place just across the creek, later bought by C. W. Hood about 1867, then called the Cratic Gober home place.

In the northern part of the city was the Caleb Wood property, beginning at a branch on State Street east of Jessie Wood's home. Caleb Wood's property extended north of State Street and east of North Broad and Homer Streets, including most of the property on these streets. This was divided among the sons of Caleb Wood, namely, M. P. Wood, who lived where is now the George L. Carson home, owned by Mrs. Gussie Barber, daughter of George L. Carson. J. N.

Wood owned a large part of lots where is now located K. N. Sharp Store, Belk-Gallant Store, down to the Dale Tin Shop. His residence was where his son, E. S. Wood, now lives. Part of this land was sold to Dr. V. H. Deadwyler in 1875 who built a home where the late J. T. Quillian later bought and rebuilt about the latter part of the 1890's. This property has recently been bought by the Blue Bell Overall Company and the house torn down. Jesse P. Wood owned the eastern portion of the Caleb Wood property which is now occupied by his daughter, Jessie Wood. This adjoined the land owned by James W. Shankle afterward known as the Bowden tract of land. C. M. Wood owned the upper end of the Caleb Wood land, containing several acres, running back to Johntown, the Negro section.

P. C. Pittman, who was generally known as Dick Pittman, lived on Pittman's Creek, just a few yards on the east side of the creek. He ran a corn mill on the creek. He owned a considerable tract of land which extended up to what is now Johntown. This land joined the W. J. Goss place just east of Johntown and the Levi Shankle tracts owned by Levi Matthews and Dilmas Baugh.

CHAPTER III

ORIGINAL ROADS, SPRINGS, TREES AND LANDMARKS

Commerce is interesting because of its unique location just on a ridge of a water shed that flows each way. Generally speaking, this ridge is followed by the railroad two or three miles through the town and some two miles east and west.

ROADS

The original roads leading into and through the town of Harmony Grove, before it was incorporated, were: First, the Athens and Clarkesville road. This entered the southern limits by the L. G. Hardman's peach shed and followed the present paved road by way of the oil mill and cotton mill to a point in front of the First Baptist Church, then crossing the present railroad track, it led up Cherry Street by the Methodist Church, the Shankle residence and his first store, to the Carnesville Road. Then at a right angle with what is now State Street, it crossed over the railroad track in front of the Northeastern Bank, continuing up North Elm Street in front of C. W. Hood's store and residence, again crossing the track and following the railroad to the J. B. Hardman residence, and the present incorporate limit, leaving on the west side a narrow field of about eight acres known as the Hood's field.

Second, the Jefferson Road, leading from the W. C. Hood place, entered the town at the B. B. Hawks corner, which is now the present Jefferson Street. The Homer Road followed the present Homer Street, except after passing the Sander's home, it bore to the right in front of the Negro Baptist Church, on to Pittman's Mill on Pittman's Creek. This was also the outlet for the upper Carnesville Road.

Third, the Jefferson and Carnesville Road led from the Oconee River Bridge by the Mercer Jackson place, passing through the Dunson and Langston farms, crossing the Clarkesville Road at Wheeler's Gin, on by the Short and Wilbanks farms, entered the upper Carnesville Road at the John Scoggins place about two and one-half miles from town.

Fourth, the lower Carnesville Road, leading by what is now State Street, then across to Hargrove bottoms, the place where the present road now runs.

Fifth, leaving the Athens Road at Water's Store by what is now Madison Street to the southeast, another road led through Madison County. To the mountain wagon travellers, this road was known under the various names of Nowhere, Sandy Cross, Lexington, Washington and Augusta Road. This road passed by the W. B. J. Hardman home and doctor's office.

SPRINGS

Springs were numerous in Harmony Grove. Beginning on the Madison County Road near the James E. Haggard place, now Ingram's store, was a very bold spring, being the head of Sandy Creek. On the north side of the road was a spring, the beginning of Beaver Dam Creek, which formed the branch on which is located the Hardman Jones Lake. At the head of this lake was a fine spring known as Whiteoak Spring. On the east side of Spring Street there is a spring first used by Eli Shankle, known as the Shankle and Barber Spring, which has been in use for some one hundred and forty years. This is another head of Beaver Dam Creek known as the Shankle Branch.

These two branches came together about a mile from their heads at which Junction Alfred and J. S. P. Richey had a wheat, corn and saw mill with two mill ponds, one above the fork on Hardman Branch, and one below the fork. These ponds were the joy of the boys of that day for fishing and swimming.

On a Saturday afternoon, the boys of the neighborhood, Henry, Lam, and Bob Hardman, the Haggards, the Embreys, and others started to the Richey pond for a swim. As they neared the pond, in the woods and undergrowth ahead they heard a noise and a rustling among the leaves. All were frightened as to the kind of wild animal making the noise. Lam appeared to be bolder than the others. He stepped forward and called out, "Who is that?" Another sharp noise, "chook," came from the rustling leaves and bushes. The boys took to their heels, every man for himself. Some came out near the cotton mill site, some at Haggard's shop, one or two at home. The boys reporting their experience, the older heads returned with them and discovered that the noise proceeded from a wild turkey gobbler, scratching in the leaves and hidden by the undergrowth. When disturbed, he made this queer noise and ran the other way.

Along these two branches above referred to and between them, the land was covered largely by original forest woods and partly by old field growth. In this original forest were many forest pine and some large chestnut trees which had died decades before, now naked and without bark. Along the branches poplars, oaks, and hickory abounded. This was a suitable place for wild game, such as foxes, coons, opossums, squirrels and rabbits, also quite a few wild turkeys. In these woods were some birds now extinct, or nearly so, in this section. The wood hen, now extinct, was a large black bird about the size of a crow, but of the shape of a woods' bird of the Sapsucker family. It had a white head with a red crest. Other birds, as the yellow hammer, red-headed pecker wood, sap suckers and blue birds are now rarely seen. Along in the '60's and '70's, migratory wild pigeons roosted by the thousands in the forest. At night, the breaking of the limbs from the weight of these birds and the flapping of their wings could be heard all over the woods.

On the west side of the railroad and west of the Harmony Grove cotton mill is a spring long used by the operators.

There is also a good one in the L. G. Hardman pasture used by the tenants. Up nearer in town on the west side of the railroad was a small spring in the rear of the Cooper lot where once was a gin and a sawmill, operated by Rush Cromer. On the same little branch was the school house spring, which was later enclosed in the L. G. Hardman pecan orchard. This spring for some ten years was the water supply for the school, which was located on the present site of the grammar school building. Up near Central Avenue was another spring, near which was once one of the early school cabins, near the site of the Commerce Brick and Lumber Company, now the Frozen Food Locker Plant. Very early in the pioneer days, the real head of this small stream, on which the above was located, was a spring where is now located the City Hall. The other prong, or head, known as Hood's Branch, had its source west of C. W. Hood's residence, in what is generally known as Hood's calf pasture. There was, also, a bold spring in Willoughby Park on this side of this small stream.

On the east side of the railroad, between the Dale and Quillian homes, was a spring near which Dicky Minish, one of the pioneer settlers, lived. This was the head of what was later known as the Tanyard Branch on which was located a tannery. On the Carnesville Road, north side, was a spring between the Jesse Wood and Bowden properties which led by the K. N. Sharp swimming pool.

Another spring and branch is located in the northern part of the town. The spring heads near Park Street and runs through the J. B. Hardman's dairy pasture on through the Hood-Quillian Park in which are several springs that make a good size branch in a few hundred yards. This property along the head of this branch was owned by W. J. Goss and in the pasture referred to, Mr. Goss had a well stocked fish pond. In this pond, the writer, together with A. B. Deadwyler and Oscar Harrison and perhaps others, were baptized by Rev. W. B. J. Hardman in August, 1885. Mr. Goss then

lived on Homer Street in a house now owned by Mrs. P. C. Strickland. A pathway led from the house to the pond.

TREES

There were many noted trees in Harmony Grove. In front of the Harmony Grove Cotton Mill office stood a large spreading post oak under whose shading branches was located a well used by the public and where many weary travellers quenched their thirst. In front of the Y. J. Johnson home on South Elm between the street and the railroad stood a very large sassafras tree known to all the mountain wagoners as the "Cold Sassafras." They spoke of it as the coldest spot between the mountains and Augusta. This tree was more than two feet in diameter with a knot hole some ten feet from the ground, from which the school boys robbed the blue birds' nests. When this tree was taken down, T. C. Hardman for several months, used some of its roots to make sassafras tea.

Another noted tree was the large hickory in front of C. W. Hood's store, near which was a public well. Another, a large spreading water oak, grew in front of the Hardman Hardware store. This tree attained about thirty-six inches in diameter in about forty-five years. It was planted in 1882. Under its spreading branches and shade in summer boys played marbles and passersby stopped to enjoy the coolness. On one occasion, W. T. Harber, stopping to enjoy the shade, said to the boys, "If that tree was in my yard, I wouldn't begrudge five dollars." Tom Stapler remarked, "As poor as I am, if I had it in my yard, I wouldn't have it cut down for fifty dollars." Harber retorted, "That shows how you appreciate shade and I appreciate money."

In front of the Dr. W. B. J. Hardman's office on Madison Street, stands an old knarled oak. This tree served his patients as a hitching place. This, with the doctor's small office, is one of the land marks of old Harmony Grove. The office stood on the same spot as originally built for ninety-one years. The

tree is still standing. On the same road just at the incorporate limits, there were two large sycamore trees in front of a two-storied wagon and blacksmith shop, operated by James E. Haggard and later by his son, J. B. Haggard, just where the home of Miss Rosa Haggard, daughter of J. B. Haggard, now stands.

At the old home place of Eli Shankle, later known as the Virginia Baugh place, and still later as the Mrs. Mary M. Barber place, were four large sycamore trees, two on either side of the house, and one large cedar tree which gave to the place for a time, the name of "Sycamore Dell."

Referring to public wells, there was one located at the corner of North Broad and State Streets at the corner of the Jesse P. Wood building, now occupied by E. B. Crow. This well was a public watering place and most of the merchants in that locality came each morning with their buckets for their drinking water. Some years later after the water system was installed there were some three or more cast iron drinking troughs provided in different parts of town for watering stock of farmers and others.

A NORTHEAST STORM

A noted occurrence in the northeast section of Georgia was a severe equinoctial gale on the second Sunday in September, 1882. This storm with heavy rains, began early Saturday night and continued through Sunday, reaching its height by noon. The downpour of rain saturated the ground and caused the trees, especially the forest pines, to fall in great numbers. In fact, millions of trees were blown up by the roots in this section. In the woods above referred to, some 200 forest pines were blown down. Peeler and Lovin put a saw mill at the Roller Mill site and sawed this timber into lumber. For some 25 years or more, people hunting in the woods at night could locate the points of the compass by clay roots which pointed from northeast to southwest.

ANOTHER PHENOMENON

Long remembered was the Nash Cyclone which occurred in the afternoon of February 19, 1884. This cyclone completely demolished and blew away the home of C. T. Nash, killing Miss Mary Nash, his aunt, and injuring several others of the family. Mr. Nash, being some distance away, was not in the path of the cyclone, which was about 300 feet wide. The storm seemed to have originated some few miles south of Jefferson, passing over the Oconee River at the Gathright place, by the Benton farm, then passing near the Z. W. Hood home it exactly centered the C. T. Nash dwelling on the Athens road, on the rise midway between the homes of Dick Standridge and Ed Holland. It passed over into Madison County and was dissipated near the Harrison Hix farm.

This cyclone was seen by the people of Harmony Grove as it progressed in its path. It appeared as a funnel-shaped cloud and smoke, with the small end toward the earth. It was preceded by heavy hail precipitation which fell also in the town of Harmony Grove. Some of the hail stones, as large as cups and saucers, were picked up and weighed in Dr. L. G. Hardman's drug store. They weighed from fourteen to sixteen ounces each. This probably was the largest hail stone on record in this part of the state.

CHAPTER IV

IDENTIFICATION OF HOUSES BY STREETS BEFORE THE TOWN WAS INCORPORATED

Beginning with South Elm Street, situated just below the oil mill on the knoll where now is the Harmony Grove Mill Ball Park, was a house and lot known as the Rose residence. In front of Water's Store, on the opposite side of the railroad, was the Ezekiel Anthony small three room house, still standing, with additions. On the site of the Harmony Grove Mill office was located a small log building where John Embrey lived at the close of the Civil War. Josephine Carter taught school in this building in the late sixties. This school was attended by H. E. and L. G. Hardman, Billy McGinnis and other children of the community. Later, this building was occupied by R. S. Cheney as a residence during the time he was teaching in the first frame wooden school building located on the site of the present Grammar School. W. B. Powers lived here in 1877, moving from Oglethorpe County. Later, the building was bought by Mrs. M. S. Webb who sold it to the Harmony Grove Cotton Mill. The next house on South Elm Street was located on the hill, the present site of the late R. L. Daughtry home, and is now owned by the Harmony Grove Mill. This house was occupied in 1875 and 1876 by C. T. Nash; then by J. H. Campbell who sold it to A. H. Boone, who sold it to L. G. Hardman in 1890. On the Brannon Rice lot there was a small house built by Wilson Lord which still stands on the rear of this lot. The next house on South Elm Street was the J. H. Campbell house which was first occupied by his son, Chan Campbell, who had a small store on the corner where Col. W. A. Stevenson now lives. The Campbell house is now occupied by Luther Chandler and is the property of Mrs. T. C. Hardman. Where the Baptist Church now stands was a log school house prior to 1874.

The first two-story school structure was erected in 1874 on the site of the present grammar school building, the top story belonging to and used by the Masons. On the site where the old log school house stood the Baptist Church building was erected in the same year. Both of these lots were donated by C. W. Hood as was also one acre for a cemetery. Just back of the late Charley Cooper home, or house, at the head of the small branch, Rush Cromer had a saw mill and a cotton gin. This was the year 1876, being the year that the Northeastern Railroad was built. About '77 or '78, a house was erected for R. S. Cheney, the first depot agent, which is now the home of Dr. A. A. Rogers. Dr. L. G. Hardman built his first doctor's office at the corner of the depot platform and erected his home, which was used for a hotel. It still stands on Oak Street just behind the present L. G. Hardman residence. On the corner of South Elm Street where stands the present City Hall was originally a spring, before the railroad was built. Sometime after the railroad was built, W. T. Thurmond had a wool carding machinery shop and some years later a planing mill and furniture factory, which was operated by Albert Dunstan, who later became a Baptist Missionary to Brazil, South America. J. A. Seegar owned and ran a livery stable in a wooden building where the Roxy Theater now stands. On the corner of South Elm Street and Central Avenue stood a two-story building known as Strickland Hall. The lower floor was used for legal matters, holding courts, etc. The second floor was used for local entertainment—slight of hand and other forms of public amusements. T. J. Allen's photograph gallery was in the second story of this building. Just in the rear of this building on Central Avenue was a boarding house known as the Jennie Butler house. After her marriage it was known as the Jennie Haley house. Here many transient travellers found lodging and many country people, when they came to town, ate their dinner at the price of 15 and 25 cents.

Continuing north on Elm Street, the next was the Echols House, just above the old Central Hotel site. C. W. Hood, Sr's

store was next which stood just south of the R. L. Sanders' house at the driveway of Mrs. C. W. Hood, Sr. Between this store and the railroad was a blacksmith shop run by W. T. Stapler who moved to town about 1879 or '80. In the woods at the rear of the present late B. M. Durham house, C. W. Hood operated a gin and threshing machine. Mr. Hood built a house for his sister, Mrs. C. A. M. Mann, mother of W. D. Mann, where Mrs. P. B. Trawick now lives. Just above the Mann house was a house built for, or by, W. L. Williamson, who was clerking for C. W. Hood, and moved into this house in 1879. This afterwards was occupied by A. B. Deadwyler and later by his mother, Mrs. V. H. Deadwyler. Just on the corner of Jefferson Street was the home of Isaac Wilbanks. His wife was a sister of J. C. and H. W. Wheeler. This home later was owned by B. B. Hawks. Isaac Wilbanks was one of the early merchants of Harmony Grove and erected the first brick store, located where Mrs. M. R. Barron's Dress Shop now is. On the opposite side of Jefferson Street on the site of the Standard Oil Station was the home of W. S. Edwards who was once one of the early merchants of the town and trustee of the Harmony Grove Common Schools. This was also the house which F. H. Aderhold bought and lived in until his death. The other house just above was the home of Addison Chrisler, afterwards the home of Dr. F. M. Hubbard, where he spent his life as a physician.

Beginning on South Broad Street just within the incorporate limit was the W. C. Farrabee two-story building, erected in 1879. Going north the next was the C. T. Nash dwelling, which was known as the Eberhart place and where John I. Ray lived for several years. Later this was owned by Mrs. C. T. Nash. Next was the old Eli Shankle home off the road, east. Later this place was owned by Mrs. Virginia Baugh who sold it to Mrs. W. M. Barber in 1883. It is now known as the Colquitt Hardman home. Next was the Jonah Bond two-story home, later owned by Mrs. T. E. Key, where Harvey Bray now lives. On the adjoining lot was the Rush

Cromer home, an exact duplicate of his brother-in-law, Jonah Bond's house. It is now the Will D. Martin home. Next was the home occupied by L. H. Gober, afterwards bought and occupied by W. T. Harber. And adjoining this was a house in which a Mrs. Carithers lived which was later bought by Col. R. L. J. Smith. Adjoining this was the Methodist Church building, which later was remodelled and replaced by the present brick structure. Just above the Methodist Church on Cherry Street was the J. A. Segar home, later owned and occupied by T. A. Little. Just above on Cherry Street was the Green Sewell home, later bought by W. F. Langston who sold it to P. W. Sheppard. It is now owned by Reagan Sanders. Next was the S. M. Shankle home of which the ell part, the present kitchen, is more than a hundred years old. The main body was built about 1879 or '80. On the corner of Cherry and Carnesville Streets was the house known as the Bowden house, originally owned by James W. Shankle, who married Martha Borders, daughter of Isaiah Borders, and who died in 1847. His widow later married James Bowden. Just across the Carnesville Street was the Caleb Wood home. The original house is still preserved in the backyard of Miss Jessie Wood. This property became the Jesse P. Wood home. Adjoining was the Jasper N. Wood home. North of Carnesville Street, just to the rear of the First National Bank, was the Solomon Seegar home, where he ran the Northeastern Hotel. It was later bought by W. A. Quillian and is still standing. Just below, on the same street, was the Eli Riley house. In the rear of this, near Claud Little's home, was the home of John C. Yeargin, who was the son-in-law of Solomon Seegar. Farther down on the same street, toward North Broad, was a building that, for a long while, was occupied by J. T. Allen, photographer. Farther on was a building owned by Kimsey Smith and later owned by L. J. Sharp. Following North Board Street was a store building owned by J. N. Wood, next to W. A. Dale's tin shop and S. G. Dale's shoe shop, originally Dr. Deadwyler's office. Later it was occupied by T. M. Daniel. Next were

two or three buildings occupied by Negroes. These buildings were owned by J. T. Quillian and E. B. Anderson. One was Tom Norris' restaurant. His chief business was feeding prisoners and doing white-washing. Next in the hollow, Jeff Freeman lived and in this house was a Negro barber shop, later a Chinaman's laundry. As I recall there were only three or four Chinamen who ever lived here and ran a laundry. Just in the rear of these houses was the Dr. V. H. Deadwyler home, later owned by J. T. Quillian. Following North Broad Street was the John A. Williford home on the site of the Davis Warehouse. On the site of the A. B. Deadwyler home was the home of Dr. Alexander, a dentist. The G. L. Carson, Sr., home was the home of Marion P. Wood. The last home on North Broad was a house on the site of the J. B. Hardman home.

On the corner of North Broad and Homer Streets originally was located a cotton gin, operated by W. B. Powers and W. T. Thurmond, where later was the residence of W. A. Dale and the residence of D. C. Nichols. Just in the rear of the Nichols' house was a small two-room dwelling with a brick basement, which still stands. This building was occupied in 1877 by M. L. Parker, superintendent of the public schools, later by W. T. Stapler. Continuing up Homer Street, there was a house above the railroad sidetrack, on the present Harden lot, which Dr. F. M. Hubbard occupied when he first came to Harmony Grove in 1883. Just above this, was the C. M. Wood home, where he lived all his life. It is now the home of Mrs. John Carson. The First Presbyterian Church was located on the site of the L. L. Davis home. North of this was the Riley lot, the house originally built and occupied by R. L. Hardman, next to the home of Mrs. W. B. Wagon. The Wagon lot was part of the Sander's land. On the west side of Homer Street was the home of W. J. Goss, now occupied by Mrs. P. C. Strickland. The last house on Homer Street was the home of D. J. Sanders, still standing on the top of the hill.

CHAPTER V

DEVELOPMENT OF HARMONY GROVE FROM 1810 TO 1884

Some pioneer families and individuals who laid the foundation and formed the background of the village and town of Harmony Grove from its beginning in 1808 to 1880 together with their children and some of their grandchildren:

Hardy Minish—His two sons: Eli and Pierce.

Dickey Minish—Three sons: B. J., Will and Jesse.

Eli Shankle—Three sons: James W., Levi, S. M. and five daughters: Polly, Elizabeth, Eritha, Martha Ann, Ophelia.

Levi Shankle—Three sons: Sam, Ras, and Dr. William M. and four daughters: Virginia, Mrs. Levi Mathews, Mrs. D. D. Baugh and Sara King.

S. M. Shankle—Five sons: A. G., A. M., L. P., Claud and O. E.; four daughters: Anelia, Ida, Maggie and Pauline.

Tapley Bennett—Two sons: Captain A. T. and Hosea

C. W. Hood—Two sons: C. J. and C. W., Jr.; two daughters: Mary and Ruth.

W. C. Hood—Three sons: John H., Ben and W. T.; two daughters: Estelle and Delia.

W. B. J. Hardman—Six sons: H. E., L. G., R. L., W. B., T. C., and J. B.; five daughters: Anelia, Ethlene, Lanora, Sallie, Mildred. His sons were: two preachers, H. E., and T. C.; two physicians, L. G. and W. B.; two business and public men, R. L. and J. B.

W. C. Farrabee—Three sons: C. O., L. J. and Luther B.; five daughters: R. A., R. D., L. H., P. C. and Loonie B.

Caleb Wood—Four sons: M. P., J. N., J. P. and M. C.

M. P. Wood—Four sons: John W., Ed, Pleasant and Ernest; five daughters: Julia, Laura, Viola, Maggie and Marion.

Samps Butler—Two sons: Jesse and Tom; one daughter, Miss Jenny Butler; two grandsons, Bob and Joe.

- J. N. Wood*—Five sons: D. C., Lee, E. S., C. C. and Omar; four daughters: Josie, Mattie, Nezzie and Maude.
- Jesse P. Wood*—Two sons: Carey and Calvin; three daughters: Leila, Toonie and Jessie.
- M. C. Wood*—One daughter: Lizzie.
- Solomon Seegar*—Two sons: J. Ansel and Thomas; one daughter: Mrs. J. C. Yeargin.
- John C. Yeargin*—Two sons: William J. and Charlie.
- J. Ansel Seegar*—Three sons: S. J. T., P. S. B. and J. W. J.; three daughters: Lizzie, Francina and Mary.
- J. A. Williford*—Four sons: Q. L., J. H., W. D. and Robert.
- D. J. Sanders*—Four sons: D. G., C. B., C. M. and R. L.; three daughters: Ella, Florence and Mary.
- P. C. Pittman*—Five sons: P. O., J. I., N. O., T. C. and C. E.; three daughters: Alice, Sue and Octie.
- P. O. Pittman*—One son: W. O.; two daughters: Maud and Lillian.
- T. C. Pittman*—One son: O. C.; one daughter: Reba.
- C. E. Pittman*—Two sons: Brooks and Clarence.
- W. T. Stapler*—Three sons: Odell, Carl and Hoyt; three daughters: Emma, Gussie and Hallie.
- C. T. Nash*—Four daughters: Addie, Rosa, Lovie and Lula.
- Dr. V. H. Deadwyler*—Eight sons: Henry, Phil, Will, John D., A. B., O. E., Hoyt and Clyde; two daughters: Savannah and Lula.
- A. B. Deadwyler*—One son: Joe; one daughter: Rene.
- James C. Campbell*—Three sons: Chan, J. B. and Gibson.
- Wilson Lord*—Five sons: Jim, Dave, Bob, John and Emory.
- Mrs. C. A. M. Mann*—One son: W. D.; two daughters: Lizzie and Nelia.
- J. S. P. Ritchie*—Six sons: L. A., R. C., Jim, Garner, John and Otis; two daughters: Cornelia and Lilly.
- L. H. Gober*—Four sons: Willie, Marvin, Olin and Lenos; three daughters: Carrie, Emma and Mera.
- J. Madison Keith*—Three sons: Claudius Alphonso, Byron Sebastian and Adrian Alfucius.
- J. M. Chandler*—Five sons: Walter, Edgar, Arthur, Herbert and Clovus.
- Rush Cromer*—Five sons: Eddie, Rondo, Theo, Roscoe and Ponto.
- Jonah A. Bonds*—Two sons: Charlie and Luther; two daughters: Minnie and Bertie.

- Littleton Barber*—Five sons: C. T., W. L., Dee, Ed and Henry; four daughters: Jennie, Emma, Frances and Minnie.
- C. T. Barber*—Nine sons: Clint, Fred, Theo, Wily, Rob, Dave, Calvin, Howard and Talmadge; three daughters: Marion, Estelle and Bell.
- W. L. Barber*—Three sons: Earl, Hugh and Alf; four daughters: Kathleen, Gertrude, Nan and Camille.
- Dee Barber*—One son: Cliff D.; two daughters: Pearl and Ruby.
- J. O. Adair*—Two sons: Thomas B. and Ferdinand; three daughters: Hattie, Montine and Mary.
- W. B. Barnett*—Two sons: Keff and John.
- J. D. Barnett*—Three sons: Horace, Harold and Paul; three daughters: Kathleen, Lorena and Merle.
- R. S. Cheney*—Five sons: Roy, Rob, Hood, Mell and Berkley; five daughters: Kate, Wertie, Edna, Olive and Agnes.
- B. S. Bohannon*—One daughter: Ida.
- Buck Nunn*—Home near the L. P. Shankle residence.
- Frank Sewell*—Home near Methodist Church; later the T. A. Little home.
- W. S. Edwards*—Four sons: Joe, Hugh, S. N., and Lamar; two daughters: Fannie and Delia.
- W. B. Power*—Three daughters: Emma, Pearl and Ossie.
- W. R. Goss*—Two sons: W. J. and I. H.; three daughters: Mrs. D. M. Burns, Dora and Ella.
- W. J. Goss*—Two daughters: Lady and Grace.
- J. I. Ray*—Two sons: Charlie and Frank.
- W. T. Thurmond*—Two sons: Thad and A. H.; four daughters: Exa, Kyle, Alma and Sue.
- Micajab Williamsson*—Three sons: John, W. L. and L. W.; one daughter: Mary Appleby.
- W. F. Stark*—Five sons: C. D., Young, W. W., Albert and A. G.; three daughters: Mrs. Clara Maddox, Lula and Ellie.
- C. D. Stark*—Four sons: Homer, W. F., E. C. and Hope D.
- W. W. Stark*—One son: William; two daughters: Ruth and Zelma.
- Eli Crow*—Two sons: Frank E. and Lonnie; two daughters: Mattie and Lena.
- W. T. Harber*—Four sons: H. R., P. T., T. A. and R. B.; five daughters: Lizzie, Nelle, Estelle, Lucy Bell and Thelma.

- G. W. D. Harber**—Four sons: W. Y., John, Henry and Leo; five daughters: Ethel, Ruth, Pat, Marie and Mary Dillard.
- W. B. Hardman**—Four daughters: Wilda, Elizabeth, Helen and Ida Shankle.
- T. C. Hardman**—Three sons: Colquitt, Lawrence and Joseph; two daughters: Francine and Mary.

SOME OF THE MEN WHO CAME TO HARMONY GROVE
BETWEEN 1880 AND 1900

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| E. F. Adair | A. S. Crow |
| F. H. Aderhold | J. H. Crow |
| C. C. Alexander | W. A. Dale |
| N. C. (Lat) Alexander | S. G. Dale |
| N. Stiles Alexander | John Dale |
| Dr. W. A. Alexander | T. M. Daniel |
| W. G. Alexander | Cicero H. Daniel |
| T. J. Allen | L. L. Davis |
| E. B. Anderson | J. F. Dowdy |
| Ezekiel Anthony | John W. Dowdy |
| J. H. Ayers | J. L. Dunson |
| Neal Bates | W. L. Dunson |
| A. N. Bellamy | Ed P. Eberhart |
| T. J. Bennett | Jack Eberhart |
| A. M. Benton | R. A. Eckles |
| M. A. Benton | Charley Eckles |
| J. W. Black | J. H. Eckles |
| R. L. Black | Neal Eckles |
| C. C. Bolton | W. C. Eckles |
| Herchel Bolton | R. S. Eidson |
| Lenard Bolton | J. F. Goode |
| A. H. Boone | George W. Gordon |
| C. H. Brock | Taylor Gordon |
| E. G. Brock | John M. Gordon |
| R. B. Burgess | W. C. Green |
| W. B. Burns | John H. Gunnels |
| D. U. Carson | S. D. Harber |
| G. L. Carson, Sr. | Dr. Charles Harden |
| G. L. Carson, Jr. | Dr. R. R. Harden |
| John M. Carson | Dr. W. P. Harden |
| C. W. Cooper | I. H. Harris |
| Addison Crisler | A. D. Harris |

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| B. B. Hawks | Claude Montgomery |
| Obe Hawks | Dr. M. F. Nelms |
| R. H. Hawks | D. C. Nichols |
| S. P. Hawks | J. M. Nix |
| Henry Herring | R. C. Nix |
| Joe W. Hill | D. M. Nix |
| H. Corbin Hood | Reuben C. Nunn |
| Reuben Howington | Lovic Oliver |
| Robert Howington | R. S. Pomeroy |
| P. D. Howington | Bit Peeler |
| Dr. F. M. Hubbard | H. W. Peeler |
| G. L. Hubbard | W. D. Power |
| Marcus Jacobs | W. A. Quillian |
| Jefferson Jennings | J. T. Quillian |
| J. P. Johnson | Joe A. Quillian |
| L. B. Johnson | T. F. Quillian |
| J. W. Johnson | D. D. Quillian |
| Y. J. Johnson | R. T. Quillian |
| G. T. Jones | J. M. Rhodes |
| W. W. Jordan | E. P. W. Richey |
| T. E. Key | A. P. Rice |
| W. W. Landrum | G. T. Rice |
| W. F. Langston | W. B. Rice |
| Henry Langston | J. T. Rogers |
| John Langston | Eli J. Rylie |
| W. P. Lovin | John W. Sailers |
| T. A. Little | W. L. Sailers |
| J. R. Little | Dr. L. J. Sharp |
| T. C. Little | Nathaniel (Nat) Sharp |
| W. L. Little | K. N. Sharp |
| Claud Little | W. G. Shrap |
| J. E. Massey | B. B. Sharp |
| M. T. Massey | J. F. Shannon |
| J. C. Massey | W. A. Shannon |
| J. U. Merritt | J. J. Sheppard |
| W. S. Mize | W. D. Sheppard |
| Lonnie Mize | Paul Sheppard |
| Charley Mize | Frank Sheppard |
| Theron Mize | P. W. Sheppard |
| Horace Mize | Press Shore |
| W. W. Montgomery | H. C. Sims |
| J. O. Montgomery | W. H. Simpkins |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Kimsey Smith | G. B. Whitehead |
| R. L. J. Smith | W. T. Whitehead |
| Jeremiah Strickland | F. O. Whitehead |
| J. N. Telford | J. G. Whitehead |
| William Thurmond, Sr. | O. J. Whitehead |
| J. H. Walker | W. Ed Whitehead |
| C. M. Walker | James E. Williams |
| W. B. Wagnon | Henry E. Williams |
| Alex Webb | John T. Williams |
| F. P. Webb | Harmon Williams |
| William Webb | Isaac Wilbanks |
| A. S. Webb | H. O. Williford |
| Alcane Webb | G. N. Wilson |
| Joe H. Webb | L. W. Williamson |
| George Webb | B. F. Wardlaw |
| Leon P. Webb | Neal Yarbrough |
| Albert Webb | Mack Yarbrough |

Family Record of Eli Shankle who was probably the first settler of Harmony Grove.

Eli Shankle—Born Aug. 5, 1784, died April 15, 1852.

Rebecca Hargrove Shankle—Born Dec. 4, 1786, died Dec. 4, 1866.

Polly Shankle—Born March 5, 1811; married Henry B. Gober, father of L. H. Gober.

James W. Shankle—Born Oct. 18, 1812, died Feb. 12, 1847.

Levi H. Shankle—Born Feb. 9, 1815, died 1883.

Elizabeth Shankle—Born May 20, 1819.

Eritha Shankle—Born June 1, 1821; married Linton C. Dunson.

Martha Ann Shankle—Born Jan. 29, 1823; married Linsey Dunson.

Seaborn McKendree Shankle—Born July 8, 1825, died 1885.

Ophelia Amanda Shankle—Born Sept. 11, 1830; married C. W. Hood, Sr.; died 1857.

Eli Shankle married Rebecca Hargrove whose father lived on Hargrove Creek. They married about 1808 or 1809 and settled at the head of a large spring on the east side of Spring Street. Later he built a log house on the hill west of the spring, where he reared his family. The home was owned later by Levi Shankle who sold it to his oldest daughter, Virginia

Baugh. Mrs. Baugh sold it in 1883 to Mrs. M. M. Barber of Washington, Ga. After the death of Mrs. Barber in 1906 this home was bought by her daughter, Mrs. T. C. Hardman. In 1915 this house was taken down and a home built on that site, for her eldest son, T. Colquitt Hardman. Some of the original timbers were put into the new building.

HARMONY GROVE-COMMERCE POST OFFICE AND POSTMASTERS

The Harmony Grove Post Office was established October 14, 1825 and evidently located near Pittman's Bridge on the place known as the John B. Jackson farm, in the vicinity of the Harmony Grove Female Academy. There is no recorded information that this school ever functioned to any great extent and as the site of the town later known as Harmony Grove began to settle up and to establish business places, the post office was evidently moved to that place, probably in the 1830's, not later than 1840.

The post office when moved from its original site was first located at a point near the present Harmony Grove Mills office. Soon afterward it was moved to the center of business activities which was then on State and Cherry Streets and known as the Athens and Clarksville road. The first location I remember, about 1876, was in a wooden building on the present site of the C. E. Pittman brick building. The office was moved in 1882 to a corner in the L. G. Hardman Drug Store building. Some years later it was moved to North Elm Street in a building now occupied by Dr. A. A. Rogers. Still later about 1910, or 1912, it was located on the corner of Central Avenue and South Elm Street where it remained until 1933. At this date it was moved to the present site into the government owned building.

The Commerce Post Office was raised from the fourth

class to the third class on January 1st, 1903. The name was changed to Commerce, November 17, 1903.

Russell Jones was appointed first postmaster in 1825 and served at the original location. Of course there were other postmasters during the fifty year period from 1825 to 1875, but their names are not available.

Those who have served as postmasters with dates as far as can be obtained:

| <i>Under the name of Harmony Grove:</i> | <i>After the name was changed to Commerce:</i> |
|---|--|
| W. J. Goss.....1875-1880 | C. C. Alexander.....1904-1908 |
| Taylor Gordon.....1880-1888 | N. C. Alexander.....1908-1912 |
| C. C. Alexander.....1888-1892 | G. L. Carson, Sr.....1913 |
| A. C. Appleby.....1892-1896 | W. T. Thurmond.....1913-1922 |
| R. C. Moss.....1896-1898 | J. L. Dunson.....1922-1933 |
| J. L. Dunson.....1898-1904 | Mrs. C. C. Ward.....1933-1949 |

There are six rural mail routes radiating from Commerce in every direction and covering all the territory in a radius of eight to ten miles.

INDIVIDUALS WHOSE PERSONALITIES CONTRIBUTED TO THE CHARACTER, TONE AND REPUTATION OF HARMONY GROVE TOGETHER WITH THE EARLY BUSINESS FIRMS WHO FIRST PUT HARMONY GROVE ON THE MAP

Little is recorded or known of the very early settlers as to their particular personalities, but from the beginning of the growth of the village of Harmony Grove, about 1845 or 1850, a number of men came upon the scene whose characteristics are worth noting.

(1) C. W. Hood, Sr., who was born in 1827, was the son of William C. Hood and Winnifred Hood who were charter members of the Beaver Dam Baptist Church in 1826. Mr. C. W. Hood, Sr., was reared near Apple Valley and while a young man came to Harmony Grove and entered into the

mercantile business which he conducted for more than forty years. Mr. Hood was a man of retiring disposition, limited education, but with great business qualifications, noted for his economy and thrift. Having large farm interests, he accumulated a princely fortune for those days. Mr. Hood was very active in church and school affairs and contributed largely to these institutions, donating land and money in a liberal way. He had a large part in building the Northeastern Railroad, subscribing stock and giving the site for the depot. Verily, it can be said, he was one of the founders of Harmony Grove.

C. J. Hood, son of C. W. Hood, Sr., entered into the affairs of the town and community about 1883. He was the chief promoter of the Northeastern Bank, the first banking institution in the town. Mr. Hood in many ways contributed to the progress of the city, serving as mayor three times and noted as one of the most liberal contributors to the community welfare.

(2) W. C. Hood, who was the younger brother of C. W. Hood, Sr., was identified with the progress of the town after the Civil War. Owning a good portion of the land in the business section, he sold lots for business enterprises and was himself engaged in the mercantile business for several years.

(3) S. M. Shankle was the youngest son of Eli Shankle, born in 1825 and was the brother-in-law of C. W. Hood, Sr. Mr. Hood's first wife was his sister. Mr. Shankle inherited a large section of land on the eastern side of the town, most of which has since been developed as a residential section. Mr. Shankle was engaged in the mercantile business some thirty-five years. All his life he was a strong supporter of the Methodist Church in Harmony Grove. He reared a family of five boys and four girls, all of whom were worthwhile contributors to the progress of the town and community.

(4) Dr. W. B. J. Hardman: Dr. Hardman was born November 23, 1822 and reared in Oglethorpe County and came to Harmony Grove in 1848 or '49 as a practicing physician. He boarded with Mr. S. M. Shankle for about two years and

was married to Miss E. S. Colquitt of Oglethorpe County, January 2, 1851. His first residence for one year was the old Bowden house on State Street. Then he resided five years in the J. P. Wood house across the street. In 1856, he built his home on Madison County road. Having purchased a large tract of land, he engaged in farming while he continued the practice of his profession. Dr. Hardman, in cooperation with C. W. Hood, Sr., was active in the promotion of a number of institutions and industries in Harmony Grove. Among these were the establishment of the Harmony Grove Baptist Church and the fostering of the schools of which he was for a long time a trustee, serving as Chairman of the Board. He aided in locating the Northeastern Railroad through Harmony Grove. He, with C. W. Hood, Sr., was the author of the section in the Harmony Grove Charter prohibiting the legal sale of intoxicants within the incorporate limit of the town perpetually. Dr. Hardman had a wide range of territory in his practice before and during the war as he was the only physician in this section. Dr. Crawford Long of Jefferson and Dr. Daniel of Danielsville were his contemporaries and were the nearest located physicians. After practicing his profession for nearly thirty years, he was called to the ministry and became the first pastor of the Harmony Grove Baptist Church. His family consisted of six boys and five girls, two of whom died in early girlhood. Two, L. G. Hardman and W. B. Hardman, became physicians.

Dr. L. G. Hardman had a wide sphere of influence and as a practicing physician, he succeeded his father in this community. He served in the State House and Senate and was co-author of the Prohibition Bill that gave Georgia a dry law in 1907. He served two terms as Governor of the State of Georgia.

W. B. Hardman enjoyed the distinction of being one of the finest surgeons in this section and his reputation was state-wide. He was also a popular practitioner who knew how to treat patients in the home and to meet their needs. His

friendly approach was greatly appreciated and he found a place in the hearts of the people.

Two, H. E. Hardman and T. C. Hardman, were ministers of the Gospel. These two ministered to the churches in the surrounding section as pastors of various churches. They strengthened the faith and stabilized the spiritual life of the people. These two preached salvation by grace, a new life and a transforming Gospel.

Two, R. L. and J. B. Hardman, were business men. R. L. Hardman spent his life in the hardware business, opened the first hardware store in Harmony Grove in 1884. He was the second mayor of the town. A few years later he moved to Atlanta and continued in the hardware business. J. B. Hardman served the town both as a merchant and in the insurance business. He served four terms as mayor of Harmony Grove and Commerce. He was later a member of the Georgia Senate. The number of his friends was measured only by the extent of his acquaintance.

(5) Caleb Wood was one of the early settlers who lived about two miles northwest of Harmony Grove at what is now known as the W. B. Hardman Peach Orchard. He bought and owned a large acreage near the center of town which his four sons inherited and which was divided into four tracts. From best information, Mr. Caleb Wood never lived in Harmony Grove, but bought part of the land he owned in town from Samps Butler; certainly the house and lot on State Street later owned by his son, Jesse P. Wood and probably some other portions of land owned by Caleb Wood.

Two of his sons, J. N. and Jesse P., engaged in business at various times in Harmony Grove and all four of his sons had a part in the growth of the community. The two above mentioned reared good size families, most of whom continued here and furnished growth and strength to the town.

(6) W. C. Farrabee was a unique character in Harmony Grove. He was high tempered, temperamental and excitable,

with a good bit of Irish in him. He was always ready to contend for what he considered his rights. Harmony Grove was not complete without this man of eccentricities, yet withal a valuable citizen. Mr. Farrabee's family consisted of three boys and five girls. These for the most part remained as citizens of Harmony Grove-Commerce. The eldest son, Cecil, went to Arkansas in his early manhood and made a success in that state.

(7) Solomon Seegars was a rather old man when he came from Madison County and established the Northeastern Hotel some years after the Civil War and had a small part in the mercantile realm. His son, J. Ansel Seegar, was pioneer in the livery stable business. For quite a while he furnished the transportation and drayage facilities for the town.

(8) W. T. and G. W. D. Harber were brothers who came to Harmony Grove in 1875 or 76 and established a mercantile business together. They were reared in Franklin County. W. T., the older of the two, had had some business experience in Marietta, Ga. This firm of W. T. Harber & Brother was one of the stalwart business institutions for some thirty years. Both of these men were frugal, industrious and wise business men and each had accumulated a sizable fortune for himself and family. After the death of W. T. in 1902, G. W. D. with his son, W. Y. Harber, conducted a thriving business for a long period. Each of these men had a family of four boys and five girls, several of whom have made Commerce their permanent home and contributed to its progress.

(9) W. B. Power. Perhaps no man was more closely associated with the business life of Harmony Grove than W. B. Power. Coming here from Oglethorpe County in 1877, he engaged in several enterprises. In 1882 he formed the partnership with J. M. Chandler and R. L. Hardman under the firm name of Power-Chandler & Company. After a year or more in business, this firm enlarged its partnership and changed the firm name to Power-Key & Company. This partnership was not a success and was liquidated. Mr. Power then formed a

partnership with John H. Gunnells which continued for some five years and was finally dissolved. Then, Mr. Power formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, H. O. Williford. They built a large supply store in 1891 where the Blue Bell Overall Plant is now located. Here they conducted a large supply business and cotton buying enterprise that gave Harmony Grove a wide reputation as a good market. Mr. Power died in 1904 and the business continued under the firm name of Williford, Burns & Rice.

(10) C. D. Stark. C. D. Stark came to Harmony Grove from his country home in Jackson County in about 1885 and entered the mercantile business. Mr. Stark was full of life, unbounded energy, good business ability and a liberal supply of gab. In the thirty-five years of his business activities, he added much to the reputation of the town as a business center. He often sold goods at a close or cut price which gave much concern to his competitors, the Harbers, Powers, Hoods, and others. He had a family of four boys, all of whom have made a success in life.

(11) W. A. and J. T. Quillian. These brothers came to Harmony Grove in 1880 and entered into the mercantile life of the town. When Harmony Grove was incorporated, W. A. Quillian was elected the first Mayor and served for two years. After some years of partnership, J. T. Quillian withdrew and set up a separate business in the sale of wagons and buggies, also in the brokerage of grain, flour and other lines. W. A. continued the business under the name of Quillian & Sons, T. F. and R. T. being members of the firm.

(12) E. B. Anderson-W. D. Mann. About the time the Northeastern Bank was founded, C. W. Hood & Son sold their mercantile business to Anderson & Mann, who conducted a large supply and general mercantile business which added much to the assets of the town. This firm continued its operation and became one of the large cotton factors of the city. After some twenty years, Mr. Anderson withdrew and estab-

lished a private bank. Mr. Mann continued the business until after 1920.

(13) T. E. Key and J. D. Barnett. These men under the firm name of Key & Company did a general supply and grocery business from about 1888 for fifteen or twenty years. This firm had a large trade and bought a considerable amount of cotton during their business career. Each of them served as Mayor of Harmony Grove and Mr. Key was the first Mayor of Commerce after the new name was adopted.

(14) J. M. Nix, L. L. Davis, P. W. Sheppard. These fine men came to Harmony Grove in 1895 and opened the firm of Sheppard, Davis & Nix, later changed to Davis & Nix when Mr. Sheppard withdrew. This firm supplied a place in the town of supply merchants after most of the others had discontinued and was probably the last firm who carried on this method of business after the retirement of other firms. Mr. Davis became the chief cotton factor under the name of L. L. & V. L. Davis.

(15) Among others who did a mercantile business in Harmony Grove from 1880 to 1900 were W. J. Goss, W. S. Edwards, Key & Williamson, Burgess & Allen, Isaac Wilbanks, W. W. Jordan, Jeremiah Strickland, Alexander & Teasley, A. H. Boone, B. B. Hawks, Kimsey Smith, J. E. Massey, Hardman & Shankle, Hardman Merchandise Company, Hardman Hardware Company, L. J. Sharp & Bro., L. G. Hardman & Bro., Wagnon & Wood, Marcus Jacob, Bennett & Wilson, A. C. & J. H. Campbell and W. A. Dale, William Thurmond, Sr., John M. Gordon, I. H. Harris & Co., and Herschel Bolton, and Benton and Adair Hardware Co.

HARMONY GROVE CROWD DOES NOT WANT TO BE BRACKETED WITH EARLY COMMERCE

By Paul T. Harber, *Commerce News*, Sept. 13, 1945

Recent comment in the News relative to Harmony Grove and its successor, Commerce, and a comparison of the times years ago with conditions today, has roused the feelings of some of the real old-timers who want to be known as the Harmony Grove crowd. One of them said, "Don't bracket our crowd with the early Commerce contingent. They are a different species. Call them old-timers, if you choose, but let our crowd be known as P.S.A.W., Pre-Spanish American War, which represents a period before 1898." But let him tell it. Here's what he has to say.

Furnished Spark

"Our Harmony Grove crowd" don't want any disunity or unfriendly feelings, but we want it to be known that it was old Harmony Grove that did big things and furnished the spark for later progress by the new city of Commerce which carried on successfully for many years and then was let down by a generation that seemed to have forgotten the lessons taught them by their grandfathers.

Original Industry

What was this community's first industry? Why it was R. A. (Bob) Eckles exterior finish shop, or buggy and wagon factory, a contribution of Harmony Grove to the world of transportation.

Mr. Eckles first made two-horse wagons and began majoring in buggies. He finished his buggies with 14 to 16 coats of varnish and they shined until you could see yourself in the

body. Judge B. S. Bohannon was one of the painters and Mr. Petat an expert trimmer.

No such buggy or wagon, for durability, ever rolled out of any factory. Studebaker, White Hickory and other wagons were manufactured in large numbers, but no wagon was superior to that of Robert A. Eckles. His buggies and carriages were equally as durable and popular. Ask your granddad about this successful industry in Harmony Grove.

Good Schools

Our crowd believed in providing a good education for children. We didn't ask the state and the federal government for money. Two school buildings were built by the pioneers. The first was where the grammar school is now located. It was a two-story frame structure, built in 1874 and it was razed in 1889, and was replaced by a brick structure which burned to the ground in 1895. The second brick building burned in 1903.

Capable Teachers

The first teachers after the Civil War were G. J. N. Wilson, R. S. Cheney and G. W. Brown, a one-armed veteran of the Civil War. Mr. Cheney taught again in 1875 and 1876, after which he became the first local agent for the Northeastern Railroad.

M. L. Parker succeeded Prof. Cheney in January 1877 and taught for five years. L. M. Landrum taught in 1882 and 1883 and afterwards was Superintendent of Boys High School in Atlanta for over thirty years until his death.

W. H. Key succeeded Prof. Landrum in 1884 and he was followed by Joe A. Quillian in 1885 and 1886; F. M. Blount in 1887; Henry Walker from 1888 to 1891 inclusive; Harry Strozier and his brother, A. J., in 1892 and 1893; W. Herschel Cobb in 1893 to 1895 inclusive; Claud Gray in 1896 to 1898;

M. L. Parker in 1899 to 1900 and Peter Zellers from 1902 through 1904.

Prof. Cobb was the father of Tyrus Raymond Cobb, the noted baseball player.

Miss Rosa Taylor, Mrs. Jennie Truitt, Mrs. Nettie Methvin Holder and other highly capable women teachers were among those who served in the local school back in the days of Harmony Grove. We went after the best teachers and got 'em.

Able Pastors

In religious circles Harmony Grove was a leader. Such able, consecrated and influential preachers as Dr. W. B. J. Hardman, Dr. Henry F. Hoyt, Rev. W. M. Coile, Henry E. Hardman, Rev. John H. Wood, Dr. B. F. Riley, Rev. Groves Cartledge, Rev. G. W. Duvall, Dr. M. L. Troutman and other leaders in religious thought were among the pastors of the local and nearby churches. Congregations were large. People went to church in those days.

Dr. B. F. Riley was pastor of the First Baptist Church from 1894 to 1896 and the present brick structure which houses the church in Commerce was built in 1896. The wooden structure was moved from the present location of the First Church to Madison Street Baptist Church where it now stands. Rev. Henry Hardman was the first pastor of the Madison Street Church. Rev. W. B. J. Hardman served the First Baptist Church from 1874 to 1890, a period of sixteen years. He was followed by Rev. W. M. Coile and then Dr. B. F. Riley who served for three years. Rev. G. W. Garner served the First Baptist Church from 1897 to 1902.

Somebody ought to write a complete history of the schools and churches of those days. It would be an inspiration to the newer generations.

Big Retail Stores

Our merchants and store-keepers were known for their full stocks of high class merchandise, consisting of dry goods, groceries, notions, and plantation supplies. Among the pioneers were Solomon Seegar, Seaborn M. Shankle, C. W. Hood, W. J. Goss, W. T. Harber, G. W. D. Harber, W. B. Power, Jasper Wood, H. O. Williford, C. D. Stark, T. C. Hardman, W. D. Mann and others who sold goods over a period of years.

After the railroad was constructed from Athens to Lula in 1876, Harmony Grove became one of the leading distributing communities of Northeast Georgia. Trade from four counties was built up and in time the freight receipts of Commerce exceeded those of any other town of similar size on the Southern Railway.

Real Farmers

Rural soundness was one of the reasons for Harmony Grove's solidarity and progress. Farmers back in those days were real dirt farmers. They lived in large white houses with green blinds and broad porches. Commodious barns, smoke-houses and storage buildings were on the premises. Corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, peas, sorghum and other crops were raised in addition to cotton. On the place were apples, peaches, grapes, scuppernongs, figs, and other kinds of fruits. There were fine farm animals, milk cows, pigs, cattle, and sheep. Yes, the people believed in raising their own food products and did.

Rural sections had good church buildings and school houses. Communities like Arp, Beaverdam, Ashland, Hebron, Nails Creek, Apple Valley, Hudson River, Blacks Creek, Ft. Lamar, Ila and other country communities, were well known for their good farms and excellent citizens. In those days the country sections had medical facilities. Such able physicians as Dr. H. P. Quillian, Dr. W. P. Harden, Dr. Frank Payne, Dr.

George Westbrooks, and Dr. Robert Westbrooks were among the practitioners who resided in the country districts.

You said in your paper that the new Commerce women made the old Harmony Grove store keepers remove the chicken coops from the front of their establishments. This was true but don't forget that the P.S.A.W. pioneers went in for a chicken in every pot and a good horse in every stable.

Sociable People

People in those days were friendly, sociable, generous and democratic. Picnics, barbecues, ice cream festivals, school entertainments, family reunions and candy pullings were popular. A young man could have more fun with a nickel than modern youth with a dollar. There wasn't much to buy for pleasure purposes. And there was no such thing as juvenile delinquency. Children had homemade fun. They were too busy playing wholesome games and working to get into mischief.

Beautiful Women

Harmony Grove was also noted for its pretty girls and handsome boys. While the girls wore puffed sleeved dresses, buttoned shoes, Flora Dora big hats (done over by milliners each season) and long hair rolled up in a long psyche, their complexion was peachy and positively beautiful. No period has ever seen such beautiful Georgia women as those magnolia and old lace days.

Handsome Men

And the boys were really handsome. They wore black high-top shoes, detached white collars and cuffs, bow ties, dark coats and striped trousers and sported a black derby and a mustache. This combination had its appeal. Topped off with a bay horse, a red rubber-tired buggy, a highly colored em-

broidered lap robe and a \$1.50 sporty whip, young men did some fancy courting. Their clothes and technique were of the Gay Ninety days but no more ardent lovers were ever known than your grandfathers.

Used Candles and Some Oil Lamps

Yes sir, Mr. Editor, the man of yesterday wore jeans breeches, brass toed leather shoes, boots with red tops, sprouted mustaches, wore long hair which was cut semi-occasionally by their mothers, using plain scissors, studied by candle light, played town ball in the streets, cat ball at the church buildings, baseball in pastures, went barefooted until they were sixteen years of age, fed the stock, held the calf off at milking time, and helped their mothers with the chores.

And the girls canned fruit, helped cook and wash dishes, sewed, darned, churned the milk, worked in the flowers and learned to make their own dresses. Call them old fashioned if you want to but your grandmothers of Harmony Grove were among the finest and best looking women the world has ever seen.

These are just some of the evidences of a sturdy, dependable, thrifty, God fearing people who paved the way for and set an example for succeeding generations to follow. So in talking about the new and big things to be accomplished by Commerce in 1945, look back to the days of Harmony Grove, the days of your grandparents, for inspiration. Remember the P.S.A.W. people. They were worthy of your best efforts to build a better community and a better civilization.

CHAPTER VI

TRAVELLERS TO MARKET

Before and after the Civil War, the mountaineers travelled in covered wagons and drove their stock, cattle, hogs, sheep and turkeys to market. These mountain travellers hailed from this side and beyond the Blue Ridge from Union, Towns, Rabun, White and Habersham counties in Georgia and from Cherokee, Clay and Macon counties in North Carolina. Generally speaking, the mules and horses came from North Carolina while the cattle and other products came from the Georgia counties.

These droves of cattle and sheep, hogs and turkeys were driven by two, or three, footers (men on foot), usually followed by two or three covered wagons loaded with cabbage, apples, chestnuts and other fruits and a liberal supply of feed for their stock. They travelled from fifteen to twenty miles a day except those with the droves of mules and horses, who made thirty or forty miles a day. These were led by one rider in front with usually two riders in the rear, leading stock that had been traded for on the way. These mule drivers traded along the road and sold their products wherever opportunity offered, and stopped for the night with some large farmer where they expected to make some sales.

Those driving cattle, sheep or hogs were well acquainted with the itinerary and usually stopped for the night where there was a large lot or pasture and feed. But the turkey drivers were somewhat different. For when the sun set, Mr. Turkey would jump into a bush or tree, or on a nearby fence and roost for the night. After the fall of twilight, they refused to go farther. So the driver of turkeys must plan to make a suitable place before sundown for his camp. One such place on the

Athens Road was just below the Polk Nash house in the fork of the Athens and Hood Mill roads. Another such place for camping was on the Madison County Road just below the residence of James E. Haggard, which was known as "The Glade" from the fact that the yellow clay and underlying rock were near the surface of the ground. This was an excellent place for camping in the woods of W. B. J. Hardman near the frog pond. All the wagoners knew of this camping site.

The methods of driving were varied. The mule drivers rode, usually, in front of the drove. As they went along, they would holler "Co-ap, Co-ap," especially at the forks of the road when they would take the wrong route. The drove was followed by two riders who rounded up any stragglers. The cattle drivers were perhaps the most interesting. They followed their droves of some forty or fifty, with one or two belled cows leading the way and the drivers alternately calling, "ho! ho! ho!" "hoa, hoa, hoa!" and popping the long leather whip.

This was the chief kind of marketing during the fall season and we boys, when we heard the cow bells and the drivers signal, were thrilled with anticipation. We ran to the fence to watch the procession and asked the drivers, "How many cows you got?" "Can't you count 'em?" "So many we can't count 'em all," the boys would say. "About forty-five cows and two bob-tail bulls," came the reply from the drivers. The droves usually numbered from thirty-five to sixty.

Only occasionally was there a drove of sheep or a drove of hogs passing through. Sheep were very easy to drive as they marched in compact order and somewhat in the shape of an A, like a drove of ducks. If the road was dusty, they were covered with red dust.

Perhaps, the most interesting in the method of driving were the turkeys. An expert driver would carry along a whip lash about 30 feet long on a staff. If any high-stepping gobbler strayed to the road side, the driver would sling his long whip with dexterity, wrap it around Mr. Gobbler's neck and pull him into his proper place.

The market for these mountaineers was either Lexington, Washington, Athens, but chiefly Augusta. Harmony Grove being located on the ridge road to these cities and the Athens and Augusta Roads forked at Harris's, now Waters' Store, practically all the mountain wagons and droves passed through the town and was quite an event for fall trade. They would go down with all their wares, their purpose being to trade for clothing, shoes and other necessities not obtainable in the mountain section.

Eventually in the twenty years between 1880 to 1900, these people found that Harmony Grove was a good trading center, so they reserved a good part of their trade, especially of heavy goods, for their return trip in order that they might not have to haul them so far as from Athens or Augusta. At this period, their trade of plow goods, stoves and household utensils was very considerable. Sometimes neighbors of the same county travelled in groups of several wagons. I recall selling to one such bunch of wagons several cook stoves, consisting of about forty cooking utensils, loading two or three on each wagon. The stove with utensils sold for \$12.50.

Eventually, most of the mountain trade went to Gainesville as that city grew, developed and enlarged as a jobbing point.

In 1875, the commercial fertilizer business began to be enlarged. Among the first fertilizers used was one called "Merriman's" and it sold for \$75.00 a ton. The old "Merriman" had such an odor a wagon loaded with this product could be detected half a mile from the road.

The Mountain Covered Wagon

This unique and distinct vehicle deserves more than passing notice in this narrative. These wagons were home-made in blacksmith shops. They had wooden axles, homemade iron skeins attached, built up wooden wheels, homemade bodies

covered with heavy drill or duck cloth on bow frames. These covers were drawn together at each end by draw cords, leaving enough open space in front for the driver to see his way. These covers furnished shelter from rain and wind. Underneath the rear axle hung a tar bucket filled with home run tar for greasing.

In these wagons were various things for sale and for camping, usually skillets, frying pans, side meat, bedding and quilts and an axe. Sometimes a dog was tied underneath. In the wagon the various articles for sale consisted of cabbage, apples, Irish potatoes, chestnuts, home-twist tobacco and other items. Sometimes a sample was hung out in front or sometimes an apple or cabbage was stuck on a stick and attached on the top of the bow frame.

The North Carolina Covered Wagons

Wagons from the North Carolina counties were a different pattern. They were flared up some four or five feet, front and rear, which gave better access for loading and were painted blue. Wooden feed troughs were attached to the rear end. These were referred to as the North "Calliny" wagons and were representative of the old covered wagon era. These two types of wagons were familiar objects as they passed through Harmony Grove during the fall season, sometimes in groups. The writer, being in the hardware business, often sold them a set of bows for their wagons.

These campers enjoyed the freedom of the roadside and wood necessary for their use as they usually camped in the edge of woods by the side of the road. As a rule the campers arose before day, cooked their breakfast and prepared their dinner for the day's journey and were on the road by the rising of the sun.

CHAPTER VII

GROWTH OF THE TOWN HARMONY GROVE, INC., 1884-1904 AND THE CITY OF COMMERCE TOGETHER WITH ALL OFFICIALS AND OFFICERS, 1904-1948

The town of Harmony Grove, Ga., was incorporated in 1884, a charter having been approved by Governor Henry D. McDaniel Dec. 24, 1884. An election was held Jan. 15, 1885 and the following Mayor and Councilmen were elected:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| W. A. Quillian..... | Mayor |
| W. C. Green..... | Councilman 1st Ward |
| R. B. Burgess..... | Councilman 2nd Ward |
| G. W. D. Harber..... | Councilman 3rd Ward |
| W. S. Edward..... | Councilman 4th Ward |

The first meeting of the Council was on Jan. 19, 1885. William H. Simpkins was elected Clerk, W. C. Green, Treasurer, and G. B. Whitehead, Marshal. Salaries fixed for officers were:

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mayor | \$ 50.00 per year | Treasurer | 15.00 per year |
| Clerk | 50.00 per year | Marshall | 300.00 per year |

Councilmen served free.

All officers were exempted from street tax. Street tax was \$3.50 a year. The first tax assessment was .20 on \$100.00 and penalties were designated for violations of the ordinances. The town was divided into four wards.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1885

RECEIPTS:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Fines & Cost | \$ 173.00 |
| Tax on Shows | 43.50 |
| Street Tax | 286.90 |
| Tax on Personal Property & Real Estate | 566.00 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | \$1,069.40 |

EXPENDITURES:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| For Work & Material on Streets | \$ 245.30 |
| Officers Salaries | 415.00 |
| Calaboose & Printing & Misc. Accts. | 219.48 |
| Cash on hand | 189.62 |
| TOTAL | \$1,069.40 |

POPULATION IN 1886

| | | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| White | 395 | 198 | 197 |
| Negro | 184 | 79 | 105 |
| Total | 579 | 277 | 302 |

POPULATION IN 1948

| | <i>Estimated</i> | <i>Registered Voters</i> | <i>Church Mem'ship</i> |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| White | 4800 | 1180 | 1979 |
| Negro | 600 | 144 | 435 |
| Total | 5400 | 1334 | 2414 |

The charter of Harmony Grove was unique in the history of the towns of the state in that this instrument contained a provision in section 31 that the Mayor and Council of the town of Harmony Grove shall never have power to license the sale of spirituous, malt, vinous, alcoholic or intoxicating liquors or beers of any kind in the town of Harmony Grove. This provision was transferred into the Charter of the City

of Commerce. The credit for this wise provision was due chiefly to C. W. Hood and Dr. W. B. J. Hardman. An ordinance was proposed in 1906 in reference to the sale of spirituous liquors to increase the fine for violation from \$300 to \$500, or 60 days, not to exceed 12 months on the street. This ordinance was passed.

In 1906, the first electric lights were contracted for with the Harmony Grove Mill to install twenty or more street lights, the mill to have the street franchise to install lines and sell current to the town. This contract was to continue for eleven years. After the expiration of this contract, the city installed a light plant at the waterworks site, and paid the Harmony Grove Mill \$6,800.00 for their lines, poles and other equipment. The city continued to produce electric current until 1927 when contract to purchase current was made with the Georgia Power Company.

An ordinance for fire protection was passed in Feb. 1907. A Fire Department was organized and it was provided that in the fire area that no building or structure should be erected other than brick, concrete or stone. This area extended from Homer Street to the railroad crossing near the Methodist Church and from the railroad on the west. Dwellings were exempted.

An election was held July 16, 1907 to vote bonds for waterworks and sewerage; \$45,000.00 5% bonds were issued in 1908 and \$8,000.00 5% bonds in 1909 for sewerage. The first waterworks commissioners were T. C. Hardman, chairman, C. J. Hood and Claud Montgomery. The first superintendent was D. L. Caston. A preliminary survey was made in 1907. Purchase was made of 2.6 acres of land from H. E. Hardman for the waterworks site. Also the right of way for the pipe lines to the corporate limit was secured and same was incorporated as part of the city. This land was deeded Sept. 11, 1908. The contract for installing waterworks and the sewerage system was given to J. B. McCrary Company of Atlanta.

Eight thousand dollars 5% bonds were issued in 1913 for

paving side walks. The contract was let to W. C. Campbell Company, Columbus, Ga. T. C. Hardman, chairman of the street committee, was supervisor of the project. More than two and one-half miles of concrete sidewalks were paved in the fall of 1913 and the spring and summer of 1914, the owners of property paying one-half the cost.

Thirty-one thousand dollars 5% bonds were issued in 1927 for the paving of some two and one-half miles of concrete pavement of streets. The paving began at the corner of Washington and North Elm Streets extending to Madison Street. The State Highway Department participated one-third in this part of the highway with the property owners paying one-third on either side of abutting property. This project covered also Broad Street from intersection of Rice Street to intersection of Jefferson Street and also Cherry and State Streets. Wingfield Company of Augusta were the engineers. The Powell Paving Company of Winston-Salem, N. C., were the contractors. T. C. Hardman, chairman of the street committee, with the assistance of W. M. Thurmond, supervised the paving. Later black top street pavement was laid on several streets and concrete sidewalks were laid in which the property owners paid one-half and the city one-half. No bonds were issued for this construction. Some streets were paved by property owners, the city not participating. Among these was Homer Street from intersecting North Broad to the corner of Short Street. The extension of Homer Street was paved by the State Highway, property owners paying for grading and sewerage. Washington and Jefferson Streets were paved by the State Highway. Other streets have been paved by property owners paying entire cost.

During the Harmony Grove Period the chief of police was called the Marshal and the others were nightwatchmen or night police. Under the City of Commerce, the chief officer is the chief of police and the other officers are designated by number.

Street Paving Bonds confirmed Oct. 20, 1927, \$31,000.00.

High School Bonds dated Feb. 1, 1936, \$20,000.00.

TOWN AND CITY OFFICIALS

| | <i>Mayors</i> | <i>Treasurers</i> | <i>Clerks</i> | <i>Marshals</i> |
|---------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1885-86 | W. A. Quillian | W. C. Green | W. H. Simpkins | G. B. Whitehead |
| 1887-88 | R. L. Hardman | T. E. Key | J. F. Goode | J. R. Hix |
| 1889 | W. W. Stark | W. S. Edwards | W. H. Simpkins | N. P. Lovin |
| 1890 | T. E. Key | W. A. Quillian | H. H. Duncan | B. A. Bray |
| 1892 | W. B. Hardman | C. J. Hood | H. H. Duncan | R. H. Hawks |
| 1893 | W. B. Hardman | D. U. Carson | A. H. Thurmond | S. T. Hawks |
| 1894 | W. B. Hardman | D. U. Carson | A. H. Thurmond | R. H. Hawks |
| 1895 | A. B. Deadwyler | M. T. Massey | G. L. Carson | R. H. Hawks |
| 1896 | J. D. Barnett | T. E. Key | W. D. Williford | H. S. Jackson |
| 1898 | Chas. M. Walker | J. T. Quillian | W. D. Williford | H. S. Jackson |
| 1899-02 | J. B. Hardman | L. L. Davis | J. N. Telford | H. S. Jackson |
| 1902-3 | C. J. Hood | W. B. Burns | J. E. Stevens | H. S. Jackson |
| | | | | <i>Chief of Police</i> |
| 1904 | T. E. Key | W. S. Mize | L. L. Davis | G. L. Carson, Jr. |
| 1906 | P. Cooley | A. P. Rice | T. A. Little | J. R. Little |
| | | | | <i>Clerk and Treasurer</i> |
| 1907 | C. J. Hood | A. P. Rice | | H. S. Jackson |
| 1908 | J. M. Nix | A. P. Rice | | B. R. Vaughn |
| 1910 | J. B. Hardman | C. A. Goodin | | |
| 1912 | T. A. Little | C. A. Goodin | | |
| 1914 | E. B. Anderson | C. A. Goodin | | |
| 1916 | C. J. Hood | C. A. Goodin | | B. R. Vaughn |
| 1918 | C. J. Hood | C. A. Goodin | | S. A. Mize |
| 1920 | W. W. Stark | C. A. Goodin | | H. H. Seagraves |
| 1922 | J. B. Hardman | N. B. Lord | | C. M. Almond |
| 1924 | J. B. Hardman | N. B. Lord | | C. M. Almond |
| 1926 | C. J. Hood | N. B. Lord | | John W. Sailors |
| 1928 | C. J. Hood | Mrs. N. B. Lord (Supplied) | | C. H. Nelms |
| 1930 | L. L. Davis | P. B. Trawick | | C. H. Nelms |
| 1932 | L. L. Davis | P. B. Trawick | | C. H. Nelms |
| 1934 | J. B. Hardman | P. B. Trawick | | J. R. Hix |
| 1936 | J. C. Verner | Carl Williamson | | J. R. Hix |
| 1938 | J. C. Verner | Carl Williamson | | J. R. Hix |
| 1940 | L. L. Davis | Carl Williamson | | C. H. Nelms |
| 1942 | H. C. Sims | Carl Williamson | | Avery Byrd |
| 1944 | H. P. Little | Carl Williamson | | Avery Byrd |
| 1946 | H. P. Little | Carl Williamson | | Avery Byrd |
| 1948 | H. P. Little | Jack Meaders | | A. D. Fitzpatrick |
| | Acting Mayor G. O. Castellaw | | | |
| | Mayor P. T. Scoggins | Clyde Short | | A. D. Fitzpatrick |

CITY PARKS

The Hood-Quillian Park was donated to the city for park purposes May 18, 1904 by C. J. Hood and J. T. Quillian. This park was on a branch with a spring at its head just below J. B. Hardman's dairy on the north side of town. This park was used for several years, but went out of use after the city received the gift of the Willoughby Park, nearer town. The Willoughby Park was tendered to the city Oct. 3, 1910 by heirs of the C. W. Hood Estate. A pavilion was built in 1913. This park, consisting of about four acres has been improved at various times by the erection of and by the construction of a swimming pool and electric lighting of the grounds. This park has served well the needs of the community in public speakings, barbecues and anniversaries.

The Hood-Quillian Park was secured by the American Legion and the V.F.W. in 1949 partly by purchase and partly by donation. They are building a splendid commodious lodge home and otherwise improving the property as a recreation ground. One of the special features is the restoration of the large spring and water supply.

CHAPTER VIII

AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND AND INFLUENCE OF FOUR-COUNTY FAIR

The vicinity of Harmony Grove, with the territory of Jackson, Banks, Madison, and part of Franklin Counties, was noted for its agricultural production. This surrounding country produced all kinds of farm products that are grown in this part of the State. Chief among which are cotton, corn, wheat, oats, hay, sweet and Irish potatoes, sorghum and other minor crops. In fact, for the last hundred years the agricultural products have been the chief resource of this town and community. Before the Civil War and just following, there were a number of cotton gins run by horse power, later by steam engines.

Beginning around 1880 and for more than thirty years Harmony Grove flourished as a cotton market, receiving cotton from the four counties mentioned above and paying the top prices for this commodity. Among the merchants buying cotton during this period may be mentioned C. W. Hood and Son, succeeded by Anderson & Mann, and later W. D. Mann. Power and Williford for quite a number of years was the largest buyer of cotton in this section. Others were W. T. Harber and Brother, C. D. Stark, Sheppard, Davis, and Nix and later L. L. and V. L. Davis and C. L. Tucker and many other buyers not mentioned.

The volume of cotton increased steadily from 1883 to around 1900. The largest receipts were about 23,000 bales for one season. Later, these receipts varied from time to time, ranging from 12,000 to 18,000 bales. When the boll weevil struck this section in 1921 receipts were reduced to about 7000 bales. After the dry year of 1925, the boll weevil has

not been so destructive. The weevil has been more or less controlled and the crop has returned to normal, receipts varying according to the season and production.

The corn, oats, and wheat crop, while they have been usually sufficient to sustain the population, have not been to a large extent placed upon the market. With the invention and introduction of modern machinery there has been in recent years considerable marketing of wheat, oats and hay and this bids fair to increase.

The primitive way of sowing, reaping and threshing the wheat and oats was by the old fashioned six-fingered scythe-cradle and what was known as the "ground hog thrash" which was drawn by horses. The grain was broadcast by hand. This was a crude method but served the purpose. This was followed by the steam engine and travelling separator usually drawn by oxen or mules. The customers furnished meals for hands and feed for stock. There were usually 10 or 12 hands and four head of stock. The men slept on straw piles at night. The binders for harvesting and the steam tractor which carried the separators with self feeders and straw stackers came into use about 1895. These have been superseded by the combine which cuts, threshes and sacks the grain in one operation.

No considerable amount of vegetables have been grown for our market. For two or three years during the boll weevil devastation, experiments were made in growing vegetables for market, such as beans, potatoes, tomatoes and cucumbers, but with very little success. However, the surrounding territory produces sufficient vegetables and fruits for its own use and for local markets as well as a plentiful supply of cantaloupes and watermelons.

This section around Commerce is well adapted for growing apples and peaches. Formerly, apples and peaches were only grown to a limited extent and not for commercial market. For the past thirty years, the peach industry has been successfully carried on. C. J. Hood was the pioneer in this line. Later, W. B. Hardman, L. G. Hardman, L. J. Sharp, Clayton

Colquitt, Willie Colquitt and Colquitt Simms, Miss Annie Hawkins, Allen Tucker and B. Wilson, C. W. Hood, Jr., Sam Hood, L. G. Hardman, Jr., E. C. Stark and W. P. and W. N. Harden entered the business. These are the principal ones who operate commercial orchards.

The shipments for the last twenty years have ranged from 100 to 400 cars. In some instances, these have been profitable to the producers. Usually the medium crop, from 200 to 300 cars, have been more profitable to the growers than the larger crops.

Following the period of the Civil War quite a number of Harmony Grove citizens kept flocks of sheep before the stock law went into effect, when the animals ran at large. Every farmer had his mark for the identification of his particular sheep. His mark consisted of various ways of clipping the ears, bobbing the tail or leaving the tail long. The ear marks were known as the crap, the over-bit, the under-bit and the swallow fork. After the stock law was adopted pastures were made and fenced in for the enclosure of the sheep as well as the cattle. Sheep were grown principally for their wool. They were usually sheared twice a year, about April and August.

In the early days the shearing of the sheep was an interesting event for the boys. The flock was driven into an enclosure. In a stall was placed some plank on which the sheep were shorn. The hind legs were tied together and fastened to the logs and the shearer used the old fashion hand shears while the small boy held down the sheep's head and front feet. The wool was rolled into a hamper basket. If the skin of the sheep was clipped by accident, there was quite a scrambling and jumping. The boy had some job to hold the head and feet of the sheep. At the spring shearing the lambs were brought in and marked in accordance with the owner's mark. There are at present in this community only two or three flocks.

During the early period the wool was carded and prepared for use locally, but in late years it has been sold to buyers in Kentucky.

The first dairy, known as the Bermuda Dairy, was established in 1890 by W. L. Williamson. This dairy furnished milk to the people of Harmony Grove and shipped butter to L. W. Rogers of Atlanta. The herd consisted of 50 to 60 cows and produced butter to the amount of 300 to 500 pounds a week.

After the Williamson dairy was discontinued, J. B. Hardman went into the dairy business with a select herd of Jersey cattle. The Sunny Crest Dairy had a wide reputation, both local and national, because of the grade and of the type of the herd. Mr. Hardman attended the annual conventions of the National Dairy Association and was recognized by election to an official position in the organization. This dairy is still in operation under the name of Sunny Crest Farm, and is operated by W. L. Wells.

A notable experiment, the Four County Fair, was inaugurated by the citizens of Commerce in 1911. It had for its purpose the encouragement of agricultural interest in the surrounding section. A large fair ground and a commodious building was constructed on the Hood property just below the end of Pine Street. The four counties of Jackson, Banks, Madison, and Franklin were invited to participate and to furnish agricultural and livestock exhibits and home canning products, each contesting for prizes. Carnivals, side-shows, and other attractions were provided and enjoyed especially by the young people. These occasions attracted large numbers of people, not only from these four counties, but also from other sections of the state. This was carried on from 1911 to 1915. These fairs stimulated in a good way the agricultural interest of the surrounding country but with little profit to the promoters. However all received the amount invested with a small dividend.

COTTON BUYERS

Among those who represented out of town cotton factors in the days of Harmony Grove and early Commerce were the following:

Tom Vickery
Red Cohen
J. B. Boyd
C. A. Goodin
Tom Dunn

W. D. Beacham
Louis Cannon
Mr. Upshaw
Isaac Johnson
H. C. Poullain

THE DROUTH OF 1925

The drouth of this year, 1925, was the most severe in the history of this section. There was no rain from the early part of June to November the first. No corn was made except a little from very early planting and only a very small crop of cotton. The result was that the fertilizer under crops was not utilized and the wheat and oats planted in the fall made the largest yield per acre in 1926 ever produced in this section. The average wheat yield was twenty-five to forty bushels per acre on ordinary land. It was just like giving the land a year's rest. This severe drouth extended only from the northern part of South Carolina and throughout middle Georgia into Alabama. The branches and creeks were dried up and the rivers were only the size of small branches. The farmers were in desperate need for feed for the next year. Some few cars of corn were contributed by South Georgia farmers for this relief. The result of this drouth was the practical elimination of the boll weevil and the largest average cotton yield per acre for the next three years for which the farmer received a good price.

The following year, 1926, appeared the flea on the cotton which prevented its fruiting until August, September and October. This was a mild winter and most of the cotton crop was gathered after Christmas and in the spring as late as April.

CHAPTER IX

MERCANTILE DEVELOPMENT

Among the first business houses was a store run by S. M. Shankle, just opposite his home on the corner of Sycamore and Cherry Streets, in which he and Dr. W. B. J. Hardman conducted a business about 1848-1850 or later. After the war Mr. Shankle built a two-story wooden building on the site of the present post office, fronting the depot. He was engaged in business at this place until his death in 1885.

C. W. Hood conducted a mercantile business just where the Blue Bell Overall Plant is located. His residence was just above the Montgomery Warehouse now occupied by the overall people.

In this house Mr. C. J. Hood was born, who in later years tore this house down and moved it to the upper end of Broad Street and rebuilt it according to the original pattern. The store, the residence and adjoining lots of land were sold to W. C. Hood after C. W. Hood had bought the Hardy Minish tract of land on the west side of the railroad. Mr. W. C. Hood lived in the home and ran the store formerly owned by C. W. Hood.

Following down State Street was the property owned by C. D. Stark and P. O. Pittman and was occupied by Frank Stansby, a harness maker, and later bought by C. D. Stark who conducted a general store until he built the present brick building. The store owned by the late Mrs. P. O. Pittman, in which Davis & Nix ran a mercantile business for several years, was the property of Mrs. E. J. Riley, as was also the dwelling in the rear.

Next was the first brick building on State Street, erected about 1886 by John H. Gunnells. Gunnells afterward sold

it to B. B. Hawks and later to Dr. W. B. Hardman, it is now owned by Mrs. Wilda Poteat.

Power and Williford, in 1891, erected a large brick building on State Street on the site where the Blue Bell Overall Plant is now located and conducted a large mercantile business until the death of W. B. Power in 1904. Afterwards, it became the firm of Williford, Burns & Rice, who conducted a business until the real estate was sold to the overall people.

About 1880, W. A. and J. T. Quillian moved to Harmony Grove, built a wooden store building where the Belk-Gallant Company is now located. This wooden store building was rolled to the present site of the McConnell Ten Cent Store, owned by the late J. T. Quillian, on which site was built the present brick building. On the original site was erected the present brick building, now occupied by Belk-Gallant Co., in which the Quillian Brothers operated a business until the death of W. A. Quillian. Just below this building was a wooden structure occupied by Kimsey Smith for some years and later bought by L. J. Sharp. On Broad Street near the depot was a store house built by W. C. Hood which was occupied for sometime by W. L. Williamson and T. F. Key. Later, it was used as a sample room of the Alhambra Hotel. Next was W. W. Jordan's Furniture Store, adjoining which was a building occupied by Burgess and Allen. Next was the T. E. Key building erected by Marcus Jacobs.

In 1882, W. B. J. Hardman bought from W. C. Hood a lot 100 feet square on which is now the Hardman Hardware Co. and the Hardman Drug Store and the street between. The original Hardware and Drug Store were built in 1882 and was the first brick building in Harmony Grove except Ike Wilbanks' small brick store adjoining, erected in 1879. From that point to Central Avenue were three wooden store buildings owned by J. I. Pittman and C. W. Hood, one of which was for a number of years the Harmony Grove Post Office. The others were occupied by various parties in the mercantile business, among them A. H. Boone Furniture and

Alexander and Teasley. The postmaster in 1880 was W. J. Goss who had served in the later seventies. He was succeeded by Taylor Gordon who continued the post office in this same building until the brick drug store was built by L. G. Hardman and the post office was moved to this new building.

Farther down Broad Street was located the two story wooden building of W. T. Harber & Brother. Adjoining the Harber building was the Jesse P. Wood property, in the triangle of which two or three wooden buildings were located. The town well was located at the angle of Broad and State Streets. This well was used more or less by the public for several years, possibly twenty-five.

The only other store building at this time was the two-story wooden building of C. W. Hood. This building was used by him from the time of the Civil War until about 1884. He built the brick building where the Andrew Jackson Hotel has been erected. Just in front of this, across the road, was a large hickory tree and near the railroad right of way was a well that was used by the public, as the customers came from the country to trade.

There were no other stores, or public buildings, on the west side of the railroad except Eckles' Wagon and Buggy Shop near the Northeastern Bank location.

The town was incorporated in 1884. The side walks along Main Street, now Broad, and Carnesville Street, now State, were laid with plank floors in front of the stores until the brick store buildings began to be erected.

Soon after the incorporation of the town there opened an era of brick store buildings. The first store was Ike Wilbanks' in 1879, then the Hardman Store and the L. G. Hardman Drug Store and the Post Office adjoining in 1882. The C. W. Hood building where the Andrew Jackson Hotel site is, and the Harber building where the Rogers Store is, were erected in 1884. The building known as the Key Building was erected by Marcus Jacob in 1885. The Burgess and Allen buildings adjoining it on the south side were also built in 1885. Marcus

Jacob who erected the Key Building was a German Jew who later returned to Germany where he died in the late World War at the age of 87.

Between the years of 1885 and 1890, we find constructed the following buildings on the triangular corner of Jesse P. Wood, on North Broad and State Streets: On the opposite side of State Street was the John Gunnells' building, later known as the B. B. Hawks' building, now owned by the W. B. Hardman Estate and occupied by Belk-Gallant Company.

Beginning with the next decade, 1890 to 1900, there were erected quite a number of brick or rock buildings. Among them was Power and Williford's large store, now the Blue Bell Overall Plant. Next, the Hood block of brick buildings on North Elm Street, the main building being two-storied was the first home of the Northeastern Bank Co., which company was established in 1892. Before this, the business men did their banking mostly with Jim White of Athens.

Later, the following buildings were erected on the north side of State Street: C. D. Stark, P. O. Pittman and Dr. E. F. Adair, adjoining the B. B. Hawks' building. Adjoining the Adair building was the Quillian Bros., the L. J. Sharp and J. N. Wood buildings, which fronted on North Broad.

About the same time, there was a block of buildings on North Elm adjoining the Central Hotel, known as the Jack Bennett buildings, extending to where the Truitt Hardware was later built.

After the Northeastern Bank Company operated about three or four years, the new and present building was erected on its new location. This same building is occupied by them at the present time. At the same time, Mr. C. J. Hood built a block of buildings adjoining the bank building on the north, including the one occupied by the Williamson Pressing Club. The Central Hotel was erected by R. A. Eckles about 1886 and was later acquired by L. G. Hardman and was remodeled and enlarged. Dr. L. G. Hardman built the Hardman Sanitorium in 1899-1900.

The vacant lot on the west side of the railroad extending from T. A. Little's livery stable, a rock building erected in 1893 and which is now the Roxy Theater, to Central Avenue was bought and owned by L. G. Hardman and E. P. Eberhart which they divided, each one taking every alternate lot. The first lot was bought by the Harmony Grove Cotton Mill, on which they erected, in 1894, a cotton warehouse and mill office. On the next adjoining lot, Eberhart built a livery stable operated by the Johnson Brothers, Boyd Burrus and others. This building is now owned by J. O. and Claud Montgomery, brothers, and occupied at present by the Little Furniture Company. Mr. Eberhart was the uncle of the Montgomery boys.

Adjoining this was a building erected by J. R. N. Baugh in which he operated a smith-shop and built wagons; later it was occupied by Carson & Kemp and now owned by Montgomery Brothers. The next adjoining building was erected by J. J. Sheppard, in which he ran a furniture business and later sold to M. T. Sanders, who enlarged the building and now operates an extensive furniture business. Adjoining this is the building of Montgomery Brothers, now occupied by a ten cent store and formerly by G. T. Jones' dry goods business. Adjoining this on the corner of Central Avenue and Elm Street was a building known as the Post Office and Telephone Exchange. This was the Post Office site until moved to its present government building.

In 1895, the two buildings on the corner of North Broad and Central Avenue were known as the C. W. Hood and W. B. Hardman buildings, constructed with two stories. For a number of years this corner Hood building was the location of the L. G. Hardman & Brothers Drug Store. The first Commerce Telephone Central was located in the rear of the building until moved across the street to the present location. The Hardman building was occupied by the Hardman Merchandise Company until sold to J. B. Hardman, who operated a hardware business until he entered the insurance business. This

building is now owned by Harry Jay. The C. E. Pittman buildings, between the Jay and Harbor building, were erected in 1899 and were formerly wooden store buildings and owned by J. I. Pittman.

The other brick stores and buildings in Commerce were erected at various times after the name Harmony Grove was changed to Commerce.

CHAPTER X

RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Before the Civil War there were very few railroads in Georgia. Of these, the most important ones were: The Georgia Railroad, from Augusta to Atlanta, with its branch from Union Point to Athens; The Central, from Atlanta through Griffin, Barnesville, Forsyth and Macon to Savannah; The State Road, known as the W&A, from Atlanta to Chattanooga, Tenn. There were other unimportant short lines.

About the year 1870, there was projected an extension of the Richmond and Danville Railroad from Charlotte, North Carolina to Atlanta known as the Charlotte Division of the Richmond and Danville Railroad. The R&D Railroad was in operation before and during the war from Danville to Richmond, and to Charlotte during or just immediately following the war.

The first survey of the road from Charlotte to Atlanta was via Spartanburg and Greenville, South Carolina, Carnesville, Jefferson and Lawrenceville, Georgia, following generally the county sites. This projected road was known as the Airline Railroad. The survey ran just north of Harmony Grove and followed generally the old Carnesville and Jefferson Road, crossing Borders Creek and the Oconee River near S. W. Jackson's grist mill. This mill for a long time bore the large sign "The Airline Mills." However, before the airline route was finally located, Gainesville and Toccoa came into the picture and offered inducements by way of taking stock and other financial considerations. The railroad was finally located along the line now known as the Southern Railway. Along the line of Richmond and Danville Railroad, towns sprang up between Gainesville and Atlanta. The line between Charlotte

and Atlanta, constructed in 1871, was known under the various names, the Charlotte Division of the R&D, the Airline, and the Piedmont Airline.

Soon after this road was in operation, it was agitated that a connecting link between the Georgia Railroad at Athens and the Airline be established at some convenient point. It was first planned to connect at Gainesville by way of Jefferson. However, the location was contingent upon subscription for stock and of the securing of a right of way. Athens people had subscribed \$200,000.00 and were asking \$50,000.00 subscription from Jefferson or Harmony Grove. Jefferson failed to make the guarantee. C. W. Hood and W. B. J. Hardman guaranteed the \$50,000.00 worth of stock for Harmony Grove, they taking the bulk of the stock. Some stock was taken by other citizens. So the Northeastern Railroad was routed by Harmony Grove and connected with the Airline at a point known as Lula. Jefferson had to wait until the Seaboard was constructed from Gainesville to Athens by Jefferson which was known as the Gainesville Midland.

The town Lula was named for the daughter of R. L. Moss of Athens who, with John W. Nicholson, were prime movers in this enterprise. The two first engines (wood burners) on this road were named "The R. L. Moss" and "The John W. Nicholson."

After the Civil War, in order to stimulate railroad building, the State Legislature authorized the issuing of state bonds to match private subscriptions in the building of railroads in Georgia, the mileage to be not less than forty. The State of Georgia furnished bonds to the amount of \$300,000.00 with first mortgage title to build the Northeastern Railroad. It was discovered when the survey was made from Athens to Lula that the distance was only 39 miles. Because of this, the road was extended one mile up to Belton. Using the Airline track this distance, trains were run to Belton as long as the State held the title. The turntable for reversing the engine was at Lula.

The Northeastern was begun in 1875 and completed in 1876. The construction began at Lula and proceeded south. The road grading was done largely by convict labor. The engineering was done by Joel Hurt of Atlanta, the young engineer who afterwards became a well known promoter of Atlanta. The first train came into Harmony Grove in June, 1876. This was a construction train. The regular schedule from Lula to Athens was not completed until the fall of that year. Among the stock holders were Center and Reeves of Athens. The town of Center was named for the head of this firm. The town of Nicholson was named for the Nicholson family of Athens.

The location of the depot in Harmony Grove raised some questions. Some favored a site near the Harmony Grove Cotton Mill, but it was finally decided by C. W. Hood, donating about an acre of land at the present site, including Spencer Park.

Mr. R. S. Chaney was the first depot agent and "cow-corer" of this road. This was before the Georgia Stock Law and all cattle and stock ran at large. Quite often a cow, hog or other animal was run over and killed by the train. It was the business of the "cow-corer" to try to settle the damages with the owner.

The Northeastern Railroad cost around \$600,000.00. It never paid any dividends. Finally, after operating for some fifteen years, and being unable to liquidate the bonds, it was taken over by the state about 1891. It was then leased for a year or two to Richardson & Company of Atlanta, who was backed by W. S. Witham, the banker. This company failing to meet the rental, the road was run by the state for several years with Rufus Reeves of Athens as Receiver and Mr. Dooley as Superintendent, after which the road was put on the block at the upset price of \$300,000.00, but failed to receive a bid. In the meantime, the Southern Railway Company had been organized and had absorbed the Richmond & Danville Road, known as the Piedmont Airline. At the same time, the Sea-

board had been built through Athens to Atlanta and became a strong competitor of the Southern. In 1895, the Northeastern was again put up for sale and bought by the Southern Railway for \$300,000.00, the amount of the bonds endorsed by the state.

The railroad was a large factor in the growth and development of the town. Harmony Grove became one of the leading distributing centers of Northeast Georgia. It was the means of building up trade from the surrounding counties and its freight receipts in time exceeded those of any other town of the same size on the Southern Railway.

When the first train came into Harmony Grove, it was a great sight for the young folks and the older ones, too. It pulled in from Lula at about 10:00 A.M. and stopped in front of the school building located on what is now the site of the grammar school building. One little fellow, of about eight years, suddenly jumped from his seat, ran out of the door exclaiming, "Yander she comes, boys, a new engine!" All the other little fellows followed. It was sometime before the teacher could restore order. For a good many years the people coming in from the surrounding country were jittery about the railroad train. Grown-ups had been known to run into the front yards and shut the gate. Those driving teams would wait for hours at a safe distance for the train to pass to keep from frightening their horses and mules.

For a number of years, the cotton to Athens was hauled on flat cars exposed to the sparks from the old wood burner engine. Buckets of water had to be supplied to extinguish the sparks. Anyone could have a free ride to Athens on these flat cars by helping to keep the cotton from catching fire. Many youngsters availed themselves of this opportunity. Stockholders day was a great time in the fall of the year when all the stockholders' families had a free ride to Athens and back.

The first engineer was Jim Cochran whose daughter, Genie, married W. S. Witham, of Atlanta. The next was Jim Galloway who had for years been engineer on the Athens branch

of the Georgia Road. He was followed by his son, Fox Galloway, a rather fast and reckless driver. He was succeeded by Tom Moore who served for the longest time and was much loved for his careful and safe handling of his engine. Bob Lemon was among the early engineers that pulled the freight. Among the conductors were Jeff McClesky, Hope Hale, and E. C. Cox, who served until his death and was followed by his son, Arthur Cox, Dan Martin, and Allen Smith. The latter two are now on the main line. Perhaps the best known of the conductors was the elder Captain Cox who, before the Civil War, as a young man, was conductor on the Central of Georgia from Atlanta to Macon. He told me he then wore a beaver hat and a Prince Albert coat which gave the conductor a very distinguished appearance.

The "Cow-Coroner" for the Northeastern had some unique experiences. On one occasion, Mr. Cheney, the Cow-Coroner, was called to a wreck near Gillsville where a south bound train had been wrecked by running over a little bull yearling. Two or three car loads of flour and other merchandise had been overturned down a large fill, scattering the flour and other goods broadcast. Mr. Cheney, approaching the owner, inquired how much damage he wanted for the killing of the animal. The man, looking up and down the wreckage for a few minutes, finally replied, "I am willing to strike off even if you are. I think my bull got the best of it."

On another occasion, W. C. Farrabee, who lived a mile south of the depot, had a brood sow with pigs. In crossing the railroad, she was struck by the engine of the north bound train and lifted bodily to the top of the cow-catcher. She had a free ride to the depot without injury. Mr. Farrabee, missing his swine, walked to town and drove her back home to her pigs, none the worse for her free ride. (Believe it or not!).

Some four or five years after the Northeastern Railroad was built, there was a survey made to construct a road from Augusta to Chattanooga. This project was for the purpose of the development of northeast Georgia and for a direct line

from Augusta to the West. Promoters of the road came to Harmony Grove and solicited funds for this survey and for stock in this company. The survey was made and stakes set. The citizens of Harmony Grove thought this line would soon be built. In fact some 20 miles were graded from Augusta as far as Appling, Columbia County. The route lay through Washington, Wilkes County, Sandy Cross of Oglethorpe County, entering Madison County at a point where Comer is now located, to Danielsville, on to Harmony Grove, along about the present Danielsville Highway, entering Harmony Grove where the cotton mill is now located. The route from Harmony Grove was in a direct line to Gainesville, thence to Dawsonville, Ellijay, Chatsworth, Ringgold and Chattanooga. After some expenditure and grading on the lower end of the route the project was abandoned.

The stakes of the Augusta to Chattanooga survey passed through the back yard of the W. B. J. Hardman's residence. Being a small boy at that time, I was troubled about being disturbed and awakened by the trains passing through at night. In my dreams, I could hear them running down the Madison County Road.

In later years, there was a plan to build an electric railway from Anderson, S. C., to Atlanta known as the Anderson-Atlanta Electric Railway. Short electric lines had become popular in South Carolina and it was considered a good investment to construct an electric railway from this section direct to Atlanta so that people could go to Atlanta, have time for business and return the same day. This line was routed from Anderson, Lavonia, Carnesville, Commerce, Jefferson, Lawrenceville and Decatur. Quite a sum was raised in Commerce and Jefferson to make the survey through Jackson County. After the development of the automobile, trucks and busses, these electric lines were abandoned.

This project was launched in January, 1916. A meeting of the representatives of the towns along the route met in Anderson, S. C., March 11, 1916. The surveying crew reached

Jefferson May 18, 1916. After some effort to deflect the route, the statement was made on November 2nd in the Jackson Herald that the road would be built. A banquet was held at Commerce January, 1917, for further planning. The Atlanta and Railway Company was formally organized April 17, 1917 with J. L. Murphy as President and Mark Ballinger, Secretary.

This enterprise was soon abandoned for the reasons given above together with the entrance of the United States into World War I.

HIGHWAYS TO AND FROM COMMERCE

1. Paved Highway in Southwest course to Jefferson, direct route to Atlanta, connecting with Gainesville and Athens Highway at Jefferson, the Atlanta and Athens Highway at Winder, also with the Hoschton and Gainesville Highway at Winder.

2. Paved Highway in Northwest course to Maysville, connecting with the Gainesville-Toccoa Highway three miles south of Lula.

3. Paved Highway in North course to Homer and connecting with Gainesville-Toccoa Highway at Cornelia.

4. Paved Highway in Northeast course to Carnesville, leaving the Homer Highway two miles out of town bearing to the right, connecting with Royston and Toccoa Highway at Lavonia.

5. Paved Highway in Southeast course to Ila, Danielsville, and Comer, connecting with Ila and Athens Highway at Ila, with the Athens and Royston Highway at Danielsville and with Athens and Elberton Highway at Comer.

6. Paved Highway in South course to Athens, connecting with all the Highways entering that city.

7. In addition to these main arteries we have the lower Carnesville Road leading east and crossing the Hargrove Creek, which gives access to the city for the people of the lower part of Banks and Franklin counties.

8. The Water Works or Hood's Mill Road in a slightly Southwest course which gives an outlet to the people between the Jefferson and Athens Highways.

The main Highways were paved in the following order:

| | Ga. | U.S. | | Ga. | U.S. |
|-----------------|----------|------|----------------|----------|------|
| To Jefferson | Route 15 | | To Carnesville | Route 59 | |
| To Homer | Route 15 | 441 | To Athens | Route 24 | 441 |
| To Danielsville | Route 98 | | To Maysville | Route 98 | |

Original roads and highways are described in chapter on Roads, Springs and Trees.

CHAPTER XI

INDUSTRIES

THE HARMONY GROVE MILLS

Harmony Grove Mills, a Commerce manufacturing industry, incorporated under the laws of Jackson County and locally owned and operated, has completed fifty-five years of successful operation.

The local plant, which has contributed much to the advancement of the community and whose payrolls have aided materially in the development of the city and county, was organized in 1893.

The corporation was chartered with a capital stock of \$50,000.00 which was subscribed by local capital and a majority of this stock is now held by citizens of Jackson county. The amount of capital stock has been increased from time to time and now amounts to \$300,000.00, seventy-five per cent of which is held by families of the original 45 stockholders.

Three of the stockholders who bought some of the original stock are living and have held their stock. They are Mrs. E. C. (Henry) Hardman, and Misses Genie and Alice Sheppard.

W. T. Thurmond was foreman of the construction job when the original plant was built. The building occupied 15,000 square feet of floor space while the present structure contains more than 130,000 square feet.

Only 60 forty-inch looms were placed in the original plant. The capacity of the mill was increased in 1902; again in 1923; again in 1941 and the last time in 1947 and 1948. The present plant now operates 586 looms.

Originally fired with wood, the plant is now operated by electricity and the mill has the very latest machinery.

There were only 28 original employees of the corporation, but today 513 employees are on the payroll who are making their homes in this section. Several of the original employees are still living.

The first officers of the corporation were G. W. D. Harber, President; W. B. J. Hardman, Vice-President; C. J. Hood, Secretary-Treasurer. The other original directors were L. G. Hardman, T. E. Key, C. W. Hood, C. D. Stark, W. T. Harber, W. B. Hardman and W. T. Thurmond.

Mr. G. W. D. Harber served as President from 1893 to 1899 and was succeeded by L. G. Hardman who served as President of the company until his death in 1937.

SOME FACTS AND STATISTICS RELATING TO THE HARMONY GROVE MILLS, INC.

The company was organized April 3, 1893. A charter was granted in June of the same year. The real estate property was purchased from Mrs. M. S. Webb and Dr. L. G. Hardman in May, 1893, at \$75.00 to \$100.00 per acre. Dr. E. F. Adair named the mill "Harmony Grove." The first bale of cotton was bought at 6 15/16 cents on May 25, 1894 by T. E. Key, buyer. First dividend of 6 per cent was paid June 10, 1895.

OFFICERS

Presidents:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| G. W. D. Harber | Served 5 years |
| L. G. Hardman | Served 39 years |
| L. G. Hardman, Jr. | Served 11 years |

Vice-Presidents:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| W. B. J. Hardman | Served 5 years |
| W. W. Stark | Served 35 years |
| L. G. Hardman, Jr. | Served 3 years |
| J. B. Hardman | Served 2 years |
| T. C. Hardman | Served 10 years |

Secretaries and Treasurers:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| C. J. Hood | Served 2 years |
| L. G. Hardman | Served 3 years |
| W. B. Hardman | Served 20 years |
| C. J. Hood | Served 25 years |
| C. W. Hood, Jr. | Served 5 years |

Directors:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| G. W. D. Harber | T. C. Hardman |
| L. G. Hardman, Sr. | W. D. Sheppard |
| T. E. Key | E. B. Anderson |
| C. W. Hood, Sr. | John D. Barnett |
| C. D. Stark | J. B. Hardman |
| C. J. Hood | W. Y. Harber |
| W. T. Harber | C. W. Hood, Jr. |
| W. B. Hardman | L. G. Hardman, Jr. |
| W. T. Thurmond | F. M. Hubbard |
| W. B. J. Hardman | W. B. Rice |
| P. O. Pittman | C. M. Scoggins |
| A. P. Rice | Hardman Jones |
| W. W. Stark | Johnston McCorkle |

Superintendents:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| W. B. Iler | J. W. Black |
| J. W. Black | J. R. Donaldson |
| M. R. Crystal | J. A. Asbelle |
| C. M. Sears | Johnston McCorkle |
| Daniel Schofield | |

Some comparison in the cost of material, machinery, cotton and wages between the beginning of the operation of the mills in 1894 and 1948.

| 1894 | <i>Construction</i> | 1948 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Cost of brick per M..... | | Cost of brick per M..... |
| \$5.75 | | \$26.50 |
| Cost of lumber M ft..... | | Cost of lumber M ft..... |
| 8.00 | | 80.00 |
| Cost of nails per keg..... | | Cost of nails per keg..... |
| 1.52 | | 8.75 |
| Cost of brick layers | | Cost of brick layers |
| per hour | | per hour |
| .20 | | 2.25 |

Operation

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Operated by steam | Operated by electricity |
| Cost of wood per cord.....\$1.10 | Cost of current |
| | per M. KW ----- \$9.00 |
| Cost of wages per Mo.....\$1200.00 | Cost of wages |
| | per Mo. ----- \$100,000.00 |
| Cost of wages | Cost of wages |
| per annum ----- \$15000.00 | per annum ----- \$1,250,000.00 |
| Cotton per bale ----- \$30.00 | Cotton per bale ----- \$165.00 |
| 720 bales used | 18000 bales used at |
| at cost of ----- \$21000.00 | cost of ----- \$3,000,000.00 |
| | Annual sales about 8,000,000 lbs. |
| | Value ----- \$6,000,000.00 |

Machinery

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 7 cards | 93 cards |
| 40 looms | 586 looms |
| 1500 spindles | 18000 spindles |

Total Cost of Machinery

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1894 ----- \$21,000.00 | New machinery installed |
| | in last 12 years....\$850,000.00 |

Buildings

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Floor space mill15,000 sq. ft. | Floor space mill 130,000 sq. ft. |
| Warehouse -----10,000 sq. ft. | 2 warehouses ----- 70,000 sq. ft. |

Interesting Items

Mill began night operation in 1898. Contracted and furnished street and residential lights to the city for eleven years—1906 to 1917. Bought first auto truck in 1918. Built new office in 1923 and new warehouse in 1947 and 1948. All the houses of the mill village have been brick under-pinned, remodeled and painted at an expenditure of \$100,000.00.

The New Warehouse

One new addition in 1947 and 1948 was the building of the new warehouse on the railroad mill siding with capacity for 6,000 bales of cotton and a floor space of 52,000 square feet at a cost of over \$100,000.00. It is equipped in every detail on the most modern plan and accessible to railroad cars, trucks, and wagons. This enables the mills to buy local cotton from the producers which has been a mutual advantage to both the farmer and the company.

This splendid structure adds to the appearance and symmetry of the mills plant and completes a well rounded manufacturing unit.

The Harmony Grove Mills was one of the first industries in Harmony Grove and is now the largest in the city of Commerce and pays approximately 12 per cent of the total city tax.

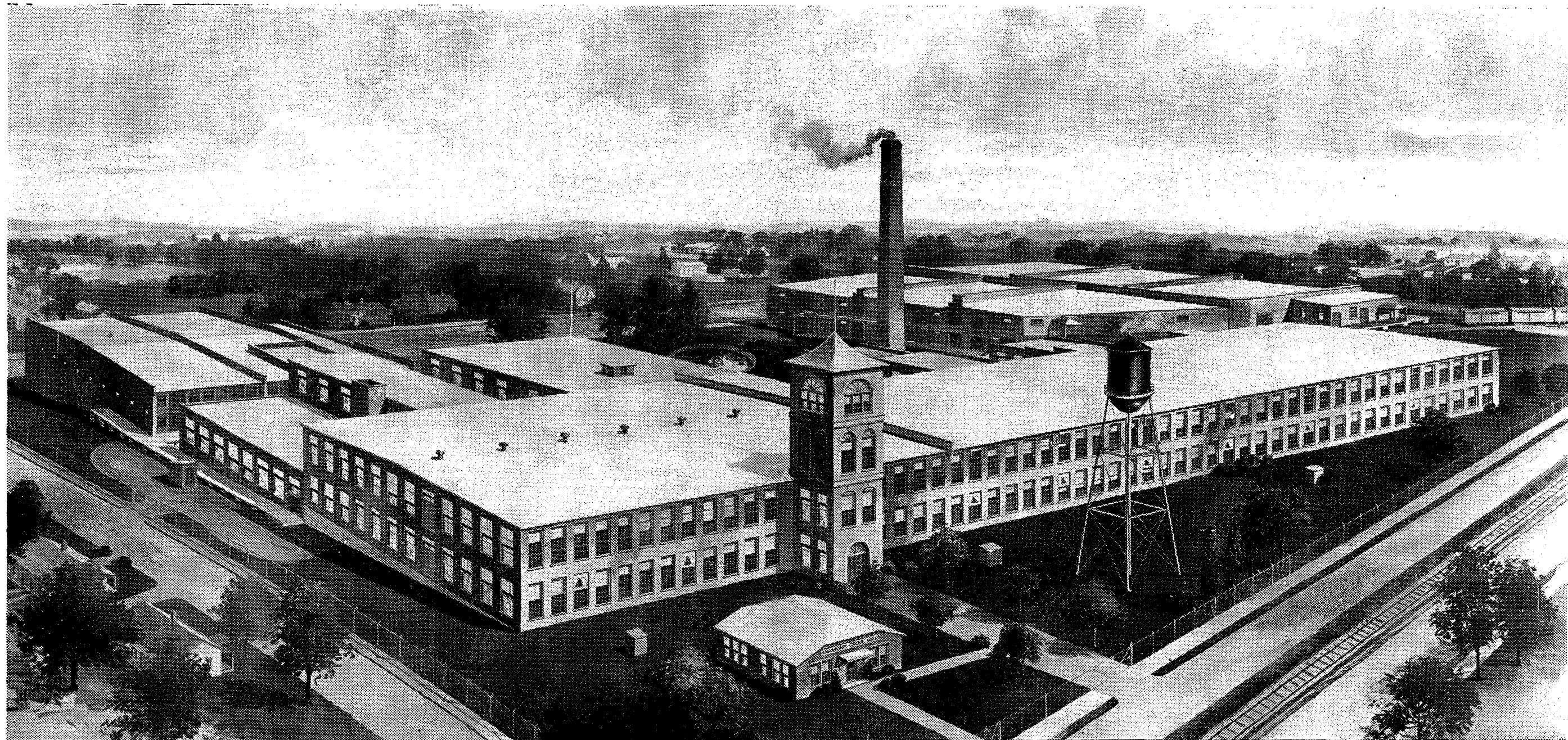
THE HARMONY GROVE MILLS
FIRST AND LARGEST INDUSTRY
OF THE HARMONY GROVE PERIOD

CONTINUES

THE LARGEST INDUSTRIAL

PLANT DURING THE

COMMERCE ERA



HARMONY GROVE MILLS, COMMERCE
1893-1949



COMMERCE MANUFACTURING COMPANY
1917-1949

COMMERCE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.

The overall industry for Commerce, Ga., was started in 1917 by Fred E. Durst of Winder. He came to Commerce at that time to start the first factory in the T. C. Hardman building which is now occupied by A. D. Bolton Chevrolet Company. At this time the factory employed 35 people and Mr. Durst had to get labor from as far away as North Carolina due to the labor shortage here at that time.

Soon after its opening, The Commerce Overall Company adopted as its brand for its leading overall "Gander Brand" and soon Commerce became noted all over the South as the home of Gander Brand Overalls.

This plant grew quite steadily and in spite of the depression of 1921 grew and prospered, giving employment to a growing number of people. Around 1925, Mr. Durst was joined in the business by Mr. A. D. Harris and they operated the National Overall Company and in 1927 they combined and the industry became Commerce National Manufacturing Company. At this time the company grew until it was occupying four buildings in the town.

In 1928 the entire company was sold to the Globe Superior Corporation, a company with headquarters in Abington, Ill. This company soon built a new factory in Commerce, one of the most modern of its time. This firm was headed by three of the leaders in the overall industry, namely Mr. B. D. Adams as President; Mr. Lloyd Mosser as Vice-President; and Mr. C. H. Synder as General Manager. The local plant was managed by Mr. H. F. Mosher and Mr. Durst was Southern Sales Manager.

In 1934 the Globe Superior Corporation sold to Blue Bell and the industry became known as the Blue Bell Manufacturing Company. In 1936 Mr. Durst left the firm and at the insistence of the local people began to make plans to start another sewing industry for Commerce.

In 1937 a building was started and a new industry was born and was called Commerce Manufacturing Company. At its head was C. W. Hood, Jr., as President; F. E. Durst, as Vice-President and General Manager; W. D. Sheppard, as Vice-President and H. F. Bray as Secretary. C. M. Scoggings was Treasurer and the following, other than the officers, were directors: C. J. Hood, W. B. Rice, J. M. Carlton and J. B. Hardman.

The plant started operations on January 3, 1938 with 117 people on its payroll and started a long hard road to its present size and position. It was very fortunate to get the services of Mr. C. W. Lomax, the dean of overall sales people, to head its sales organization and a large part of its growth is due to his efforts. The company has never been idle a day since its inception due to a lack of business.

On February 9, 1943, Mr. F. E. Durst, Sr., passed away and the management of the Commerce Manufacturing Company passed to his son, F. Edward Durst, Jr., who is now Vice-President and General Manager. It has grown from the 117 people who started to 400 today. Forty-three of the original 117 are still with the company. It has grown from a sales volume of \$135,000.00 per year to over \$4,000,000.00.

The garment industry, from its meager beginning in 1917 by Fred E. Durst, has grown until it is a very vital factor in the economic life of Commerce and the area around it. Today its two plants employ over 800 people and have contributed greatly toward making Commerce the growing, thriving place that it is.

BLUE BELL, INC., COMMERCE PLANT

In 1936, Blue Bell purchased The Globe Superior Corporation. At the time of this merger, these two companies, Blue Bell and Globe Corporation, were of about equal importance in the work clothing business and were two of the largest in size in the United States.

Immediately after Blue Bell made this purchase, the Commerce Plant of Blue Bell was overhauled, putting in a new system of manufacturing and a considerable amount of new equipment was installed.

The chief type of clothing produced in the Commerce Plant has always been blanket-lined coats and cossack jackets. At various times since 1936, both a night and day shift have been operated in this plant, but for the past several years only one shift has been in operation.

An average of 430 people are used regularly to carry on operations in this plant. The annual output is 6,000,000 garments or 24,000 per day.

A branch sewing factory is located at Comer which employs 220 people, making a total of 650 people operating the plant. All of the cutting and shipping is done from the Commerce Plant. The shipping to and from Commerce to market is one-half by Railroad and one-half by trucks owned by the company.

This large plant has been of mutual financial interest both to the city of Commerce and community and to its own corporation. This enterprise is recognized as a valuable asset to our industrial economy.

FROZEN FOOD LOCKERS, INC.

Frozen Food Lockers, Inc., was organized in February, 1943, by 27 local individuals as a community service. Through the Federal Government they were able to secure a priority, construction starting in July and operation beginning February 1, 1944.

This plant has 500 lockers and is serving from 500 to 750 families each year, giving them better food and meat to eat and also helping them in the preserving of the products grown in their own gardens and on the farm.

This plant has been handling on an average of 200,000 pounds of meat, fruits, and vegetables per year. It is incorporated for \$25,000.00 and is recognized as one of the outstanding plants in the State.

The present officers are L. G. Hardman, Jr., President; Dr. A. A. Rogers, Vice-President; and W. M. Booth, Secretary-Treasurer.

COMMERCE MILLING COMPANY

In the spring of 1883, H. W. Peeler and W. P. Lovin set a saw-mill just where the Roller Mill is now located. They sawed timber from the W. B. J. Hardman and S. M. Shankle land that was blown down by the northeast storm on the second Sunday in September, 1882. In the fall, Peeler and Lovin erected a cotton gin at the same place and ran it some ten years and later put in a grist mill. After Mr. Peeler's death, there was incorporated the Farmers Mill and Gin Company, which was operated by different ones for a few years. About the years 1902 to 1904, L. G. Hardman bought the property and organized a stock company known as the Hardman Roller Mill. There was installed a roller mill outfit and corn mill. This mill was operated by various ones as Superintendent and lessee for some twelve years, when it was liquidated and the property sold to A. D. Harris, who after operating it for a few

years sold it to M. A. and T. T. Benton in 1919. This enterprise was then organized into a stock company known as the Commerce Milling Company. Later grain and feed crushing machinery was added. This plant has been successfully operated and is an asset to the city and community and a help and encouragement to the farmers of the surrounding country. Mr. T. T. Benton is the President of the company and the operator of the plant. This mill has a 60-bbl. daily capacity.

HARDMAN OIL MILL — SOUTHERN COTTON OIL COMPANY

This oil mill and ginnery, situated on South Elm Street in South Commerce, was organized and built by W. W. Stark, W. T. and G. W. D. Harber in 1897. After operating two years the property was sold to the Hardmans and became known as the Hardman Oil Mill. After two years operation this company sold and deeded the property to the Southern Cotton Oil Company, the present owners. During the period of the Hardman Oil Mill Company the managers were W. M. Thurmond and W. S. Mize. The Southern Cotton Oil Company employed W. D. Sheppard as manager until 1910. Mr. T. C. Robinson of Pickens, South Carolina, was manager from 1910 to 1915. He was succeeded by W. R. Gresham, who was manager until 1923. In 1923, W. L. Smith took charge of the plant and has remained in this position since. For some years he has operated under a lease. The oil mill feature was discontinued in the year 1923. Since then the ginnery has been renewed and brought up to modern equipment. The annual output averages about 2,500 to 3,000 bales. During all this period most of the seed and products have been handled by the plant.

When the oil mill feature of this plant, which had a daily capacity of 35 tons, was discontinued in 1923, the Southern Cotton Oil Company centralized their small plants and the seed products of this plant are now sent to Athens for crushing.

This industry has drawn a large patronage from quite a distance and has added trade to the City of Commerce.

THE FARMERS OIL MILL

This industry was founded and organized about the year 1902 and the plant was located just off Homer Street on a large lot now owned by W. N. Harden. The stockholders were made up of farmers and some men in town. The Southern Railway was deeded land for a siding November 2, 1903 and the sidetrack was constructed which was to be perpetual. This plant operated a ginnery in connection with the oil mill. The first manager was W. S. Mize. It was operated for a few years, then leased to H. O. Williford, who operated it for some time under the management of W. D. Sheppard. Mr. Williford was the first President of the company. He later leased, or rented, this property to W. D. Sheppard who continued with the ginnery and seed buying after the oil mill part had been practically destroyed by fire. Mr. Ellis Gober was for sometime the manager of this part of the business. Mr. Gober later went to Macon where he was a successful business man. This Oil Mill property was bought by A. D. Harris and dismantled and passed into the hands of Mrs. I. H. Harris. Finally it was liquidated. W. N. Harden bought the real estate and the remaining buildings in 1933. On this plant he developed a manufacturing plant and established a wholesale oil business.

A. C. CARSON PLANING MILL AND GRIST MILL

In 1906, A. C. Carson and Emmet Kemp opened a wood and blacksmith shop on South Elm Street near Sanders Furniture Store in the building formerly occupied by J. R. N. Baugh, a wagon maker, continuing here about six years. Mr. Carson built a planing and grist mill on Atlanta Avenue in 1912, which served the trade until his death in 1937. This combined mill

was patronized by customers from a large territory. Since his death the plant has been continued by his son, O. H. Carson, as manager.

REIDLING'S GINNERY

Near the northern incorporate limits on the Southern Railway is T. D. Reidling's large and modern ginnery which has been in operation some five years and was first established by Harold Nix. Mr. Reidling has enlarged the plant and does an extensive business in seed and seed products as well as cotton ginning. Near by is also a large feed crushing mill that has a splendid patronage.

MONUMENTS

In the same vicinity Clyde Langford has a plant for manufacture of tombstones and monuments of every description, both of granite and of marble. Mr. Langford has had more than twenty years experience and has operated his plant in Commerce for some five years. He is constantly enlarging his facilities and puts out an article of splendid quality.

These plants are a good asset and add much to the City's industrial life.

MOSE GORDON LUMBER COMPANY

Mr. Gordon came to Commerce in 1928 and established a lumber business on the Southern Railroad, two miles north of the city. His business has grown to an extensive plant. His mills saw timber over a wide area and he purchases lumber from over a large section of Northeast Georgia. He has some 30 or 40 employees and ships several million feet of lumber annually. This industry contributes much to the growth and development of this community.

COMMERCE FERTILIZER COMPANY

This corporation was organized in 1911 by L. L. Davis, A. P. Rice, George Rice, W. B. Burns, and P. W. Sheppard. Affiliated with The Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corporation of Richmond, Va., on a 50-50 basis, L. L. Davis was elected President; W. B. Burns, Secretary-Treasurer.

The original capital stock was \$15,000.00. At the annual stockholders meeting in 1947 it was voted to increase the capital stock to \$50,000.00. C. M. Scoggins came into the company in 1917 as bookkeeper and later buying a part of the stock and becoming Secretary-Treasurer, which place he filled until his death in February, 1946.

The plant is located on the Southern Railroad a short distance north of the city limits. This corporation has served the vicinity and surrounding sections in a large way for the last thirty-seven years. They have weathered two or three depressions and have had a steady and continual growth. Their present annual production is more than \$150,000.00.

Mr. L. L. Davis, the President, exercises full rights as manager and is owner of a large majority of the local stock. Mrs. T. A. Minish is the present efficient Secretary-Treasurer. Commerce is proud of this member of our valuable industries.

THE SITICIDE COMPANY

In 1890 after several years of careful study and experimenting, Dr. Lemuel J. Sharp, a well known practicing physician, of Commerce, Georgia, perfected a formula for curing Scabies (Parasitic Itch), and put it on the market under the name PARASITICIDE.

The cure was quick acting and found immediate favor with sufferers from the disease so often spoken of as the seven-year-itch. The medicine sold well and the business of making it prospered.

At first Parasiticide was sold only locally, but after growth began, Dr. Sharp put his brother, Mr. B. B. Sharp, on the road as travelling salesman in Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee.

In about 1924 the name was changed to Siticide and a contract was made with Harvey-Massengale Advertising Agency for advertising this product in the Southern States.

In 1927 after the death of Dr. Sharp, Mrs. Sharp sold stock in the business to Drs. O. E. Shankle and W. D. Sheppard thus organizing a stock company.

For a number of years they used the Sharp building where Dr. Sharp had his office, but as business increased they felt the need of a larger place and in 1936 built the brick structure, which they continue to use. The Company now has seven stockholders. Dr. J. C. Verner is President and Mrs. L. J. Sharp, Secretary and Treasurer of the Company.

At present this product is being advertised and sold in the Mid-West and Eastern states.

The gross sales of the company have more than trebled since 1936.

W. N. HARDEN CUSHION FACTORY

On the property of the old Farmers Oil Mill, W. N. Harden constructed a plant to manufacture cushions for baskets, boxes and other containers. He also established oil storage tanks and warehouses for the wholesale trade and is now wholesale distributor for the Sinclair Oil and Refining Company. The cushion factory was opened May, 1934, and continued until February, 1948. This plant employed an average of 25 operatives, all Negroes. The products were sold generally over the Southeastern states in the fruit and vegetable areas. Since the discontinuance of the cushion manufacture, the buildings are used for his enlarged oil business. This small industry has added to the financial assets of the city and has advertised this town in the areas where the products have been shipped.

W. T. STAPLER — HARMONY GROVE MANUFACTURER
OF PLOW-STOCKS AND CULTIVATORS

Mr. W. T. Stapler was a pioneer in the invention of new types of plow stocks and cultivators at the time when old home-made stocks were made in the shops. He began making the iron brace foot stock at Hood's Mill in the 70's and later at Harmony Grove about the time Haiman built the bent foot stock that bore his name. The Stapler stock was manufactured in a small way in a shop near the railroad in front of C. W. Hood's store, then later in a shop on Broad Street near the Methodist Church.

During this period, Mr. Stapler made connection with Bailey Foundry & Machine Works at Athens, Ga., for whom he was salesman for a short time. Later he became salesman for B. F. Avery & Son, Louisville, Ky., through whom he got several patents on his plow stock and cultivators. He retained his connection with this firm until his death. Mr. Stapler at one time made three-foot cultivators on a rather large scale in a shop run by T. Cole. Often he would ship a thousand or more in a season to his South Carolina customers, in addition to his local sales.

A history of Harmony Grove is not complete without some notice of this man who was not only a genius in inventions and experiments but one who had a store of wit and original stories. He was an adept at telling jokes and entertaining his listeners. Mr. Stapler was a landmark in the town of Harmony Grove. Though himself of limited education, he was interested in the promotion of schools. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for awhile, a pillar in the Presbyterian Church and all phases of civic life. He was indeed a unique character.

THE BARBER INDUSTRY

The barber trade in villages and small towns is of recent date. From seventy-five to a hundred years ago the housewife was the chief dependent to shingle husband's hair and cut the children's hair, sometimes clipping their ears. The man of the house did his own shaving with a Wade and Butcher or a George Wostenholm old time razor.

In Harmony Grove in the 80's, it was customary on Saturday night to go to L. G. Hardman's old drug store on the corner near the depot and cut each other's hair. J. D. Barnett was the chief artist in hair cutting. As the town grew larger a Negro, or two, set up a white barber shop. In fact in the South all the white barber shops in the 70's to 1890 were operated by Negro barbers in cities like Athens, Macon, and Atlanta, as well as the smaller towns.

In Harmony Grove the first white man to open a barber shop was a man named Farrabee, a relative of W. C. Farrabee. Then came Young Davis of Athens and possibly some others before W. D. Pierce who was here for many years. Pierce was the first to open a first class shop with several chairs. His shop was located on North Elm Street. Associated with him were H. C. Sims, A. F. Fillingim, W. C. Dowdy and others who later opened shops for themselves. H. C. Sims and Dowdy opened in the Harber building on North Broad Street which was later operated by Sims and Duckett.

About the same time, or later, Curt Massey opened a shop in the Pittman building on South Broad Street, now operated by Elmer Minish. A. F. Fillingim ran a shop for a while near Sander's Furniture Store as also did Howard Saxon.

In South Commerce, the pioneer barber shop was P. Y. Waters', followed by quite a number of others, among whom were Fonny Gibson, Henry Talbert, Bud Strickland and other good barbers who made a livelihood at this trade.

The barber shop became years ago a place for the discussion of politics, the weather, town-talk, dogs and hunting, as

well as the gossip and scandals of the time. In fact, this was the place of news report before the coming of the radio. However, the barber shop has lost its prestige since the advent of mi-ladies-beauty shops where all shades and types of news are freely dispensed.

These trades, or institutions, have become a necessity to our city and are growing marvelously.

CHAPTER XII

CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS GROWTH

The churches of Harmony Grove and vicinity were at first located in the adjacent vicinity, or country-side. There was no church located in the town of Harmony Grove before 1874.

METHODIST

The Methodist church was known by the name of Sandy Level, located on the opposite side of the railroad from L. G. Hardman's peach shed where there is an old cemetery. To this church belonged as members the Shankles, the Hargroves, some of the Hudsons, the Gobers and the Butlers. This building was torn down and moved in 1874 to the present site of the Methodist Church. Just before the Civil War there was erected a church building on the Dunson place near the beacon light and was known as the Old Protestant, or Northern Methodist church, which had a small membership. This church disbanded and disappeared soon after the Civil War. In addition there was the Mt. Bethel Methodist Church, located three miles northeast of Harmony Grove. This church contributed much in membership and otherwise to this denomination in the town, as did also Wilson Church, four miles north of town.

BAPTIST

There were a number of local Baptist churches located early in the century near the vicinity of Harmony Grove, namely, Cabin Creek Baptist Church, six miles south and constituted in 1796; Black's Creek Church, three miles from town, southeast, constituted in 1803; Beaver Dam Baptist Church, four miles east, constituted in 1822; Bold Springs Baptist Church,

constituted in 1871 at Addison Chrisler Springs; Grove Level Baptist Church, constituted in 1801, seven miles north of town. All these churches had members in and around Harmony Grove. In 1874 the Harmony Grove Baptist Church was constituted with eighty-eight charter members, some from each of the five churches mentioned above, chiefly Black's Creek and Cabin Creek.

PRESBYTERIAN

The Presbyterians had no local church here until the year 1882. A church was organized and a house built on the lot where L. L. Davis now lives. Under the leadership of Rev. Groves Cartledge and Dr. H. F. Hoyt, there was organized a church with a small membership, these members coming partly from the Hebron Presbyterian Church in Banks County and Thyatira Presbyterian Church in Jackson County, the two latter churches being organized before 1800.

MADISON STREET BAPTIST

The Madison Street Baptist Church was constituted in 1895. This church was organized under the leadership of Rev. H. E. Hardman. He requested the gift of the wooden building of the Harmony Grove Baptist Church, which was granted, and he moved it and erected at his own expense a building on the present site on Madison Street. This was the year, 1896, that the present brick building of the Harmony Grove Baptist Church was begun.

The primary purpose of the Madison Street Church was to give religious facilities to the operatives of the Harmony Grove Mill and to the residents of that vicinity. This church has advanced steadily in growth of membership and influence. Its membership is among the largest in Commerce.

OTHERS

The Holiness people of various faiths have had religious meetings in tents and other ways. In recent years one of these groups has had a church building in South Commerce which was originally constructed by the Methodist Church, in which they for a time held services. Some two years ago the Holiness people secured this building and remodeled it.

Other religious groups hold services in their homes without having a public place of worship.

NEGRO CHURCHES

The Negro churches of Commerce have been an important factor in the religious life of the community. There are in the section of the city known as Johntown at least four thriving congregations. The Baptist Church has been in operation for over sixty years. In 1927, there was erected a splendid brick veneer church building with all equipment necessary for Sunday School and other church organizations. This building was erected during the pastorate and under the leadership of Rev. J. C. Barnett at a total cost of more than \$6,000.00, fully paid off in five years. The present membership enrollment is 250 and the pastor is Rev. Claud Clayton.

The Methodist have an equally equipped brick veneer building on the Commerce-Carnesville Highway, known as the Methodist Episcopal Church with a membership of 63 and whose present pastor is Rev. P.H.P. Mayes. On another street is the CME group of Methodist with a nice frame structure and a membership of 100. The present pastor is Rev. E. D. Martin.

Near by this church is the Holiness Church with a comfortable house of worship and a membership of 20.

The religious life of our town as represented in these five white and four Negro churches form the background of the high character and moral tone of our citizenship. These churches have a membership of 2,414. There has been unusual

cooperation and harmony among all the churches and especially have the white people encouraged and contributed financially to provide splendid church buildings and equipment for the Negro congregations. The moral tone of the Negro population has been advanced and improved in proportion to their church and religious life and school facilities.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Total White Church Membership..... | 1,979 |
| Negro Membership..... | 435 |
| | ----- |
| Total | 2,414 |

COMMERCE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

On Saturday, November 21, 1874, the Baptist Church of Harmony Grove was constituted with 88 charter members who had been lettered from Black's Creek, Cabin Creek, Beaver Dam, Oconee, and Grove Level Churches. W. B. J. Hardman was chosen pastor and R. S. Cheney and L. J. Dunson elected deacons. On the following day, Sunday, November 22, the ordination service of pastor and deacons was conducted by a presbytery, consisting of W. F. Stark, A. J. Kelly, W. R. Goss and W. T. M. Brock.

The following is a list of the charter members:

MALES

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| J. O. Adair | W. S. Edwards | Elbert Hardman |
| D. W. Barnett | W. C. Farabee | R. L. Hardman |
| W. B. Barnett | C. O. Farabee | C. W. Hood |
| E. H. Borders | W. R. Goss | C. J. Hood |
| John Bruce | I. H. Goss | A. J. Hudson |
| Chris Coleman | W. C. Glenn | J. M. Hutchins |
| R. S. Cheney | W. B. J. Hardman | R. K. Minish |
| W. C. Davis | H. E. Hardman | E. H. Ingram |
| L. J. Dunson | L. G. Hardman | S. R. Jordan |

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| P. O. Pittman | W. W. Tolbert | W. B. J. Perry |
| J. G. H. Pittman | Solomon Seegar | E. A. Perry |
| J. S. P. Richey | S. J. T. Seegar | John L. Parks |
| Francis Ray | J. A. Skates | E. Edwards |
| | | D. M. Hix |

FEMALES

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Julia Adair | S. E. Goss | Sarah A. Minish |
| Virginia Barnett | Martha Hudson | C. A. M. Mann |
| E. A. Borders | Melissa A. Hood | Minerva C. Nix |
| F. L. Borders | Temperance Hardy | Mary E. Nix |
| T. A. V. Barnett | E. S. Hardman | Julia M. Perry |
| Frances Coleman | Flora E. Hardman | Johanna Perry |
| Eugenia E. Cheney | Lottie Hardman | Sarah Perry |
| Lydia Davis | L. L. Hardman | M. E. Perry |
| Mary F. Dunson | Josephine Hudson | Ermine Park |
| M. R. Dunson | Martha Hutchins | M. A. E. Ray |
| M. C. Edwards | Emma Ingram | L. P. Richey |
| Delanie E. Farabee | M. A. Jordan | L. C. Richey |
| L. H. Farabee | Delilah Ingram | Cynthia Sanders |
| P. C. Farabee | E. C. Lackey | Dora A. Webb |
| R. D. Farabee | Sidney Minish | S. F. Tolbert |
| E. A. Goss | Frances E. Minish | Sarah J. Yeargin |

The first conference was held on December 26th, and several important transactions are noted: The election of R. S. Cheney as clerk; P. O. Pittman, assistant clerk; L. J. Dunson, treasurer; and R. K. Minish, chorister. Ten a.m. was set apart as the hour of prayer on each meeting day. On solicitation of W. R. Goss several subscriptions were taken for *The Christian Index* and Baptist.

The fourth Sunday in July was fixed for the annual revival meeting, services to begin on Friday before that Sunday.

Quarterly Conferences were held when they received and appointed correspondents to sister churches.

The first large ingathering came at a protracted meeting in July, 1880, at which time almost every young person of

eligible age joined. A majority of these are living and a number of them are still members with us. Thirty were baptized and two received by letter.

The church at first had preaching only one Sunday a month. In 1892 they went to two Sundays a month, W. M. Coile pastor, and in 1900 they adopted full-time service, G. W. Garner, pastor.

The present brick building was erected in 1896 and dedicated February 14, 1897. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. T. W. O'Kelly of Griffin. The name of the church was changed from the Harmony Grove Baptist Church to the Commerce First Baptist Church, September 18, 1904.

The former wooden building was donated to Madison Street Church, and was moved and erected by H. E. Hardman at his own expense.

This church entertained the Sarepta Association five times, in 1879, 1897, 1914, 1936, and 1946; the Sunday School Convention five times and the Georgia Baptist Convention in 1916.

Ministers ordained by this church are: W. B. J. Hardman, A. H. Boone, R. S. Cheney, H. E. Hardman, Ronald Bullin, and T. C. Hardman.

Deacons ordained: R. S. Cheney, L. J. Dunson, W. C. Davis, H. E. Hardman, J. D. Barnett, C. J. Hood, T. C. Pittman, A. B. Deadwyler, W. B. Hardman, W. T. Thurmond, T. C. Hardman, F. M. Hubbard, J. M. Nix, Geo. L. Hubbard, C. J. Hardman, H. B. Carreker, A. P. Rice, C. A. Goodin, W. C. Dowdy, J. B. Elrod, M. T. Sanders, J. L. Dunson, A. A. Rogers, L. G. Hardman, Jr., Avery Bird, J. N. Harris, Dr. G. O. Castellaw. A number of members have come in from other churches as deacons and have served this church faithfully in that capacity.

The pastors who have served the church: W. B. J. Hardman, sixteen years; W. M. Coile, four years; B. F. Riley, three years; G. W. Garner, five years; W. A. Nelson, two years; H. W. Williams, five years; Gilbert Dobbs, seven years; W. L. Cul-

bertson, seven years; W. H. Wrighton, six years; C. C. Tooke, seventeen years.

We show some figures which show the larger activities during the years. The first 45 years, for missions and benevolence, we gave approximately \$45,000.00; from 1919 to 1924, \$55,000.00; since then \$20,000.00; total, \$120,000.00; for schools and education, \$60,000.00; total—missions and benevolences, \$180,000.00.

On the same date that the Harmony Grove Church was constituted there was begun the Sunday School which has been maintained through the entire history. A Men's Bible Class was organized, also a class for the young men and young women. The feature of this early Sunday School was the "Beginners or Primaries," taught by Mrs. W. B. J. Hardman in which the "Blue Back Speller" and "Kind Words" were used. The "Kind Words" were edited by Rev. Samuel Boykin of Macon.

From the beginning, over sixty years ago, the school has had a continuous progress until at present it has reached the A-1 Standard. In 1918 an addition was built to the church, including a room for the Primaries, and in 1936, a complete and commodious Sunday School Annex was constructed which is sufficient for a school of 800 pupils.

The following have served as superintendents: R. S. Cheney, J. A. Williford, W. H. Simpkins, H. E. Hardman, J. H. Walker, W. B. Haygood, W. B. Hardman, C. J. Hood, J. H. Williford, H. B. Carreker, W. H. Martin, C. L. Veatch, J. B. Hardman, A. A. Rogers, Alvin Collins, and Clyde Nunn.

The women of the First Baptist Church were among the first of the state to organize a Woman's Missionary Society, under solicitation of Rev. C. M. Irwin, about the year, 1881. This group of women carried on the work and supported missionaries direct for several years. Some years later, under the ministry of Dr. B. F. Riley, the work was re-organized and has been continuous up to the present status.

The B.Y.P.U. organization was established under the leader-

ship of Landrum and Frank Leavell, about the year 1915, and has been one of the helpful auxiliaries to the church work.

The First Baptist Church has enlarged its facilities recently, expending some \$15,000.00 on redecorating interior, laying concrete paving on walks around the building and enlarging the heating plant. The present membership is 737.

HISTORY OF THE MADISON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

The Madison Street Baptist Church of Commerce was constituted in 1895 in South Commerce in the vicinity of the Harmony Grove Mill. The lot was contributed by the Rev. W. B. J. Hardman and the building was erected by Rev. H. E. Hardman, who became the first pastor and served until 1911, a period of sixteen years. The building was the original church house of the Harmony Grove Baptist Church and was taken down and removed to Madison Street at the time the Harmony Grove Baptist Church erected a new brick building, which is now the Commerce First Baptist Church.

This church has been encouraged and partly supported by the Harmony Grove Mills. It has cooperated with the Baptist program and has been a liberal contributor to same, having from the beginning a very active Sunday School with well organized and prepared teachers.

This church entertained the Sunday School Convention in 1941. It is also active in the training of young people, having maintained an active Baptist Training Union.

The following have served as pastors: Rev. H. E. Hardman, Rev. W. M. Pettit, Rev. Chas. Rowe, Rev. W. L. Culbertson, Rev. M. A. Love, Rev. R. J. Tyler, Rev. G. H. Collins, Rev. P. M. Webb, Rev. G. H. Davis, Rev. Clyde Smith, and Rev. Edward L. Aiken, the present pastor.

Those who have served as deacons are: Wm. Thurmond, C. T. Nash, J. L. Lord, E. J. Pruitt, G. C. Steele, H. C. Minish, Charley Turner, O. G. Chandler, A. R. Owens, D. P. Mor-

risson, Archie Davis, W. E. Williams, P. D. Howington, Woodie Phillips, J. J. Morrison, D. L. Nunn, S. R. Spurlock, J. R. Toney, L. Burruss Morrison, H. Odell Williams, W. L. Ayers, Andrew O'Kelley, Clyde G. Nunn, L. H. Clarke, Emory E. Vaughn, Martin F. Allen, W. M. Saxon, V. Turner Allen, H. A. James, Luke L. Smallwood, Rufus O'Kelley, R. S. Gillespie, and A. M. Hampton.

Those who have served as clerks are: F. O. Whitehead, C. T. Nash, J. H. Webb, W. A. Webb, Charlie Turner, G. C. Steele, John Thomas, P. D. Howington, O. G. Chandler, D. P. Morrison, Robert S. Wheeler, C. G. Nunn, H. Odell Williams, C. L. Burns, Sr., and Wilson Morrison. The present clerk is Kyle Savage.

Those serving the church as treasurer are: J. W. Massey, P. D. Howington, H. E. Williams, L. Burruss Morrison, H. Odell Williams, W. L. Ayers, Emory E. Vaughn, B. L. Seagraves, V. Turner Allen, Miss Hilda Boswell, and L. L. Smallwood.

Sunday School superintendents are as follows: W. F. Stark, Robert Howington, Jack Cash, T. S. Coleman, F. A. Coleman, Callie O'Kelley, M. C. Bellew, H. C. Minnish, G. C. Steele, H. E. Williams, Archie Davis, D. L. Nunn, D. P. Morrison, P. D. Howington, V. Turner Allen, Kyle Savage, Melvin Minnish, H. Odell Williams, and Rufus O'Kelley. The present superintendent is A. M. Hampton.

In 1941 the church called Rev. Edward L. Aiken, of Gainesville, as pastor. It has perhaps been during his ministry that our church has made more progress than in any other years of her history.

There has been a large increase in our membership and attendance. The building program during his pastorate includes: three additional Sunday School classrooms, a pastor's study, two restrooms and the vestibule. The church has been repainted both on the inside and outside, new carpets and light fixtures added and an oil furnace installed. Present membership 600.

The present church officers include: Pastor, Rev. Edward L. Aiken.

Deacons: A. M. Hampton, H. Odell Williams, Rufus O'Kelley, L. L. Smallwood, R. S. Gilespie, W. F. Williams, and H. A. James.

HARMONY GROVE-COMMERCE METHODIST CHURCH

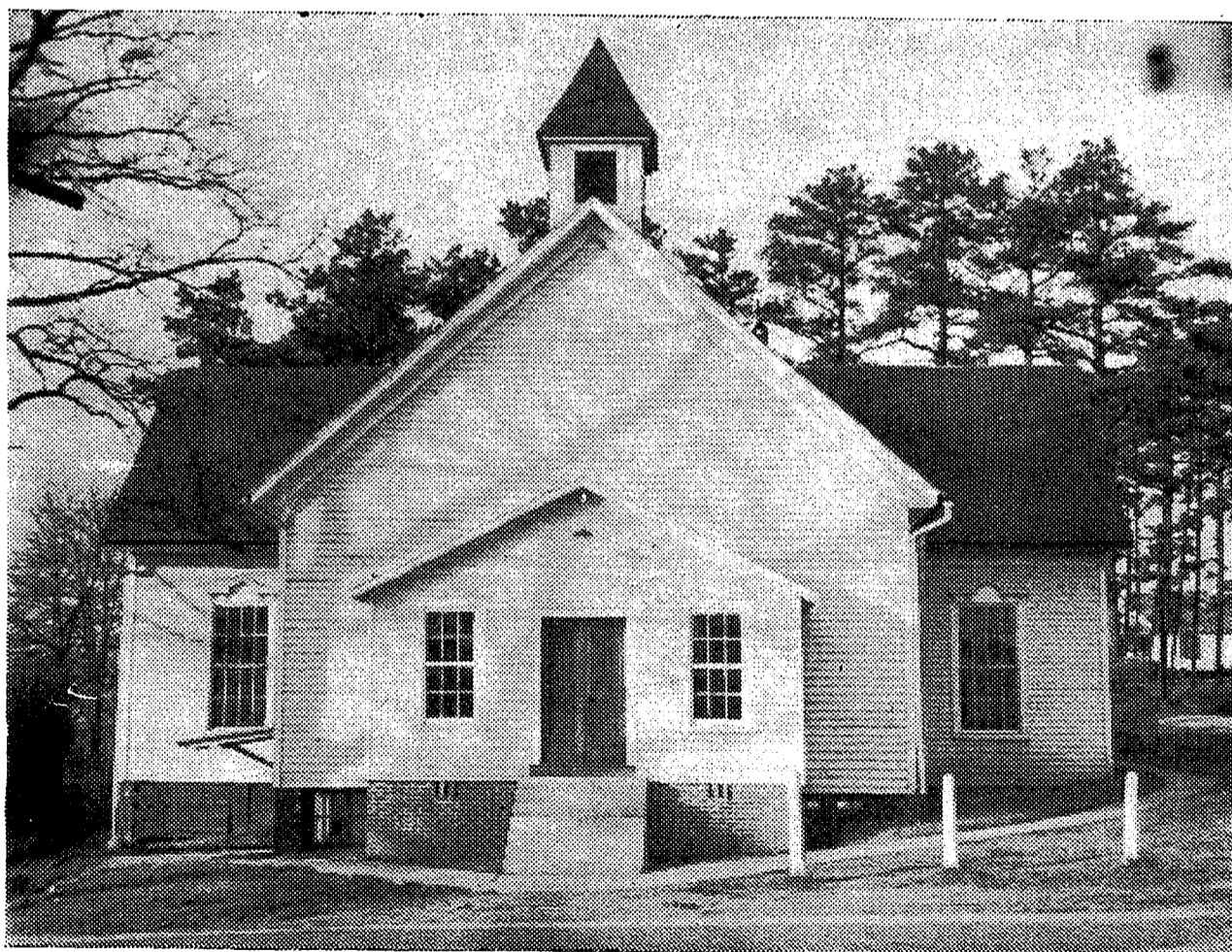
The first record in this community of the Harmony Grove-Commerce Methodist Church is taken from a Sunday School record book (this book was presented in 1921 to the Commerce News by John Gober who was the grandson of H. B. Gober). The record book covers a period from 1843 to 1851 in which is indicated a Sunday School was organized in 1843 at Adaline Methodist Church, two miles south of Harmony Grove on the Athens road, probably between the T. P. Hudson place and the S. R. Hood place on the west side of the road. Afterwards at this spot there was a school house known as the Hood School.

In this Adaline Sunday School were the following names: Christopher Sewell, Eli Shankle, James W. Shankle, Reuben Nash, William Johnson, William LaMaster, H. B. Gober, William Gober, and Linton C. Dunson. The Adaline Church seems to have later been moved to Harmony Grove and located near the present home of Mrs. L. J. Sharp on the opposite side of Shankle Street. Sometime later this place of worship was again moved and located near the old Farrabee home site outside the city limit, some quarter of a mile and on the east side of the railroad. This church was known as Sandy Level. The place is marked by a small grave yard.

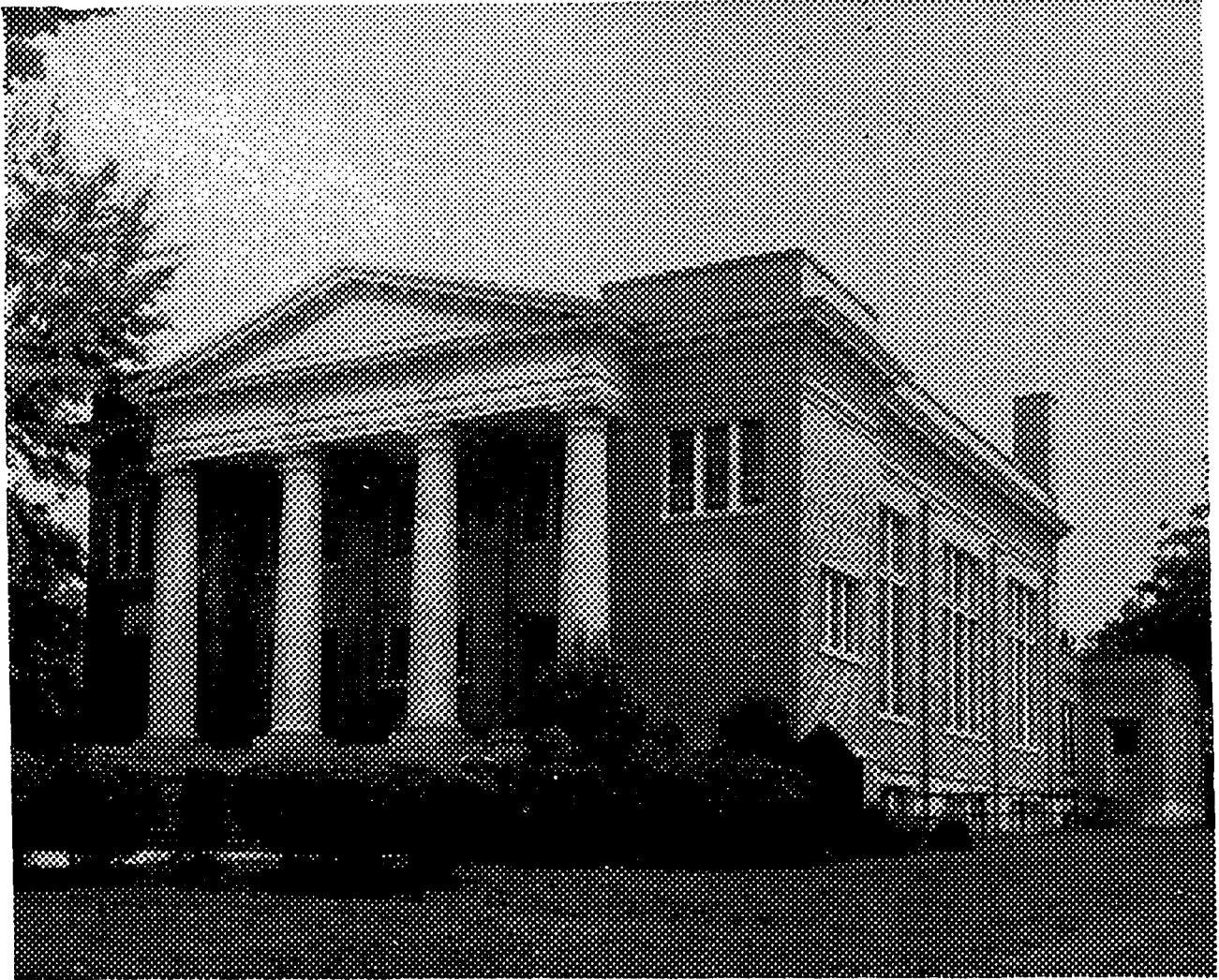
In 1874 this church was moved to its present site on a lot donated by S. M. Shankle. The present membership is 460.



COMMERCE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1874-1949



MADISON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
1895-1949



COMMERCE METHODIST CHURCH
1874-1949



COMMERCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1882-1949

The following is a list of Stewards and Trustees:

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| F. H. Adams | Claud Montgomery | Herbert Sharp |
| A. D. Bolton | Milton Nix | T. J. Syfan |
| W. D. Bolton | Ralph Pardue | Fred Tanner |
| C. H. Beard | F. E. Durst, Jr. | W. M. Veal |
| Charles L. Brown, Jr. | W. W. Foster | James Wilbanks |
| Thomas L. Conn | J. L. Hope | J. D. Parham |
| R. M. Davidson | J. E. Jarrell | N. H. Perry |
| Tom Mealor | Comer Fowler | W. R. Pickins |
| | | R. L. Sanders |

James Wilbanks, Superintendent of Sunday School.

The following is a list of the preachers of the Harmony Grove-Commerce Methodist Church:

| HARMONY GROVE | COMMERCE |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| J. T. Curtis.....1879-1881 | G. M. Eakes.....1904-1905 |
| J. R. Parker.....1882-1883 | A. A. Tilly.....1906 |
| W. W. Lampkin.....1884 | W. R. Foot.....1907-1908 |
| Rev. Murrah.....1885 | Walter Robison.....1909-1910 |
| J. B. Allen.....1886 | Frank Quillian.....1911-1913 |
| Rev. Embry.....1887 | T. Eakes.....1914 |
| Rev. Bond.....1888-1889 | K. Read.....1915-1916 |
| George W. Duval.....1890-1891 | V. P. Scoville.....1917-1918 |
| R. Branham.....1892-1893 | J. Lytle Jones.....Supply 1918 |
| J. D. Milton.....1894-1895 | J. E. Ellis.....1919-1920 |
| C. A. Jamison.....1896 | Irby Henderson.....1921-1922 |
| G. W. Griner.....1897-1898 | J. R. Turner.....1923-1925 |
| M. L. Troutman.....1900 | J. R. Jordan.....1926-1927 |
| W. T. M. Bell.....1901 | J. H. Allison.....1928-1929 |
| G. M. Eakes.....1902-1903 | G. E. Barrett.....1930-1931 |
| | A. Lee Hale.....1932-1933 |
| | J. P. Irwin.....1934-1935 |
| | J. O. Brand.....1936-1938 |
| | F. E. Crutcher.....1939-1941 |
| | C. W. Fruit.....1942-1948 |
| | Hubert Dodd, present Pastor |

THE HARMONY GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On July 28, 1882, Rev. R. W. Milner, evangelist of Athens Presbytery, and Rev. Groves H. Cartledge held a meeting in a little log school house near their first permanent church building on Homer Street. On July 30th, Rev. Cartledge preached from Isaiah 54:5, after which they proceeded with the organization of a church with the following members: T. E. Key and Mary E. Bird from Hebron Church; T. M. Daniels from Athens; Dr. R. R. Harden from Smyrna; Mrs. Coles from Gainesville; Mr. M. T. Davis and wife from Wilson's Church; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. McDonald from Thyatira; and Mr. T. Cole on profession.

The following officers were elected:

Elders: T. E. Key, T. M. Daniel, E. A. McDonald.

Deacons: Dr. R. R. Harden, T. Cole. T. M. Daniel was elected Clerk of the Session.

Rev. H. F. Hoyt, Rev. Milner, Rev. Stevens, Dr. Henry Newton, Dr. Cleveland and Dr. Cartledge supplied the church until Dr. Hoyt was elected pastor in 1884.

In 1883 the Independent Presbyterians of Savannah, Ga., gave the church \$200.00 to be used on a house of worship.

On July 11, 1886, the day the church was dedicated, a meeting was held in the afternoon and arrangements made for an afternoon Sunday School, members of other denominations cooperating.

Meetings were held in the little school house until July, 1885, after which they met for one year in the Methodist Church. In January, 1884, a lot was purchased from J. N. Wood for \$200.00. The building was erected on this lot and dedicated on July 11, 1886. The membership being small, the construction was slow and the different members took part in the building and contributed different parts of the furnishings. T. E. Key furnished the blinds; T. Cole made the pews; and W. T. Stapler gave the organ. The membership

gradually increased. The Hoyts came in 1884; the Telfords in 1888; the Littles in 1889; the Burns in 1891; Mrs. Barnett in 1892; the Smiths in 1892; E. P. Eberhart in 1893; the Mizes in 1893; the Watsons in 1893; Mrs. Owens and Miss Alice Owens in 1893; the Kemps in 1891; G. L. Carson and family in 1896; and the Rices in 1899. Our membership is still small but many members have gone out to take leadership in other places.

On April 6, 1905 the name of the church was changed from Harmony Grove Presbyterian Church to Commerce Presbyterian Church. In June, 1910, it was decided to change the location and erect a new church building. By October of the same year, \$7,358.00 had been subscribed for the purpose. A trade was made with L. L. Davis to exchange their present house and lot for a lot on the corner of Cherry and Bowden Streets, paying him \$1,500.00 difference. Later two lots were sold from the original lot fronting on Bowden Street for \$550.00 each. The erection of this building was begun and completed in 1912 at a total cost of \$12,850.00. This beautiful structure in the center of town furnishes an ample place of worship and service.

In July, 1919, the purchase of the manse was decided upon. The purchase was made January 24, 1920. They bought from W. Y. Harber a seven room house on Shankle Street for \$7,500.00. Rev. John A. Simpson was the first occupant.

In all the construction and improvement of buildings, the women of the church have been of invaluable help in all the undertakings of the church; in the furnishings and equipping of the Manse, installing the heating plant and the pews and in many ways showing their devotion to the cause. The present membership is 130.

On October 9, 1946, the Presbyterian Church passed resolutions in appreciation of the faithful, long service in the church of Mrs. A. B. Deadwyler as organist and assistant organist; Mr. George Rice as Superintendent of the Sunday School, and of Mrs. George Rice as Sunday School teacher

of the Beginners Class in the Sunday School. Mrs. Ernest Jackson deserves special recognition for her long service as organist in the church.

In January, 1906, Dr. L. G. Hardman tendered the Presbyterian Church and each of the other religious denominations a room in his Sanitorium for the free use and treatment for the poor of their congregation who needed medical care and with the provision that congregation supply the necessary furnishings for its room. This proposition was accepted with thanks by each congregation but did not materialize as a practical plan.

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED THE COMMERCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For two years after its organization, several preachers supplied the pulpit from Sabbath to Sabbath. In 1884, Dr. Hoyt was called as a regular pastor. From that date on the pastors have been: H. F. Hoyt, total of fifteen years; Rev. Stevens, four years; H. S. Allyn, three years; D. J. Blackwell, two years; J. D. McPhail, one year; George M. Telford, three years; J. N. McCord, two years; W. R. Henderson, four years; John A. Simpson, six years; W. W. Pippin, three years; H. R. Foster, fifteen years; Reid Newland, four years; Robert J. Marshman, the present pastor, who is serving his first year.

The church began by having services once a month. In 1896 they called for two Sundays. Since 1905 they have varied from full time to three quarter time. The present pastor is giving his full time.

The following have served the church as Elders: T. E. Key, E. A. McDonald, T. M. Daniel, W. G. Alexander, J. N. Telford, W. N. Burns, W. L. Little, G. L. Carson, Sr., R. L. Smith, R. E. Kemp, E. P. Eberhart, Claud Little, D. M. Burns, T. A. Little, W. S. Mize, E. B. Watson, George T. Rice, G. P. Martin, T. N. Mize, W. B. Rice, C. W. Voiles, W. T. Stapler and H. P. Little.

Deacons: Dr. R. R. Harden, T. Cole, J. W. Carrington, J. N. Marbury, C. A. Mize, A. P. Rice, M. C. Arthur, C. N. Bird, A. C. Carson, W. A. Echols, W. D. Martin, C. W. Hood, Jr., T. P. Coker, R. F. Powers, Joe Deadwyler, Lauren McDonald, F. M. Fuller, W. A. Gibbs, A. S. Johnson, C. C. Ward, L. A. Richardson, and W. A. Stevenson.

Sunday School Superintendents: T. E. Key in 1883; J. N. Telford served more than twenty years to 1908; Claud Little for a total of fourteen years; H. B. Bible two years; R. L. J. Smith, two years, and George T. Rice, a total of twenty-three years.

Clerks: T. M. Daniel, ten years; W. G. Alexander, W. B. Burns, thirty-four years; Claud Little, twelve years; C. W. Voiles, four years; G. P. Martin, the present clerk, six years.

Personal sketches of two pioneer Presbyterian preachers of Harmony Grove and this section of Northeast Georgia.

REV. GROVES H. CARTLEDGE

Rev. Groves Cartledge was a Presbyterian preacher high in the Presbyterian Church of the northeastern part of the state. He was born February 15, 1820 in Madison County and was the son of Samuel and Agnes Groves Cartledge. He attended the common schools in Madison, Jackson and Gwinnett counties, also Old Oglethorpe at Midway and Columbia Seminary. He settled in Franklin County about one mile from Hebron Church, where he spent forty-seven years as pastor of Hebron Church and other Presbyterian churches in this section. He was also a successful school teacher and became a scholar of recognized ability. Mr. Cartledge was a leader in the founding of the Harmony Grove Presbyterian Church. He died July 5, 1899 in his eightieth year.

DR. HENRY F. HOYT

Dr. Hoyt was the son of Rev. Nathan Hoyt, born in Athens, Ga., in 1833. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1851 and completed his theological course at the Presbyterian Seminary at Columbia, S. C. He was chaplain in the Confederate Army and afterward preached at Darien for some time. He for more than thirty years served churches in Northeast Georgia at Elberton, Commerce, Cornelia, Maysville, Homer, and other points. Dr. Hoyt was much admired for his lovable character and ability as a preacher and pastor. He supplied the Harmony Grove Presbyterian Church in its early days and was called as pastor in 1884. He served as pastor at different times for a total of fifteen years and was well known and universally loved during his ministry in Harmony Grove and Commerce. He passed away at the Hardman Sanitorium in Commerce in 1912 and was buried at Maysville, Georgia.

CHAPTER XIII

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

In the growth and development of the town from the beginning, the schools have been an important factor. The first school, which was known as the Harmony Grove Academy for girls, was located near the Oconee River in the vicinity of the W. M. Potts' residence near Pittman's Bridge. According to an old version, this vicinity was first called Harmony Grove. It is not recorded, or certain, what became of this early school.

We know that the town of Harmony Grove began to grow in the late 1830's or early 1840's at which time the Shankle family opened a mercantile business in the community. This was about 1845 or 1846. During this period when Caleb Wood owned a large part of the land on the north side of State Street, there were schools at various parts of the village supported by private tuition from the heads of families and taught by several different teachers. One was located near the Jesse Wood home, one near S. M. Shankle's residence, another in some part of Willoughby Park, and one in a log building where the Harmony Grove Mills office now stands. All of these were very small log cabin affairs and taught by one teacher.

Probably, about the first school of any note, or size, was located on what is now the site of the First Baptist Church. Immediately following the War of the Sixties, G. J. N. Wilson was the first teacher of this school. He was followed by R. S. Cheney, from Greene County, Georgia, who taught three or four years and was succeeded by George W. Brown. R. S. Cheney was again teacher in 1875 and 1876 during which time the Northeastern Railroad was built through Harmony Grove.

On an acre of land donated by C. W. Hood, the first two-story two-room wooden building was erected in 1874 on the site of the present grammar school. Two teachers were employed to conduct the school. The Masonic Lodge held its meetings in the second story. This wooden structure was used from 1874 through 1888. The first brick school building was erected in 1888. The contractor was McGinity of Athens, Georgia. This building was destroyed by fire in 1895. The second brick building was constructed on the same site in the same year by Thurmond and Barber. This building was destroyed by fire in 1903 and rebuilt by W. T. Thurmond and is the main body of the present grammar school building. During the periods while new buildings were under construction, the school sessions were held in the churches (1895) and in public buildings uptown (1903).

These three buildings were the same size and similar in type, with class rooms and office on the first floor and auditorium, library, and other classrooms on the second. About the year 1914, at the beginning of H. B. Carreker's administration as superintendent, two wings, one on each end, were added to provide facilities for the high school grades. An additional building on the same school lot was erected for an auditorium in 1927 and which was later used as a gymnasium, now used for a lunch room. Additional acreage to the original lot was bought from J. A. Seegar. The present high school building on Shankle Street was erected in 1936.

The public school has had an unusual array of competent superintendents, principals, and teachers, and has made a splendid record in the growth and development of the school system from the simple one-teacher school to a highly systematized educational system with seven grammar grades and five high school grades, making a complete system of twelve grades with a faculty of thirty-one. The school has also made a splendid showing in contests and fine boys and girls who have entered college on their unit credits. In the 9th District Contests this school has been the best, both in athletics and

literary contests. Especially have they excelled in the latter, both in district and state meets.

Included in the school system are Departments of Music, Home Economics, Agriculture, and Speech.

The following is a list of the superintendents with dates which are inclusive:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| G. J. N. Wilson..... | 1866-1867 | M. L. Parker..... | 1899-1900 |
| R. S. Cheney..... | 1867-1870 | Peter Zellars..... | 1901-1904 |
| G. W. Brown..... | 1871-1873 | J. M. Stevenson..... | 1905 |
| R. S. Cheney..... | 1874-1876 | W. F. Brown..... | 1906-1908 |
| M. L. Parker..... | 1877-1881 | J. T. Walker..... | 1909-1910 |
| L. M. Landrum..... | 1882-1883 | Luther Elrod..... | 1911-1912 |
| W. H. Key..... | 1884 | H. B. Bible..... | 1913-1914 |
| J. A. Quillian..... | 1885-1886 | H. B. Carreker..... | 1915-1922 |
| F. M. Blount..... | 1887 | J. F. Muldrow..... | 1923-1924 |
| J. H. Walker..... | 1888-1891 | W. H. Martin..... | 1925-1928 |
| Harry Strozier..... | 1892 | S. F. Maughon..... | 1929-1940 |
| W. H. Cobb..... | 1893-1894 | B. B. Sanders..... | 1941-1944 |
| Claud Gray & Pitner..... | 1895-1898 | Omar Bellamy..... | 1945 |
| | | Charley Brown..... | 1946 |

In the 1870's the one-teacher school of the previous decade developed into the two or more system designated as the principal and assistant teachers. This system came into existence in Harmony Grove after the erection of the new two-room school building in 1874. The higher classes were taught in one room by the principal and the primary and intermediates by the assistant. The subjects taught were spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, rhetoric and composition. Much emphasis was laid upon the thoroughness and accuracy of these fundamental subjects, especially in spelling and the multiplication tables, as well as adding, subtracting and dividing and parsing sentences. There were no grades. The student body was divided into classes. The method was to call the classes to the front row of seats, or benches, for recitation, question the pupils orally on the lessons previously assigned, after which the teacher assigned the lesson for

the next period. The class was dismissed and they returned to their seats for study. The period was usually from ten to thirty minutes, according to the advancement of the class. Then the next class was called, etc., until all classes had recited during the day. Blackboards were used for working arithmetic, algebra, and geometry problems during the recitation period and for diagraming sentences in grammar. Each pupil had his turn at the blackboard. The teacher would then inspect the work. If it was not correct, he would strike a big cross mark over it, or a big zero.

A few of the textbooks used were: Webster's Blue Back Speller and Primary Dictionary; McGuffey's Readers, from 1-6; Smith's English Grammar; Sanford's Arithmetic, including Primary and Common School and High Analytical; Sanford's Algebra; Wentworth's Geometry and Trigonometry; Quackenbose' Composition and Rhetoric, Natural Philosophy; Murray's Geography, including Primary and Advanced; Swinton's Word Book and Latin and Greek.

Every pupil was permitted to advance according to his ability to learn and the progress he made. The pupil usually entered school at the age of 6 or 7 years and was first taught the alphabet. Then in a few weeks began spelling and reading in the primer. They were gradually advanced into arithmetic, drilled in the multiplication tables, adding, subtracting and multiplying and dividing. From these one went into the study of the beginner's geography and grammar and into the advanced readers, which were taken up the second or third year.

Arithmetic was worked on slates with slate pencils and exhibited to the teacher. Parsing sentences in grammar, bounding states, countries, continents and oceans, describing mountains and rivers, multiplying, subtracting, adding, dividing and working fractions was the work of the teen-age boys and girls of that day.

The more advanced classes studied composition, rhetoric, philosophy, higher arithmetic, algebra, geometry and some Latin and occasionally a few pupils studied Greek. Parents

sometime exercised the privilege of selecting the studies of their children.

In the 80's this school was referred to as the common or High School of Harmony Grove, but having received instruction from teachers who were University graduates, the students were prepared for entrance into the sophomore class in the colleges.

In 1888, when the first brick building was provided, a partial grading of the school was developed but the complete grading and unit system was established when the town adopted the public system in 1902. Peter Zellars was the first superintendent under the grading system. The school was then designated as the Harmony Grove High School.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Before the adoption of the public school system in 1902, the superintendent, principal, and teachers depended on state aid, supplemented by such tuition from patrons as the trustees of the school authorized. State aid dated from 1870, and was increased from time to time. The Commerce High School became independent of the county in 1910 and since that time has drawn its allotment of funds direct from the state. The Federal Government contributes part support for Home Economic and Agricultural teachers and for lunch room expenditure, recently installed.

The first local school tax set up was 25 cents on \$100.00, which has been increased from time to time until the present rate is 60 cents on the \$100.00. Bonds have been issued by the town for school building as follows:

- \$8,000—6 per cent bonds issued in 1888.
- \$3,000—6 per cent bonds issued in 1895.
- \$6,000—5 per cent bonds issued in 1903.
- \$2,000—5 per cent bonds issued in 1909.
- \$8,000—5 per cent bonds issued in 1913.

\$20,000—5 per cent bonds issued in 1936 for High School Building.

The Harmony Grove and Commerce Schools have always had the sympathetic and cooperative support of an able Board of Trustees. The following have acted as chairmen of the Board of Education of the Public School System:

W. B. Hardman.....1902-1918 L. G. Hardman.....1918-1932

After 1933 the chairmanship of the Board was rotated annually. The following served as Chairmen of the Board of Education in the order named:

Claude Montgomery
R. C. Nix
M. T. Sanders
H. F. Bray
Dr. C. E. Pittman
A. D. Bolton
H. F. Mosher

Dr. O. C. Pittman
R. L. Sanders
Dr. O. C. Pittman
V. L. Davis
Dr. P. T. Scoggins
R. M. Davidson
A. S. Hardy, Jr.
Dr. A. A. Rogers, present Chairman

COMMERCE HIGH SCHOOL, 1948

There has been an outstanding advancement in the Harmony Grove-Commerce Schools from the one room log building with one teacher to the modern well-equipped and systematized educational institution with a faculty of thirty teachers and a superintendent. In 1948 the twelve grade system, including eight grades in the grammar school and four in the high school was adopted. College preparatory courses are offered to all students. Two types of diplomas, academic and vocational, are conferred upon graduation. In addition to the regular academic course, vocational courses on the subjects of Home Economics, Agriculture, Manual of Arts, Typing, Book-keeping, Shorthand, Business Mathematics, Business Law, Business English are integral parts of the school program, also an athletic program, featuring football, baseball, boys' and girls' basketball and track. Connected with the school are the De-



COMMERCE HIGH SCHOOL
1936-1949



COMMERCE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
1903-1949

partments of Music and Speech, the Veterans Farm Training School and On-The-Job Training Program, through the Veterans Administration of the Federal Government, and a School Library, containing 3,065 volumes. The total budget for the school year, 1948-1949 is \$86,052.00. Total enrollment, 865, with 667 whites and 158 Negroes.

OLDER ORDER OF SCHOOLS

Under the older order of the schools of the 80's, during the administration of Cheney, Parker, Landrum, Quillian, Walker and Cobb, it was customary to have Friday afternoon speaking. All the pupils were required to recite. The older boys from fourteen years up were expected to make declamations from the classical speeches of history. The younger boys recited some verses from noted poems. The girls gave recitations sometimes in the form of dialogues from some well known author. Usually the poem was taken from some selection in the fifth or sixth readers, such as Maud Muller, Lord Ullahn's Daughter, Psalms of Life, etc. Older boys chose for their subjects selections from the orations of Cicero, Demosthenes, on through Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, Edmond Burke, Earl of Chatham and later from Henry Grady's "New South." Some of the older boys from eighteen to twenty-five literally "shelled the woods." They would go down to the woods under the spreading oaks, now Williamstown, and practice their speeches in the afternoons during the week, prompting each other as each took his turn in preparation for the event of Friday afternoon.

Among the orators of the 80's were W. B. Hardman, J. E. J. Lord, W. D. Sheppard, W. E. Wood, E. W. Martin, Albert Miller, and Robert Neal. Much emphasis was placed upon posture, bows, and gestures of the speaker. Oratory was considered one of the chief features of an education and preparation for public life.

The small boy would recite "The Boy Stood on the Burning

Deck," "The Lark Is Up To Meet the Sun," "Little Boy Blue," "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," "You Scarce Expect a Boy of My Age to Speak in Public on the Stage . . .", etc. Some would forget their speeches and would have to be prompted or called down. One of the girls was called to the stage. She began her speech with "Open the old cigar box . . . Open the old cigar box . . . Open the old cigar box . . ." The teacher, calling her by name, said, "If you can't get it open, Pearl, you may come down." The girl sat down much embarrassed.

EXHIBITIONS

The annual exhibition at the close of school in June was a great occasion. In preparation a large brush arbor was erected in front of the school building, some fifty or sixty feet square, with rows of posts and frame work of railing across the top, which was covered with brush. Underneath this arbor were seats of puncheons, brought from the saw mill. In front of the schoolhouse door was the stage, from which the exercises were presented. These took place on Friday and Saturday nights. During the day there were examinations and declamations. Night was taken up with orations and dialogues, closing on Saturday night with a Negro minstrel and a Negro sermon.

The County School Commissioner was often present on these occasions. It was his custom to visit the school at regular intervals. As the pupils saw him approaching, in his long jim-swing coat and beaver hat, they were much elated because there would be a little rest period to listen to his talks, interspersed with anecdotes. Then he would be invited by the teacher to take the next text book and hear the pupils recite. Perhaps he would give an original problem to work which they delighted to do. The teacher was always very polite and met him at the door with the courtesy and deference that was due his official position. A portion of the teacher's pay came through the county school fund.

HARMONY GROVE FEMALE ACADEMY

20th December, 1824.

An Act to incorporate the Female Academy at Harmony Grove in Jackson County.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That Russell Jones, Williams Potts, Samuel Barnett, Frederick Stewart, and John A. Rhea be, and they are hereby made and declared to be, a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "the Trustees of Harmony Grove Academy": and as such body politic and corporate, shall be capable of doing all acts which may be necessary for the complete execution of the trust confided to them; and shall be invested with all property, both real and personal, which shall be acquired by purchase, gift, or otherwise, for the use and benefit of said institution, and shall be capable of suing and being sued; and the said trustees and their successors in office, or a majority of them, shall have the power of filling vacancies in their own body, and possess (passing) such by-laws as may be necessary to carry the powers hereby vested in them into full effect; Provided, such by-laws are not contrary to the laws and constitution of this State.

JOHN ABERCROMBIE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ALLEN B. POWELL,
President of the Senate.

Assented to, December 20th, 1824.

G. M. TROUP, Governor.

COMMERCE PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The patrons and teachers of the Commerce schools had for a long time felt the need of a Parent-Teacher Association, but were discouraged by the fact that such an organization had at one time been tried and functioned only two years.

However, in the spring of 1947 a group of interested citizens met in the grammar school auditorium to discuss the advisability of organizing such a group again. It was unanimously decided that a Parent-Teacher Association be begun and the following were asked to serve on the Nominating Committee: Mrs. W. Hardman Jones, Chairman; Mrs. Lauren McDonald, Mrs. Charles Castleberry, Mrs. Paul T. Scoggins and Rev. C. W. Fruit.

One hundred and ninety-six parents and teachers attended the first meeting which was held in April, 1947. Officers of the new association were elected at this meeting and were as follows: Mrs. L. G. Hardman, Jr., President; Mrs. Howell P. Little, Vice-President; Mrs. Alfred Hix, Secretary; Mrs. Charles Gillespie, Corresponding Secretary; and Mrs. W. L. Wells, Treasurer. Mrs. Hix later resigned and was succeeded by Mrs. Jack Meadors. Mrs. Gillespie resigned and Mrs. Tom Conn was elected to take her place.

This organization has meant much to the schools and has helped make the link between parents and teachers a stronger one. Many projects have been undertaken and completed, among which are purchasing of playground equipment for the grammar school; re-decoration of the High School stage and the grammar school stage; dental clinics, immunization clinics and purchasing of library books.

THE ATHLETIC FEATURE OF THE COMMERCE HIGH SCHOOL

While emphasis was placed upon the value of athletics during the period of the Harmony Grove High School it was chiefly after the adoption of the public school system that athletics reached its highest development. During the Harmony Grove period various games were played, among them cat-ball, town-ball, bull-pen, scrub and other games during the 70's. Later, baseball came into the picture. Some of the first rules of baseball were that the pitcher was required to pitch underhand. There were nine balls and four strikes. If the batter didn't strike at the third strike, there was a warning given and then he was given another chance at the fourth strike. Usually the catcher caught on the bounce until the third strike, then he came up behind the bat. There were no masks or mitts. Every one caught bare-handed. The curve ball came into use about 1883 or 1884. Pete Wilson, of Madison County, was the first curve-ball artist who taught Quincy Williford the art. From the Landrum administration to the public school era, baseball was the chief sport in the form of athletics, though shinny had its place among the boys and "Antney-over" among the girls. Shinny was played with crooked end sticks similar to golf sticks, made usually of persimmon or dogwood, with which the players drove a solid rubber ball across the goal line, similar to a football field, in which they used an equal number of players on each side.

The real art of baseball developed rapidly in the 90's when the national and professional game developed and became very popular.

The Commerce High School began to develop good baseball teams, which perhaps reached the maximum during the superintendency of H. B. Carreker. Track and Field Day contests reached a high peak during this same period. It was during his administration that football came into prominence when the athletic field, known as the Hardman Field, was constructed, which provided a place for both baseball and

football. Commerce had as fine a football team in 1916-1917 as could be found. On their schedule were Gainesville, Toccoa, Athens, Warrenton, Atlanta Boys' High and Tech High, against most of whom they were winners. This team went to Atlanta and played Tech High on their own field, even though they had heavy reserves. The Commerce boys played Tech High to a standstill in the first half. In the second half, Tech High put in Judy Harlan, a freshman, who later became an All-Southern fullback on the Tech team. With him as fullback and with other freshmen, Tech High finally nosed out the Commerce team in the last half.

E. J. Harden, principal and athletic coach, was very popular, both with the faculty and with the students.

Team Roster and Line-Up

Backs

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Lawrence (Loggins) Hardman (Captain) | Q.B. |
| Lamar (Coop) Cooper | R.H. |
| T. F. (Tot) Harden | F.B. |
| Verne (Fish) Davis | L.H. |
| Bayard (Whiskers) Carson | R.H.&G. |
| John (Caleb) Barnett | G. |
| Felton McConnel | Subs. |
| Richard (Wink) Dowdy | Subs. |

Regular Line

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Cosby (Buck) Smith | L.E. |
| Lammie Sims | L.T. |
| Marshal Pierce | L.G. |
| Frank Little | C. |
| Linton Cooper | R.G. |
| Colquitt (Slugger) Sims | R.T. |
| W. N. Harden | R.E. |
| E. J. (Runt) Harden | Coach |

Perhaps this team, with its many star players, has not been equaled since, although it is to the credit of the present administration that they have developed, in the last two or three years, a splendid team from the fact that they have a real good field on the High School grounds.

Basketball was introduced in a small way out in the open athletic field. It became more popular when the gymnasium was built as this gave a splendid indoor court which was used for match games both by the school and the town team. Games were first played in the auditorium of the grammar school on the second floor.

JOHNTOWN SCHOOL

When the town of Harmony Grove was incorporated in 1884, the Negroes numbered a little over 30 per cent of the population, living chiefly in the section known as Johntown with a few families living, about twelve years later, in the section known as Williamstown. The present Negro population is not more than 10 per cent of the total population. The Negroes from the early history of the town have manifested an interest in the education of their children. Their first schools were taught in various small buildings, sometimes in church buildings. When the public school system was established in 1902, the superintendent of the Harmony Grove public schools became also the superintendent of the Johntown School. About this time, there was erected an adequate school building on the north side of Homer Street which met their needs until about 1929, when the School Board secured three-fourth acres some distance back from the street. On this lot there was erected, with money donated by the Rosenwald Fund, a two-room building at a cost of \$2,500.00 in 1929. Later, 1937, two rooms were added by the city on the west end of the building so that now there is an adequate building, as well as grounds, for the Negro population.

The Johntown School is operated according to the same system as the other schools of the city, having seven elementary grades and three high school grades with plans to incorporate an 11th grade this year. This school is the only High School available for Negroes in Jackson County, and is known as the Johntown Junior High School. Athletic and vocational programs are integral parts of the school program. Athletics include basketball, for both boys and girls. Vocational training includes Home Economics, Agriculture, Business Mathematics and Business English. Music is a separate department though connected with the school program. The Veterans Farm Training School and on-the-job training program is also available. It has an enrollment of 135 in the grammar grades and 23 in the high school. The faculty is composed of five teachers.

Rev. J. H. Allen was the first principal after the establishment of the public school system in 1902 and occupied this position until 1921. He was a most gifted personality and was instrumental in establishing the system and promoting the advancement of the school. He was succeeded by W. T. Swilling who was principal for eleven years, followed by P. B. Harper, the present principal, who has occupied this position for sixteen years to the present date. All of these were good citizens and good school men.

The Negro population of Commerce are very cooperative and have always shown an interest in the education of their children as well as in their church life. There are very few illiterates among them.

JOHNTOWN, HARMONY GROVE

The Negro section of Harmony Grove on Homer road was named Johntown about the time of the incorporation of the town. Several families lived on this road before then. However, about this time John Pittman, John A. Williford and Johnson Sanders sold lots on which houses began to be built in this section and from these names this section began to be called Johntown, which was accepted when the town Harmony Grove was incorporated. The growth and development of the people of this section is to be commended, especially in the realm of their schools and churches.

John A. Williford donated the lot on which the Baptist Church and Pastorium is now located.

WILLIAMSTOWN

About the year of 1894, or 1895, Mr. Harmon Williams, a carpenter, contractor, and builder came to Harmony Grove and bought about two acres of land from L. G. Hardman, or C. W. Hood, Sr., in the rear of the Baptist Church. About this time a street was opened on the south side of the Baptist Church lot, later named Scott Street which extended through the Williams' lot. Mr. Williams built six or eight houses on this lot which at first were rented to white people but some years later were bought by different ones and rented to Negroes for the convenience of their cooks.

One peculiar feature of these houses was that the gables were finished with shingles instead of weather boarding. The houses had other fancy touches that made a distinct feature. This settlement was called Williamstown. Mr. Williams built his own home on South Elm Street and finished all the outside with stained shingles. This house was later owned and occupied by W. B. Power. It is now owned and occupied by Mrs. W. B. Burns.

Williamstown sometime later was occupied by both whites and Negroes until the city bought the half on the south side of the street and added to the city cemetery.

Three Pioneer Characters of Johntown

Immanuel Ragsdale

Immanuel Ragsdale was a noted character in the early days of Johntown. He was a very popular preacher in those days though he could not read a word. His custom was to get some white preacher to read several texts of scripture which he memorized. When he got up to preach he repeated these over and over, emphasizing each word separately. He then exhorted his congregation to heed the warning of the text, sometimes designating them personally. When Immanuel dressed to go to his country appointments he donned his long tail coat, his faded white vest and his dingy brown high hat. He was very polite to every one. And when Immanuel passed on to his reward his funeral was attended by all the Negroes of the surrounding section. For months to come, when the Negroes wanted to have a great occasion and a large congregation, they announced that they were going to have Uncle Immanuel's funeral preached again.

Rev. Pleasant Campbell

Another preacher of a little later date was a well known character in town. When he went into the pulpit he took Aunt Easter, his wife, "to close behind him," which she did by exhorting the congregation. Uncle Campbell with his white woolly locks standing out above his temples had a favorite text—"Great is the mystery of Godliness." I Timothy 3:16. He said he preached from this text sixteen times and went a different direction each time. Sometimes he went up into the elements, sometimes down on the earth's surface and some-

times into the ground. Uncle Campbell and his wife were also popular in town as lye hominy makers.

Uncle Dave Bennett

Uncle Dave was an industrious man and earned his living in his later years by chopping wood. His customers lived in all parts of the town. He was so knock-kneed it took him sometime to get to his work but by starting early, with axe on his shoulder, he reached his place in time and put in an honest day's work. Uncle Dave always ate his dinner with his employer where he was working. One custom he had was to ask the blessing after he had eaten instead of before. He said he was thankful for what he *had* received. He reared a large family of boys and he certainly set them a good example of industry.

Two Other Later Noted Characters of Harmony

Grove and Commerce

Mitchel Goss

A noted character of Harmony Grove was Mitchel Goss, known to all the people as Mitch. He was original and unique in his manners and speech. He was extremely polite and obliging. In his early days he was noted as a debater in the Negro Literary Society on the topics of the day. He worked for the Commerce Drug Company and was really considered a member of the firm. All of his white friends sought counsel from his store of wisdom. He was recognized as the official assistant weather forecaster to Von Herman of Atlanta. His official prognostications proved about 20% true. Mitch also is said to have prepared a revision of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. This likely has not been preserved and his double-jointed, unusual, and super-sophisticated words are lost to posterity. His friends in Commerce are legion. One of his

boys was named John Hampton Thomas Jefferson Fox Galloway Pick-a-Ninny-in-the-Floor. They called him Hamp.

Elbert Mathis

Elbert was practically raised by C. W. Hood, Sr., who took him as a boy four or five years old and kept him as a playmate for his son C. J. Hood, who was about one year younger. Elbert had no education, only being able to write his name. He worked in a harness shop for Frank Stansby in 1882 and later had a harness shop in the rear of R. L. Hardman's Hardware Store. He continued the harness and shoe repair business in several locations in town and earned a living and made a good citizen. He reared five boys who continued the harness and shoe business and were otherwise useful. Elbert as a young man was the champion grain cradler in these parts.

Other Old-timers of Johntown, Harmony Grove

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Immanuel Ragsdale | George Pittman |
| Elbert Ragsdale | John Pittman |
| Harry Brison | Ike Pittman |
| General Brison | Will Pittman |
| Coon Brison | Peter Teasley |
| Fair Brison | Elbert Teasley |
| Bob Shankle | Dave Teasley |
| Garrison Rucker (step-son) | Jeff Freeman |
| Dave Bennett | John Freeman |
| Bob Bennett | Pleasant Campbell |
| Jim Bennett | George Norwood |
| Dilly Bennett | John Norwood |
| Dilmas Bennett | Alex Johnson |
| Jesse Bennett | Mitch Goss |
| Elbert Mathis | Anna Gus Goss (wife) |
| Eugene Mathis | Hamp Goss |
| Uzell Mathis | Van Deadwyler |
| Carl Mathis | Ned Bush |
| Milton Mathis | Elisha Adams |

Henry Miller
Tom Dougins
Tom Borders
Sam Strickland
Bob Burruss
Sandy Hix, Sr.
Tom Hargroves
Jim Mayfield
Wes Cochran
Wes Chrisler
Lint Chrisler
Dan Williams
Ben Hawkins

Wiley Harris
Aunt Levy Bennett
Aunt Easter Campbell
Aunt Lucy Brison
Aunt Alice Hix
Aunt Louisa Gaines
Tom Norris
George Jackson
Tom Neal
Charlie Bowden
Will Barnard
Richard Lowe

Johntown Debating Society

Along about 1884 the Negroes of Johntown organized a debating contest. They were encouraged by the young business men and boys of the town. Occasionally a debate was held either in old Strickland Hall or in R. L. Hardman's Hardware store.

On one occasion the subject of the debate was: Resolved there was a flood in South Demerica. (They thought the South was South America.) Sam Strickland and Mitch Goss were the leading debaters. Sam took the "infirmity" and Mitch the "nigitive."

Sam argued, "There must'er been a flood in South Demerica, else how come all de big gullies over here?" He was scored one "pint." Mitch, on the other hand, asserted, "If da had been a flood over here old Columbus would have got drowned when he come over here on his skiff." He, too, scored one "pint."

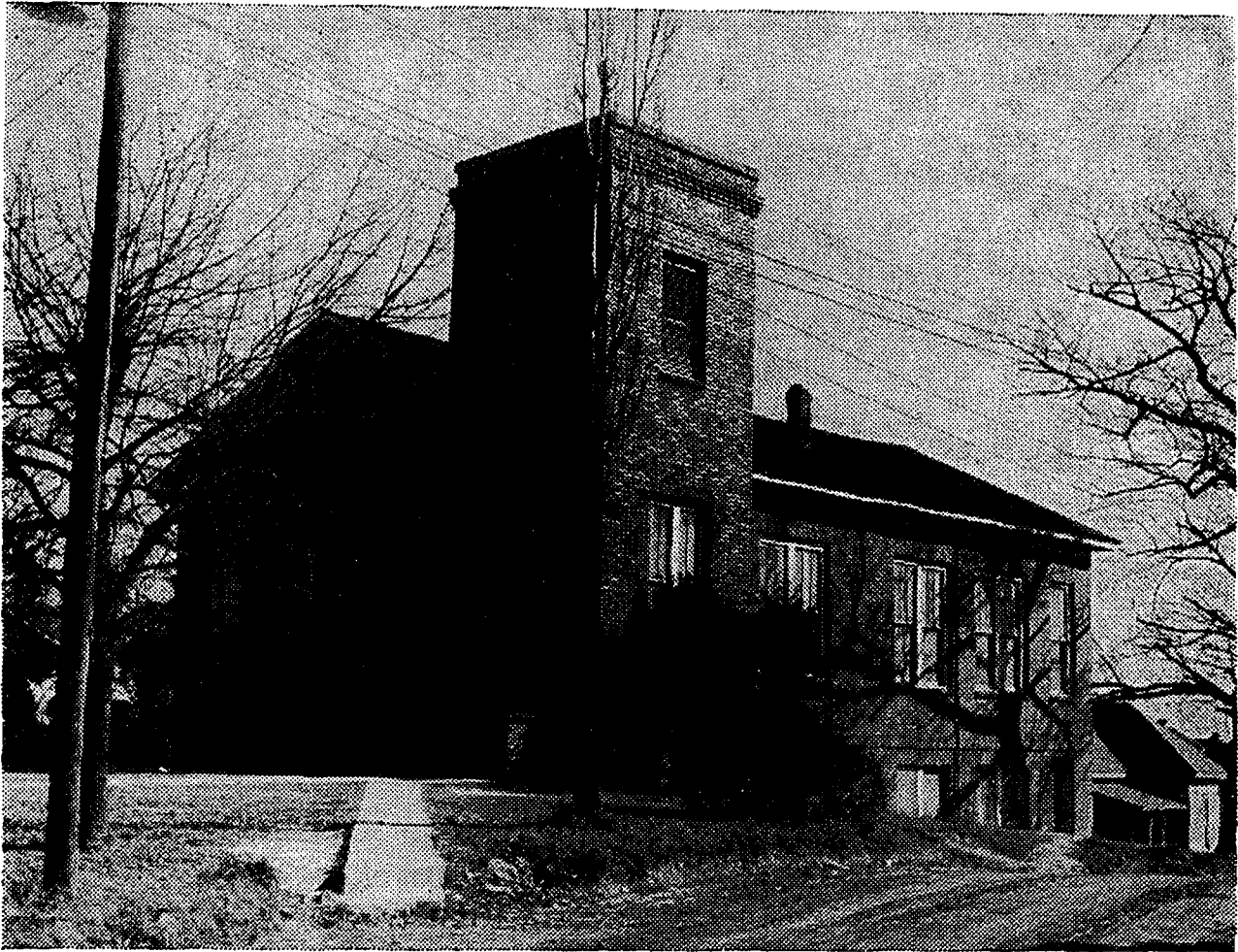
The debate continued pro and con with equally convincing reasons until the President finally added up the "pints" made and pronounced the debate a tie. Adjourned 'sine die' til next Saturday night.

Johntown Band

Negroes have always been interested and gifted in music. In the days of Harmony Grove they had a real good band in Johntown. The band became somewhat efficient and would parade the streets in their band wagon, giving exhibitions of their musical attainments. On one occasion as the band began a musical number and the wagon started on the parade, Sam Strickland, an alto hornblower, dropped his piece of music. He scrambled for it, and finally placed it in on his rack. The band was about half way through the number. Not knowing how to start in the middle, Sam began at the beginning in double time—too ta toot ta toot—and when the band reached the end of the piece Sam was right there, too.

It is characteristic of Negro music, either vocal or instrumental, that regardless of how far apart the performers are in the middle of a tune they all wind up at the end together and in perfect harmony.

In later years a group of young boys with stringed instruments serenaded the homes of the white people. They would always be encouraged by small gifts from their white friends. Negroes have always been noted for their musical talent and have received the cooperation of their white friends in their churches and in their school entertainments.



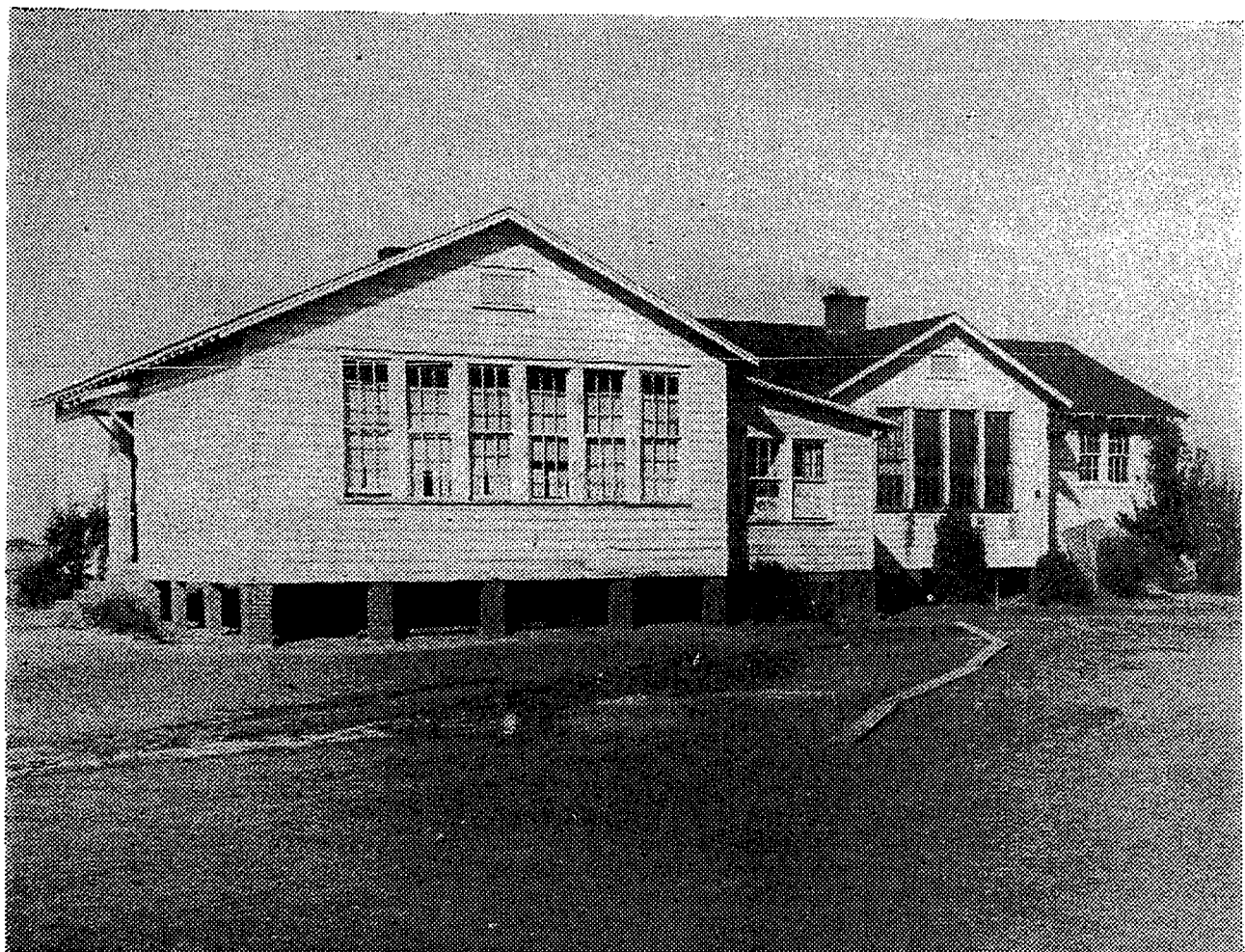
JOHNTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH (COLORED)
COMMERCE



JOHNTOWN M. E. CHURCH (COLORED)
COMMERCE



JOHNTOWN C. M. E. CHURCH (COLORED)
COMMERCE



JOHNTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL (COLORED)
COMMERCE

CHAPTER XIV

GROWTH OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE

FROM 1904 TO 1948

After the turn of the century and the change of name, Commerce began to grow, not in a spasmodic or mushroom fashion, but in a steady substantial way.

The adoption and inauguration of the public school system was the first evidence of forward looking development. This was followed by the installation of the electric system both for streets and residences, and a little later, the establishment of the waterworks and sewerage system. These were the things that really put Commerce on the road to progress.

In 1914 the first side walk pavement was laid. Street pavement was begun in 1927 and continued at different intervals until the town now has six or eight miles of paved streets. Other evidence of advancement has been the growth of the mercantile business, as seen in the increased number of dry goods, hardware, drug and furniture stores, followed by the introduction of the chain and department stores, all of which gives Commerce a real business air. The enlargement of the industries has added much to the financial strength of the town.

The invention of the automobile and the introduction of the automobile business has developed rapidly and extensively. The establishment of the sales places for automobiles, gas, oil, and other accessories, together with the operation of garages and repair shops, has become an extensive business. Numerous filling stations, some elaborate and expensive, are located in convenient places to serve the public.

The various civic and patriotic organizations have contributed in a large way to the morale and the public spirit of

the town. These organizations are treated in another chapter. The Board of Trade, as an early agency in this progress, is featured in this chapter.

Religious growth is worthy of note. The total membership of the churches in 1900, some 600 members, has increased to total over 2,400. The city has grown from 1,450 in 1900 to a present population of over 5,000. All of the churches have built or enlarged their facilities and have church buildings in keeping with the advancement of the town.

The residential section has been largely extended to meet the growth in population. This development is especially noticeable to the casual observer and gives a very favorable impression of the advancement of the city.

THE MOVING PICTURE

Another feature of the evidence of the growth of the city is the moving pictures. Since its first introduction in Commerce about forty years ago the moving picture business has made great progress and is a popular and lucrative business. From the silent pictures to the talkies and technicolor productions and the introduction of television there has been a steady growth. Commerce has two commodious and well-equipped moving picture theaters. As to the educational value and tendency of the movies, it is an open question.



THE ORIGINAL BOARD OF TRADE IN COMMERCE

By Paul T. Harber

Recent efforts exerted by local businessmen to organize a Chamber of Commerce on a modern plan, with a paid executive secretary, and properly financed in order to execute an active and definite program to promote and advance the community's broad interests, have stimulated considerable talk on the part

of many old-timers relative to the original Board of Trade which functioned some 35 years ago, with pronounced success.

Road Repairs Important

In those days there were no paved roads. Farmers found it difficult to bring cotton to town following heavy rains. Roads became impassable at times owing to deep mud and swollen streams. One of the major activities of the Board of Trade was to raise funds by volunteer subscriptions to provide top-soil, mules and wagons for hauling materials, and pay for labor to assist the county commissioners in keeping the dirt road passable.

Important roads were carefully watched for repair needs. In the trade territory, roads from Hood's Mill, Apple Valley, Arp, Ashland, Erastus, Poca, Ila, Nicholson, and Maysville were among those given special attention by Commerce business firms. In those days roads were worked twice a year by the county authorities but the result was highly unsatisfactory and the help given by the Board of Trade was a pressing need.

Clean-Up Day

It was the Board of Trade that sponsored an annual clean-up day for a number of years although the first clean-up day was a project of the Woman's Club. Storekeepers swept papers, litter and trash out into the middle of the streets in front of their establishments, leaving it to the wind and passing vehicles to scatter. It is said that the first clean-up campaign saw more than 25 truckloads of trash hauled beyond the city limits and dumped. Stores were given a badge of honor for complying with the clean-up plan.

Chicken Coops Moved

It was the practice of stores that sold chickens to place the coops on the sidewalks in front of the establishments. Commerce's women just couldn't tolerate the unsightliness of the coops, the foul odor emanating therefrom, and the squawking of the fryers. They finally got the dealers to remove the coops, which was no easy accomplishment. In the good old days of Harmony Grove, chicken coops lined the sidewalks. Why change an old custom, some of the storekeepers argued. But the men lost—as usual.

First Banquet

Commerce's first banquet was staged by the Board of Trade in the old frame hotel located across the railway tracks from the present depot, which was destroyed by fire many years ago. Claud Benton, brother of Theo Benton, operated the hotel at the time. Tickets sold for \$1.00 each, exclusively to men. More than one hundred citizens were present for the colorful affair. Prominent Atlanta and Athens business and professional men were on the program of speakers. Another banquet was held a year later in the high school auditorium, with the ladies taking a part in the festivities. Harllee Branch, an ace reporter for the Atlanta Journal, covered the banquet for his newspaper. Commerce began to feel its importance. Two other banquets were held in the Central hotel subsequently. They were equally as important and beautiful in every detail, with a two-color printed program given to each attendant as a souvenir.

Journal-Herald Tour

Commerce's biggest project, sponsored by the Board of Trade was the famed Atlanta Journal-New York Herald motorcade in October, 1909. C. J. Hood furnished a White Steamer car for the tour which started from New York and ended in Atlanta. The Board of Trade raised \$750.00 to finance the project. Paul T. Harber and G. L. Carson, Sr., were elected representatives to ride in the Commerce car which was driven by a Mr. Stupke, a mechanic-driver of Atlanta. It required ten days for the trip, mostly over dirt roads.

A booklet telling of the greatness of Commerce, Georgia, was written by Paul Harber and scattered along the route via Perth Amboy, N. J., Gettysburg, Penn., Staunton and Roanoke, Va., Charlotte, Winston Salem, and Greensboro, N.C. On the ninth night the motorcade of 50 cars arrived in Commerce. Visitors were entertained in homes of citizens. In the evening an entertainment program was featured, including buck and wing dancing by little Negro boys, speeches by the mayor and prominent members of the tour, including James R. Gray, publisher of the Atlanta Journal. Ty Cobb was a member of the tour. Youngsters followed him around wherever he went. A large persimmon tree containing 25 'possums was placed atop fifty pyramided bales of cotton on the main street. Yankees enjoyed the sight more than any others of the entire tour, it was said.

As a result of the publicity Commerce became a well-known community in many states. Henceforth, early travelers and tourists coming south followed the Journal-Herald route. Two years later Athens saw that the highway from that city to Danielsville and Royston was paved, causing Commerce to lose the advantages of motor travel which had been developed.

Glidden Tour

Not content with resting on its laurels, Commerce entertained the Glidden Tour of 1910, when it was operated from Atlanta to New York. A picnic dinner was served to 150 people on the tour, in front of the home of Mrs. C. W. Hood. This further publicized Commerce which was rapidly becoming one of the best known towns in Georgia.

Press Association

Another project which proved beneficial to Commerce was the annual convention of the Georgia Press Association in July, 1914. More than 200 editors and publishers were present from throughout the state. Atlanta's newspapers had photographers here to make suitable pictures, and sent star reporters to cover the business and entertainment features. In arranging for the convention the Board of Trade played an active part.

Four-County Fair

When some of the community's businessmen decided it would be worthwhile to stage an agricultural fair with displays entered by Jackson, Banks, Franklin and Madison counties, the Board of Trade extended practical cooperation. For four years the event was an annual attraction, the stockholders receiving a dividend when the project was abandoned.

First Overall Factory

It was the Board of Trade that sponsored the movement which resulted in the first overall factory being established in Commerce. Two different committees solicited and procured the funds required to start the small industry which is now one of the largest of its kind in the country.

These accomplishments by the long defunct Board of Trade reflect credit upon the citizenry of Commerce of the years ago. If an organization with no paid executive secretary and no operating funds could achieve big results for the community there is a belief among businessmen today that a live Chamber of Commerce today ought to accomplish much for the benefit of the people of Commerce and vicinity. To use a popular slang expression, "The businessmen of Commerce two and three decades past had something on the ball."

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE
COMMERCE BOARD OF TRADE

When the Board of Trade was organized in 1908, the first banquet was held at the Alhambra Hotel. On the night of the banquet over a hundred tickets were sold. It was such a success that many citizens, who said during the week that they could not attend, came to the door seeking admittance. Dr. W. B. Hardman was toastmaster and J. K. Orr, of Atlanta, principal speaker.

C. J. Hood was elected the first President and P. T. Harber the first Secretary. The following year L. L. Davis or J. M. Nix, was elected President and Paul T. Harber continued as Secretary. The annual banquets were continued, the later meetings being held in the Central Hotel.

In 1914 the Board of Trade sponsored the meeting of the Georgia Press Association in July of that year. The meeting was held in the Ellida Auditorium. In the evening a reception was held at the new and spacious home of T. C. Hardman on South Elm Street with an attendance of three hundred or more.

When the Georgia Baptist Convention met in Commerce in 1916, the Board of Trade was active in arranging for their entertainment.

Among the last outstanding accomplishments of the Board

of Trade was the securing of the Overall Plant under the management of Fred E. Durst, Sr., and Mr. Weatherly. They came from Winder and established this enterprise in 1917. (See special sketch of the Commerce Manufacturing Company). This Board of Trade functioned for about twelve years. After a lapse of six or eight years it was succeeded by the Chamber of Commerce.

P. T. Harber was the last President and G. L. Carson the last Secretary. Some of the members were as follows: A. P. Rice, G. T. Rice, W. B. Rice, Claud Montgomery, Homer Harber, Y. J. Johnson, Dr. L. G. Hardman, Dr. W. B. Hardman, J. B. Hardman, T. C. Hardman, Frank Wright, R. C. Nix, D. M. Nix, J. M. Nix, L. L. Davis, P. W. Shepard, Robert Black, P. A. Hughes, G. L. Hubbard, C. J. Hood, M. T. Sanders, Claude Little, J. F. Shannon, E. B. Anderson, B. B. Hawks, Dr. Olin Shankle, John J. Harber, Dr. M. F. Nelms, E. B. Crow, W. T. Thurmond, E. S. Wood, Rucker Mason, M. P. Elliott, W. D. Pierce, J. T. Quillian, C. A. Goodin, H. O. Williford, W. B. Burns, John Montgomery, A. D. Harris, R. L. J. Smith, A. B. Deadwyler, Henry Williamson, T. A. Harber, Parks Holbrook, C. W. Truitt, C. W. Cooper, et al.

Meetings were held in the upstairs of the old Key Building. Some of them were lively because the ambitious members were striving to make Commerce the leading center in this section of Georgia. At that time Commerce was a great retail and cotton center. Trade came from four counties. One year Commerce cotton merchants bought more than 23,000 bales of cotton from farmers' wagons. Principal payroll was the Harmony Grove Mills. Two oil mills were in operation, a foundry, two cotton gins and several small enterprises. Commerce merchants carried large stocks of goods. The old fashioned credit system prevailed. Several cotton warehouses did a big business annually. The Board of Trade made the best of all opportunities of that time.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS

On September 13, 1933, the Mayor and Council purchased the E. B. Anderson bank building, including all fixtures and the B. B. Hawks building at a price of \$3,825.00 for their permanent headquarters. Prior to this time they met in various rooms and buildings rented or leased for that purpose. Among these places was a room in the block on North Elm Street near the Commerce Drug Company, a room on the same street in Mrs. C. W. Hood's property, just above the Northeastern Bank, the upstairs of the T. E. Key building on South Elm Street and Mrs. W. B. Wagnon's building on North Broad, now occupied by Richey Cafe, then later the old First National Bank Building now occupied by Louise Beauty Shop. The purchase of the present property meets their requirements, being provided with a nice room for a Council Chamber, a fire-proof vault for their books and records, office room for Water and Light Department, together with a large basement for storage of trucks and material, storage place for fire engine and large and ample room for holding elections and space for various civic projects. This purchase was a wise move on the part of the city fathers and will meet their needs for some years to come.

THE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Back in the days of Harmony Grove we had the bucket brigade who did a brilliant service in putting out fires. They had access to several public wells that furnished a good supply of water. After the installation of the city water works system and the purchase of fire trucks and complete equipment, the Fire Department was organized and manned by a voluntary company which has been sponsored by the city council, with certain recognition for service rendered.

This organization has done valiant work. The splendid ef-

iciency of the company, with the latest equipment for fire fighting, have enabled them to hold any fire outbreak in check. The excellent work of this volunteer company of the Fire Department is appreciated by all the citizens.

Personnel of the Fire Department

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| O. H. Carson, Chief | Arthur Rice |
| Lauren McDonald, Asst. Chief | Hinton Paul |
| Pierce Yarbrough | Claud Seagraves |
| Harvey Sailors | Jack P. Dunson |
| Len Bolton | Clayton Hood |
| Billy Bolton | Quilla Crawford |

CHAPTER XV

PROFESSIONAL LIFE, INSTITUTIONS, LITERARY AND CULTURAL INTERESTS

PHYSICIANS OF HARMONY GROVE AND COMMERCE

We have no data of early doctors in the village of Harmony Grove prior to 1848. It is known, however, some practiced with home remedies and gave prescriptions without a medical diploma. At that time the regular doctors usually located at the county sites.

Dr. W. B. J. Hardman was the first regular equipped physician with diplomas from Georgia Medical College, Augusta, and Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, to make this his home. He first came to Harmony Grove in 1848 or 1849, and practiced all over this territory before, during and after the Civil War for a period of about twenty-eight or thirty years.

In 1874, his son, L. G. Hardman, began the study of medicine and received his diploma from the Georgia Medical College the following year. After practicing a year with his father, he took a course at Bellevue, New York, receiving his diploma in April, 1877, some ten days before he was twenty-one years old.

It was customary in those days for a young man who wanted to make a doctor to read medicine under a practicing physician for four to six months, then attend a medical college, taking two years for graduation. Dr. W. B. J. Hardman read medicine under Dr. Ben Willingham who lived near Sandy Cross in Oglethorpe County. Two young men, Rube Nunn and Red Rube Nash, read medicine under Dr. W. B. J. Hardman of Harmony Grove, but did not complete their medical course. His son, L. G. Hardman, began the study of

medicine under his father's tutelage at about seventeen years of age and after his graduation in New York succeeded to his father's practice.

Early in Dr. L. G. Hardman's practice a large number of young men read medicine under his direction in preparation for their career. The following are the names of those who studied under him and their future places of practice:

Wm. M. Shankle, Texas; R. L. Harris, Florida; W. A. Neal, Alabama; L. J. Sharp, Commerce; Callie Stevens, Danielsville; P. Y. Duckett, Cornelia; Dock Moss, Banks County; F. M. Hubbard, Commerce; and W. B. Hardman, Commerce.

The following are the names of those who read medicine under Dr. L. G. Hardman and Dr. W. B. Hardman and their future places of practice:

W. E. Wood, Dalton; J. A. Bryan, Gillesville; M. F. Carson, Griffin; W. D. Sheppard who located at Spokane, Wash., for a very short while, then returned to Harmony Grove and gave up the practice of medicine and entered other lines of business; Robert Neal, Buford; M. F. Nelms, Commerce; George Bush, Bold Springs; George C. Daniel, Danielsville; T. Albert Neal, Florida; and O. E. Shankle, Commerce.

Other physicians who came from other places to Harmony Grove:

Dr. Charles J. Harden, 1879, died 1883; Dr. R. R. Harden from Smyrna, and a cousin of C. J. Harden, 1882, died 1888; Dr. W. P. Harden, brother of R. R. Harden, 1887, died 1918; and Dr. L. Sanders from Penfield, 1900, died 1946.

Physicians who came after the name was changed to Commerce:

Dr. J. C. Verner from Martin, 1907; Dr. D. M. Carter, 1916; Dr. Mark Pentecost from Winder, 1918; Dr. A. A. Rogers from Madison County, 1920; Dr. Andrew Quillian from Atlanta, 1920; Dr. G. O. Castellaw, reared in Locust Grove, came to Maysville as a physician in 1913 and moved his practice to Commerce, 1932; Dr. P. T. Scoggins from Athens, 1929; Dr. O. C. Pittman, born and reared in Commerce,

began practice here in 1936; Dr. A. A. Rogers, Jr., was born and reared in Commerce and began practice here in 1948. This makes a total of thirty-four physicians who have either read or practiced medicine in Harmony Grove and Commerce in the last century.

These thirty-four physicians, twenty-four of whom read medicine and most of whom practiced here for a short or longer period, and the ten who have come to Commerce from other places have ministered to the needs of the town and surrounding country in a competent way through the last hundred years. They have combatted the many epidemics of measles, smallpox, typhoid fever, malaria, influenza, diphtheria and other ills and have seen many of these diseases remedied and eliminated. Two malignant foes, or enemies, of mankind seem however to have baffled the skill of doctors and scientists to successfully combat, viz: tuberculosis and cancer. Research is continually being made and probably some time in the near future the remedy or means of prevention will be discovered.

Harmony Grove-Commerce has had all the while a splendid group of doctors, well equipped and who have made an enviable reputation for themselves and the city. Among these it is worthy of note there have been three Hardmans, three Hardens, two Shankles, three Neals, and two Rogers, and two of these have had more than state-wide reputation. We would challenge any other place to show a better equipped and better qualified array of doctors than Commerce either in the past or present.

It should be mentioned that Dr. George Eberhart located here and practiced a short time about 1885.

Dr. Eberhart came to Harmony Grove from Hartwell and returned after a year or two's stay at Harmony Grove. His son, Walter, was also a physician at Hartwell. Dr. Eberhart is the grandfather of Lint Eberhart of Maysville.

THE HARDMAN SANATORIUM

For some years in the 90's the question of hospitals in smaller towns was discussed and considered. Dr. L. G. Hardman was a pioneer in this type of institution.

The Hardman Sanatorium was erected in Harmony Grove in 1899, being among the first in the state in towns of similar size. From the first the Sanatorium has been successfully operated. With its thirty-room capacity it has furnished sufficient facilities for those who came from many localities for treatment of various maladies.

This Sanatorium was first operated under the direction and management of Drs. L. G. Hardman and Nelms, later by Hardman Brothers and Nelms, followed by W. B. Hardman, Nelms and Shankle and later Nelms and Rogers. In 1932 Dr. G. O. Castellaw leased the building and in 1946 purchased and remodeled the structure, adding new equipment and changing the name to the Commerce Hospital.

This institution for the sick and afflicted, the poor and the suffering, has served this generation well and has had a wide reputation for its efficiency and the relief of human suffering. Verily the Sanatorium has been, and is, a worthy asset in the growth and progress of Commerce.

THE DENTISTS OF HARMONY GROVE AND COMMERCE

In the early days it was customary for dentists to travel from place to place making stated calls in the homes of the people to do their dental work, filling teeth, but chiefly making plates. Dr. C. R. Gibbs was a good dentist who travelled through this section during the 70's. Some twenty years later, Dr. Letson from Suwannie made his headquarters at the Jenny Butler Boarding House. He made plates for quite a large number in the country. Dr. Gibbs was from Social Circle, later located near Cornelia.

About the first regular dentist that located in Harmony Grove was Dr. W. A. Alexander who came around about 1875, or earlier. His home and office was on Homer Street just in front of Mack Wood's residence. Dr. S. B. Adair located here for a short while about 1882, practicing only at intervals and setting up his office at the hotel. Dr. E. F. Adair established himself here in about 1886. For sometime he was the only dentist in Harmony Grove. He practiced here some twenty years then moved to Gainesville. Later he returned to Commerce for a short period. Dr. W. B. Jackson came to Harmony Grove in the early 90's and remained until his death. Dr. C. E. Pittman, who was reared in or near Harmony Grove, opened his dental office here in 1898 and has practiced his profession successfully for the last fifty years. Dr. H. J. Reeves came to Commerce in 1915 and practiced for some six years, then moved to Atlanta where he has continued his profession. Dr. Tom McDonald practiced here for a short while in the early days of Commerce. Dr. G. H. Dunlap was a successful dentist here for several years and moved to Madison, Ga. Dr. S. V. Hunter established a practice at Commerce in 1919 and remained 25 years and retired from the profession. Dr. W. H. Cunningham came here 17 years ago, and has practiced here continuously since. Dr. J. A. Minnish, our youngest dentist in Commerce, opened his office as the successor of Dr. S. V. Hunter.

Our dentists have always kept pace with progress and abreast of the advancement of their profession and served well the people of the community.

LAWYERS OF THE HARMONY GROVE PERIOD

The lawyers of the Harmony Grove period are worthy of note for they included a number of prominent citizens of that early day. In order they were as follows: W. H. Simpkins, Joe W. Hill, R. L. J. Smith, Joe U. Merritt and Judge W. W. Stark. Most of these came from other localities and practiced law here for sometime.

R. L. J. Smith was the first of the local men to take up the profession in 1885. Col. Smith had a wide clientele. He carried on an extensive business in collecting agencies as well as the practice of his legal profession.

Judge W. W. Stark was reared in a few miles of Harmony Grove and established his law practice here in 1887. He has served as a member of the House of Representatives and several times as a member of the Georgia Senate. Judge Stark is chiefly known for his record on the bench. He served several terms as Judge of the City Court of Jackson County and later was elected to the Judgeship of the Western Circuit, which he held through an extended period. He retired a few years ago.

LAWYERS OF THE COMMERCE PERIOD

G. P. Martin was born in Banks County January 17, 1874. He attended the schools of Banks County and graduated from Martin Institute, Jefferson, Ga., in 1892. He studied law at the University of Georgia, receiving his diploma in 1894. He was Representative from Banks County in the Georgia Legislature in 1899, and was elected Judge of the City Court of Jackson County Georgia in 1941. He has been elected twice to succeed himself and has just entered upon his third term.

W. D. Martin was born in August, 1888. He received his common school education in the schools of Banks County. He graduated from the Commerce High School in 1909 and attended the Law School at the University of Georgia, gradu-

ating in 1912. He represented Jackson County in the Georgia Legislature and also served as Solicitor of Circuit Court for four years. He was in the Armed Service from 1916 to 1918, and later entered service for the United States Government in Macon in 1943, where he served until his death in 1946.

E. C. Stark was born in Harmony Grove, November 10, 1886. He attended the schools of Commerce, graduating from the Commerce High School in 1902. He was in the mercantile business in Commerce for a short time after which he travelled for a Hardware Company of Louisville, Ky., for a few years. In 1911, he took a correspondent course in law from the University of Michigan. He took the State Bar examination under Charles H. Brand in 1912 and began the regular practice of law at Commerce, continuing regularly in practice here since that time.

Thomas J. Syfan was born in Hall County, Ga. He came to Commerce as telegraph operator under M. P. Elliott in 1910. He was later appointed Depot Agent for the Southern Railway and served a number of years. He was appointed as Superior Court Reporter under Judge W. W. Stark and still serves in this capacity. He was admitted to the Georgia Bar under Mr. Joe Quillian some years ago and has a good practice in Commerce in connection with his Court reporting work.

S. J. Smith, Jr., was born in Harmony Grove, October 25, 1888. He received his education in the Commerce Grammar and High School and graduated from Martin Institute in 1904. He attended the Law Department of the University of Georgia and studied law at Mercer University. He was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1911 and has practiced in Commerce from that date. He served as Assistant Attorney-General of Georgia and Director of Fuel Enforcement under Federal Authorities during the administration of Dr. L. G. Hardman, Governor of Georgia.

W. A. Stevenson was born in Franklin County, Ga., October 27, 1876. He received his common school education in the

public schools of Banks County, Ga. He attended Commerce High School. He graduated from Young Harris College in 1898. After teaching for several years, he was admitted to the Bar under Judge Richard B. Russell. He practiced law for a number of years then entered the Presbyterian ministry serving in this capacity in Kentucky for ten years. Then he practiced his legal profession for six years after which he returned to Commerce in 1939 and served as supply minister and continued his law practice. He served as City Attorney of Commerce from 1910 to 1916.

BANKS OF HARMONY GROVE

In the early history of Harmony Grove the merchants and men of means kept their money and valuables in chests, lock-boxes and iron safes until the progress of business required bank deposits. Banking was first done with the National Bank of Athens operated by James White. Usually business firms sent money for deposit two or three times a week by trusted men going to Athens on the train.

The need for a local bank was first conceived by C. J. Hood who was then in the mercantile business with his father. This resulted in the organization of the Northeastern Banking Company in 1892 with C. J. Hood as Cashier and L. G. Hardman, President. This institution has been in operation through 56 years and has been and still is a great asset to the city and community with its cordial service to patrons and depositors. Samuel Hood, son of C. J. Hood is the President, and R. M. Davison, Cashier.

The First National Bank was organized in 1904 with Dr. W. B. Hardman as President and W. L. Williamson as Cashier. This institution came into existence at the beginning of the enlargement and expansion of the city and has served a worthy need in the business expansion. This bank has always been reliable, conservative and safe in its policy. They have served

customers with equal courtesy and business integrity through the years of depression as well as prosperous times. W. W. Stark is the present President and G. L. Hubbard, the present Cashier, having held this position since 1905.

The Commerce Bank and Trust Company was organized by a group of business men who believed the city, during the inflated period, needed additional banking facilities. After a few years of operation the tide of deflation forced their liquidation.

E. B. Anderson, for a long period a business man and cotton factor, opened a private bank and operated it for the accommodation of his customers, for a number of years until his death.

THE HARMONY GROVE TELEPHONE COMPANY

The Harmony Grove Telephone Company was organized in October, 1895, with W. B. Hardman, L. G. Hardman, T. C. Hardman and W. T. Thurmond as stockholders. The first line was built from Harmony Grove to Jefferson. The next line was constructed to Homer for the benefit of customers in Banks County. Some years later the pole line was built from Jefferson to Pendergrass, to Hoschton and from there to Winder; also a line from Commerce to Maysville and Gillesville. Toll prices were set up at each of these places. Still later the line was extended from Pendergrass to Gainesville. The Jefferson Telephone Company was organized in 1895, the same year as the Harmony Grove Company, and built a line from Jefferson to Athens. In about 1902, this company sold to the Harmony Grove Company, taking stock in the same for their line. This company was owned by H. W. Bell and John C. Turner and others. After the expiration of the charter of the Harmony Grove Telephone Company a new charter was obtained by the Commerce Telephone Company in April, 1917, in order to correspond with the name of the town. The original Central Office was in the rear of the W. B. Hardman Drug Company where is now Dr. J. C. Verner's office.

It was later moved upstairs for a short time and then to its present location.

The first operator was W. M. Gober who later moved to Florida and became Judge of the Federal Court. W. B. Hardman was President from the beginning till his death in 1918; then L. G. Hardman till his death in 1937. L. G. Hardman, Jr., is the present Secretary-Treasurer and L. L. Davis, President. W. A. Echols has been the manager since 1906. M. R. Barron has been assistant manager for the last few years. Mrs. Nettie Benton Pinson has been operator and bookkeeper for equal length of time as the manager.

This company has served the community and Jackson County for more than fifty years and has in operation a large exchange in Commerce and in Jefferson which are constantly being enlarged. This public utility is essential and indispensable to the welfare of our growing city. The company has about 1,100 subscribers on the Commerce Exchange and some 500 on the Jefferson Exchange. Total 1,600.

The stockholders of the Commerce Telephone Company sold their entire stock to W. L. New of Thomaston, Ga., as of February 1, 1949 and he becomes sole owner of the entire stock. Mr. New will make his home in Commerce.

HOTELS OF HARMONY GROVE-COMMERCE

The Northeastern Hotel, operated by Solomon Seegar and his wife, Aunt Calline, was the first in Harmony Grove. This building, now known as the T. F. Quillian home, is still standing. This old friendly couple took great interest in caring for the transients who came to Harmony Grove either by train or private conveyance. They opened the hotel about 1870 and continued twelve or fifteen years.

The next hotel was erected about 1880 by L. G. Hardman on his home lot. For a period of several years it was under the management of the following in their order:—Mrs. T. E. Key,

Mrs. A. E. Bohannon, Mrs. R. F. Matthews and Mrs. W. W. Montgomery.

About 1886 the Central Hotel was built by R. A. Eckles and operated by Mrs. Eckles, later by Mrs. M. M. Barber, then sold to W. Y. Holdbrook who ran it for a few years and sold to L. G. Hardman and D. U. Carson. L. G. Hardman some years later became sole owner and remodeled the hotel. It became the main hostelry for some thirty years, operated most of the time by Mrs. E. A. Bohannon and Miss Ida Bohannon. The building was destroyed by fire in 1942.

In 1891 H. O. Williford erected the Alhambra Hotel on the site of the Texaco Filling Station just opposite the depot. This hotel was operated at different times by Mrs. W. J. Goss, Mrs. E. A. Bohannon, Mrs. Jones Meadows, Mrs. Roberts, Claud Benton, Mrs. McGowan and Mrs. Miller. This building burned in November, 1914.

After the loss by fire of the Central Hotel, Commerce was without hotel accommodations until the erection of the modern Hotel Andrew Jackson which was begun in the summer of 1947 and opened in May 1948. This structure has forty rooms, each with private bath, a coffee room, kitchen, banquet hall, a spacious lobby and offices, all parts being equipped with modern furnishings, also fire escapes. The total cost was about \$250,000.00.

During the Harmony Grove period, there were several boarding houses in town. Among these was the Jennie Butler House located on the corner of Central Avenue and Little Street. Another was the Mrs. W. A. Dale boarding house on Broad Street and Mrs. Jesse Smith's on Central Avenue. Later Mrs. E. S. Wood served meals to large numbers. Others at different times have served the boarding customers of the town.

From 1891, for quite a period, Harmony Grove had three fully equipped hotels. Competition was sharp when the porters met the trains to solicit patronage. These were the days of the Knights of the Grip, travelling salesmen, or drummers, as

they were variously called. Nearly every train brought from four to eight drummers. The porters vied with each other in calling attention to the advantages of his hotel, describing the splendid meals, comfortable beds and other conveniences. Many of the salesmen brought large trunks of samples and remained two or three days displaying their goods. This required large commodious sample-rooms which were provided by the hotels.

These were the years of the milliners who were employed by the merchants to make and trim hats for the ladies of the town and country. All the dry goods merchants had regularly one to two milliners who were usually from the Baltimore headquarters of the firm of Armstrong & Cator Company, leaders in the latest styles of hats and dresses. There was some rivalry among the heads of the Harmony Grove firms, when they went to market, as to who could select the most attractive lady for their millinery department. It is to their credit that these ladies were good looking and attractive and very few returned to their former homes but remained as the life partners of the Harmony Grove young men. Usually in the fall and spring seasons some four or five cotton buyers were located in the hotels to represent their firms in the cotton market.

These usually made a jolly bunch at the hotels in the evenings with music and games in the parlors and with Bob Eckles in the office playing on his fiddle, "Listen To The Mocking Bird" and "Leather Britches."

Regular board in these hotels ranged from \$16.00 to \$20.00 per month for room and three meals according to the favorable location of the room. The travelling men paid \$2.00 per day which was \$0.50 for each meal and \$0.50 for room and bed. This meal was equal to any served at the Andrew Jackson or any other present day hotel for \$1.50. The cost of fryers then was 10c to 12c apiece and eggs from 8c to 10c a dozen, meal 50c a bushel, flour 75c for fifty pounds, pork and beef 6c to 15c per pound. These times were the peak of the hotel business in Harmony Grove and Commerce.

Referring to the Northeastern Hotel run by the Seegars, this was a very interesting establishment, coming in as it did about the same time as the first newspaper, The Northeast Georgia Progress, and the building of the Northeastern Railroad. There were, doubtless, other lodging, boarding and eating places prior to this time but no record is found of their existence as Harmony Grove was a mere village before the Civil War. With the coming of the railroad and the opening of a few additional business houses from 1874 to 1877, together with the establishing of the Baptist and Methodist churches, the village took on a more town-like appearance as did the Northeastern the appearance of a real hotel. Uncle Solomon would meet all the trains. With his dimmed-with-smoke-soot lantern he would meet all the night trains and guide the weary traveller to his resting place. Here the guest enjoyed good home-cooking, feather beds and cheerful wood fires. This hotel served the public in an acceptable way until the incorporation of the town of Harmony Grove after which the Central Hotel was built by R. A. Eckles.

The Alhambra Hotel, a popular and convenient place for the travelling public, served in this capacity for a period of some twenty-three years. It was destroyed by fire in 1914 or 1915. Some years after its erection the name was changed to The Commerce Hotel to correspond with the new name of the town.

The Central Hotel, after it was acquired by L. G. Hardman, was remodeled and the capacity doubled. In due time steam heat was installed and it served the public through the management of Mrs. E. A. and Miss Ida Bohannon until 1932. It was then taken over by different parties. Mr. Griffeth, the last, was operating under a five year lease when the building was burned in January 1942. Commerce was then without a hotel for six years, which was a great handicap to the town. However, with the opening of the Hotel Andrew Jackson the prospect for the future hotel business is very bright.

Hotel Andrew Jackson

This modern hostelry will have the patronage and support of the people of our city. With its efficient service and well appointed accommodations and cordial reception of guests the hotel is well equipped to draw the most exacting patronage of the travelling public.

When this hotel institution is fully advertised, it will meet the strongest competition and will outclass many other hotels in cities of equal or larger size. It has already received the highest acclaim by those who have enjoyed its hospitality. We point with pride to this newest asset of the city's civic achievement, which will meet the needs of our public for several decades.

A further detailed description of this hotel in all its appointments will be of interest.

The building is 60 feet wide and 100 feet long, of fire-proof construction, reinforced concrete and steel, contains forty rooms, each with private bath with tub and shower combination. The hotel is completely steam heated and has outside fire escapes located at the rear of the building.

Entrance is in the center of the building and the lobby is located on the left, being approximately thirty feet square. The manager's office and registration desk are conveniently located. The banquet room is at the rear of the building. The furniture is of modern design and the draperies of attractive pattern.

The Coffee Shop is to the right of the entrance with a capacity of seventy-five and beautifully equipped in every particular. The kitchen is spacious and is equipped with the most modern equipment made of stainless steel. The banquet room has a seating capacity of 200. Large exhaust fans are located in the halls on the second and third floors.

There is space in the basement to accommodate an ideal beauty shop and barber shop. Fluorescent lighting is used in



ALHAMBRA HOTEL, COMMERCE
1893-1915



ANDREW JACKSON HOTEL, COMMERCE
1948-1949

the Coffee Shop, Lobby and Banquet Room and the latest electrical fixtures are used throughout the building.

Rooms are large and equipped with Simmons All-Metal furniture including double and twin beds with box springs and beauty rest mattresses with all other furnishings to match.

The Andrew Jackson Hotel is ably and efficiently operated by Mr. and Mrs. A. B. McCall under a lease mutually satisfactory to both lessee and lessor.

We are happy to refer to the Hotel Andrew Jackson as "One of the Finer Small Hotels."

THE BARBER BOYS BRASS BAND

One of the prodigies of Harmony Grove in the last decade of the century was the C. T. Barber Brass Band composed of the father, nine boys and three girls. Each one played a part with different instruments. The members of the family were as follows:

Boys: Clint, Fred, Theo, Wiley, Rob, Dave, Calvin, Howard, and Talmadge; girls: Marian, Estelle, and Belle.

Clint and Wiley performed on the cornets; Fred the trombone; Theo and Dave, the tenor horns; Rob, the bass drum; Calvin, Howard, and Talmadge, the alto horns; the father, the bass horn, and the girls beat the snare-drum, cymbal and triangle.

Mr. Barber began his band when some five or six of his boys were old enough to play an instrument and gradually increased it as his family grew until the whole family was included. The band reached its peak beginning in the early nineties and continuing for a period of ten or twelve years.

They were in great demand at celebrations, tournaments, commencements and political gatherings throughout the northern part of the state and even in other states. Several of the boys followed the musical profession in after life. Mr. Clinton Barber had a wide reputation as a cornetist. He taught and

was the leader of a large concert band in Atlanta for several years during the concert seasons. His fame extended beyond the confines of the state. He had a national reputation as a cornetist.

Many of the older citizens of the city recall the performance of this Barber Boys Band which enhanced the reputation of Harmony Grove with its free concerts and street parades in the gay period of the nineties.

CULTURAL AND LITERARY INTEREST

Harmony Grove became interested in cultural and literary progress following the war in the seventies when the schools began to grow and the newspapers to flourish. Of course, the first indication was in the school's development and the interest in debates.

The McGuffey's Readers from one to six made a lasting impression on pupils, especially the Sixth Reader, which was a selection of classic literature from noted authors, both in prose and poetry. As the town grew, there were Friday afternoon speakings in the school, debating societies of various kinds, both white and colored, which gradually grew into literary societies (now called the Book Club).

One of the early literary adventures was called "The Mozart-Bryant Circle." These fostered light operas, plays of different types and discussed different authors with criticism and reviews. This held sway from 1883 to the early '90's.

In the decade following there were fostered various courses of Lyceum Lectures. The best speakers of the country were secured. Among them were Bob and Alf Taylor of Tennessee, Ralph Bingham of Virginia and several from Texas. This period was followed by the Chatauqua era in which a full week of entertainment was had, sometimes held in the school building, more often in tents. The programs presented musical concerts, lectures on the various phases of art, literature, science, education, politics, religious ethics and other issues of the day.

CHAPTER XVI

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLICITY

The first newspaper published in Harmony Grove, as far as known, was the Northeast Georgia Progress. It was edited by Malcolm Stafford and printed in a small two-room building located on the Jesse P. Wood lot on the north side of State Street. Mr. and Mrs. Stafford had their living quarters in the rear room and the printing in the front room. They had no children but adopted a boy, Willie Jones, who was about twelve years of age. He was used as a lackey boy or printer's devil. This paper began its publication in 1875 and continued through 1881.

W. A. Shackelford, a young man of sixteen years, was the printer from 1876 to 1881. Both Mr. Stafford and Mr. Shackelford came from Oglethorpe County. Mr. Shackelford purchased the Oglethorpe Echo in 1881 and moved to Lexington and published it until his death about three years ago. Since that time the Oglethorpe Echo is being published by his son.

After Mr. Stafford moved from the city, W. J. Goss, the father of the late Mrs. C. J. Hood, published a newspaper in Harmony Grove for two or three years, the name of the paper not being known, but it is believed to have been The Citizen.

About 1885, a Mr. Atkinson and W. B. Wagnon came to Harmony Grove from Madison, Georgia, and installed a printing press and published a paper under the name of The Harmony Grove Signal and continued it for two years. Mr. Atkinson returned to his former home and Mr. Wagnon entered the grocery business in this city, discontinuing the newspaper.

For a short time, Harmony Grove was without the services of a regular newspaper. In the meantime W. J. Goss

published a small paper called *The Bumble Bee* in which he gave some news and social items.

Sometimes later Lonnie and Charlie Mize published a similar small paper known as *The Whistler*. About 1888 or 1890, Stiles Alexander published a newspaper a year or two under the name of *The Harmony Grove Age*. He sold it to Dr. W. B. Hardman about the year 1891, who organized a stock company and published the paper under the name of *The Harmony Grove Echo*. This paper was leased to John Carson who ran the paper for a year.

Dr. W. B. Hardman then took charge as manager, editor and owner of the paper until 1895. He then sold it to John F. Shannon, who had moved here from Franklin County and who continued as owner and editor until his death in 1934.

The name of the newspaper was changed in 1903 to *The Commerce News* when the name of Harmony Grove was changed to Commerce.

Following Mr. Shannon's death the paper was leased by Luther J. Yarbrough and C. L. Veatch who operated it for about a year.

Harry Wise secured the paper from the Shannon estate and edited it for about a year when C. H. Cook, of Winder, took over, operating it through 1936, when Mrs. Trawick purchased it from the Shannon estate. She was editor and publisher until she sold *The Commerce News* on December 1, 1943 to Albert S. Hardy, Jr., of Gainesville, who has recently completed his fifth year as editor and publisher.

The Commerce News has won two first places during the past three years in contests of the Georgia Press Association. In 1946 your home town paper was awarded first place in the Sam Wilkes contest for having the best displayed advertising of any newspaper in Georgia and this year *The News* won first place in the W. G. Sutlive contest for outstanding community service. The silver cup is now on display at *The News* office.

THE COMMERCE OBSERVER

The Commerce Observer was a splendid newspaper. It was owned and published by Paul T. Harber from December, 1909 to July, 1922, some twelve and a half years. This paper together with The Commerce News gave Commerce at this period a wide range of publicity. It was during this time that the State Press Association was held and royally entertained at Commerce.

Mr. Harber is a natural publicity man and added much force and vitality to our city's progress. He was quite active in the New York to Atlanta auto tours in 1909 and 1910. He publicized the Four County Fair in a great way.

Since discontinuing his paper, Mr. Harber has been engaged in publicity work in Florida and Georgia. For awhile he was connected with the United States Chamber of Commerce and in various other places, with other agencies, has had opportunity of employing his talent. He is now the efficient secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at Cartersville, Ga. Mr. Harber was born and reared at Harmony Grove and has made contributions to this history.

The newspaper is the recognized advertising agency for a town and community and is an invaluable asset. The weekly press is the barometer of the progress of our towns. Our newspapers of Harmony Grove-Commerce have in a reasonable way measured up to this standard and must have the cooperation of the citizens if they are to reach their highest service.

CHAPTER XVII

ATHLETICS, SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

BASEBALL

Baseball Played in Mother-Hubbards

A few years after the depot was built, the town men and boys had a baseball ground at the present site of Spencer Park. There were no streets around the park in those days. Occasionally a ball was knocked over the rail fence which enclosed Mr. Hood's cornfield. If this should happen today the ball would go into the yards of the Andersons, the Sanders, or the Funeral Home, or down Pine Street.

The town men bantered the school boys for a match game and proposed that the town men would play in mother-hubbards, the new style house dress of that day. The match was on and the game opened. Such a flapping and a slipping and a ripping and a tripping was never witnessed as the town men ran the bases and attempted to catch fly balls. The game waxed hot. The school boys finally won the game but the town men had the most fun. It is safe to say that the mother-hubbards were not afterwards fit for house use. This game was unique and unusual. It was probably the only mother-hubbard baseball game in history.

Baseball in the Period, 1875-1883

This was the initial period in which baseball began to supplant cat-ball, town-ball and bull-pen. Baseball clubs were organized in the country communities as well as in the towns, such as Harmony Grove and Jefferson. Match games were played every Saturday afternoon. Teams took various pic-

turesque names. The "I.X.L.'s" were from Hix in upper Madison County; the "Clippers" from around Nicholson; the "Lone Star" teams from Banks County and the "Pop'n Goes" from Crawford. The crack teams of this section were the Winterville and Crawford teams, who frequently played Harmony Grove. Harmony Grove also played teams from other towns, also country clubs.

No masks, gloves or mitts were used. The catcher caught with naked hands. Pitchers were allowed only under hand delivery, which meant that the ball could not be delivered above the waist line. The batter was allowed to call for high, low or waist balls. He was allowed nine balls and four strikes. If he did not strike at the third strike "warning" was called and he was given another strike. Later on the number of balls was reduced to seven and then to five. The curved ball was developed about 1883 and near that same time overhand pitching was allowed. Some of the scores around 1880 were: Winterville 42; Harmony Grove 14; Harmony Grove 97; Lone Star 3.

Lone Star then disbanded and joined the Harmony Grove team.

The game developed rapidly from 1882 to 1890 and is described in a vivid manner by P. T. Harber in his special article.

LAWN TENNIS

One interesting thing about the small area known as Williamstown was that in the early days from 1875 to 1895 this land was covered with rather large old field pines which extended up near the Baptist Church. In this old pine forest was located a group of three, or four, large spreading Spanish oaks about what is now the lower end of Scott Street. Under these majestic oaks was furnished a place for the large school boys to *spout* their oratory and practice speeches, wrestling contests, "tote over the mark" and occasionally a fisticuff.

In 1891 the first lawn tennis court was located at this spot under the shade of the spreading oaks. T. C. Hardman, recently returned from college, organized a stock company of ten young professional and business men who would take a share of \$1.50, making a total of \$15.00 with which a net and four rackets were purchased and enough lime to lay out the court.

This corporation, limited, was finally merged into a larger group and the court was moved up to the High School ground and continued at various locations in town. This was the beginning of lawn tennis in Harmony Grove.

THE COMMERCE CITY BASEBALL TEAM

MEMBER OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA BASEBALL LEAGUE

1919 TO 1921

This league was made up of the following teams: Commerce, Cornelia, Buford, Gainesville, Royston and Lavonia. Most of the players were hired by the month. Sometimes professional players were employed and special pitchers were imported at the price of \$60.00 to \$100.00 a game.

The local team was sponsored by a stock company of underwriters who paid in some \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00. The proceeds from the game were profitable for awhile but later failed to pay expenses, especially when the team was in the lower bracket. After two seasons the league was disbanded.

The team that had the most money led the league. As I remember the Buford team, sponsored by John Allen, with plenty of cash, led the league and probably Gainesville was next.

Commerce had some good players, among them as pitchers were Jack Coombs, of Locust Grove, with his wide sweeping curves, and Izzy Marks with his emery ball. They were able to baffle the batters. Vandergriff of Alabama and Carmady were the catchers. Bill Caldwell was the chief fan cheerleader and Uncle John G. H. Pittman was among the en-

thusiastic spectators. He was always on hand and was an enthusiastic fan. The usual attendance at these games was from 800 to 1,200.

This was sometimes referred to as the million dollar league.

COMMERCE NEWS, JULY 13, 1945

By Paul T. Harber

Publication of The News story, telling how some of Commerce's old-timers pointed out the many worthwhile achievements of the Board of Trade which functioned effectively thirty years or more, has provoked considerable comment relative to the progress of Harmony Grove and young Commerce, which acquired its new name by an act of the General Assembly of Georgia in 1903.

According to some of the elder citizens, who are exceedingly proud of their accomplishments in the years ago, Harmony Grove was known far and wide as a leading baseball town with outstanding teams year after year. Pete Grey, the popular one-armed professional, was not in the class with Harmony Grove's one-armed Bob Quillian, whose fast curved balls baffled the leading hitters of Georgia and adjoining states and whose record strike-outs in one nine-inning game was 24.

Back in those days, say the old-timers, Harmony Grove met all comers in baseball and generally walked away with the cake. There were Scott Jackson, Jim Gregory, Lint Rhodes, Allen, George, and Branham Rice, Claud Little, John D. Barnett, George Hubbard and others whose baseball skill was equal to professionals.

In later years came Cliff Barber, Sam Edwards, John Harber, John Cooper, Stoy Jackson and such outstanding players to maintain the prestige of the new town of Commerce. John Harber was a 400 hitter at Mercer University, a brilliant short stop, who later played league baseball. John Cooper was

a star second baseman for Georgia in his college days. Old-timers say that all these players were tops.

When an opposing team was considered extra strong, Harmony Grove would get Tas Short, Pete and Sam Wilson, the Porterfield boys, Bob Hogg, Tom David, Guy Boyd, Charley McCurdy, and the Beusse brothers of Athens, Tom Dunn and other noted players from other places, to take places in the line-up. Sometimes 1,500 or more people turned out for the games. Stores and places of business closed for the afternoon when a hot series was being played. Yes, say old-timers, "We inaugurated what is now known as the half-holiday." At Commencement time there were three big days. Everybody in all the territory enjoyed the contests.

The new generation permitted baseball to slip away much to the community's disadvantage. Many of the new customs of the years ago have been discarded for new-fangled things that don't amount to much. Even the high school in those days put out excellent teams. There were no 4-H's and Home Economics in those times. Boys played baseball, went swimming in creeks, worked on farms, around warehouses, in the home garden, hauled and cut wood, and kept busy at many things. There were no drug store cowboys, pale-faced ice cream eaters and sandaled babies. That's what the old boys say about the glorious past of this community.

Big Barbecues

Commerce staged a barbecue that attracted 2,000 or more people from all the surrounding country. It was given in honor of those who gave their trade to Commerce. Let the new generation attempt such an event (after the war) and see how they perform. Big things were undertaken, say the boys born back in the days, before the Spanish-American War.

Noted Lecturers

Sam Jones, the great evangelist, Tom Watson, the sage of McDuffie, Governor Bob Taylor of Tennessee, the South's noted orator, and fiddler, and other equally famous lecturers and entertainers were brought here under the auspices of the Commerce Lyceum Course. Commerce cooperated with Jefferson to bring William Jennings Bryan to Jackson County. The great commoner spoke at the court house at the county seat. Big things were the order of the day. "What's the score these days" asked the old-timers?

Commerce's two banks were established way back when Harmony Grove claimed the Northeastern Banking Company which was organized in 1892. The First National, organized in 1904, just did miss getting in the Harmony Grove record. Those men back there had vision and courage and confidence, declare the men of those days, when gold collar buttons were in style and high-top elastic shoes. The beautiful women wore long-sleeved dresses, long skirts, high button shoes and pompadour hair, but no women on earth surpassed them for beauty. Such banks, such men, such women! "Can the young men of today match the record of their grandfathers? Can the midriff brigade match the grandmothers of yesterday?"—ask the pre-Spanish-American War fold.

What's more, Commerce had a modern hospital with a staff of physicians and nurses. Patients came from all over the country around and from distant cities, including Atlanta, for medical attention and surgical operations.

Harmony Grove Mill was the product of the real days too. It was home-spun and home-owned, the first cloth coming off the looms in 1894. Don't underrate the men of yesterday who had the courage and vision to start a cotton textile mill fifty-one years ago right here in Harmony Grove.

On and on the old-timers go, proudly pointing to yesterday when men were really he-men. One of the historians said, "Get the date when every church building, bank, mill,

store and warehouse was constructed. It will amaze you to learn how many of our present structures were erected prior to 1905."

Thus, fellow citizens, there is the challenge. Old-timers expect and hope that the newer generation will carry on in a manner worthy of their forebears, gathering inspiration from those who labored effectively in the days when there were no paved highways, radios, automobiles, picture shows and miscellaneous contraptions characteristic of recent years. A hustling growing, liveable Commerce—the product of Northeast Georgia—would be a fitting monument to the memory of those pioneers who built well back in the days prior to and just after the turn of the century.

SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Trap Shooting and Hunting

Trap shooting had two periods of popular practice as a pastime. It was introduced in Harmony Grove about 1888 and continued for a few years. This sport consisted of shooting clay pigeons thrown from a spring trap. These traps, three in number, were placed some 15 feet in front of the gunman. The pigeon in the trap was released by a string, or wire, and scaled out at about a 30 degree angle to some 50 yards distance. Not knowing which trap would be released, the gunner must be on the alert. Each participant took five or ten shots in turn. After some practice—a good shot could break 18 or more out of 20. This sport was revived again 20 years later when "Polly" Poulain, a sporting cotton buyer, was in his prime. The shooting field was located near a branch in W. A. Quillian's pasture. Occasionally live quails were turned out of a box.

Quail hunting has been popular in this section ever since the breech-loading shot gun came into use in 1883. In the older days of Harmony Grove it was not unusual for a party of two or three to bag 40 or 50 birds in a days hunt. That was when birds were plentiful and the hunters could find 8 or 10 coveys a day. There was no license required and no limitation to the number bagged. Hunting of other kinds of game was popular. Sometimes big rabbit hunts were planned during Christmas week. A crowd would gather together ten or twelve dogs and kill 75 to 100 rabbits and have a rabbit barbecue.

Then the squirrel shooting, 'possum, coon and fox hunting have held their devotees. Of late the fox chase and 'possum hunting seem to have returned with renewed interest. Some of the local boys deal in 'possum dogs and delight in the night ramble for the "old slick tail." Ask Elmer.

Fishing, Ponds and Lakes

Fishing is an age-old sport as well as a trade. Our citizens through the decades have excelled in the art of decoying the finny tribe. From the days when Joe Eckles, Steve Hawks, John Dale and Dick Eckles, of the old Harmony Grove period, spent days and nights baiting and hooking "suckers," to the present time, fishing has been a popular pastime. Our fishing population has not been one whit behind other sections in claiming the number and size of fish they have caught in times past or in narrating superlative fish tales. Making due allowance for the proverbial fish stories we really have several expert fishermen who know how to decoy the scaley tribe of every kind, all the way from the sluggish catfish to the game rainbow trout. We have among our many expert fishermen one who enjoys a state wide reputation for his ability to decoy and catch the wily rainbow trout and other smart game fish. T. F. (Tot) Harden is *tops*.

Fish ponds have been common in this section for half a century. About that time the government began to furnish free fish stock for the ponds. Of late years interest in fish ponds has increased. The average size of fish ponds has been enlarged. They are now dignified by the name of lakes. Originally the fish pond covered about an acre or two. Now the lakes cover an area from five to twenty acres. They are on the increase in number and size.

For quite awhile swimming pools were popular in Commerce, but now they seem to have lost some of their interest. K. N. Sharp built the first public swimming pool near his home about forty years ago and received good patronage. Later the Wilbanks pool three miles from town was used for several years. Some twelve years ago the city built a concrete pool in Willoughby Park which was very popular for several years but of late has been used only by the young folks and the children.

Horseback Riding

This exercise is an old custom and has been popular with some in all times. In the Harmony Grove era some young men, with their riding boots and whips, escorted the young ladies in their attractive riding habits, using the side-saddles, and enjoyed a late afternoon canter of a few miles in the country. There seemed to be a subsidence of interest after the auto age arrived. However in the very recent years, business men of means seem to have become enamored of this form of outing. A number of business men of Commerce who are able to own and to feed a saddle horse, either a walker or a three gaiter, find pleasure in riding over the fields and through the woods and along the streams, whenever they can find an old road or path. This is one of the oldest forms of recreation and pleasure.

EQUESTRIAN ROSTER OF COMMERCE

Dwight Barber
W. N. Harden
R. M. Davidson
J. B. Elrod

Mose Gordon
Charles M. Sanders
C. W. Hood, Jr.
A. D. Bolton

Golfing

Golfing is a more recent game which has displaced such games as marbles, croquet, midget golf, and lawn tennis. This modern sport is supposed to be especially for professional and business men, as a means of recreation, exercise and diversion. It seems to provide all of these elements. Commerce has for some twenty years had a golf club. The first golf course was located on the Harden farm some four miles from town, but later the club built a more suitable course and a more splendid one on the farm of F. H. Williamson, one and one-half miles out on the Jefferson Highway. This course is said to be one of the best in this section as to beauty and location.

The Commerce Golf Club has some excellent players and they occasionally entertain tournaments and match games from neighboring clubs.

Commerce Country Club was organized March 1945. J. E. Jarrell, President, L. W. McDonald, Secretary-Treasurer.

Dr. Paul T. Scoggins is present President. Following is a list of members:

A. D. Bolton
H. F. Bray
Charles Castleberry
R. M. Davidson
V. L. Davis
F. E. Durst
Martha Ella Gordon
H. R. Harber
Vincent Henderson
Tommy Hanley

L. G. Hardman, Jr.
Joe E. Hardman
W. H. Hardman
Albert Hardy
James Hope
Jake Howington
J. E. Jarrell
A. S. Johnson
Hardman Jones
L. W. McDonald

Jim McGill
Richard Nix
W. J. Porter
R. F. Powers
Horace Prickett
A. A. Rogers
Paul T. Scoggins
T. J. Syfan
F. H. Williamson, Jr.
L. O. Williams

CHAPTER XVIII

PATRIOTIC, CIVIC AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

COMMERCE CHAPTER AMERICAN RED CROSS

This chapter, the first and largest in Jackson County, was organized in 1916 with the following officers: Mrs. T. C. Hardman, Chairman; Mrs. M. F. Nelms, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. A. B. Deadwyler, Secretary and Home Service Chairman; and Miss Lillian Pittman, Treasurer.

This organization has performed in an efficient way the purpose of its institution to supply relief in cases of disaster and to those who are in need of food and clothing. This chapter distributed flour and clothing from the Government to people without employment. On occasion of fires and storms they gave immediate help.

During the war periods the chapter established sewing rooms and accepted allotments of surgical and garment material and made them up for war needs, and conducted courses in first aid and in nursing.

The Home Service Chairman of this chapter was very active in giving information and aid to those who were in service.

The Commerce Chapter has always exceeded its quota in the annual drives as the citizens of Commerce always responded liberally to the cause.

Mrs. A. B. Deadwyler served faithfully for thirty years as Secretary and Home Service Chairman for the organization until her death in 1946. Mrs. C. W. O'Rear has, since her death taken her place. Mrs. T. C. Hardman served one year as chairman until her death in 1917. Mr. T. C. Hardman succeeded to the Chairmanship and served twenty-five years. Miss

Lillian Pittman served for a similar period as Treasurer. Succeeding T. C. Hardman as Chairman were H. P. Little, H. F. Bray, and Mack Barber, the present Chairman. Succeeding Miss Lillian Pittman as Treasurer were Miss Mae Sharp and Mrs. G. C. Hood, the present treasurer.

LUTHI-GILLESPIE POST, No. 93, AMERICAN LEGION

Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

If you are an honorably discharged veteran of either World War I or II, you are eligible for membership in The American Legion. It is the world's largest and most active veterans organization. It was formed by fighting men of the A.E.F. in France in March, 1919. Now there are Posts in practically every community throughout the nation.

The charter and organization of this Post was dated March 15, 1927. The following were the charter members:

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Willis N. Harden | Robert W. Gardiner | Aubrey Suddeth |
| W. O. Pruitt | Talmadge F. Harden | Coleman Eckles |
| F. Style Carr | A. D. Bolton | A. T. Turner |
| Hubbard Harris | E. M. Childs | Lammie Sims |
| Eric L. Hunt | Harold C. Barnett | Obe Pruitt |
| | | Huran Hancock |

The Luthi-Gillespie Post, No. 93 has been active in and has fostered many worthy causes. Among them are the Child's Welfare Program, Americanism Program, the Boy's State Oratorical Contest (sent two boys for several years), the School Patrols, American Legion Baseball, and relief in disaster. They sent all the cash in the treasury and two trucks of clothing and food to Gainesville storm sufferers.

This organization is in opposition to Communism and subversive elements. This is the largest veterans organization in the history of the world.

Their present membership is 224 with the following officers:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| F. H. Burns..... | Commander |
| Thos. L. Cheatham | Sr. Vice-Commander |
| Thomas McClure..... | 1st Jr. Vice-Commander |
| W. A. Hix..... | 2nd Jr. Vice-Commander |
| Leo G. Black..... | 3rd Jr. Vice-Commander |
| O. S. Watts..... | 4th Jr. Vice-Commander |
| John O. Richey..... | 5th Jr. Vice-Commander |
| M. R. Barron..... | Adjutant |
| Reagan Sanders..... | Assistant Adjutant |
| Jim Nunn..... | Service Officer |
| I. M. Tate..... | Assistant Service Officer |
| E. L. Hunt..... | Chaplain |
| L. Paul Hix..... | Judge Advocate |
| Dr. A. A. Rogers, Sr..... | Finance Officer |
| Clayton Hood..... | Sergeant-at-Arms |

AUXILIARY OF THE LUTHI-GILLESPIE POST

No. 93 OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, COMMERCE, GA.

The Unit was organized, November 11, 1941. Names of charter members as listed on charter:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mary Little | Hoytie Langston | Thelma Harris Carr |
| Mattie Porter | Alma Hunt | Nezzie L. Seagraves |
| Pauline Dillard | Ina Sims | Rachel B. Chandler |
| Lessie Massey | Bertha Luthi Harris | Lucy S. Tate |
| Elbertice Barnett | Lola Linderman | Willie Lou Page |
| Louise D. Harden | Ruth Campbell | Reine D. O'Rear |
| Marion Rogers | Maurine Hix | Mattie Lou Carson |
| Iris Ayers Asbell | Annie Mae Foster | Francine Harden |
| | | Mary Harden |

Purpose of the Auxiliary

The Auxiliary was formed for one purpose, to aid the Legion in carrying out their program in the following activities: Rehabilitation of Disabled Veterans, Child Welfare Activities, Educational Aid for Orphans of Veterans, Serving the Local Community, Supporting Adequate National Defense.

We believe in the following ideas and principles: assisting in the care of veterans of both World Wars, in the education and welfare of the children of all veterans of all wars, the betterment and beautification of the community in which we live, the advocacy of a return to a greater spiritual influence in the homes and lives of our people, a true spirit of fellowship and cooperation with all people for world development.

The local unit has always cooperated with other civic organizations in Red Cross Work, supported the bloodmobile, help secure scholarships, send yearly gifts to veterans hospitals, and assisted in a financial way in the Christmas parties. At the present time we are helping a French orphan.

The following ladies have served as Unit Presidents:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Mrs. H. P. Little..... | 1941 to 1943 |
| Mrs. A. A. Rogers..... | 1943 to 1945 |
| Mrs. W. B. Benton..... | 1945 to 1946 |
| Mrs. T. F. Harden..... | 1946 to 1948 |
| Mrs. J. H. Harris..... | 1948 to |

At the present time the Auxiliary has 62 active members, and two junior members.

McCoy-Borders Post, No. 5279

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

The McCoy-Borders Post No. 5279 was organized at Commerce, Ga., on January 20, 1946. The Charter was issued with a total of 61 Charter Members.

Qualifications are: Veteran must have HONORABLE DISCHARGE or still be in service. Must have Overseas Service In Defense of Our Country.

At the first meeting the members voted to name the Post in honor of two of the first men, who fell in the Defense of Our Country, from Commerce. Regis Borders and Ledford McCoy were the two chosen. Hence the name McCoy-Borders.

Officers were also elected at the first meeting. They are as follows:

1946

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Commander..... | W. D. Bolton |
| Sr. Vice-Commander..... | J. B. Wilburn |
| Jr. Vice-Commander..... | William Harrison |
| Quartermaster..... | William Sutton |
| Adjutant..... | Elliot Moore |
| Chaplain..... | George Harber |
| Officer of the Day..... | Carlos Jackson |
| Service Officer..... | Reagan Sanders |
| Sergeant-Major..... | J. P. Sailors |
| Quartermaster-Sergeant..... | Duard Baxter |

Patriotic Instructor..... Scales Morris
Post Historian..... Reagan Sanders
Trustees..... Hugh D. Williams
Gordon Eubanks, Frank Hanley

1947

Commander..... William Harrison
Sr. Vice-Commander..... Leo Black
Jr. Vice-Commander..... Sidney Johnston
Quartermaster..... William Sutton
Adjutant..... William Sutton
Chaplain..... Charles Fruit
Officer of the Day..... Hollis Catlett
Service Officer..... William Bolton
Sergeant-Major..... Alva Clark
Quartermaster-Sergeant..... James Harris
Patriotic Instructor..... Scales Morris
Post Historian..... Reagan Sanders
Trustees..... Hugh D. Williams
Thomas Cheatham, Frank Hood

1948

Commander..... Kenneth Tucker
Sr. Vice-Commander..... John Richey
Jr. Vice-Commander..... W. R. Sanders
Quartermaster..... J. B. Elrod
Adjutant..... J. B. Elrod
Chaplain..... Charles Fruit
Officer of the Day..... Hollis Catlett
Service Officer..... William Bolton
Sergeant-Major..... William Harrison
Quartermaster-Sergeant..... William Sutton
Patriotic Instructor..... Scales Morris
Post Historian..... Reagan Sanders
Trustees..... Clayton Hood
Duard Baxter, George Harber

JAMES PITTMAN CHAPTER

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The James Pittman Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution was organized March 16, 1916 by Mrs. C. E. Pittman, organizing regent, appointed by the National Society D.A.R., Washington, D. C.

The Chapter was named for James Pittman, a soldier from Virginia who settled in Columbia County, Ga., thence to Madison County where he died. The following were organizing members: Mrs. C. E. Pittman, Mrs. C. D. Stark, Mrs. C. C. Ward, Mrs. M. F. Nelms, Mrs. M. T. Sanders, Mrs. J. T. Quillian, Mrs. C. A. Adams, Mrs. H. A. Nix, Mrs. W. T. Bennett, Misses Allene and Annie Little, Reba Pittman, Lillian Pittman, Claire and Maurine Anderson, Ida Bohannon, Cecil and Lou Ona Little.

The following officers were elected: Mrs. C. E. Pittman, Regent; Mrs. M. F. Nelms, Vice-Regent; Miss Claire Anderson, Recording-Secretary; Miss Lillian Pittman, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. C. C. Ward, Registrar; Miss Maurine Anderson, Treasurer; Mrs. M. T. Sanders, Historian; and Dr. Gilbert Dobbs, Chaplain.

The object of the D.A.R. is to preserve the memory of its Revolutionary patriots, to study its history, to educate its youth in patriotic ideals and in the duties of citizenship.

It has been the purpose and effort of the James Pittman Chapter to set forth and promote the aims of the National Society. The Chapter has been engaged in patriotic work, such as furnishing scholarships to various schools, preserving historic spots and other phases of patriotic education. Fifteen dollars was contributed for a memorial chair to be placed in Constitution Auditorium in honor of the Chapter.

The James Pittman Chapter has marked the graves of three Revolutionary soldiers, two soldiers of the War of 1812. It has promoted the observance of Armistice Day and given a

flag to the school and prizes each year to the pupil in the school who makes the highest mark in United States History. It has also given a prize to the grade that renders best a selected patriotic song.

The following have served as Regents of the Chapter: Mrs. C. E. Pittman, Mrs. T. C. Hardman and Mrs. T. F. Harden. Mrs. Pittman is the present Regent. The present membership is about forty.

J. E. B. STUART CHAPTER

UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY

The J. E. B. Stuart Chapter U.D.C. was organized by a committee from Camp John H. Morgan, U.C.V. No. 1330, on May 5, 1905 with thirty-one members. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Mary Bennett Sanders, President; Mrs. R. L. Daughtry, Vice-President; Mrs. Dora Carson Deadwyler, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Beulah Hightower Cooper, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Ophelia Maxwell Quillian, Treasurer, and Mrs. May Goodwin Brown, Histroian.

G. L. Carson, First Lieutenant of Camp John H. Morgan, was asked to select a name for the chapter. He bestowed the name J. E. B. Stuart in memory of James Euell Brown Stuart, his commander in the Confederate Army.

The object of this organization is "to honor the memory of those who served and those who fell in the service of the Confederate States; to erect monuments to the heroes of the Confederacy; to fulfill the duties of grateful kindness toward the survivors and those dependent upon them and to collect, compile and preserve true and impartial Confederate history." The constitution declares the object to be historical, educational, memorial, benevolent and social.

The J. E. B. Stuart Chapter has followed and promoted through the years since its organization the programs and projects as outlined by the general organization as well as many local activities.

In 1913 the chapter placed markers at eighteen graves of Confederate soldiers in Grey Hill cemetery. Since that time other markers have been placed there. Memorial Day has been regularly observed by appropriate programs and decorating the soldiers' graves. Other activities include the bestowal of crosses of honor on Confederate veterans and Crosses of Service on lineal descendants of Confederate veterans who served in the World Wars; basket dinner given each January 19th to the veterans of Camp Morgan and prizes each year to the pupil in the Commerce school for the best essay on a subject pertaining to the Confederacy; the erection of a monument in Memorial Park, owned by the chapter, honoring the women and the veterans of the Confederate States and the planting of a magnolia tree in memory of Mrs. Dora Carson Deadwyler.

Those who have served as President are: Mrs. Mary Bennett Sanders, Mrs. C. A. Mize, Mrs. Minnie Barber Hardman, Mrs. C. E. Pittman, Mrs. C. C. Ward, Mrs. F. H. Williamson, Miss Claire Anderson, Mrs. E. G. Brock, and Mrs. A. B. Deadwyler. Miss Claire Anderson is the present President and is serving the second time.

IN MEMORY OF GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE

Address by T. C. Hardman to the J. E. B. Stuart Chapter

U.D.C., January 19, 1933

Today we celebrate the 126th anniversary of the birth of General Robert E. Lee. It is fitting that the memory of those great characters in history who have represented great principles and stood for great causes should be perpetuated.

In our own nation, the life and work of George Washington, Franklin, Jefferson and all the colonial patriots are dear to every American citizen that loves liberty and civil and religious freedom.

General Robert E. Lee, whose memory we revere, comes of a long line of noble sires whose family is entwined with the early history of the American colonies and especially related and connected with Virginia history. We particularly know and love the memory of these great men because of their intimate connection with Southern ideals and Southern chivalry.

The memories of great men are perpetuated on account of varied accomplishments, noble deeds in all lines of endeavor, in science, in government, in discoveries, in progressive knowledge, but, perhaps, there is no realm of endeavor so fruitful of honor and love a people bestows upon its heroes as in patriotism and adherence to national ideals and in the defense and the honor of one's home and one's country. We honor George Washington, the Father of our Country, because he was "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Men are remembered for the impress they have made upon the world. Caesar is remembered because of his great intellect, leadership of men and statesmanship; Hannibal as the great foe of Rome and for his devotion to Carthage; Napoleon because of his great military genius and personal magnetism; Newton for his great scientific discoveries; Shakespeare and Byron and Dickens for their influence on the literature of the world; Washington and Kossuth for their devotion to the cause of their country. But Robert E. Lee makes a wider appeal to our admiration and loving memory of him.

He was at once a military leader of great ability, a patriot of the highest type, a statesman broad in judgment, an educator of recognized ability, a beloved leader and, above all, a Christian gentleman that typified the true ideal of Southern manhood.

General Lee was born in Stratford, Va., Jan. 19, 1807, the son of Henry Lee, known as Light Horse Harry, who was a young commander of note in Washington's army. He was a descendant of Thomas Lee who came to Virginia in its

early history. Light Horse Harry Lee, the father of Robert E. Lee, was first cousin to Richard Henry and Francis Lightfoot Lee, both signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Light Horse Harry was governor of Virginia and influential in its history.

General Lee had all the opportunities of station. He attended West Point, graduating in 1829. He was noted in his service in the Mexican War. He married Mary Curtis, great-granddaughter of Martha Washington, and was living at Arlington Heights at the outbreak of secession. He was offered the command of the Union Army by Lincoln, but having a conviction of his obligation to his own state, he decided to offer his service to his native state.

General Lee was greatly opposed to slavery and secession and was greatly disturbed by the dissolution of the Union, but expressed his views and sentiments in the memorable words: "It will be a sad day when the Union is dissolved but if it can only be maintained by sword and bayonets in which strife and civil war are to take the place of brotherly love and kindness, it has no charms for me. If the Union is dissolved and the government dispersed, I shall return to my native state and share the miseries of my people and, save in defense, draw the sword no more."

The life and influence of this great man, who is more and more attracting the attention of the world, may be considered, at least, from four angles:

First, as a military leader, second as a patriot, third as a statesman, fourth as a gentleman typical of the best ideals of the South.

Probably it will be out of the question to discuss the influence of his life in all the realms mentioned in the brief time allotted. I shall only briefly rehearse to you his record as a military chieftain in the three years in which he was in command of the army of Virginia and then direct your consideration to what I deem the highest reach of this great man as a military leader.

The world has stood aghast in astounding admiration at the genius of one who was able to carry on a struggle for a cause he believed in for over a period of three years against such overwhelming odds. In the early part of the struggle he acted as adviser to President Davis. His early military operations in West Virginia were not very brilliant. In the summer of 1862 at the Battle of Seven Pines, or Fair Oaks, Johnson having been severely wounded, Lee succeeded to the command. In a few weeks, by skillful maneuvers, after seven days battle around Richmond, he compelled McClellan to retreat, and finally to withdraw from the Peninsula. By a masterly handling of his army, aided by the renowned Stonewall Jackson, he overwhelmed Pope's army at the second Manassas. Invading Maryland, he again met McClellan at Sharpsburg, or Antietam, where his advance was checked. Withdrawing into Virginia, he completely blocked and defeated Burnside at Fredericksburg in Dec. 1862.

After a winter of recuperation of both armies, Hooker having succeeded Burnside, Lee met him on the bloody field of Chancellorsville and completely routed his army, but with the irreparable loss of Jackson. He drove Hooker out of Virginia and continued his advance with the invasion of the North. He met the Northern army, under command of Meade, at Gettysburg July 1, 2, 3, of 1863, in which the Federals succeeded in repulsing his attack. Retiring to Virginia, his army was not engaged during the remaining part of the year.

In the spring of '64 he successfully withstood the onslaughts of Grant's army, numbering three to his one. From the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor and finally around Richmond and Petersburg he held the army of Grant at bay and in the march to Richmond Grant's losses were equal to the total of Lee's army.

His emaciated army, without food or clothing, he finally surrendered at Appomattox April 9, 1865.

As an index to the honor and respect his foes had for him, General Grant declined to accept the sword of Lee and per-

mitted Lee's officers to retain their swords and sidearms. If there was any reflection on his character, or aspersions cast on his good name it was not by those who, as foes, met him in battle, but by those unprincipled politicians who sought to disgrace and destroy the South.

In the world's history every crisis in national life has its peculiar characteristics. In the American Revolution the dominating principle was liberty, civil and religious freedom. The keynote was sounded by Patrick Henry in his ardent and immortal peroration: "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

The French Revolution was a result of the extravagance and oppression of the ruling class. In the uprising of the War of 1812, the chief concern was the honor and integrity of our nation and the demand for national rights.

The prevailing feeling was expressed when our envoys to France were insulted with a dishonorable proposition. The answer was, "Millions for defense, not one cent for tribute."

The conflict of the sixties came about amid a different atmosphere and ideals. The predominating spirit in this era was the rights of property, the sanctity of the home, the respect for the father and mother in the home, a great respect and high esteem for womanhood, and the strong attachment for local states rights. Amid these conditions of national crises it is but natural that many leaders and writers should express the drift of thought and life. This was indeed an era of idealism in government, in religion and in the home. This idealism must find its expression in the lives and spirit of its leaders.

General Lee was a marvelous type of his day, gentle, kind, highminded, brilliant, strong, conscientious. It is no wonder that he said that "duty is the sublimest word in the English language."

In all the strife of war, battle and carnage, he never once lost his high sense of justice and right and his love and tender care for his followers.

This nation will probably never fully appreciate how much

credit is due this great leader, whose influence went a long way to ameliorate the spirit of hatred and animosity between the sections of our country. His bearing, following the surrender of the South, was both dignified and conciliatory. He enjoyed the respect and love of all of his soldiers. To the humble soldier and to the Negro servant alike, he was "Marse Robert." To his subordinates in the army he was the considerate, wise leader and commander.

General Lee, was, possibly, not superior in military tactics and generalship to the Johnsons, and did not have the daring execution of a Jackson, but the marvel of his career was the combining of every great and noble quality unequaled in the annals of history.

If we are today to draw a lesson from this great and noble life, it is because he typified the best thought and life of the day, when homes were sacred and the family was what God intended it to be.

I believe there is no period in world's history, or place on God's earth, when and where there was a higher standard of manhood and womanhood maintained, and when the Christian life was the standard of integrity.

It is worthy that we shall preserve in memory the life and deeds of one who so fittingly represents this period.

Today, after a lapse of seventy years, the world has moved into a different atmosphere, to the machine age where individuality is submerged in the whirl of machinery and the "forgotten man" is in the majority; when chivalry and personal qualities are obliterated in the modern theory of technocracy.

The danger of modern progress is the loss of the finer qualities of character. The "flapper" of the present day displaces the modest and queenly "young lady" of the sixties. The sterling qualities and integrity of the men of the 19th century is lost in the mechanical operations, manipulations, mergers and mad rush for gain in the 20th century.

It is a worthy purpose for your organization to undertake the perpetuation of the principles of the old South and we are fortunate in having the ideal hero of such a worthy cause.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The local Chamber of Commerce was organized in this city on July 26, 1945, when a large group of business men met in the city hall and formulated plans for progressiveness.

F. E. Durst, Jr., was elected President; Dr. Paul T. Scoggins, Vice-President; Albert S. Hardy, Jr., Secretary and James E. Jarrell, Treasurer. In addition to the officers the Board of Directors included Mose Gordon, R. M. Davison, Howell P. Little, C. W. Hood, Jr., and A. D. Bolton. Forty-seven merchants of the city became charter members of the organization.

The work of the trade body was carried on by the officers until January 1946 when J. Mac Barber, who had recently returned to Commerce after service in the Army Air Force, was elected Executive Secretary. Offices were established above the Piedmont Cafe.

An airport survey was conducted under the auspices of the Chamber and representatives of the Civil Aeronautics Authority were invited to Commerce to inspect proposed airports.

A labor survey was fostered by the organization and cards sent to potential employees throughout the section. The survey showed that there were more than 1,200 skilled and unskilled persons who desired employment in this city. The information has been of value to the organization in its attempts to secure new industries.

The organization brought the local merchants closer together working for the common good of all, and stores of the city agreed to close at one o'clock on Wednesday afternoons throughout the summer months.

As a result of the work of Secretary Barber and directors of the organization contracts were awarded by the State Highway Department for the paving of the Commerce-Carnesville Highway in June 1946, the paving of the Commerce-Maysville-Gillsville Highway in August and the resurfacing of the Athens-Commerce Highway pavement in August of the same

year. The Chamber assisted in the securing of rights of way on the Commerce-Gillsville Highway and the Secretary made many trips and had numerous conferences with Highway officials.

Mr. Barber decided to pursue his education at the University of Georgia under the G.I. Bill and was succeeded by F. X. Credle of Parson, West Virginia, who took over the duties as Executive Secretary on April 1, 1947.

Working with the directors, a 65-point of activity was worked up by Mr. Credle and adopted by the local Chamber. Among the objectives were elimination of reckless driving in Commerce, Clean-Up and Paint-Up campaign, assignment of a city police within the school zone for safety of the children and extension of the city sewerage system. All the above program was presented to the city council and was favorably adopted and put into effect with the prospect and plans for early extension of the sewerage system.

Also a modern bus station was secured by contact with the parties interested, whereby the station was moved from the rear of the Commerce Drug Company to the corner of North Broad and Jefferson Streets. This organization also fostered the formation of a credit body for local merchants.

The organization moved into new offices in June 1947 and now has a small auditorium, nicely equipped with steel chairs for their monthly meetings.

Mr. Credle was instrumental in starting a movement to secure a federal designated route through Commerce. He made many trips to cities along the route from Smoky Mountain National Park, by the Okefenokee Swamp, into Florida, and secured their cooperation.

The Suwanee River Highway Association was the outgrowth of his initiative and with the organization of different cities interested have recently succeeded in getting an extension of Federal Route 441 from Fargo through Homerville, Pearson, Jacksonville, Ga.; McRae, Dublin, Irwinton, Milledgeville, Eatonton, Madison, Athens, Commerce, Homer, Cornelia,

thence through Clayton into Cincinnati and Detroit. The route has been designated as the Uncle Remus Route in memory of Joel Chandler Harris, author of the Uncle Remus Stories.

New officers were elected in April 1948 and W. M. Veal, prominent Commerce druggist, now heads the organization. Other officers include W. M. (Bill) Hendricks, Vice-President, W. D. Bolton, Secretary, H. Odell Williams, Treasurer. Directors of the local Chamber include H. F. Bray, F. E. Durst, Jr., Albert S. Hardy, Jr., R. M. Davison, James H. Hope, W. L. Smith, and Reagan Sanders.

The organization has recently secured improved mail and express service to the city and a new bus line.

THE LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club of Commerce was organized in the old Central Hotel on June 21, 1940 with the following as Charter members: H. F. Anthony, C. H. Beard, C. W. Chandler, M. B. Clinkscales, C. U. Franks, Hubert Franks, David Hendrix, Sam Hood, James L. Hope, James E. Jarrell, C. H. Montgomery, R. E. Moore, John I. Renka, Jr., Dr. Paul T. Scoggins, Gellar Stark, T. J. Syfan, Irven M. Tate, J. J. Venable, Dr. J. C. Verner, H. Odell Williams and C. O. Wood.

Dr. Paul T. Scoggins was the first President and T. J. Syfan first and only Secretary the club has had; James E. Jarrell, First Vice-President and Dr. J. C. Verner, Second Vice-President; C. H. Beard, Tail Twister.

This club is one of the new civic organizations of Commerce and has been very active in sponsoring public welfare interests and has contributed probably more to the schools and athletics than any other organization. They have been wide awake and have not let any opportunity escape their vigilance. These young men are loyal to every forward looking enterprise and their generosity is deeply appreciated by the citizens of Commerce. May their tribe increase.

Among other things the club has sponsored the following:

Trade campaign among merchants

Lighting of the ball field at the grammar school

Grading football field and building concrete seats.

Donated \$750.00 to high school for sound equipment in high school.

Donated \$275.00 a year for several years to lunch room program at grammar school

Donated playground equipment for grammar school

Contributed to and entered into all worthwhile civic projects.

THE COMMERCE KIWANIS CLUB

The local Kiwanis Club was chartered on August 28, 1925 by District Governor W. W. Munday. W. H. Wrighton was the first President and F. E. Durst the first Secretary.

The following were signers of the original charter petition: J. B. Hardman, W. B. Rice, F. E. Durst, A. B. Deadwyler, G. L. Hubbard, W. H. Wrighton, B. M. Durham, W. N. Harden, C. W. Hood, Jr., C. W. O'Rear, C. C. Ward, R. C. Nix, C. M. Scoggins, N. B. Lord, C. L. Veatch, Claud Montgomery, George T. Rice, A. D. Harris, T. H. Davis, P. A. Hughes, L. L. Davis, A. D. Bolton, and Dr. A. A. Rogers.

Rev. W. H. Wrighton was the first President and J. B. Hardman was the second. The rules of the club require a change of President each year. Roscoe F. Powers is the President for 1948. Harvey F. Bray has served as Secretary consecutively since 1934. Mr. Bray has rendered efficient service through the years and is considered one of the best secretaries in the Georgia District of Kiwanis International.

The Commerce Kiwanis Club has for more than twenty years ministered to and encouraged the development of the town and community on a plane in keeping with the objects set forth in their constitution to promote the application of

a higher social, business and professional standard. These have tended to a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship, which has resulted in the maintenance of a high idealism and good will.

The Club has maintained its interest from the beginning in community affairs and has enlarged its membership.

BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts were organized in Commerce in 1919 by Rev. J. E. Ellis and R. L. Sanders with Mr. Sanders as Scout Master. He served faithfully for ten or twelve years. This Troop was local and independent, functioning some twelve years, and reached a total membership of 35. After the lapse of a few years the Scouts were reorganized and sponsored by the Commerce Kiwanis. This Troop became a member of the national organization and was known as Troop 35 of the Piedmont District of Northeast Georgia Council, Inc.

The Cub Scouts, ages from 10 to 12, were later organized and are sponsored by the Commerce Lions Club.

The Senior Scout Outfit was organized in 1948 with ten members and Rev. C. W. Fuitt as Adviser. These older boys, ages 16 to 18, plan their own programs and largely train themselves. Senior Scouting is designed to bring out the physical, mental, moral and spiritual well being of the boy as he grows into manhood. This Troop has 15 members with Rev. Robert Marshman as Adviser.

The regular Scouts, Troop No. 35, has 42 members, ages 12 to 16. DeWitt Hill is Scout Master and Farris Hubbard is Assistant Scout Master.

The Boy Scout organization is for the purpose of training and their pledge is: "I pledge myself on my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

THE COMMERCE WOMAN'S IMPROVEMENT CLUB

The Woman's Improvement Club of Commerce was organized on the last Tuesday of March, 1912. On this date Mrs. H. C. White, President of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs, and Mrs. M. A. Lipscomb of Athens, met with a group of Commerce women for the purpose of organizing a club. There were nineteen women present. The following are the names as appear on the minutes of this meeting: Mrs. C. J. Hood, Mrs. W. W. Stark, Mrs. Claud Montgomery, Mrs. H. R. Harber, Mrs. J. J. Harber, Mrs. L. G. Hardman, Mrs. E. B. Watson, Mrs. C. W. Hood, Mrs. J. H. Williford, Mrs. M. F. Nelms, Mrs. C. W. Cooper, Mrs. Leatus Sanders, Mrs. R. L. Sanders, Mrs. Luke Davis, Mrs. C. E. Pittman, Mrs. T. C. Pittman, Mrs. J. J. Sheppard, Mrs. J. T. Quillian and Mrs. J. L. Dale. These constituted the membership enrollment. By the end of the club year there was a membership of fifty.

Naming the Club

The initial idea was to organize a Mothers Club to study and discuss questions relative to the child and the home. In addition, the idea of a civic club had been presented to the Commerce women by P. T. Harber, enterprising editor and publisher of the Commerce Observer and member of the Commerce Board of Trade, in an article "Why Commerce Should Have a Woman's Civic Club." After discussion, it was decided to enlarge the purpose of the organization to embrace the improvement of the town and the cultural improvement of the members as well as the home. Since the main idea of the organization was "improvement" the name Commerce Woman's Improvement Club was adopted.

Activities of the Club

The first project was the inauguration of a Clean-Up Campaign for the town, two each year, one in spring and one in the fall. This program was maintained for several years. Other activities included: trash cans provided for the city; the maintenance of a rest room at the Four County Fair, also for the city for a time; beautifying and partial upkeep of school grounds, cemetery and Spencer Park, and plantings of shrubbery and flowers along the railroad right of way, in parks and other places in town. Donations were made to the school library and other departments. Health campaigns were inaugurated in the interest of the school and the community. Lectures and programs were sponsored on the subjects of health, education, citizenship, public welfare, child welfare, music, art, literature, and international relations. A lot on South Broad Street was purchased and in 1938 a club house building was erected and partly equipped at a cost of about \$10,000.00. Funds were raised by operation of a candy kitchen at the Four County Fair, ice cream festivals, plays put on by home talent, banquets, benefit parties, sponsoring lectures, lyceum courses and entertainments of various kinds, oyster suppers and many other ways and means.

Those who have served as President are as follows:

Mrs. J. L. Gale, Mrs. M. F. Nelms, Mrs. J. J. Harber, Mrs. L. G. Hardman, Mrs. T. C. Hardman (Nelms), Mrs. Claud Montgomery, Mrs. A. A. Rogers, Mrs. W. Stark, Mrs. T. F. Harden, Mrs. C. E. Pittman, Mrs. W. M. Veal, present President. Total membership, 1949, is 100.

In 1913 the Commerce Woman's Improvement Club was federated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs and has been a regular contributor to Tallulah Falls School, which is owned and supported by The Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs. The Commerce Club has contributed to other educational causes fostered by the State and General Federation.

THE COMMERCE GARDEN CLUB

In September 1928 a group of Commerce women met in the home of Mrs. V. L. Davis and were directed by Mrs. W. D. Hooper, of Athens, in the organization of the Garden Club.

Mrs. Hooper was Chairman of Admissions to the Garden Club of Georgia, into which the Commerce Garden Club was granted admission November 15, 1929.

According to the constitution the object of the organization is "to foster a love for gardening through a more intelligent understanding of the methods and requirements of horticulture, and to express the same in the development of home gardens and the furthering of city beautification." "Any resident of Commerce or its environs actively interested in gardening is eligible for membership."

The following named—and possibly others—are thought to have been present at the first meeting with Mrs. V. L. Davis: Mrs. R. L. Black, Mrs. E. G. Brock, Mrs. A. B. Deadwyler, Mrs. B. M. Durham, Mrs. Sam Edwards, Mrs. T. C. Hardman, Sr., Mrs. T. C. Hardman, Jr., Mrs. A. F. Hood, Mrs. C. J. Hood, Mrs. Ernest Jackson, Mrs. R. C. Nix, Mrs. W. W. Prickett, Mrs. M. C. Roberts, Mrs. G. T. Rice, Mrs. W. B. Rice, Mrs. T. J. Syfan, Mrs. W. W. Stark, Mrs. C. W. Truitt, Mrs. J. C. Verner, Mrs. H. C. Williamson, Mrs. W. O. Williford, Mrs. W. Y. Harber, Miss Grace Hood.

The club has contributed to the social and cultural life of the community and has done much toward its beautification. It has been instrumental in securing specialists to present excellent programs on practically every phase of horticulture. Classes in the growing, preservation, and cooking of foods, in flower arrangement and in interior decoration have been sponsored.

Landscape architects have directed plantings on the grounds of churches, schools, the cemetery and the Municipal Rose garden.

Flower shows have been featured annually. Mrs. V. L. Davis was most instrumental in the organization of the club. She was its first president and has been drafted for that service at least two other terms. Mrs. Fred Williamson, Sr., is now president. Others who have served in that capacity are Mrs. C. W. Truitt, Miss Grace Hood, Mrs. A. A. Rogers, Sr., Mrs. T. F. Harden, Mrs. Florence Kendall Hood, Mrs. John Hood, Mrs. P. T. Scoggins and Mrs. T. A. Harber.

THE STUDY CLUB

On September 25th, 1936, a group of ladies who enjoyed reading met at the home of Mrs. L. G. Hardman, Jr., for the purpose of organizing a Book Club. Much interest was shown among those present and Mrs. L. G. Hardman was appointed temporary Chairman and Mrs. A. A. Rogers, temporary Secretary of this group. Mrs. T. C. Hardman and Mrs. C. W. Hood, Jr., were asked to serve on the Nominating Committee.

It was decided that the club should meet once each month and that dues should be paid, to be used for the purchase of new books. At the close of the meeting the following officers were elected: Mrs. L. G. Hardman, President; Mrs. John Hood, Vice-President; Mrs. Noel McConnell, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. L. G. Hardman, Jr., and Mrs. A. A. Rogers, Program Committee.

The first meeting of the newly organized club was held at the home of Mrs. L. G. Hardman on Tuesday, October 13, 1936 with thirteen members present. It was unanimously decided that the club should be called "The Study Club."

From the beginning this small group felt that they had organized not just for their personal pleasure, but for the purpose of furthering the cultural interests of the town. In November 1936 they invited Mrs. Emma Garrett Morris of Atlanta to come to Commerce and review Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind." The public was invited to this re-

view. At a later date Mr. Elmer Ransom of Augusta spoke to the Club and Mrs. Robert Church of Atlanta has reviewed books on several occasions for the Club and invited guests.

The books that the Study Club bought were made available to the public but the need for a Public Library was felt so keenly by this group, they decided to start a drive for library funds to which the citizens responded very generously. Mayor Howell P. Little and members of the City Council offered a room in the City Hall and so in June 1946 the Study Club very proudly opened the doors of the town's first public library and invited the citizens to come and visit their library.

Since that time this group has given time and money to keep the library functioning and feel that it has been a great help to this community. They are now working with other interested persons in trying to secure a County Library in order that rural people may have books to read.

A SKETCH OF THE HUDSON LODGE No. 295 F. & A. MASONS INSTITUTED IN 1875 AT HARMONY GROVE

This Lodge was instituted in 1875 at Harmony Grove. The membership of this Lodge came from the Phidelta Lodge in Banks County. Part of the members of this Lodge moved their membership to Homer. Those who were charter members or joined soon after the Harmony Grove Lodge was organized, are as follows:

D. M. Nix, C. T. Nash, J. C. Wade, J. P. Huson, W. F. Lord, J. P. Wood, J. N. Wood, and V. H. Deadwyler. There were perhaps others though the records are not complete. M. S. Porter was the first to affiliate on Sept. 1, 1875. The first to be raised were T. P. Hudson and J. N. Hudson, August 2, 1876.

The five Emeritus Masons: W. W. Stark, F. L. Lord, J. M. Nix, L. L. Davis, and H. F. Bray.

This Lodge met for the first fifteen years in the wooden

school building where it was organized, then over the Hood Building on North Elm Street until 1925, when they moved to the Hardman Building over the drug store on South Broad Street. This is their present location.

This Lodge has steadily increased in membership and influence. Their present membership is 118.

The present officers are Charles Castleberry, W.M., Colquitt Sims, Secretary, Jesse Porter, Treasurer.

SKETCH OF HARMONY GROVE LODGE No. 30
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS OF COMMERCE, GA.

By W. F. Meixsel and Kyle Savage, Committee

Harmony Grove Lodge No. 30 was organized on June 13th, 1900 by T. S. Mell, Grand Master of Georgia and the following officers were elected: W. D. Pierce, Noble Grand, Willie B. Spulberger, Vice-Grand, Geo. L. Hubbard, Treasurer, J. M. Carson, Secretary. The following were charter members: R. J. Smith, who later became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia and Grand Representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge, George Rice, Claud Montgomery, J. C. Massey, T. E. Key, J. W. Roberson, A. G. Stark, C. S. Bates, Jno. B. Hardman, W. W. Williamson, F. H. Aderholdt, R. L. Sanders, E. B. Watson, J. T. Stovall, C. A. Mize, W. B. Rice, A. D. Harris, A. L. Bolton, Jno. C. Silman and others. This Lodge was organized with approximately 30 members.

The Lodge has had a steady growth since its institution. The officers at present are—Preston Benton, N.G., J. C. King, V.G., P. D. Howington, Finance Secretary, Kyle Savage, Recording Secretary, Fred Brown, Treasurer.

The principles of Odd Fellowship are Friendship, Truth, Love, Faith, Hope and Charity. We have a Burial Benefit for the Brother and his wife. We also have an insurance for

a member if he cares to carry same. To become a member of this Lodge one must be 18 years of age, white and of good moral character and believe in a Supreme Being, the Creator and Preserver of all things. No saloonkeeper, bartender or professional gambler can belong to our Order.

Our Lodge is founded upon the Holy Writ and the Holy Bible must be opened at all meetings and same is opened and closed with prayer. This Lodge enjoys a membership of over 100 members.

A Sham Battle

The Confederate veterans enjoyed recounting their experiences of the camp and the battles of the sixties. One feature in the year 1910 was a sham battle staged by Camp J. H. Morgan. A hundred or more veterans in their old gray uniforms paraded down Broad Street, several on horses, led by Captain T. A. Little, G. L. Carson and W. T. Thurmond. The battle took place in and around Willoughby Park, ending in a charge down Broad Street. Real maneuvers were executed and the blast of fire-arms suggested a real battle. This sham battle was intended to represent the second and third days of the battle of Gettysburg, July 2nd and 3rd, 1863.

Following in the wake of the charge of battle were a considerable number of men, women and children. Great excitement prevailed, especially among the small children. It was a real representation of war.

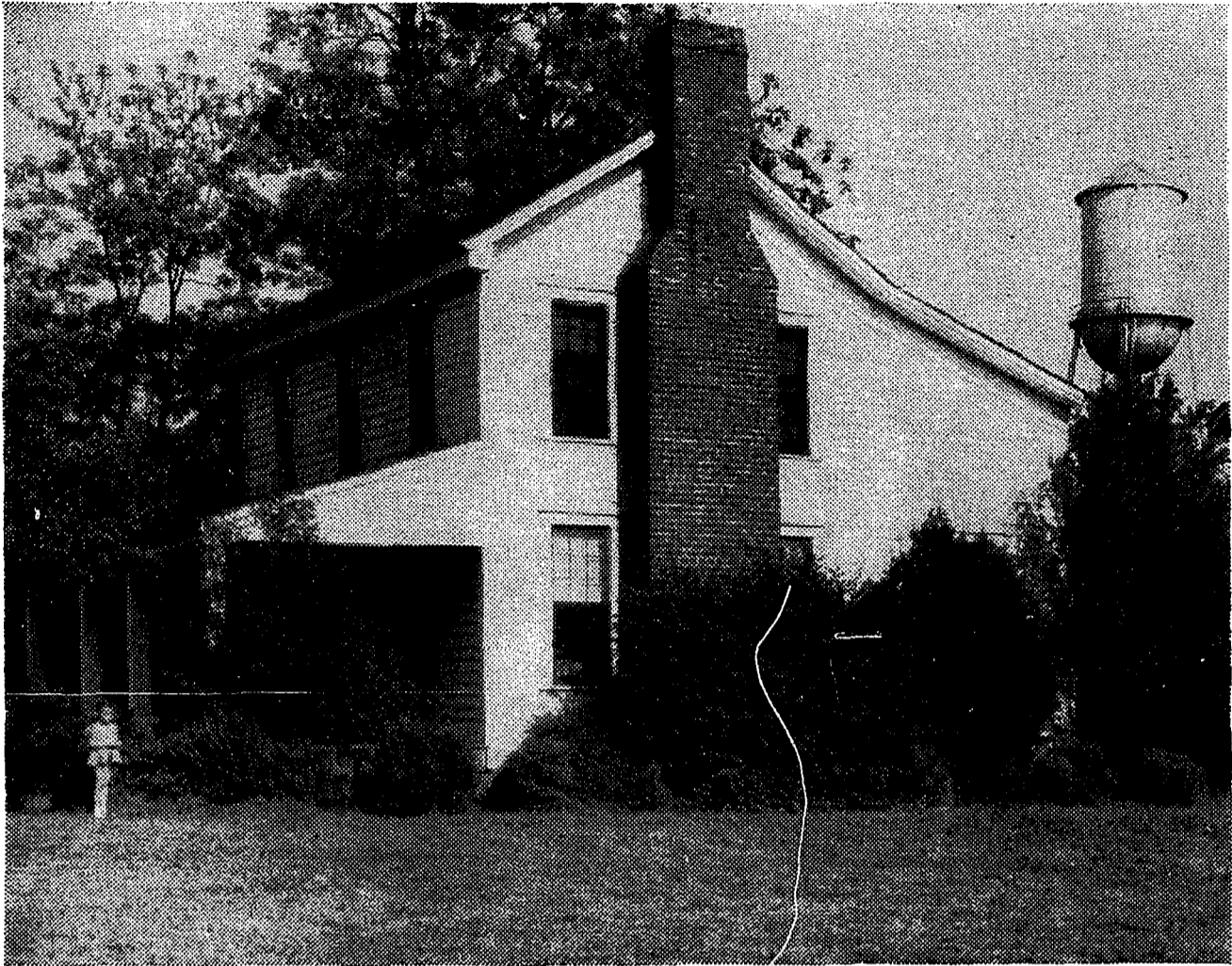
CHAPTER XIX

PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD HOMES AND OTHER BUILDINGS

It is interesting to see typical buildings of a former generation. This chapter presents the buildings and homes that were erected from seventy to one hundred and fifty years ago with a few scenes of a later date. All of these show views within the village and incorporate town of Harmony Grove except an old residence which is located a short distance from town on the highway as indicated in the description under the photographs. These two views show pictures of a house probably a hundred and fifty years old.

The early settlers constructed their houses of hewn logs for sills, sleepers, walls and joists, mortised and pinned together. The rafters usually were skinned pine poles. The buildings were covered with two or three-foot boards rived by hand with a froe.

These photographs show a wide range as to types but are significant of the various eras of architecture. Under each picture is a brief description of identification.



Original James W. Shankle home on State Street. Occupied by Dr. W. B. J. Hardman 1851. Later by Mrs. Bowden until her death. Remodeled and now occupied by Herbert Sharp. This building is 120 years old.



Dwelling on North Broad. Street originally located near Blue Bell plant. Birth place of C. J. Hood, 1861. Removed by him about 1900 and exactly duplicated.



Original home of Isaiah Borders on Jefferson Road. Note hewn logs dove-tailed together. After his death there was found in the attic in a cache in the wall more than \$2000.00 in gold and silver.



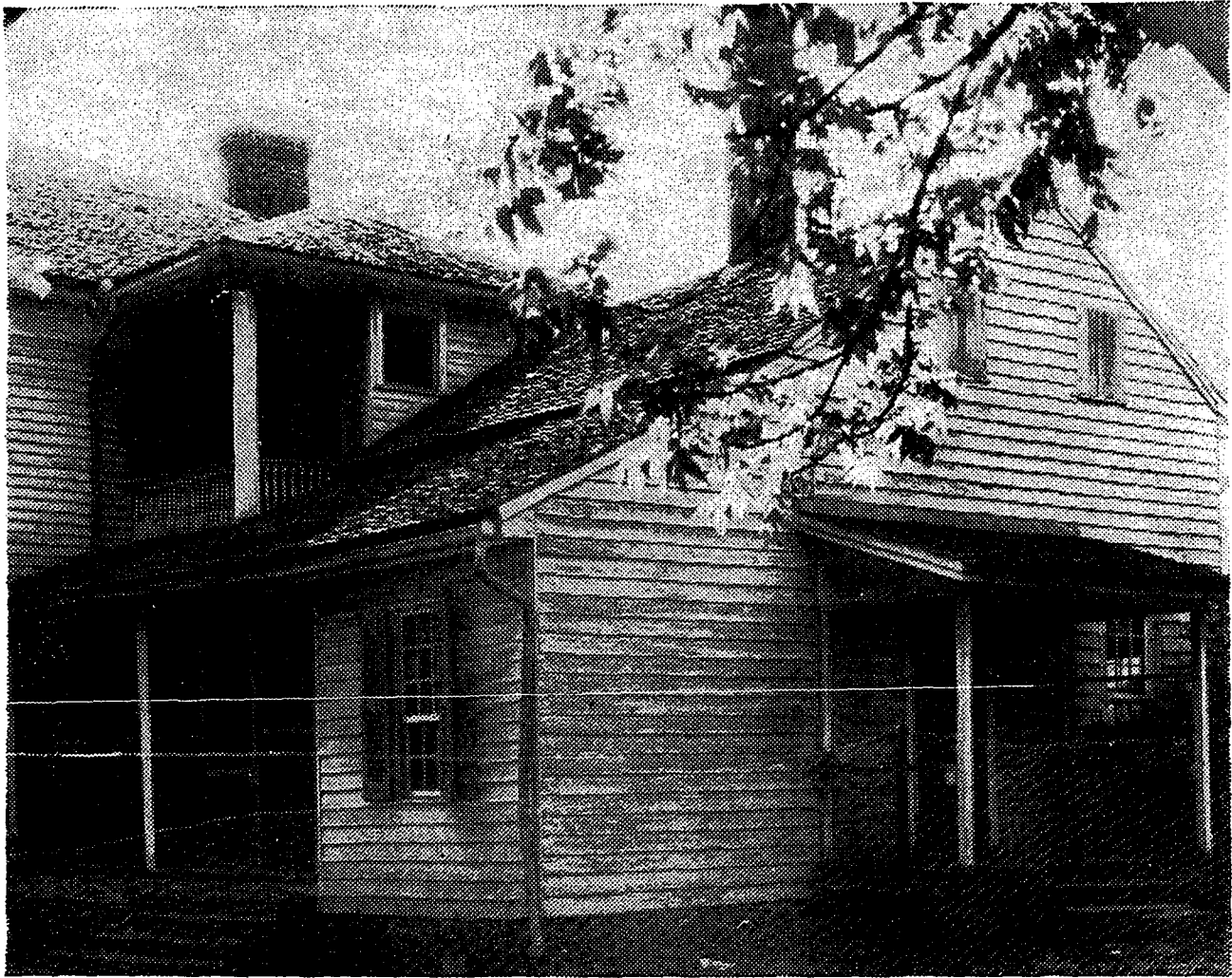
Rear view of the Isaiah Border's home. Note the rocks in the chimney and also the construction which is about 150 years old.



S. M. Shankle residence on Cherry Street. Built in front of his original home about 1878.



Jesse P. Wood home built by Samps Butler. Sold to Caleb Wood. Occupied by Dr. W. B. J. Hardman 1852-1856. Birth place of L. G. Hardman, Governor of Georgia.



Rear of S. M. Shankle home. This kitchen as shown was the original house. Built about 1845.



The kitchen of the S. M. Shankle original home. Over 100 years old.



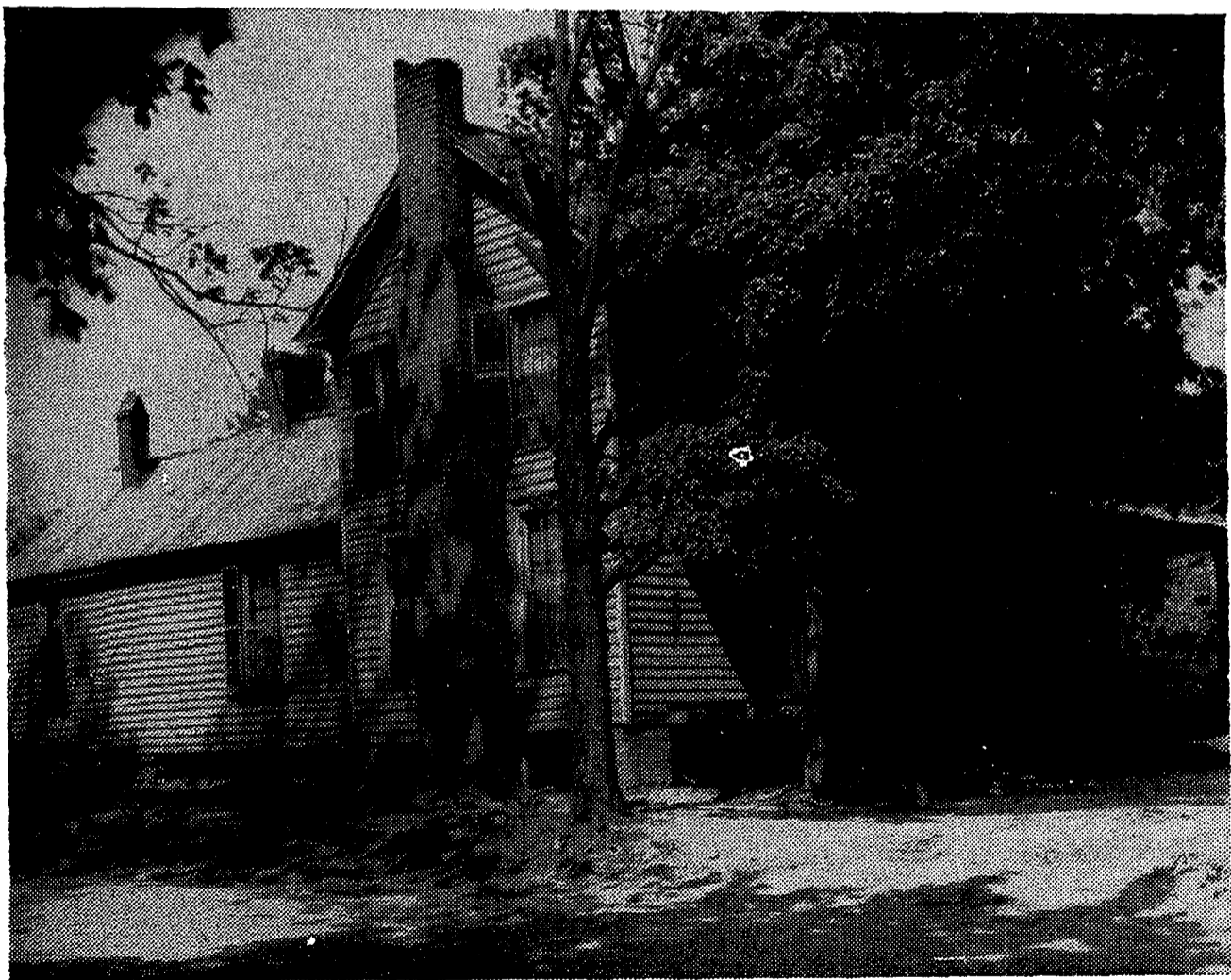
Originally the Northeastern Hotel run by Uncle Solomon Seegar and Aunt Calline Seegar probably during and just after the Civil war. Sold to W. A. Quillian about 1884.



Rear view of the Northeastern Hotel showing the kitchen and back veranda.



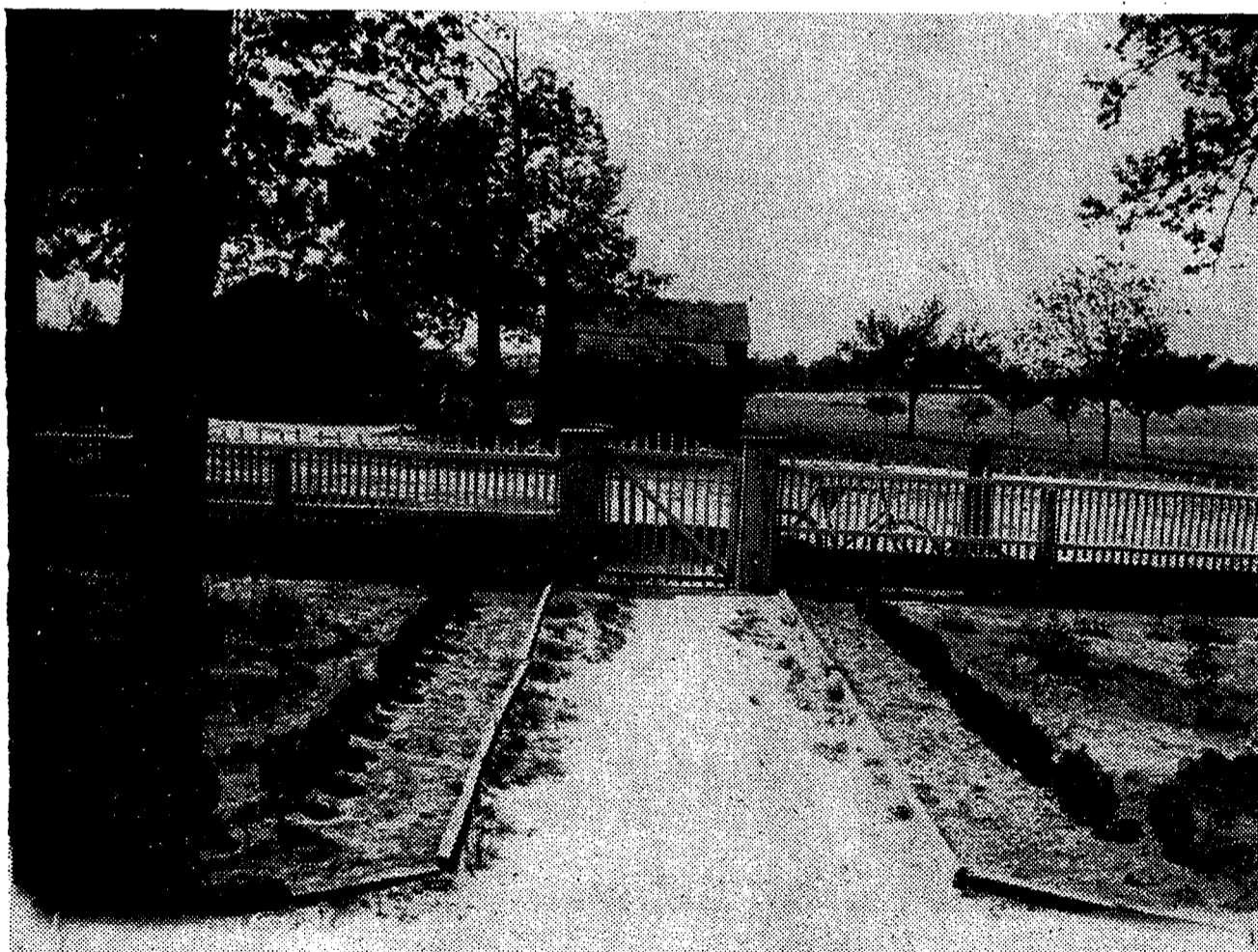
D. J. and Eliza Sanders home on Homer Street at the top of the hill. Built in 1872. Occupied by them until their death. An elevated point in the city.



Eli J. Riley house in the rear of Davis and Nix Store. Probably about 80 years old.



Home of L. G. Hardman built about 1878. Used as a hotel and boarding house 15 years. Later rolled from original site to Oak Street.



Office of Dr. W. B. J. Hardman in front of his residence on Madison Street. He practiced here from 1858 to 1878. L. G. Hardman read medicine here in 1875 and began his practice in this office.



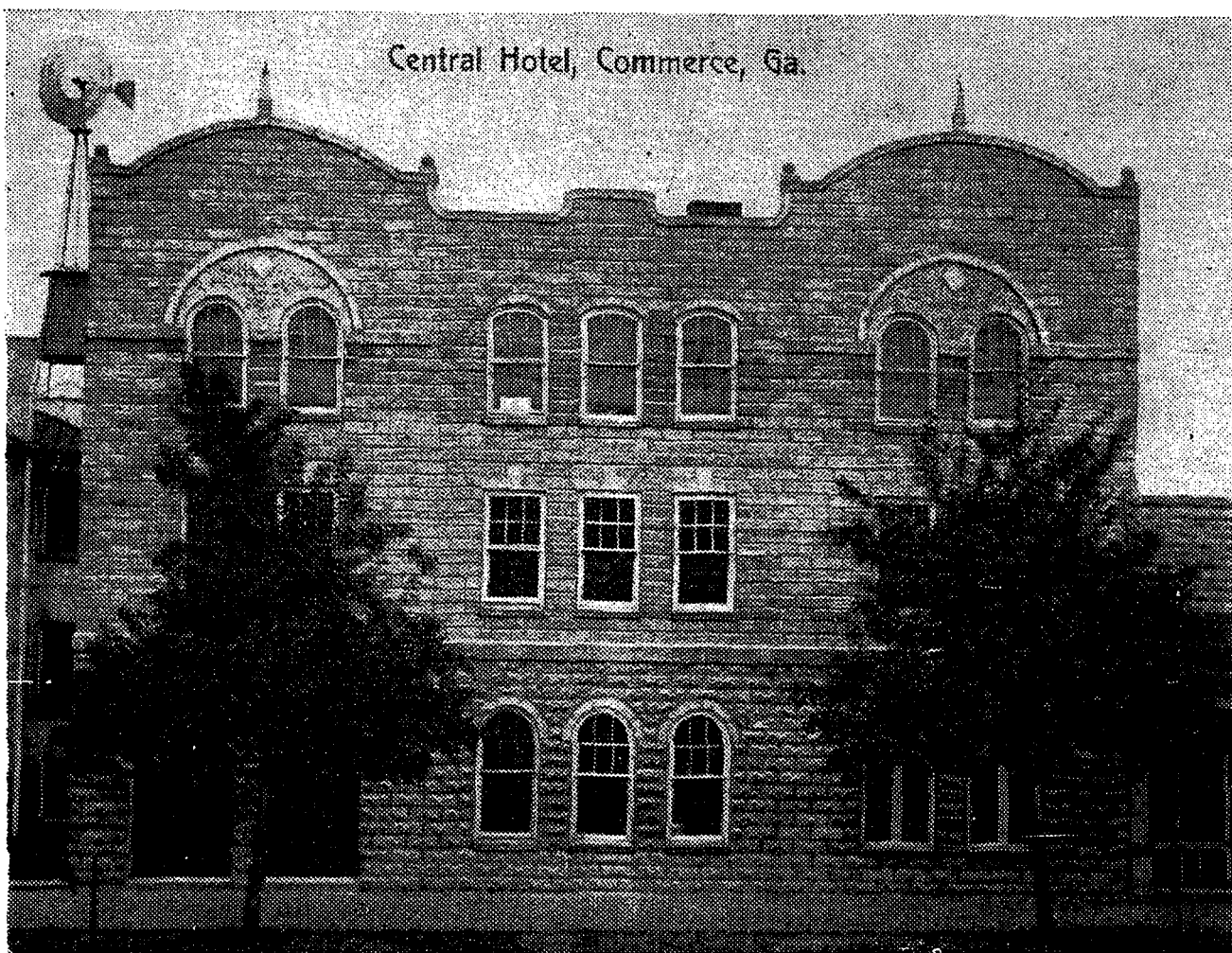
Residence of T. C. Hardman originally built in 1893. Remodeled and rebuilt as above in 1912.



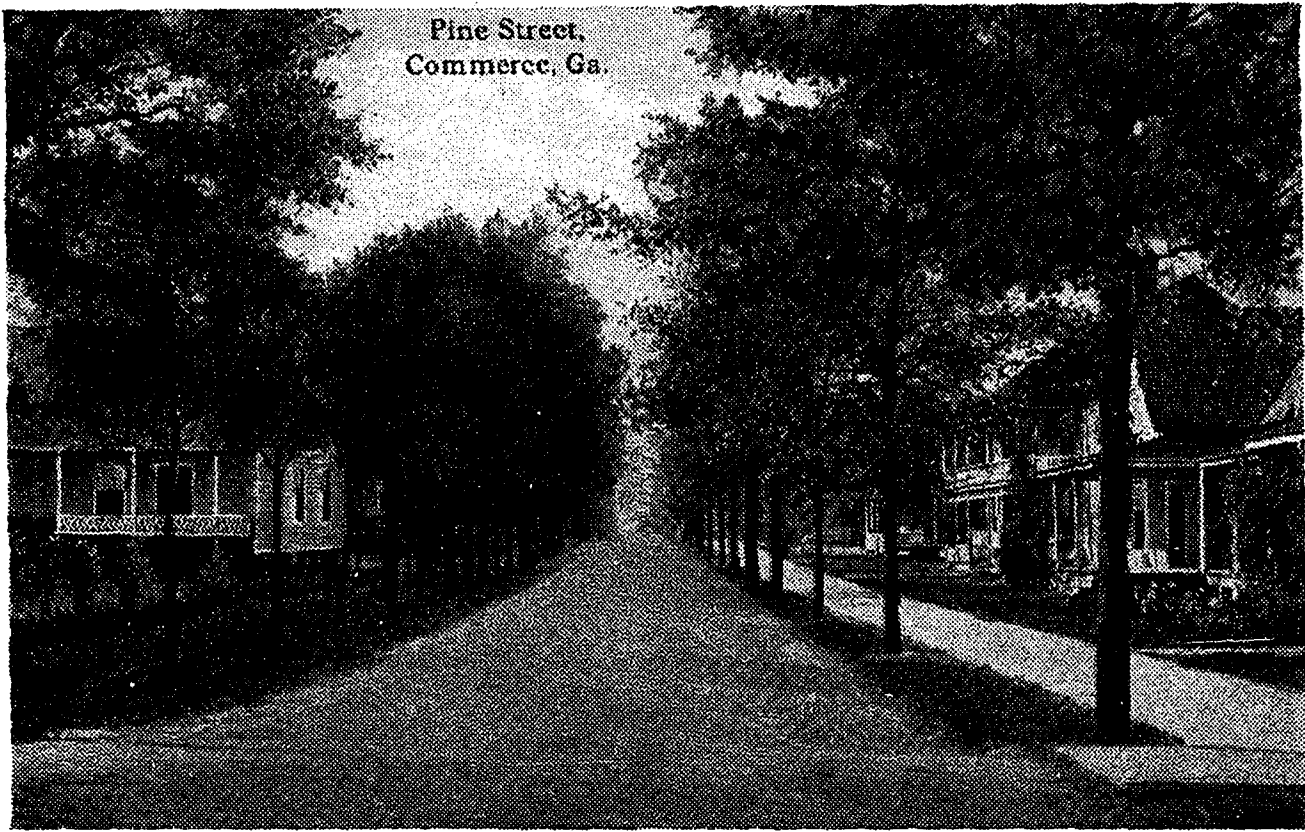
Photograph of the same building as above in 1948.
114 South Elm Street.



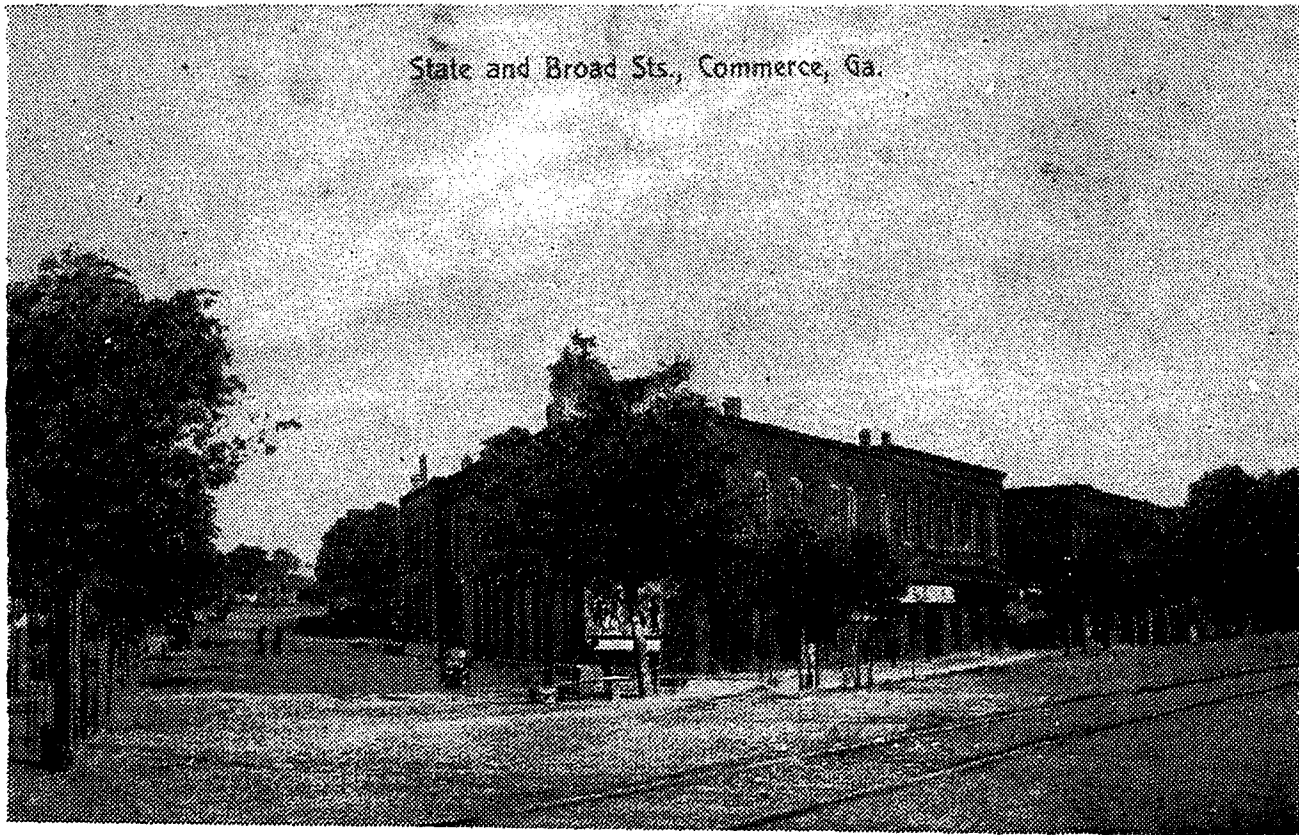
Hardman Sanatorium, 1899-1948. Original Central Hotel to right,



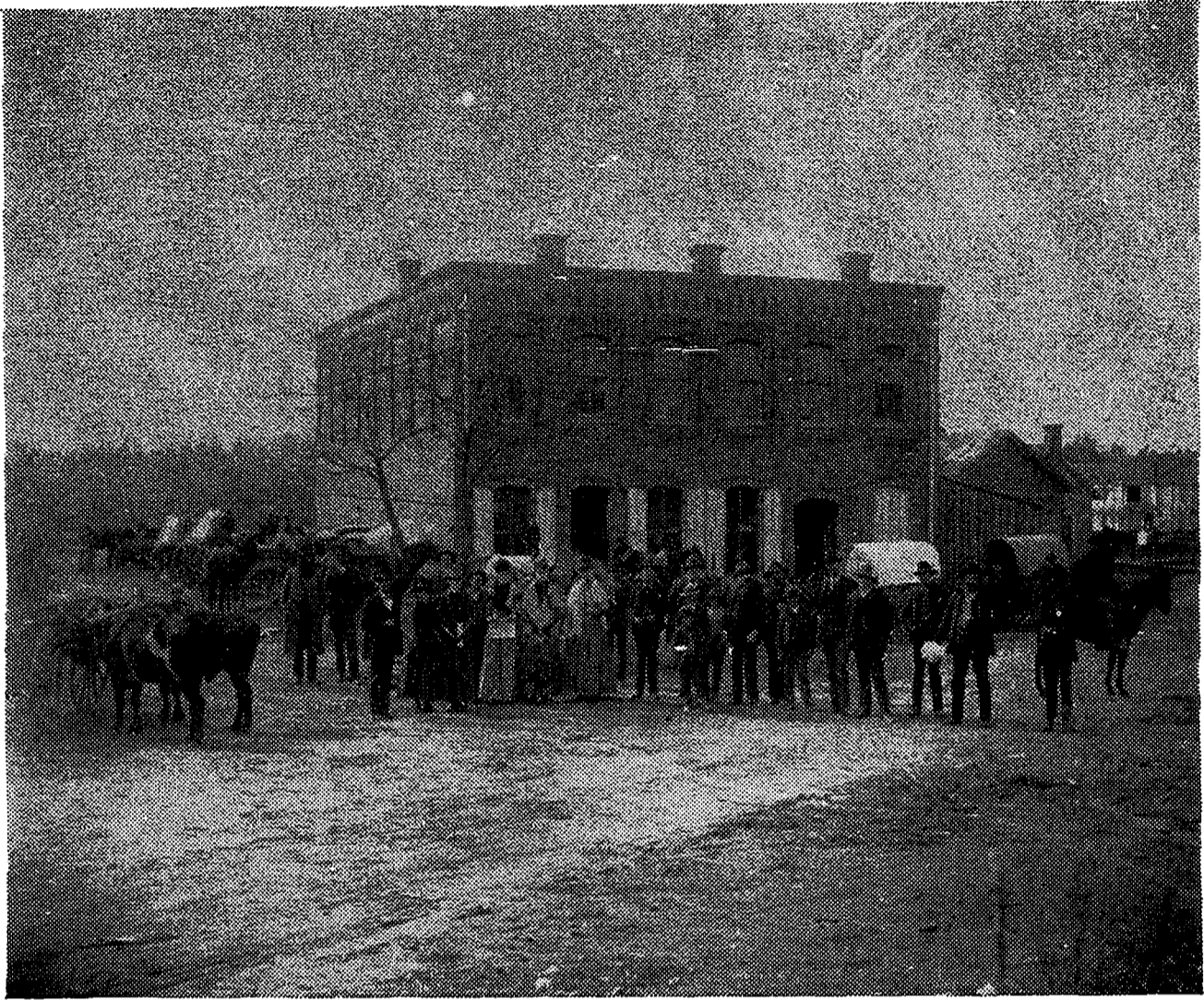
Central Hotel as remodeled. 1904-1942.



Pine Street, Commerce, Ga. 1905.



State and Broad Streets, Commerce, Ga.



W. T. Harber & Brothers
General Supply Store
1886



Hardman Hardware Company
T. C. Hardman
1909



Four ox wagon ride. (22 aboard). In front of the Central Hotel
and Nix Brothers store
May 1907



Same group as above at saw mill site 4 miles in the country. 1st
row, left to right: Ernest Jackson, Emma Stapler, Cliff Barber,
Marguerite Cooper-Rider, Louise Truitt, Francine Hardman, Lucy
Adams, Hallie Stapler, Maud Montgomery, Ossie Power; 2nd row:
Joe Holdbrooks, Norine Cooper, Erle Hardman, Alice McCollum,
Cliff Daughtry; 3rd row: Carl Williamson, Estelle Harber, Mar-
garet Green, Charlie Truitt, Mrs. T. C. Hardman. Joe Hardman
on tongue. T. C. Hardman by the tree

CHAPTER XX

ITEMS OF INTEREST, ANECDOTES AND PERSONALITIES

HARMONY GROVE VS. COMMERCE

Why the Name Was Changed

The question is often asked why change the name of Harmony Grove to Commerce. During the last decade of the 19th century there was a rapid advance in the business of the town and there were various suggestions that we should have a name more in keeping with the commercial air of the town. There were several reasons advanced. One was the length of the double name took extra time to write it and a shorter name would save time. Another reason was the desire for a name that would indicate the spirit and progress of the community. Others thought Harmony Grove sounded like a country village and they wanted a name more attractive to the commercial world. The final reason was there is a post office of the same name in Dawson County, Ga., and our mail often went to this post office.

It may be said that while the majority decided in favor of the change it was far from unanamous. Among those who did not favor it was Dr. L. G. Hardman who retained the name of Harmony Grove in some industries and businesses with which he was connected. Some even now doubt the wisdom of the change and long for the beautiful name under which they were born and reared.

It may be added that the name adopted was suggested by a committee appointed by a mass meeting of citizens. Attica was the first name suggested and adopted but the postal

authorities rejected this name because of its similarity and proximity to Athens and Atlanta and consequent danger in getting mail mixed. Some one then suggested Commerce for the reason that there was a progressive town of similar size in Texas by that name. So Commerce was recommended by the committee and adopted by the citizens.

Some incidents connected with the name of Harmony Grove may be of interest. Before the building of the Gainesville Middling Railroad by Jefferson, a daily star route was in use from Jefferson to Harmony Grove. One of the carriers was Raymond Roberts who was slightly afflicted in his limbs but was able to drive his horse to the buck-board in which he carried the mail. The contract for the route, let out by competitive bids, was very meager, some sixty or seventy cents a day. So the carrier supplemented this stipend by carrying passengers each way at twenty-five cents each. Raymond was a very genial, jovial fellow who enjoyed conversation with his fellow passengers. On one occasion a drummer was his travelling guest. As they reached the top of the hill on Jefferson road the drummer remarked, "There is Harmony Grove. Why do they *call* this Harmony Grove?" Raymond replied that he supposed that it was because of the many nice trees and the people were harmonious and congenial. The drummer said, "No, that was not the reason. They *call* it Harmony Grove because that is its *name*." Raymond turned and looked the drummer square in the face and in a tone of surprise said, "You've got more sense than you look like you have." The joke was so good that the drummer told it when he called on his customers in town.

About the time the change of name was under consideration a fine old English gentleman, who had recently come from England and was travelling salesman for Rogers Silverware Co., Wallingford, Conn., called on the writer and expressed his admiration for the beautiful name of the town. He said he had never known before of a town named Harmony Grove. A short time after the name was changed to Commerce he

returned and expressed great disappointment at the change. He then related that shortly after he was here last his home city in England offered a prize for the most suitable name for their park. He sent in the name Harmony Grove which was accepted and he received the prize of \$500.00. The writer felt a bit chagrined that we had discarded a name that others considered so rare and most beautiful and appropriate.

GRAYHILL CEMETERY

The beginning of the cemetery was a gift of one acre of land donated by C. W. Hood, Sr., in 1874, at the same time he gave the site to the Harmony Grove Baptist Church and one acre to the school. Among the first burials were a young son of E. H. Ingram, monument now standing, Mrs. J. T. Edwards, and Will Deadwyler, son of Dr. V. H. Deadwyler. The area has been enlarged by purchase of about one-half acre of land on the southeast corner from W. T. Stapler and by purchase of nearly two acres on the southwest end from L. G. Hardman and N. W. Perkins. In 1934 two acres were bought at a public sale from Mrs. M. E. Oliver. This has been added to by purchase from private owners on the southwest end of this newly purchased lot. The name Grayhill was given the cemetery by City authorities. The cemetery is kept by a sexton employed and paid by the city. In the earlier years the town paid for the upkeep of the walks and the owners kept their own lots or paid for same. This city of the dead is at present kept more efficiently, with improvements in keeping lots and coping and beautifying the grounds.

ANECDOTES

During an early period of Harmony Grove there was a countryman named Elisha who usually came to town on Saturday afternoons and sometimes visited the grog shop and imbibed too much. One afternoon he had gotten tanked up and became very sick. He retired to the rear of one of the stores seeking relief. After remaining there an hour or more and having emitted most of the contents of his stomach one of his solicitous friends came around and said, "How are you by this time, Elisha?" He replied, "Wal-l-l I'm well to whut I wuz."

Mr. C. W. Hood, a reliable merchant in Harmony Grove, was a very efficient business man and courteous to his customers. He had a soft, low, somewhat whining tone of voice. He was a bit eccentric in his method of conversation with his customers which gave rise to a number of amusing incidents told on him during his business experience.

On one occasion in his old wooden store house a customer by the name of Tom Butler came in. He had a fine and coarse voice which would change from a very high tenor to a very deep bass in every sentence he spoke. As Mr. Butler came in he said, "Want a dollar's worth of coffee, a pound or two of sugar." Mr. Hood with his back turned waiting on another customer replied, "Just be patient, I'll wait on both of you directly."

Mr. Hood was very careful about his clerks. His idea of industry was that every one should keep at work. A certain clerk, named Tyra Duncan, was one day sitting on the counter swinging his feet, talking and laughing. Mr. Hood came along and said, "Kyra, haven't you anything to do?" "No, sir," said Tyra. "Well, you just go around to the warehouse

and roll an empty barrel from one side to the other. I don't want anybody around me without something to do."

Mr. Williamson tells this on Mr. Hood. It was customary for the merchants to bid on the farmers' cotton. Sometimes the buyers would run the price up on the other merchant's customers. This occurred on one occasion when one of Mr. Hood's customers had a load of cotton and reported he had been bid so much. Mr. Hood replied, "This is above the market and is more than it is worth, but I'll meet his price and throw you in a *pint of goobers*. Just go and have the load weighed up."

Many jokes were told on Uncle Solomon Seegar and Aunt Calline. Most of them were true. One time after the railroad had been in operation for a short time, the schedule was such that the evening train that brought passengers from Atlanta arrived rather late in the night. One of the drummers was stopping overnight with Aunt Calline. She related to him exultingly that she understood they had exchanged the "skudule" and would be lighter on the old man. The drummer remarked, "I haven't heard of that. How much?" "Yes," she said, "it has been coming at ten o'clock. It's coming now at 9:60 and it will be a heap lighter on the old man now to meet the train."

On other occasions, John Tuggle, a popular tobacco drummer made regular visits to the hotel and was very sociable in his manner. Aunt Calline's casual remark about him was, "I like Mr. Tuggle very much. He is so homelike. He sticks his feet up on the mantel in front of the fire, lights his cigar and behaves just like one of the family."

A well known citizen, Mr. Jet Bird, a painter by trade and the father of John Bird, was painting Uncle Solomon Seegar's store building with a deep yellow color. A little school boy, Tom Adair by name, chanced to pass by and cast his eyes up the ladder and drawled out, "Hey-O, Mr. Byrd, whut are you geasing that house with eggs fur?" Mr. Bird, a little insulted, looked down and replied, "Two dollars a day and my board." The boy was satisfied.

Back in the 70's and early 80's it was the custom for some to pride themselves on their physical prowess. Fights, known as 'fist and skull bouts' were common, especially at the grog and blacksmith shops or stores where people congregated. Among some of those who were known as 'bullies' were Linsey Dunson, Sebe Dunson, Frank Coleman and Frank Stansby.

Frank Stansby, a unique character, blew into Harmony Grove about the year 1880. No one seems to know from whence he came or whither he went. A man of few words, uncommunicative as to his background yet withal a friendly fellow, he operated a tanyard and harness shop here for about three years. Physically he was a young giant, tall, raw-boned and muscular, about six feet four inches, he tipped the beam at more than 200 pounds. Generally quiet, he was not averse to matching his physical prowess to all comers. In those days there lived an eccentric character, Rube Anthony by name, who considered himself 'much of a man' living in the vicinity of Apple Valley and a neighbor of Morgan Nix. He came to Harmony Grove on one occasion to look over this man Stansby. On arrival, being congregated with some of the town boys, he inquired, "Where is that man Stansby? Let *me* see him." Some one pointed out Stansby, who was nearby, and suggested he had better not talk too loud. Rube scanned the giant fellow up and down and exclaimed, "Golly, boys, ain't he a *buster!* Come, Morgan, let's go home."

Rube was a tenant farmer and boys were found of playing pranks on him. Judge W. J. Colquitt, who was the founder of Apple Valley, a man of wide reputation and a leader in the community and a farmer of original ideas, loved practical jokes. On one occasion Rube had a large watermelon patch and the melons were about ready for market. The Judge suggested to the boys that they get some melons out of his own patch and take them around on a certain night. They cut these melons, ate some of them, 'busted' open others, and scattered them all around the bushes on the outside of Rube's patch. They made a few tracks in and out of the patch but with care not to pull a single melon. Next morning Rube goes to look over his melons, sees the bursted melons and rinds all around and without inspecting his own melons presumed they were from his patch. His ire arose. He put on his fighting clothes and went to his friend, Morgan Nix. "Morgan," he said, "Somebody has busted every melon in my patch and ruined it. I am ready to 'whoop the man or any number of men who will acknowledge doing it.'" Morgan never told him that the Judge instigated the joke.

"The Old Buttin' Sheep"

In the early days our neighbor, Bijah Wilbanks, who lived about a mile away, owned a large ram sheep which his older boys had taught to butt and fight anything that came in his way. Once the ram got out and came along by our home. Willie C. Glenn, a neighbor boy of some twelve years of age, was passing from school. The boy had just recovered from a long spell of sickness. The ram attacked him viciously, butting him down several times. He tried to escape by getting into a wagon nearby, but every time he made an effort the ram would butt him over. My mother and grandmother, seeing his danger, went to his rescue. My mother seizing a wide board received the attack of the ram against the board while my grandmother carried the boy into the house. Then with

skill my mother backed off towards the front gate, warding off the ram all the time with the board. Reaching the front gate she closed it and threw the plank at the ram, rushed in and closed the front door. The ram jumped the fence, followed closely and butted the front door like a battering-ram. I was some two years old and playing in the back yard. My grandmother rushed out and brought me to safety while my mother blew the horn for the older boys and the hands in the field. They came and found the ram still vicious and the only way they could drive him off was to load the shot-gun with peas and give him a volley or two. He finally left for his home. This incident of the butting ram as told to me by my mother and grandmother made a lasting impression on my memory. "The Old Buttin' Sheep!"

Dog Training

Some thirty years ago a Negro lived near the railroad just north of Nicholson. He built a ladder leading up to a wooden tower some twenty or thirty feet high. At the top of this tower was a small platform and at the base a good size pool of water.

This Negro had trained his dog to climb the ladder and at a signal from his master he would make a headlong dive into the pool.

On one occasion a Methodist preacher passing by was interested and interviewed the Negro. "How did you train that dog?" he asked. "I have tried to train dogs and never could get them to mind." The Negro replied: "Fore you can train a dog youse gotta have more sense than the dog."

The preacher was so amused at the ready wit of the Negro that he related the incident to a number of his friends.

The Old Man and His Bugle Up a Tree

An old gentleman named Maston Bray lived two miles below Harmony Grove on the Madison County road. He was the owner of a bugle. He was a man of quiet disposition but not very industrious. His wife was of a fiery temper and very energetic. When she developed one of her irate spells and went into a tantrum the old gentleman, who had provided a seat up in the fork of a tall tree, gathered his bugle and ascended the tree, took his seat and began to blow with all his might in tones that could be heard a mile or two, seeking to drown the rasping of the tongue lashing of his spouse. When the neighbors heard the bugle blow they would remark, "Old man Bray's wife is fussin' again. Listen at his bugle."

Farmers Grange

The Farmers Grange was established in the 80's. It had many supporters and supply merchants catered to their trade by giving special prices. W. C. Farrabee who lived in the lower part of town was an enthusiastic member.

On one occasion a man was coming to town and as he was nearing Mr. Farrabee's home a thunder shower came up. He asked if he might get *refuge* under his shelter until the shower was over. Mr. Farrabee replied, "Ah-h-h, friend, there ain't a bit there. You can get all you want up at the *Granger Store*."

The Three H's

In the days of old Harmony Grove drummers were plentiful. Among them was a friendly old man by the name of Finley, the senior member of the Finley-Roberts Hardware Co., of Baltimore. Mr. Finley came about twice a year on friendly visits. As I remember him come racking down the plank side walks he would stop and say, "Friend, Hardman, what can

I send you?" "Well, not needing anything today." He would reply, "O you mean thing, you booger! I've just come to see the three H's, the Hoods, the Harbers, the Hardmans."

Some wag coined in the early days of Harmony Grove the following couplet:

Hood's town, Shankle street,
Seegar's hotel and nothing to eat.

W. T. Stapler's Yarn of "Old Bill"

Mr. Stapler was a master in the art of telling anecdotes. Once on a hot August day he was stopping at a hotel in Elberton, Ga. After the dinner hour the Negro porter was playing with a billy goat, the pet around the hotel, and which had been trained to accept a banter to fight. The Negro finally fell asleep on a bench in the yard and began to nod his head up and down. Bill took this as a challenge to fight. He stepped back a few paces and came with force and struck the Negro's head just as it descended. The impact only caused the Negro to shake his head and drop back to sleep and resume his nodding. Bill, not satisfied, stepped back about twenty paces and came with double speed and force and struck the Negro full in the forehead. The concussion was so great that Bill's head was busted and he dropped over dead. The Negro, little disturbed, dropped asleep again. After finishing his nap he saw the goat lying in front of him. He gave a light kick and said, "Git up from thar, Bill." After repeating the kick the second time he looked over and saw the goat's busted head and excitedly exclaimed, "I'll swar if *somebody* ain't done killed old Bill."

PHOTOGRAPHER T. J. ALLEN

Mr. Allen came to Harmony Grove about 1889 and was the principal photographer here for thirty years. He had a very interesting family of wife and six children. At first his photo shop was on the second floor of Strickland Hall. Later he moved to a two-story house to the rear of Dale's tin shop. He had his picture gallery in the second story.

There was a croquet and marble yard close by his home. Mr. Allen was fond of these games. His wife would call him to snap a picture and he would return to his game while she did the work. In his gallery were hundreds of pictures, samples of all he had taken. When it was noticed that a few of the pictures were inverted, some one inquired the reason. Mr. Allen replied, "When any body don't pay for their pictures I stand the picture on its head. When they come in and pay for them I turn the picture right side up." Mr. Allen wore a long beard and was a great church man, attending prayer meetings regularly and all the services of the church. He was the clock winder and delighted to repeat Scripture. He had many favorite texts. He, with his friends, Brethren Jefferson Jennings and J. M. Rhodes were landmarks in the Baptist Church. They were faithful and well versed in the Scriptures.

Mr. Allen operated the first improvised home-made telephone from his gallery in Strickland Hall to his residence in the rear of Dale's Tin Shop.

However, about the year 1878 Charley A. Bond, a pupil of M. L. Parker's school, used a wax yarn string attached to a wooden match box at each end was able to talk in a low tone of voice at a distance of 200 yards. This was about the time Graham Bell was inventing the telephone that bears his name.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Since Mr. Allen left there have been only a few photographers to locate for any length of time in Commerce. The extended use of the kodak by so many amateurs has lessened the demand for photographers in small towns. The fully equipped photographers seek locations in larger cities. However, we now have in Commerce the Modern Art Studio, well equipped, established by Mr. Grady F. Michael who has been located here for about three years. He is a splendid artist and has produced most of the photographs from which the cuts were made for this book.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF DR. L. G. HARDMAN
ADDRESS BY T. C. HARDMAN TO THE
COMMERCE HIGH SCHOOL, JUNE, 1937:

THE PRACTICAL LIFE

On this occasion I am to bring you some facts concerning a life lived in your midst which I trust will be an incentive to worthy effort on your part.

Dr. L. G. Hardman was born in Harmony Grove just a few hundred yards from this spot, April 14, 1856. His boyhood was spent on the farm just a mile southeast of the village post office, Harmony Grove, Georgia. The civil war coming on when he was a young boy, school facilities were meager and, following this great catastrophe, were years of hardship and struggle. With scant literary educational opportunities in early manhood, before he reached the age of eighteen he decided to follow in the footsteps of his father and began the study of medicine, graduating from the Georgia Medical College, Augusta, Georgia, at the age of nineteen. While practicing medicine for a year with his father, he enjoyed the acquaintance and friendship of Dr. Crawford W. Long, of international reputation. In the period of 1876-1877 he attended Bellevue, New York, receiving his diploma a few days before reaching twenty-one years. Blessed with a religious and pious father and mother, he entered into the practice of medicine with the unfailing purpose to succeed. With the good fortune to fall into the practice which his father had pursued for over twenty-five years, he ministered to the physical man while the elder Dr. W. B. J. Hardman, having entered the gospel ministry, ministered to the spiritual needs of the people. After serving his generation with unswerving fidelity in the realm of medical science for more than thirty years, he

became interested in other lines of endeavor, namely social well-being and the political and economical welfare of the people of his state.

His chief aim in early life was to relieve human suffering and prolong life. This gradually developed into an absorbing desire to benefit man in every phase of his need, to bring about those conditions productive of health, happiness and comfort. His reputation as a surgeon and diagnostician and his leadership in advanced medical thought was more than state wide.

Preservation of records and establishing of memorials was a hobby and became almost an obsession with him. He was interested in all of God's creation, in things animate and inanimate, things geological and theological.

I would like today to emphasize some of the characteristics and principles that made his life successful and useful. First, his seriousness, sincerity and simplicity. Life was real and worth living and the simple and common place things the most profound. The serious side of life with him was dominant, the humorous less developed and less apparent. Sincerity was a cardinal virtue. Second, the moving principles in his life's career were industry, intelligent research and investigation. To him indolence was a crime, ignorance inexcusable, waste a tragedy.

The life of Dr. Hardman may be considered in three distinct phases. First, early environments and experiences; second, aim and purposes; third, accomplishments. I have already spoken of his environments and early experiences. His aims and purposes are evident throughout his long life of public service. In the realm of medical science, he demonstrated the deadly effect of nicotine, the narcotic effect of alcohol and its deleterious effect on the human body. Second, in the realm of business, he was an outstanding leader in business affairs. He was active in the organizing of various industries, including manufacturing plants and banks. Third, in the realm of agriculture he advocated and practiced diversifying of crops, the conservation of land by forestry and proper drain-

age. Fourth, in the realm of education, while blessed with but scant opportunities in early years, he had a growing interest in the education of the youth, especially practical education. He was a number of years President of the Board of Education of the Commerce High School, serving in this capacity during his two terms as Governor of the state. He was President of the Board of Trustees of the Agriculture College, University of Georgia, was trustee of Shorter College, President of its Board, and trustee for several years of Mercer University. He was donor of large gifts to these and other institutions of similar character. Fifth, in the realm of political economy and social service, he was successful in leading in many sound and helpful laws enacted in the state. In introducing in the senate in 1906 the bill prohibiting the sale of intoxicants, the enactment of which became the first state-wide dry law; he was responsible for the law giving free treatment for rabies, also, for establishment of Tubercular Sanitarium at Alto. He was closely connected with the enactment of our drainage laws, public welfare department of the state and all the forward looking legislation for the past thirty years.

During his administration of two terms as Governor, he worked untiringly for the betterment of the state and the placing of our financial system on a sounder basis.

We boast today of great progress and advancement, but the test of any civilization is in its ability to solve the perplexing problems that confront it and to minister to the permanent welfare of its people. We look in vain today to leaders and high officials in state and nation for a note of high moral tone and of sound business standards and business integrity. I challenge the refutation of this statement. Witness the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment and the consequential deluge of our country with the whiskey traffic, dissipation and crime. The midnight signing of a bill that betrayed the people and controverted their voice in an election is sufficient answer to the first charge. Financial conditions and enormous state and national debt is an answer to the second. Drinking and smok-

ing, with their attending vices, are the bane of our social order. Alcohol is the enemy of human life and all living organisms. Formed in the midst of death, it becomes useful only as a preserver of fossils and dead bodies. We find everywhere a temporizing and unsound procedure that lays increasing burdens of taxation on the people. Our freedom of action is jeopardized. Individualism and self-reliance are discounted. We find our country in a state of moral collapse and the inevitable business collapse postponed to future generations. Balancing the budget is a lost art. Waste, graft, greed, political paternalism hold sway. We must look to the yeoman citizenry of our nation to restore the well established principles that government is for the protection of the people and its legitimate expenses must be met by them and not to expect our government to support its citizens. We must hark back to the founders and preservers of our institutions in past generations. Not that we are not making some progress, but no people can disregard the fundamentals of government and human freedom and make real progress. The appeal is made to the future historian and the records to establish the fundamental soundness and value of Dr. Hardman's administration in state affairs.

Certainly times are changing, but principles remain and we ignore them at our hazard. Let me in a few sentences give a resume of the life of Dr. Hardman.

Broadly speaking his mature life was divided into two periods. The first thirty years were devoted to his chosen profession in medicine and business affairs. The latter period of like duration, was devoted largely to religious matters, to donations and helpfulness to country churches, to the establishment and perpetuation of educational, religious and eleemosynary institutions. The first period was years of bachelorhood, the second, a period of married life. His passing on leaves with us a wife, a son and three daughters. To him:

*“Life is real, life is earnest
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou are to dust returneth
Was not spoken of the soul.”*

Young people, the future lies before you. The present is the time to prepare for its exigencies. It is imperative that you make preparation to meet life's problems as you face them. It is yet to be demonstrated all that God can accomplish in the life of an individual wholly committed to the will of God and the service of humanity, and by a nation that recognizes the authority and over-rulership of the God of the Universe.

