

Chapter XIV

Business and Industry

When the little towns of Pittsburg and Tullahoma were established American business and industry were just beginning to share the benefits of the so-called Industrial Revolution which changed manufacturing from small scale handiwork in the home, to large scale production in factories which were equipped with the improved tools of the mechanical age. The Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 had stimulated industrial development in the New England and the Middle Atlantic states, but the southern states which were to make up the so-called "cotton belt", or "cotton kingdom", did not become a part of this industrialization, nor did the other states which were situated away from the ocean, and from the rivers which flowed down to the ocean from the eastern slopes of the Appalachian Mountain range. In these areas, remote from the manufacturing centers of the nation, there was very little industrial development. Although some Southern states such as Virginia, The Carolinas and Georgia had been long established before the Industrial Revolution, they had done very little in the way of establishing factories. The newer Southern states of the southwest had still less interest in industrial pursuits. All of these states made up what was sometimes termed an "Agricultural Kingdom", and to the more limited number of cotton producing states the term Cotton Kingdom was applied. Blacksmith shops were in demand, and found at almost every cross-road. Men who could construct wagons and crude agricultural implements were found in many of the towns in these states. There was skilled labor to construct houses, and crude mills to produce lumber for such buildings, but industrial development, in its truest state, was non-existent. In the early years of the establishment of the towns in the Third Choctaw Cession no factory of importance existed in the entire area ceded by the Choctaw Nation. The smaller farmers and landowners had, of necessity, to know how to make and use homemade implements and other necessary objects required by frontier life. In this manner a group of artisans was developed who, by small scale operation, were able to supply some of the objects which less skilled neighbors were unable to construct. Some of the large slave owners coming into the region had trained slaves who were skilled in carpentry, masonry and other handicraft accomplishments. The more affluent settlers either brought with them, or sent back east for the beautiful furniture which was found in many of the pre-Civil War homes constructed in this area, but the furniture of the less affluent settlers was usually crude, home made, and frequently, uncomfortable.

Since the area occupied by the people living along the Yalobousha River was the most productive soil during the early years of settlement, the little river towns became the centers of trade coming to them from a rather extensive agricultural economy which had developed. As the early towns such as Chocchuma, Tuscahoma, Troy and Graysport began to decline as trade centers most of their business went to the town of Grenada, which had already been formed by the union of the two small towns of Pittsburg and Tullahoma. The merchants of the town were selling those goods most in demand by a people who were still in the pioneer period of their settlement. During the early years most of the goods sold were the actual necessities of life; such as cloth for clothing, groceries to supplement the food raised by the farmers and planters, medicines for man and beast, simple farming implements, and material for construction work. On a typical trip to town a farmer would go to the post office for his mail; to the general store to buy food items not produced on his farm, or to attempt to swap surplus farm produced food for these items, and to one of the several saloons for a drink, or for a bottle to take home with him. Once or twice a year he was likely to buy shoes and other items of clothing which his people at home were not able to manufacture. Many people still raised their sheep; and processed the wool to enable them to produce home-woven cloth. Most of the shoes used in these early settlements were made by local shoemakers and

many of the clothes purchased were made by tailors who had set up shop in the small towns. The tailors business was mostly with men, since most of the clothing needs of women and girls were supplied by the work of female seamstresses, or by the sewing skill of the women in the homes of the town and county. This home production of clothing was not confined to the female apparel, but much of the clothing of men and boys was made in the homes. In many of the farm homes thread was spun and cloth woven to furnish the material from which the family clothing needs were supplied. An indication of the extensive production of homespun cloth in the area is the establishment of a carding factory in Grenada in 1840. The severe financial depression of that period is indicated by the fact that Mather Robinson, who built and operated this factory, accepted toll of Wool in payment of his service. Mr. Robinson was one of the Grenada men who fought in the Mexican War and lost his life in that conflict. Jonathan Carl operated the first grist mill in Grenada. This first mill was operated by horsepower. He also had the first lathe in the community. Mr. Carl manufactured wagons, treadwheel gins, spinning wheels and looms. His son, Rius Carl, is reputed to have been the first white boy born in Grenada after the union of the two small towns to form Grenada.

With people coming into the area seeking new homes, and for other reasons, taverns were needed and soon established. We do not know which was the earliest tavern established in the area, but do know that one was in operation in Pittsburg as early as November 19, 1835. On that date the following advertisement appeared in the Pittsburg Bulletin: "John Smith, formerly of Elliot, respectfully informs his friends and the public generally, that he has opened a tavern in the town of Pittsburg, Yalobousha county, at the sign of the Union Hotel, on the south side of the public square, near the ferry, on the road leading to Carrollton, and half a mile from Belfor's Ferry in Tullahoma, on the road leading to Tuscahoma, Chocchuma, Leflore, Chula, and Manchester, where he will keep the best of grain and fodder, for horses and teams, and will furnish his house with the best provisions which the country affords." Mr. Smith, who had been one of the men connected with the Elliot Indian Mission, was well connected with the business life of the little town. One daughter, Harriet Smith, married James Sim, an early merchant in Pittsburg. He was later elected Marshall of Grenada with the specified duty of cleaning out the rowdy elements which came into the town on week-ends and defied local law officials. Later Sim served a term as Postmaster of Grenada. Another daughter married a Mr. Davidson who was partner in a mercantile establishment in Pittsburg. Still another daughter married William Huntley, who came to the area as a clerk in the land office at Chocchuma. At various times he was engaged in operating the "lower ferry" which was established by citizens of Pittsburg to counteract the advantage which Tullahoma had, because of the earlier establishment of a ferry which served the people of that town, and in operating a general merchandise establishment which was located near the Yalobousha river on a lot located west of Main street and north of the right of way of the ole "Peavine" railroad line. In the town of Tullahoma early taverns were operated by J. Williams and Mrs. Annie Parker.

One of the early business ventures by citizens of Grenada which necessitated co-operation on the part of several men was the building of a bridge across the Yalobousha river. On April 25, 1836, the Board of Police of Yalobousha County granted to a group of Pittsburg citizens a charter for the erection of a toll bridge across the Yalobousha river. This bridge was to have its southern terminus in the town of Pittsburg, thus giving that town an advantage over its neighbor to the east. Since the charter was granted such a short time before the union of the two towns, it is doubtful that it exerted much influence in this regard. The charter was to be in effect for ninety nine years. The stockholders were C. R. Morris, James Sims, Ralph Coffman, N. Howard, Allen Gillespie and J. T. Talbert. All the men, with the exception of Dr. Gillespie, were business men in Pittsburg. This must have been the bridge to which L. A. Duncan had reference when, in an article published in the Meridian Star

in 1903, he tells of the arrival of his family in Grenada in the summer of 1838. He stated: "Pittsburg was noted for its high bridge across the Yalobousha River; but a steamboat, several years after, pulled it down."

In the 1840's, the editor of the local newspaper, Weekly Register, began advocating a program to supplement the agricultural economy of the region with industrial development. He argued that a stamemill and a shoe factory were feasible and desirable industries for the town of Grenada. He cited some of the advantages possessed by the area which would seem to indicate the probable success of the industries which he advocated. Some of the advantages as cited by the editor were the presence of a plentiful supply of hardwood timber; the abundant supply of hides of cattle, and the supply of cheap slave labor. During the same period a cabinet maker was in business in town as is evidenced by the following quoted advertisement in the Weekly Register: "The undersigned still continues the Cabinet business at his old stand in Grenada. He has reduced the price of all work done at his shop one third lower than the prices charged last year, which is as low as work can be done or furniture procured in Grenada; and he hopes by his attention to his business to merit a continuance of the patronage, heretofore so liberally bestowed. A. P. Dunaway." In the January 13, 1842, issue of the same paper there appeared an advertisement indicating the establishment of a firm which had as its purpose the handling of goods sent into Grenada and produce shipped out. It will be remembered that, at this time, the Yalobousha river was the chief avenue of heavy commerce. That advertisement reads as follows: "James McConnell and A. S. Brown have entered into a partnership, and have established a Commission, Receiving, and Forwarding House at Greenwood, Miss., on the Yazoo River, under the name and style of McConnell and Brown, and S. D. Brown at Grenada alone; and will keep constantly on hand, at both places, bagging, rope, and twine, and a general assortment of groceries and heavy goods, blankets, shoes, such as will suit the planter. They will also make liberal advances on cotton in hand, consigned to Messrs. Andrew and brothers, New Orleans, and will buy cotton at the highest market prices. A. S. Brown has also procured three first rate keel boats, in charge of the very best of managers, Messrs. White, Jackson and Duberry, which will ply through the boating season in the Yalobousha River, between Grenada and Greenwood. By this arrangement, the several firms will be able to transact their business with neatness and dispatch, and save the planter hundreds that he would otherwise lose, It is their intention to put every article that they have, or may have to sell, at the lowest prices; and they hope, by strict attention to business, to receive a reasonable patronage." This advertisement is the first Grenada documentary evidence we have of the existence of the town of Greenwood. In earlier reference to the place it was called Williams Landing. James McConnell had been an early purchaser of lots in Grenada. A. S. Brown, owner of the fine plantation Emerald Garden, has been discussed at length in another article in this series. George W. Lake was operating a grocery store in 1842. In an advertisement in the above mentioned newspaper he gives the prices at which he will sell his goods: "Bacon eight cents per pound; Bagging: Kentucky twenty eight cents per yard, Missouri the same price, German twenty five cents and India the same price. Bale Rope, Kentucky fourteen cents per pound; Manilla twenty five cents. Fresh butter twenty five cents per pound, candles; composition fifty cents per pound; Mould twenty five cents per pound, Sperm sixty two and one half cents per pound. Coffee, Havana, Green and Rio Java, sixteen to seventeen cents per pound. Cheese 18 cents per pound; Bar iron ten cents per pound; Molasses seventy five cents per gallon, Nails nine and one half cents per pound. Sperm oil twenty five cents per gallon; Pork four cents per pound; Powder fifty cents per pound; Sugar, Brown, ten cents per pound, Loaf twenty two cents per pound; Coarse Salt fifty cents per pound and Whiskey forty cents per gallon." In view of the prices which exist today on the above listed goods, it seems strange that a people who had to pay seventy five cents per gallon for molasses and fifty cents per pound for salt should have been able to purchase whiskey for forty cents per gallon.

Lumber was much in demand as a building material, so sawmills became the center of a great deal of activity. It is probable that most of the early mills were operated by water power. The Crowder brothers had such a mill east of Grenada. As the demand for lumber increased mills were established which were powered by steam. One large sawmill was established near Grenada by G. W. Ragsdale which supplied, for many years, the lumber needed by the builders of the community. When the Y. & M. V. Railroad extended its branch line to Parsons, some years before that line was extended to Grenada, Ragsdale established a large mill at that place. Mr. Ragsdale was an early settler in Grenada. As early as 1842 he was President of a school located in Grenada and known as Yalobousha Female Institute. He was a Baptist layman of considerable influence. In 1866 he conveyed a lot to the "Colored Baptists" of Grenada, part of which lot is presently occupied by the Belle Flower Church. Another man engaged in extensive lumbering operations was G. W. Tindall. He lived in the eastern part of the county, and it was there that he had his timber lands and his mill. Records of the Board of Supervisors indicate that he furnished much lumber for the construction and repair of the many wood bridges which spanned the numerous small streams of the county.

Any sort of heavy industry was slow of development in the region. In the early days, before the arrival of rail road transportation facilities, when river transportation was confined to a few months each year, production of any sort of manufactured product was pretty well limited to supplying the local demand. Freight rates were so high and transportation so uncertain that it would have been too great a risk to try to manufacture goods to be shipped out from Grenada. After the arrival of railroads in Grenada the Civil War, and the resulting period of reconstruction, so ruined the financial resources of the region that no money was available for any considerable expenditure on factories or other industrial plants. One of the earliest manufacturing plants involving the investment of considerable money, and intended to process local products, was the Grenada Oil & Compress Company. The impetus which started the organization of this company came from a resident of Memphis. Mr. J. W. Caldwell came to Grenada in the summer of 1883 to spend some weeks at the rustic resort then known as Gibbs Springs. This resort was located about one and one half miles southwest of Grenada and the water from the adjacent spring was considered as being beneficial in treatment of various internal disorders. It is very probable that while Mr. Caldwell was in Grenada he was reading the Grenada Sentinel in which the editor, J. W. Buchanan, was advocating the establishment of industries in Grenada to balance the agricultural economy of the trade region. Mr. Buchanan had stressed the need of an oil mill which would process the large volume of seed which was then going to other points for processing. The editor stated that while Grenada prided itself on being the best cotton market in the area, the same could not be said, relative to cotton seed. Mr. Caldwell made a proposal by which he would take ten thousand dollars of stock in a cotton oil mill provided that local men would match time in the matter of stock subscription. He also stated that if this should be done, he would undertake to raise the monetary balance necessary to get the plant in operation. As a result of this offer The Grenada Oil & Compress Company was chartered on June 23, 1883. The incorporators were J. W. Caldwell, R. P. Lake, John D. Milburn, John Powell, and William-Mc-Swine. The charter provided that the company was authorized to begin operation as soon as thirty thousand dollars in stock had been subscribed. The charter stipulated that the purpose of the organization was to "Manufacture oil of any kind, and to gin cotton and to convert, reduce and manufacture cottonseed into any form or condition." The company began operation with the following named officers: R. P. Lake President, Sam Laurence Secretary and Treasurer, J. W. Caldwell, John D. Milburn and John Powell Directors. We have little information relative to Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Milburn, but the other officers were well known and respected Grenada business men. R. P. Lake was, at this time, head of the Lake Brothers Bank, which was to fail about one year later. Because of this

failure Mr. Lake assigned all his property for benefit of the depositors of the bank, and it is probable that his oil mill stock was thus involved. We do know that shortly after the bank failure R. G. Latting, Jr. was designated as "President of Grenada Oil & Compress Company." After his business failure Mr. Lake began to sell all kinds of insurance, and soon became so successful in this business that he was made District Agent for his companies, being located first in Jackson, Mississippi, and later in Memphis, Tennessee. Sam Laurence later became a partner in the large hardware firm of Doak & Laurence. John Powell was a well-to-do business man who was interested in many kinds of business in Grenada. He was also a member of the firm of New Orleans Cotton Commission Merchants known as Chaffee & Powell. Perhaps the reason why Mr. Caldwell was interested in Grenada as a promising location for a cotton oil mill was because, as a member of the firm of J. W. Caldwell & Company, Grocers, Cotton Factors and Commission Merchants of Memphis, he knew of the importance of Grenada as a cotton market. It is possible that he may have known that other men were interested in the location of a mill in Grenada.

On May 2, 1883, a little less than two months before the Grenada Oil Mill & Compress company was chartered, H. Bates of Indianapolis had written J. K. Mister, Grenada Post Master, relative to the cotton seed situation in Grenada. He wanted to know if there was an oil mill in the town; if not, how close to Grenada was the nearest such mill; if Grenada people would be interested in an oil mill if none then existed in the town. Mr. Bates also wanted to know if there was enough cotton grown in the area to produce twelve to fifteen thousand bales of cotton, which production in the opinion of Mr. Bates, would be sufficient to justify the establishment of a mill in Grenada. Mr. Mister answered the questions and then gave a sales pitch on the opportunities which existed in Grenada. He told Mr. Bates that there was no oil mill then in the town; that the nearest such mills to Grenada were Memphis 100 miles north; Jackson, Tennessee 150 miles north; Meridian 100 miles east and Yazoo City 100 miles south. He also informed Mr. Bates that in the previous cotton season Grenada had shipped in excess of eighteen thousand bales of cotton. He called attention to the fact that the Yalobusha River was high enough during the winter and spring season to justify cotton shipments on boats plying the river. He also stated that \$6,000 had been appropriated to be used under the direction of the United States Engineers to clear the river of obstacles to navigation. Having given this factual information Mr. Mister began his sales pitch: "We have been to a great extent governed by sentiment since 1865, but that sort of thing is rapidly disappearing and a business era setting in which, by the help of accumulated capital from abroad, is destined to make of this place a great manufacturing point and center of population. I am not an enthusiast but purely business, and state what I conceive to be a deliberate fact when I say that there is no town in Mississippi with more natural advantages for the manufacture of cotton in all its phases than exist in Grenada and its immediate vicinity." We do not know if Mr. Bates had any intention of establishing a mill in Grenada, but if he did, the organization of the Grenada Oil Mill and Compress before he could get organized probably prevented him from the erection of a mill in Grenada.

It would seem that the Grenada Oil Mill & Compress Company, because of the lack of local competition and the plentiful supply of seed available, would have prospered to the extent that it would soon be on a sound financial standing. But this was not to be the case. Throughout the life of the organization it was encumbered by debt. Perhaps the lack of men trained in the operation of such a mill mitigated against its success. None of the men who were first listed as stockholders and officers of the company had, so far as we can ascertain, any experience in operating an oil mill. Within a year of the beginning of the operation of the mill it lost both its President and its Secretary-Treasurer. We have already mentioned the apparent reason for Mr. Lake giving up the Presidency of the organization. In August of 1864, Sam Laurence re-

resigned from his position as Secretary-Treasurer of the mill in order to become a partner in the large hardware firm which came to be known as Doak & Laurence. On October 12, 1884, R. G. Latting, Jr., acting for the Grenada Oil & Compress Company gave a deed of trust to A. V. B. Thomas, acting for Robert Mullin, whereby the company, in order to secure a loan of \$13,000 made by Robert Mullin gave a deed of trust on the following described property: "Lot 195 and part of lot 194 with oil mill and appurtenances, same being located in the East Ward of Grenada." These lots fronted on the I. C. Railroad tracks, and were located just a short distance south of the present railroad station. Again, on September 4, 1885, we find the company negotiating another loan. This time John Powell, now acting as President of the company, gave a deed of Trust on the property to secure a loan of \$10,000 from the German Bank of Memphis. On April 3, 1886, the property of the mill was advertised for sale to satisfy the terms of the deed of trust in favor of Robert Mullin. The property was bought in by F. B. Nichols, brothers of a Boston promoter who was interested in cotton, and was represented in Grenada by C. L. Wilder. In 1887 another group of Grenada business men decided to try to operate the mill which they purchased from Mr. Nichols. The men and firms purchasing the property were: J. W. Griffis, W. N. Pass, W. B. Wolfe, C. L. Wilder, I. Wile & Company (which company was under the management of Max Ginsburger) and W. D. Dupree of Tennessee. The last named partner was the only one not a local Grenada business man. He was a member of a cotton firm, working in Grenada during the cotton buying season, but a resident of Jackson, Tennessee. One thing which had probably contributed to the financial troubles of the Grenada Oil Mill & Compress Company was the purchase of a steamer, the J. H. Williams, which was to be used to bring cotton seed from the delta area west of Grenada to the Grenada Oil Mill. It will be remembered that, at this time there was no direct railroad communication between this area of the delta and Grenada. After a brief trial the boat was sold to Walter Crump, a merchant and cotton seed buyer then located at Tuscahoma. He later moved to Parsons when that place became the temporary terminal of the Y. & M. V. Railroad branch reaching out from Greenwood in the direction of Grenada. Although the property of the Grenada Oil & Compress Company had been sold to satisfy a deed of trust, as has been related heretofore, it is somewhat surprising to find that, in 1887, that company was advertising in the Grenada Sentinel that it was paying highest prices for cotton seed. It would seem that the men who bought the property under the deed of trust sale took over the Compress part of the operation and allowed the oil mill to continue operation under the original name. John Powell was now serving as President and R. G. Latting as Secretary-Treasurer. Perhaps the men who had obtained the Compress operation of the Grenada Oil & Compress Company worked in co-operation with the Boston capitalist, J. H. Nichols, who had purchased the oil mill and compress at the deed of trust sale, and then sold the property to the company of Grenada business men set forth above. As early as 1884 a movement began to construct an adequate warehouse and compress to handle the cotton of the area. At the time this movement began much of the cotton bought to Grenada was stored in two cotton sheds operated by local men, and one Alliance Cotton shed. This was a co-operative enterprise organized by the Farm Alliance people who were very active at this time. In September of 1884 J. B. Townsend, Mayor of Grenada, acting for the city, gave the Grenada Compress a ninety nine year lease on "that portion of Wood street south of Third street and running to the Illinois Central railroad track, and also that portion of Wood street north of Third street to the alley running east and west and crossing Wood street between Second and Third streets." Evidently this action made it possible for the compress company to consolidate its area by eliminating a little used public street which crossed the property of the compress company. The compress company received its machinery in late 1885. Mr. Wilder, the cotton buyer who had induced the Boston capitalist to become interested in the compress venture, managed the compress as long as Mr. Nichols maintained control. In 1887 he sold his interest in the compress to the same individuals to whom he had sold the property purchased from the Grenada Oil & Compress Company under the forced

sale of the property of that company. The stock company formed by these men set up business under the firm name Grenada Compress and Storage Company. Max Ginsburger became President. W. N. Pass Vice-President, and J. W. Griffis Secretary-Treasurer. In the meantime the once defunct Grenada Oil Mill & Compress Company, still operating after some sort of agreement with the purchasers of the original property of the company had a competitor. In 1887 we find these two short advertisements running in the Grenada Sentinel: "From this date the Grenada Oil Mill will pay ten cents per bushel for sound seed delivered at the mill" and "The Grenada Cotton Seed Oil Mill will give one ton of cotton seed meal for two tons of cotton seed delivered at the mill." It would seem that there were either two mills operating in Grenada at this time, or that one of the companies was representing some out of town mill which was in the local cotton seed market. We do know that at some time during these years, the Mississippi Cotton Oil Company operated in Grenada. It had been established by local capital, possible as the Grenada Cottonseed Oil Company but got into financial difficulties and had to call for outside help. It is entirely possible that with the advent of outside capital the name of the company was changed to the Mississippi Cotton Oil Company. It is probable that the company became a subsidiary of some larger and stronger company. This mill was operating in 1896 when it installed a generator to supply electric lights for the mill. This was three years before there was a generating plant providing electricity for the residents of Grenada.

The Editor of the Grenada Sentinel was very much pleased with the prospect of Grenada having an adequate compress and cotton storage warehouse as is indicated by the following quoted editorial: "The cotton compress is another one of those things which seem too large for our local uses, but it is another one of those industrial forces that is to send its influences to the manufacturers of the East and Europe. A load of one or of ten bales of cotton brought can soon be compressed to half the bulk in size for shipment by rail to any city in this country and then, if necessary, be transferred to an ocean steamer with but the detention of a few hours for Manchester, Harve or any other foreign city. This compress will introduce by investment between twenty and twenty five thousand dollars which goes to swell the financial strength of Grenada. To work this huge machinery, it will take a dozen or more intelligent, active agents and laborers to turn out seventy bales per hour ready for shipment. Mr. C. A. Wilder who knows all about its practical workings and use will employ it for all that it is worth for his own and the public interest." In 1887 Joseph Newburger bought a one eighth interest in the compress. Newburger was a former resident of Coffeeville and a big operator as a cotton buyer. As his company increased both in financial standing, and in the area of operation, he came to Grenada and made this town the headquarters for the company. By the year 1892 there was a complete change in the officers of the compress company; Joseph Newburger was President, B. C. Ducan Vice-President and A. Mass Secretary-Treasurer. By this time Newburger was also part owner of a compress located in Winona.

Some of the leading business men of the city and county began to realize the fact that an economy, based principally on one crop, would not bring continued prosperity to the area. For a number of years the editor of the Grenada Sentinel had been advocating the diversification of the agriculture of the region. He stressed the fact that the long grazing season of the area gave stock owners of Grenada county and Mississippi an advantage over stock owners in other parts of the country. The editor stressed the need for more cattle both beef and milch breeds. Evidently someone was able to convince the farmers of the area of the validity of this argument since, in 1889, a company was organized to be known as The Grenada Creamery, Cold Storage & Ice Company. It is not likely that such a company would have been organized if the farmers of the region had not owned sufficient dairy cattle to assure the new plant an adequate supply of milk. The published charter of the company listed capital stock

at \$30,000 nine thousand of which must be subscribed before any operation could begin. Robert Doak and W. N. Pass were officers of the company who were authorized to purchase machinery for the plant. On February 16, 1890, they bought a five ton ice machine. We have no record of the other equipment purchased for the new plant. Evidently the plant did not prosper, since three years after it began operation, the plant, which had been constructed at a cost of \$18,000, was sold under a court judgement for the small sum of \$6,580 plus accrued taxes. The men who got together to buy the plant were W. C. McLean, Robert Doak, W. N. Pass, Joseph Newburger, B. F. Thomas, F. N. Hartshorn and J. T. Thomas. It will be noted that two members of the new organization had been members of the original company. Misfortune seemed to plague the new venture which was destroyed by fire.

In 1889 The Grenada Tanning & Leather Manufacturing Company was established in Grenada. The company was chartered with a capital stock of \$25,000, and was under the general management of V. Saltaemachie with P. C. Williams, former owner of the tannery which was purchased by the company, acting as foreman of the new and enlarged plant. The firm proposed to furnish leather for all manner of purposes, but its manufacturing centered chiefly on the production of saddles, horse collars and harness. The Grenada Gazette of November 29, 1889, gives an account of the business houses and industries-not by name but by number-which were operating at that time. He also mentioned some organizations. The report ran like this: "Grenada has three thousand citizens, 21 drygoods stores, 35 grocery stores, 3 first class restaurants, 3 first class drug stores, 2 furniture stores, 3 jewelry stores, 2 dentists, 6 physicians, 9 lawyers, 5 regular licensed cotton buyers, 2 regular licensed cotton weighers, 1 life insurance office, 1 fire insurance office, 1 bank with a capital of \$55,000, 3 white hotels, 1 colored hotel, 3 livery stables, 6 meat markets, 1 merchant tailor, 2 public schools, 1 collegiate institute, 1 private school, 4 white churches, 4 colored churches, 1 compress, 1 oil mill, 1 tannery, 1 Central Fair Association, 1 Masonic Lodge, 1 Odd Fellow's Lodge, 2 sewing machine establishments, 1 photographer, 1 Alliance Cotton Shed, 2 private cotton sheds, 1 string band, 1 militia band, 1 fine court house, 1 fine opera house, 3 shoemakers, 1 of the best machinist and workers in metal in the state, and 1 wagon and carriage factory." The fact that there were so many mercantile establishments in the town would seem to indicate two things: Grenada was then the center of a much larger trade area than it serves today, and most of the businesses were modest ones rather than the larger type of business houses which we have today. The building of the extension of the Georgia Pacific Railroad from Columbus to Greenville by way of Eupora and Winona (a road now known as the Columbus & Greenville) drew much trade from Grenada which had earlier come to the town from Webster and Montgomery counties. Later the construction of hard surface public roads diverted much of the trade formerly coming to Grenada to points such as Memphis, Jackson and Greenwood.

On March 26, 1902; there was a land transaction which was the beginning of the establishment of an industry which would for many years be the largest employer of local labor. On that date S. T. Tatum and others sold several hundred acres of land to the Ayer & Lord Tie Company of Chicago, Illinois. On March 28 of the same year The Grenada Sentinel came out with the following quoted news item: "The Ayer & Lord Company of Chicago, Illinois will invest at \$75,000 in their plant." The news articles also stated that the company had contracts to deliver 800,000 railroad ties per month, and had been doing an annual volume of business exceeding \$10,000,000. Of course this had reference to parent company rather than the Grenada plant. The payroll of the Grenada plant was to run from six to eight thousand dollars per month, with from two hundred to three hundred men to be employed when the plant was in full operation. The sprawling plant was to cover about four hundred acres of land. The news article gave Judge J. C. Longstreet chief credit for the establishment of the plant in Grenada county. The area selected was about three

and one half miles south of Grenada and the location of the plant came to be called Tie Plant. Construction of the plant began in 1903. On May 18 of that year the Company Superintendent of Construction, J. E. Willard, was on the job and soliciting bids for the construction work. Three buildings which would house the machinery and necessary working space were to be constructed. In addition to these buildings, another building was to be erected to serve as a boarding house, and several small tenement houses were also to be constructed. Irby & Whittaker, local brick masons, were awarded the contract for the brick work. This plant has continued operation down to the present time, although it now operated under the firm name of Koppers Company, Forest Products Division. This change in name came about by the consolidation of the Ayer & Lord Company which was chiefly engaged in preservation of wood products, with the Koppers Company which had a greater variety of industrial products. It would be hard to estimate just how much this company has contributed to the economy of the region. Although industrial companies employing many more people than the Tie Plant operation have located in Grenada, for many years the wages paid by the Tie Plant operation had a big impact on the economy of the area.

On May 9, 1903, the charter of the Grenada Oil Mill was published. That instrument listed as incorporators J. C. Perry, J. C. Longstreet, W. S. P. Doty and "such other persons who may become associated with them". The capital stock was not to be in excess of \$50,000, nor less than \$30,000, with the company having the authority to increase or decrease the amount "within the limits of the said sums". On the 16th of June in the same year the organization purchased lots 6, 7 and 8 in the West Ward of Grenada. The lots were purchased from W. M. Trussell for a consideration of \$500. The mill was erected on this property and is still operating there today, although the passage of years and change in business methods have brought about change in the original firm name. It is presently operating under the firm name Mississippi Cotton Seed Products Company. In 1904 the organization decided to get into the brick manufacturing business. At the meeting which authorized this new venture the following named Directors were listed as being present: Dr. J. W. Sharp, D. O. Semmes, A. S. Bell, B. C. Adams, S. T. Tatum, James Cuff, Cowles Horton, J. C. Perry and J. B. Perry. At the time the Oil Mill Company began this new venture there were two plants already manufacturing brick. One was operated by O. F. Bledsoe and the other by J. A. Carl. The brick which the Oil Mill Company proposed to make were sand-lime brick which were made by a newly developed process. News items in local newspapers of the time mention trips made by J. B. Perry to several places where the new type brick was being manufactured. The new venture was not very satisfactory, and the company soon abandoned that part of their business. J. B. Perry Sr. began his connection with the company as a bookkeeper, was soon plant manager, and continued in that capacity for many years. His son J. B. Perry, Jr., succeeded him in this capacity. During the years of its operation this company has given employment to a considerable number of local people, many of them being negroes.

From time to time smaller manufacturing plants were established. Some were supposed to be temporary in nature and moved on as soon as they had exhausted the raw products from which the plants fashioned their product. Some of these companies were absorbed by, and became a part of, stronger organizations dealing in the same products, while others failed, frequently from a lack of capital necessary to tide them over temporary periods of business stagnation. One of these early twentieth century operations was a stave mill which was operated by K. W. Hornsby. The mill began operation in 1902, and had a capacity of 12,000 staves per day. Twelve to fifteen men were employed in the plant while seventy five to a hundred worked in the process of cutting the required timber and transporting it to the mill which was located on a site west of the present location of Highway 51 and just south of the Yalobousha river. In time the mill was acquired by the Dixie Hardware Speciality Company, which soon transferred the property to Anchor Sawmills Company.

This company transferred the property to J. B. and C. A. Perry who leased the property to the Boone Cooperaged Company. This company discontinued operation and, for a time, there was no activity about the plant. Today it is being operated by the Grenada Stave Company. A few years later an outside company came to Grenada and began the operation of a large sawmill, cutting mostly hardwood timber. From time to time it has been known as Gayosa Lumber Company, Belgrade Lumber Company, and is presently known as Memphis Hardwood Flooring Company. The Gayosa began operation by leasing the area where the Memphis Hardwood Flooring Company is now operating. The date was 1920, and a mill of some sort has operated there since that date. The different companies which have operated mills on this site have contributed materially to the economy of the region by offering employment for many people, and purchasing much timber from the landowners of the county. Another wood products company which operated briefly in Grenada was the Phoenix Chair Company. In July, 1919, this company purchased sixteen acres of land from D. O. Semmes, B. S. Dudley and Mrs. Fannie Morrisson. This land was located in Section 17, Township 22, Range 5, just across the I. C. Railroad track. The purchase price was \$3,000. Newspaper reports indicated that the firm would employ about seventy five men. The firm had its headquarters in Shebogan, Wisconsin, and evidently the Grenada operation was just one of several plants which the parent company was operating. For some reason the operation in Grenada was not satisfactory. In February, 1924, the Phoenix Company sold its holdings to the L. E. Glass Furniture Company. The sale price was \$10,000 and the property transferred included the lot which had been purchased for \$3,000; the buildings which had been erected; 700 feet of railroad track into the Phoenix property; 2500 feet of tramway, all the machinery of the plant including boilers, engine, sawmill, drills, as well as teams and vehicles used in transporting material to the mill. Included among the vehicles were two eight-wheel logging wagons - a vehicle much used in southern Mississippi but infrequently found in North Mississippi. The sale of such a large amount of property for such a small price would indicate that the Phoenix company was in serious financial difficulties. So far as we have been able to ascertain the company which purchased the property did not continue operation.

There were probably other small industries which we have overlooked, but after Grenada had built its oil mills, its compresses, and the Ayer & Lord Company had established its wood preserving plant at Tie Plant, any other major industries would be over a quarter of a century in arriving. Local capital, aided by some outside assistance, had accomplished about all the industrialization possible under existing financial conditions. The early years of World War One just about ruined the price of cotton, since the German Submarine blockade of England and the continent of Europe made delivery of cotton to those countries almost impossible. Then came the entrance of the United States into that conflict when all the resources of this country were mobilized in the American war effort. With the entrance of the United States into that war the demand for cotton and other agricultural products increased rapidly. Prices rose, and much capital, which otherwise might have been available, went into the purchase of high priced farm land. Shortly after the war overproduction brought about a drop in the price of agricultural prices, and before too many years came the great financial depression which brought about general stagnation in business. Powerful labor unions began to put the squeeze on the manufacturing industries of the North and Northeast, and some of those industries began to look toward regions which had adequate labor potential, and where there was little union activity. Under the leadership of Governor White the state introduced the Balance Agriculture with Industry program. Under this program it became possible for municipalities and other political units to issue bonds for the construction of industrial plants. These forces were the impetus which brought about the rather extensive industrialization in Grenada and other towns and cities in the state of Mississippi.

This movement in Grenada began on a rather modest scale. J. A. and L.

L. Goodman who controled the Real Silk Hosery Mill, Incorporated, of Indianapolis, were among the industrialists who began to look toward the South as the possible location of part of their operations. W. B. Hoffa, great booster of Grenada, was instrumental in interesting the Goodmans in the possibility of the establishment of a factory in Grenada. A bond issue of \$32,000 was proposed and approved by the voters of Grenada. The bonds were validated on June 10, 1937, and the first unit of a plant was constructed. At the time the people termed this little factory "The Hosery Mill", since its product was silk hosery. For many years the operation was termed Grenada Industries, and then became affiliated with and known as the Grenada Division of U. W. Industries. From a rather small beginning this industry expanded rapidly and became Grenada's first major industry, a position which it still retains. This rapid expansion has made necessary several other bond issues to provide additional housing for the industry. Under the provisions the contract between the City and the Industry, the buildings are rented to the industry for an amount which enables the city to pay interest on, and retire the bonds, without any tax funds being used for that purpose. This same financial arrangement also is a part of the agreement between the city and the Binswanger Company. Beginning with a few employees this hosery mill operation today employees hundreds of men and women and has had a great impact on the economy, not only of Grenada and Grenada County, but upon that of some of the adjoining counties from which a considerable number of employees commute to work in the plant.

In 1946 Grenada officials began the process of making application to State Agricultural and Industrial Board (the organization which has to approve any bond issue proposal coming under the Balance Agriculture with Industry Act) for permission to issue \$75,000 in bonds for the purpose of constructing a building to house a unit of the Binswanger Glass Company. The election was set up for April 13, 1946, and resulted unanimous approval of the proposal, the vote being six hundred nine to six for and none against the proposal. This overwhelming approval of the bond issue reflected the general satisfaction of the people with the way in which the hosery mill operation was being conducted. Having seen the effects which a sound, well conducted industry had upon the community, the people were ready to encourage more industrialization. Like the Grenada Industries operation, the Binswanger plant needed more housing which was supplied by the proceeds of a subsequent bond issue. Although this plant is a comparatively small operation which employees fewer highly skilled workers than some of the other local industries, it has had a helpful effect on the economy of the area.

Another indication of the general satisfaction of the community in the method of attracting industry to the area by issuing bonds for the purpose of constructing buildings to house industries was the result of the election held to determine if the voters of District One of Grenada County would approve a \$1, 075,000 bond issue for the construction of a building to house a plant proposed by McQuay Inc., a Wisconsin Corporation which was contemplating expansion. By a vote of 1664 to 27 the voters approved the bond issue. This election which occurred on July 24, 1954, brought to the area a plant which has had a rapid growth, and which now has a large number of skilled employees. The plant which is located a few miles south of Grenada, manufactures heating and refrigeration coils. It, like the other major industries locating in the community, has contribute materially to the economy of the area.

The most recent large industry to locate in the Grenada area is the plant of Lyon, Incorporated. Unlike the other major industries which have come into the area, this company did not request that any bonds be issued for land acquisition and construction of a plant building. The plant was constructed on a 7.9 acres lot which was purchased from the heirs of the Weeks Estate. The location of this lot is in Section 5 and 6, Township 22 N., Range 5 E. It is just a short distance north of the city of Grenada. The company which produces

metal products such as wheel covers, had increased its labor force. The nature of its work is such that it can give employment to a considerable number of semi-skilled workers. It is rapidly assuming a place of considerable importance in the economic development of the area. The gradual industrial development of Grenada was, to some extent, fostered by several different organizations of business men which were operative from time to time. The first of these of which we have any information was the Board of Trade which was organized in September of the year 1893. Dr. J. W. Young was elected President; J. W. Buchanan Secretary and J. T. Thomas Treasurer. Charter members of the organization were J. W. Griffis, J. T. Thomas, O. L. Kimbrough, Samuel Wile, J. E. Hughes, J. C. Perry, M. G. Dubard, George W. Jones, Judge Roane, W. T. Burns, J. B. Snider, J. W. McLeod, Sam Newburger, A. Gerard, H. E. Cahn, C. W. Melton, W. B. Baine, J. W. Young, J. W. Buchanan and J. J. Williams. Initial membership fee was two dollars with dues of fifty cents per month. Evidently this organization became inactive because on January 25, 1904, the Business League was organized.

J. W. Lee, Pastor of Central Baptist Church, was selected as a delegate to represent the Grenada Organization at a state wide meeting to be held at Jackson. We know that this organization was active in Grenada as late as 1911. We do not know how long after that date it continued to function. If it continued in operation after that date, the service which it rendered must have been less than satisfactory, since we find that in 1921 a Grenada County Chamber of Commerce was organized to do the type of work which has been the function of the Board of Trade. The Chamber of Commerce has had its ups and downs; its periods of considerable activity and periods of relative inactivity; its triumphs of accomplishment and its times of disappointment when it has failed to put over some desired project. At the period of this writing (1967) the organization is functioning efficiently, and effectively. Much of the industrial development of the area can be traced directly to the efforts of this organization.