

## Chapter XX

### Miscellaneous Items of Interest

In the chapters of this work which have preceded the present one we have attempted to relate the history of the region by the collection of fact and incidents which are hinged about some central thought or event. This, of course, is the most logical way in which to attempt to record the history of a region, vicinity, or town, but in so doing it becomes necessary to eliminate much interesting information which has no place in the logical story of the central thought or important event upon which the chapters preceding this one are based. This is unfortunate because we miss much of the flavor of the day by day life of the people who built the foundations of city and county in which we live today. In order to give some of the social, political and economic atmosphere of those long gone days we give, in no logical arrangement, some interesting events, episodes and attitudes of mind which made up the warp and woof of the fabric into which is woven the history of by gone days.

We know that James Sims, an early merchant in Pittsburg, and husband of one of the daughters of John Smith, was in the little town soon after its establishment, but we would have no idea from whence he came to Grenada were it not for the existence of a deed by which Robert J. Walker conveyed certain land in Yalobousha County to "James Sims of Holmes County". The deed was given in 1833. Twenty seven years later this same James Sims gave a deed to a different piece of land which deed indicates the presence in the community of a former negro slave who, for some reason, had been freed from the bonds of slavery: "Know all men by these presents that we, James Sims, for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar in hand paid by York Smith (a freeman) the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and for the further consideration of the friendship and regard we have for the said York (the freeman) we have bargained and conveyed and by these presents do bargain and convey to York Smith (freeman) as aforesaid a lot of land in Survey N. 71, lying and being in the town of Grenada." John Smith, the father-in-law of Sims had died a short time before this conveyance. James Sims died shortly after. This series of connected incidents leads to the interesting speculation that John Smith, before his death, freed the negro, York Smith, and directed James Sims, administrator of his estate, to convey the property to the former slave. The lot conveyed was just south of and adjoined the lot on which stood the house of John Smith. Since the deed given by Sims was a quit claim deed it is probable that the freed slave had been living in some sort of building on lot 71 during the life time of Smith, and that Sims confirmed his right to continue in possession of the property by granting the quit claim deed. Later York Smith, for a consideration of \$100.00, conveyed the lot to Mrs. M. M. Ransom. Mrs. Ransom was a daughter of James Sims and granddaughter of John Smith.

Grenada County had been in existence for about one year when the first legal hanging in the new county occurred. On October 4, 1871, the following notation was made a part of the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors: "Whereas Frank May has been sentenced by the Honorable Circuit Court to be hanged on the 10th day of November 1871, it is ordered by the Board that said execution shall take place near the South Bank of the Yalobousha River on the land known as McLean's Bend! We have no indication whether May was a white man or a negro. The Board of Supervisors which selected the place of execution had two negro members. In 1872 the same Supervisors who had selected the place of execution of May were instrumental in writing the closing chapter in the history of the early town of Chocchuma - the voting precinct was moved from that place to Tuscahoma.

By the year 1873 R. C. Harrison had become owner of the former Sherman, or "upper ferry" which was located at the approximate location of the north



end of Levee Street. Connected with the ferry, and belonging to the ferry owner, was a turnpike built across the swampy area north of the river. Ferry and turnpike fees were regulated by the Board of Supervisors. In April 1873 the Supervisors passed the following quoted order: "R. C. Harrison (a corporation) the owner of the Upper Ferry & Turnpike Road leading there from the city of Grenada are authorized to charge the following stipulated fees, but authorized to change these fees in the fall when the river is too low to use Ferry Boats."

In 1878 the total assessed valuation of the property in Grenada County was \$1,303,543.50. About one half of the assessed valuation was on real property and the other half on the personal property of the people of the county. An order of the Supervisors in August 1879 is a grim reminder of the time, just about a year before the date of the order, when Yellow Fever was raging in Grenada. That order reads: "L. McCracken allowed the sum of \$24.00 for guarding the Mississippi & Tennessee Road for 12 days during county quarantine." During the June meeting of the Board of Supervisors an order was passed by the Board which indicates a method, now long discarded, by which the county authorities handled prisoners sentenced to jail. The order read: "Ordered by the Board that the prisoners of this county be, and the same are hereby hired to J. M. Liddell Jr., for the term of four years; the said Liddell having this day filed bond with good security with the Board, of one thousand dollars for the faithful performance of his duty as contractor, according to and in compliance with the Act of the Legislature of this state passed March 5, 1878. This contract subject to be annulled at any time by the Board for violation of said Act. Said Contractor is to pay unto the County Treasury 25¢ per day for all persons that have been tried and committed either by the Circuit or Magistrate courts until their fines and costs have been paid, and for all persons that have not been fined and committed, 25¢ per day, until the commitment or acuital by the Court, and if there should be any of them acquitted then the Board agrees to allow them the amount received from said Contractor and be placed to their credit in the County Treasury. Said Contracotr is required to feed, clothe and treat with humanity all persons intrusted to his care according to the provisions of the Act of 1878. J. H. Willis voted against the motion."

During the years when the western part of what is now Grenada County was a part of Tallhatchie County, the people of the area had to go to Charleston to transact any business having to do with county affairs. Many of these people had to cross the Yalobousha River in order to reach that town. Ferries had been established at both Chotchuma and Tuscahoma. An order of the Board of Supervisors in 1871 would seem to indicate that the inclusion of the area into Grenada County had lessened passage by ferry at these two points to the extent that the operators of the ferries had to have some relief. In order to extend this relief the Board passed the following quoted order: "Whereas it is apparent to the Board from the allegations of J. M. Duncan, R. N. Hall and others that the rates of toll established at the August term of this Board are not sufficient to justify the keepers of the Chochuma and Tuscahoma ferries to keep the same in good repair, it is therefore ordered that the following rates of toll be established for the above mentioned ferries in lieu of those heretofore established towit: Footmen 10¢, Man & Horse 20¢, One Mule, Horse or Ox and vehicle 30¢, two horses, mule or ox & vehicle 50¢, 4 horses, mule, or ox, vehicle 75¢ and 6 horses, mule or ox, vehicle \$1.00."

Quick tempers and keen resentment of any word or action which seemed to impunge their integrity or honor brought about immediate action by those who felt that these traits had been questioned. In 1884 we have an example of this action, and the successful attempt by the friends of both parties to avert serious trouble. The Grenada Sentinel printed the following quoted letters: "Mr. John J. Gage Jr. Your language and manner to me in our store yesterday evening, was of such a character that, after reflection, I feel it due to



myself to demand of you an immediate apology. This will be handed to you by my friend Mr. Willie Crowder. Respectfully C. E. Goodwin." The answer to this demand came on the same day: "C. E. Goodwin, Esq., Sir! Your communication of this date wherein you require of me an apology for certain language and conduct of mine against you in your store on Wednesday has just been handed me by your friend Mr. Crowder. It might have been well if the demand had been more specific and the offensive language complained of, definitely stated. As I know, however, to what you refer, it is my pleasure to answer fully without any unnecessary preliminaries. You will remember that at the time immediately preceding the conduct and language complained of, you had stated in a most angry and vehement manner that if you voted for the ticket nominated at the Court House on Friday night, that you would consider yourself "no better than a damn negro", and further "that the whole affair was cut and dried and fixed up by a ring and clique." Therefore, when I knew that you were fully aware of the fact, for you were present and participated in the convention that nominated the said ticket, that my father Dr. J. J. Gage, occupied the most prominent office, that of Chairman, and presided over said meeting, and that I was present also at the same, I gave your language its natural and reasonable construction: Namely that my father and myself had combined with others to fraudulently foist upon the people 'a cut and dried ticket', with candidates selected by a ring and clique, and not by those present; and knowing such to be false, I felt no hesitancy in pronouncing such charges, by whosoever made, so far as they reflect on my father and myself, to be utterly false and untrue. On reflection of my language and conduct, I find nothing for which, in my opinion, it is my duty to apologize. I must therefore refuse to comply with your demand to make apology where I feel none to be due from me. This will be handed to you by my friend Mr. J. C. Longstreet."

Evidently both principals in the quarrel were not tempered men. Their friends were afraid that serious consequences might ensue from the affair, so some of them began to try to work out an understanding which would "save the face" of both of the men. B. C. Adams Jr. and J. C. Branum wrote Mr. Goodwin as follows: "C. E. Goodwin, Esq. Dear Sir: Understanding that there are certain matters of difference between J. J. Gage, Jr., and yourself, we, as the friends of both parties, desire to have the same amicably and honorably adjusted. We, therefore, as such friends, request you to leave the settlement of such difficulties to mutual and dis-interested friends, and respectfully suggest Gen. G. Y. Freeman and W. P. Towler, Esq., as competent gentlemen conversant to the arrangement proposed." A similar letter was sent to Mr. Gage. Mr. Goodwin replied to the request in this manner; "Gentlemen: Your joint communication of this date requesting me to leave the settlement of the difference existing between J. J. Gage Jr., Esq., and myself to Gen. G. Y. Freeman and W. P. Towler Esq., for honorable and amicable adjustment has been received. Appreciating the friendly spirit that prompts you to such request, I can not do otherwise that accede to your request, and will say that I will consent to such arrangement, and agree that Gen. G. Y. Freeman and W. P. Towler Esq., may act in the premise as you suggest, if Mr. Gage also agrees to such arrangement.: Mr. Gage wrote Mr. Adams and Mr. Branum in a similar manner, agreeing to the proposed arrangement. In a formal document the two signed an agreement to abide by such terms as the proposed mediators should determine: "Agreement: At the solicitation of mutual friends, we, the undersigned hereby submit the matters of difference between us to Gen. G. Y. Freeman and Mr. W. P. Towler, Esq., for amicable and honorable adjustment, and agree to abide by the conform to their action and decision in the premises." After receiving the agreement of the two principal parties to mediation by Gen. Freeman and Mr. Towler, Mr. Adams and Mr. Branum sent the following quoted letter to the two who were to adjust the dispute: "Gentlemen: At the solicitation of mutual friends, Dr. C. E. Goodwin and John J. Gage Jr., Esq., have consented to leave the matter of difference between them to you for honorable and amicable adjustment and settlement, and agree to abide your decision and action in the matter. We enclose the agreement



referred to. Will you oblige us by using your efforts in the premises?" Mr. Freeman and Mr. Towler accepted the responsibility and worked out the terms of agreement between the hot-tempered principals: "Terms of Agreement. We, the undersigned, to whom has been referred by requests of mutual friends, the matter of a personal difference between C. E. Goodwin and J. J. Gage Jr., after examining the correspondence, consisting of a demand for a retraction of and apology for certain language and manner used to said Goodwin by said Gage in an interview on the 3rd of May last, in the following words to wit: '(Here is set out letter No. 1 above.) To which demand said Gage replied as follows: (Here is set out letter No. 2 above.) We find, upon full investigation, that if Mr. Goodwin will disclaim any intention whatever to reflect upon the character, official or private, of said Gage, or his father Dr. J. J. Gage, or their action in said convention, then the said Gage shall retract any language upon the occasion referred to which was offensive to and reflecting upon the character of the said Goodwin, and we recommend this course to be pursued by both parties." The quarrel occurred on May 3rd, and was settled in the manner indicated on May 5th.

Identification of the several men engaged in this "affair of honor" will be interesting to the reader. Dr. Gage, father of the hot-tempered son, was a physician who had long been a leading professional and civic leader in the town and county. He was interested in politics, and served for a time as County Superintendent of Education at a time when the office was appointive and not very well paid. The son was a teacher, who at various times, serves as principal of the Grenada Public School and of a Teacher Normal which he established in Grenada. C. E. Goodwin was a druggist in partnership with J. C. Brannum, one of the two men who started the effort to reconcile the two parties to the quarrel. As was the practice of the time, the druggist, Goodwin was frequently referred to as "Dr. Goodwin". B. C. Adams, Jr. was a Grenada lawyer, son of Col. B. C. Adams, and father of the late B. C. Adams who was for a long time an important official in the Grenada Bank System. Gen. Freeman was a Grenada lawyer who later moved to Jackson, Mississippi. W. P. Towler was a former Grenada Druggist who had become a traveling salesman for some out-of-town firm. J. C. Longstreet was a prominent Grenada Lawyer and Mr. Crowder was a young man who, at a later date held several political offices in the county.

Indicative of the troubled financial state of the country at the time is an advertisement by C. W. Jones making known his desire to buy 5,000 bales of cotton to be paid for "In Greenbacks, Gold or Silver". Many people at this time did not consider the greenbacks as safe money, and refused to accept it in trades. Financial hardship may have existed for many, but the cost of living was low. Mrs. Lowenstein advertized thusly: "Lodging 25¢, Table Board \$4.00 per week, Board and Lodging \$5.00 per week. Transients Board and Lodging \$1.00 per day." As a sign of hardtimes, the people were having their phones removed because the Cumberland Telephone & Telg. Company had increased rates. W. H. Wood advertised: "From this date I will sell meats at the following prices for cash: First class steak along 10¢ per pound; steak and roast together at 8¢; shoulder steak cut through 8¢; Rib roast 6¢."

In 1885 the Republican Party, with the support of the enfranchised negroes, still had enough political power to dominate city and county politics from time to time. During that year there were three republicans serving on the City School Board of Trustees. In 1886 the Grenada Sentinel condemned the action of "The good Republicans in re-employing Ann Howard a white Northern woman to teach in the negro school, and who invests her money in the North." At the time the salary of the highest paid teachers in the negro schools was \$35.00 per month for a school session of seven months. Miss Howard would not have been able to make any very large investments in the North from the proceeds of her teaching in the Grenada Negro School. When she first came to Grenada another white teacher came with her, but both were so snubbed by the white people



that the other teacher left after one session. No white person would rent rooms to the white women teaching in the negro schools, so Captain John Powell built a small house which he rented to them. He was a man of such stature in the community that he could afford to disregard the criticism which would have been bestowed upon some person of lesser stature, who was bold enough to furnish housing for the two northern teachers. It was about this same period in the history of the town when a negro Lawyer, George W. Jones had served a term as alderman from the West Ward and managed to create an atmosphere which resulted in the resignation of Max Ginsburger, a Jewish merchant and civic leader, from the Board of Aldermen. It was shortly after this incident that Jones announced that he had received an anonymous letter in which he was told to leave town in five days never to return. Jones did not leave within five days, but about two years later moved to Kansas. In the same year in which the negro attorney left Grenada a "back peddler" was murdered in the eastern part of the county, and two negroes were arrested and charged with the crime. Soon after their arrest a mob of masked men broke into the jail, made off with the two prisoners, and hanged them on a tree just across the Bogue. Just a year before this incident a case was tried in the Circuit Court and decided by a jury composed of six white men and the other six, negroes. In 1888, in an advertisement in the Grenada Sentinel, A. H. Stefens announces the establishment of a negro high school in Belle Flower Church. On Jan. 9, 1886, the Sentinel printed the following account of a difficulty between a white man and a negro: "On last Tuesday night in the back room of Telford's saloon John Phillips (white) of Montgomery County shot at J. P. Sims (colored) the ball passing through his clothing grazing the skin over his heart. Phillips was bound over to the Circuit Court in the sum of \$100.00. A woman was at the bottom of it." This is the way in which the Sentinel reported the murder of a white citizen: "August 26, 1882, "We regret to state that a difficulty occurred on last Friday night at 11:00 o'clock which may result in the death of Mr. Jno. Greiner, an energetic and useful man by Mr. McKraynes, a painter and a man of not much use to the community."

In 1887 Greenwood LeFlore who had been instrumental in ratification of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek which treaty opened this region for white settlement, was in Grenada visiting his son J. L. LeFlore who was desperately sick. It had been fifty seven years since the old Choctaw Chief had played his part in a series of events which led to the migration of most of his people to a western reservation. At the time of his visit to his son Greenwood was still living in his Carroll County residence known as Malmason. His son had his residence on the bluff near the present community called LeFlore.

It is hard for us today, in an age of rapid transportation by good highways, to realize what an extensive trade area Grenada served in the years before people of the back country could go to Memphis, Jackson or other points to do their trading. The Railroad which furnished adequate transportation was responsible for much trade which came to Grenada. The Editor of the Sentinel referred to some incidents connected with this trade: "Choctaw generally announces the arrival of her fleet of floats on wheels, loaded to the guards with cotton, by a fusillade of long whips which sounds like a charge of muskets. But Choctaw is a great state within a greater, and we always give her the streets when she comes in with her wealth, Welcome Choctaw, Chickasaw, Calhoun and all surrounding counties to the benefit of our trade." In November 1882, at the height of the cotton season, the editor had another reference to the boisterous conduct of visitors to town: "It is seldom that we have a concert of whip crackers, but when Choctaw and Calhoun agree upon a symphony of the most infernal that ever fell upon an ear this side of the discords of tuneless Erebus, we had it upon the streets of our town on Wednesday. Which took the cake we do not know, but fates deliver us from just such another concussion of air-waves. Yet we welcome Choctaw and Calhoun with their long whips and bovine teams. Boys make yourselves at home, take a drink and open up with this



music when we are out of town."

On October 20, 1883, the Sentinel printed an item which indicated a Federal Judicial Philosophy far different from that which prevails today: "The Supreme Court of the United States on last Tuesday decided the Civil Rights Law unconstitutional. The law had reference to hotels, railroads and restaurants being compelled to serve negroes. There was only one dissenting vote." Although the Supreme Court had knocked down this early Civil Rights Law, there was still a considerable amount of political influence exerted by the Republican Party which claimed the majority of the negro vote. As an instance of this political influence we find that in 1880 Captain M. K. Mister, a planter living near the extinct village of Torrance, was appointed Post Master at Grenada through the influence of the notorious mulatto L. S. Schurlock. This man, for many years, controlled the negro vote in the area of Yalobousha and Grenada counties.

In 1886 B. L. H. Wright and his son were indicted and charged with the murder of a rival cotton weigher by the name of Melton. When the trial jury had finally been completed there were six white and six negro men sitting judgement of the Wrights. The six negroes were G. G. Leonard, Shep Edwards, Esquire Eskridge, Sandy Daily, Jim Conley and Robert Fisher. There was a general feeling on the part of the people that the Wrights would be found guilty, but the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty".

The same issue of the Grenada Sentinel which announced the outcome of the Wright trial also printed the pledge which all students requesting admittance to Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Mississippi State University) had to sign before being accepted in that school. The pledge read: "I hereby pledge my honor that is my purpose and intention to pursue as my exclusive, or principal vocation in life, the business of agriculture, horticulture, mechanics or dairyman."

For many years a considerable source of revenue for Grenada was the license fee charged for the privilege of operating saloons. In October 1886 the Board of Aldermen raised this fee from \$500 to \$750. Evidently there was some dissatisfaction because of this increase since, at a subsequent meeting of the Board, the fees were not only lowered to erase the increase, but were dropped to \$300. For many years the money derived from this source was used to help support the public schools. We do not know just what influence the sale of liquor may have had in the matter, but we find that at the time these license fees were being adjusted there were seven men in jail charged with murder, two of the prisoners being white and five colored. From time to time efforts were made, under the local option law, to prohibit the sale of liquor in the town of Grenada. In 1888 one such attempt having failed, an effort was made to get around the will of the voters by an attempt, by the North Mississippi Methodist Conference, to have a bill passed by the Legislature by which the sale of liquor within four miles of a Girl's School would be prohibited if the school officials requested that this be done. Of course the Conference had such a school in Grenada. The bill was introduced and failed to pass.

In these days of increased Federal involvement in support and partial control of public schools it is interesting to note that the first Federal grant to public education in Mississippi was in the form of a land grant to Jefferson College which was located at the town of Washington near Natchez. The school later came to be known as Jefferson Military Academy, and operated until comparatively recent times. During the early years of the Choctaw land sales the United States Congress passed an act granting approximately 1900 acres of land to the school. James A. Girault, an official of the Land Office at Chocoma, located the land for the school. He selected this land in the area near the present town of Holcomb. Soon after the land had been located Girault bought



the land from the school but defaulted in payment, and when the land was sold at public auction, under terms of the Deed of Trust given by Girault, the School bought the land in order to protect its interest. In 1857 B. L. Wailles, President of the college, conveyed 493 acres of this land to C. H. Guy for a consideration of \$2,472.99. Before the town of Holcomb was founded the area where the present white school is located was known as Guy's Corner.

The newspaper SOUTHERN REPORTER which was published in Grenada at an early date gives some interesting information relative to property assessment in the little frontier town of Grenada. In the May 25th, 1839, issue of the paper we find the following statement of assessed values on personal property: "Negroes \$61,250; Saddle Horses \$5,450; Merchandise \$74,200; Groceries \$61,250; Pleasure Carriages \$2,000." We also find that the population of Grenada in 1839 was 1,217. Making up this number were 440 white males and 328 white females. There were 222 black males and 227 black females. We presume that all the negroes were slaves. A study of these figures will show that 37% of the population of the town was made up of slaves. Since most of the planters kept their field hands on their plantations it is probable that most of the slaves living in the town of Grenada in 1839 were house servants.

In 1885 interest in baseball began to develop, and a team was organized. E. Gerard was the pitcher, W. Wilkins catcher, J. C. Longstreet first base and Captain, E. Ransom second base, S. E. Shackelford short stop, S. Garner third base, B. C. Duncan right field, A. C. Thomas center field and M. Summerfield left field. J. T. Thomas was Secretary-Treasurer, and W. H. Whitaker umpire. The name of the team was the Athletics. For a number of years there was much interest in baseball and the local team began to import good players from other towns and some from the colleges. Tosh Sears was a fine pitcher who had played at Oxford. Bob Mitchell, son of a minister who lived for a time in Grenada, was an outstanding pitcher who had played at the University of Mississippi. About this same time Willie Mitchell was pitching for Mississippi Agricultural & Mechanical College (now Mississippi State University). These two faced each in many games both on the college campuses, and in Grenada and other towns which had summer teams.

In 1893 the economy of the region about Grenada was still geared to the production of cotton as the chief money crop, but some far-sighted men were beginning to see the potential which the region had as a cattle producing area. Judge J. C. Longstreet seems to have been the first citizen of Grenada who realized the advantages of the region as a cattle producing region. He first brought in some pure bred milch stock, but later began raising beef animals. He seems to have interested some Texas cattlemen in this area as a good place to winter cattle. On November 11, 1893, the Grenada Sentinel reported that 4,000 head of Texas steers were being fed on the farm of Judge Longstreet. Some years earlier there had been enough interest in stock raising to justify the establishment of the Central Fair & Livestock Association. For a number of years this association drew exhibits from Grenada and neighboring counties, but it fell into financial difficulties and was sold under the provisions of a deed of trust which the officers of the Association had executed. A number of public spirited citizens of the area bought the property which was valued at \$9,000 for about one third of the property value. These men formed an association which eventually grew into the North Mississippi Fair. During the more prosperous years of its existence this was one of the better fairs held in the state. The Fair property was eventually donated to the public school system. The Jones Road School and the Football Stadium occupy part of the property.

In 1896 the Memphis Commercial Appeal had this glowing report on conditions at Grenada: "The last empty storehouse in Grenada has been rented, and is soon to be occupied. With its forty seven stores, two flourishing banks, a



splendid telephone system, one oil mill, and many other industries, and with Memphis as its wholesale market, Grenada is one of the busiest towns on the Illinois Central Railroad." The publication of this boost for Grenada may have been responsible for the tongue-in-cheek report, published in the Sentinel, of a small village in Grenada County: "Nason is a little town situated at the junction of Grenada, Greenwood and Leflore roads. It contains 40 inhabitants, a telephone exchange, two gins and grist mills, one sawmill, two blacksmith shops, two general supply stores, two livery and feed stables, two public school buildings, one for the whites and the other for the blacks, two Methodist Churches (probably white and colored), a post office, and last, but not least, three old bachelors and two old maids."

Although Grenada was fortunate enough to have Grenada College located in the town, many of the local citizens became very much interested when it became known that the Methodist people were contemplating establishing another college to be known as Millsaps College, the name honoring Major Millsaps who had made a generous contribution to the proposed school. It became known that those in charge of the selection of a site for the college would be pleased to receive proposals from the several towns and cities which would like to have the school established in their towns. In the year 1891 Grenada made its bid for the school. It offered 20 acres of land and \$27,000 in cash. Holly Springs offered \$40,000, and Winona made an offer of 20 acres of land and \$26,000. The trustees of the proposed school chose Jackson as the site. It offered two advantages over the other towns: a larger cash consideration and a more central location. At the time the people of Grenada were trying to induce the Methodist people to locate their new College in Grenada, the Sentinel reported that three illiterate whites and two illiterate negroes were serving on the Grand Jury. Just a few years later, in 1898, a negro rapist was hanged from a cottonwood tree located in the southwest corner of the public square. On June 6, 1891, the Sentinel had reported the death of another negro under different circumstances: "We learn that Ben Tunkett, an old colored citizen living in the western part of the county died on Tuesday last. He was, at one time, a member of the Board of Supervisors and prominent in the politics of the county, but of late years had lived in retirement, attending strictly to his farming interest." As late as the year 1900 Judge A. T. Roane received a visit from a negro who then lived in Marshall County. Their association began after the bloody battle in which General Forrest captured Fort Pillow, then garrisoned by negro soldiers. So many of the negro soldiers were killed that some Federal authorities claimed that Forrest's men had killed captured prisoners. One of those negro soldiers was captured, some say rescued by Judge Roane, and acted as servant to the Judge until his unit surrendered at Gainsville, Alabama as the war drew to a close. This negro was the one who usually visited the judge about once each year. Two years before the visit of the negro, in 1900, a company of Grenada soldiers departed for the Spanish American war. They left in a blaze of glory, but their homecoming after the war was beclouded by having to be quarantined for a number of days because of having been exposed to some kind of contagious disease. The quarantine camp was somewhere in the vicinity of Elliott.

The pace of life was slow in Grenada during the closing years of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth century. People had once been amused by pig fights occurring about the public square, but in 1887 the City Fathers passed an ordinance prohibiting hogs running about the streets of the town. In the Fall of the year the Central Fair and Livestock Association, by an advertisement in the Sentinel, indicated something of the slow pace of the times: "Wanted one hundred and fifty wagons with good spring seats for three days beginning Wednesday October 28, to carry people to the Central Fair and Livestock Association." Since many local people had their own transportation people from the special trains which used to come from a number of different towns during Fair Week. For those Grenada people who did not have



their own transportation, and who did not want to ride in wagons to the fair, teams and rigs could be rented from the livery stables. One of these establishments advertised as follows: "Livery Stable charges: Single team and buggy \$2.00; Double \$3.00; team and surrey \$4.50. Day hitching 25¢; night hitching 10¢. Camp house for campers. J. J. Horton located at Weeks Shed." In 1903 one livery stable operator became very much incensed because of strict enforcement of Sunday-Blue Laws. He indicated his displeasure by the following quoted advertisement: "Notice. . . Owing to the strict enforcement of the Sunday Law our livery stable will be closed Saturday night at 12 o'clock and remain until Monday morning. We will not meet trains or attend funerals on Sunday. Doctors as well as others, cannot get horses on the Sabbath. We feel that to try to do a necessary or partial business would cause a great deal of trouble and dissatisfaction, so that is why we have concluded to do no business of any kind on Sunday. Respt. C. C. Penn & Son." Yeager & Son were operating another livery stable at this time, perhaps they did the 'necessary or partial' business which the Penns refused. The pace of life was still slow in 1910 when the City Board of Alderman decided that a new ordinance was necessary to keep things slow. They passed an ordinance which set automobile speed limits at ten miles per hour on the streets of the town, while the speed limit about the public square was set at six miles per hour.

In 1900 the population of Grenada was 2,568, just a little over twice the size of the Grenada of 1839. Greenwood had exactly the same population as Grenada, while Water Valley had a population 3,813. The location of the I. C. Railroad Shops at the last named town had much to do with the rapid increase in the population that town. It may be surprising to many to know that the largest town in Mississippi in 1900 was Vicksburg with a population of 14,834. Jackson had a population of only 7,118. Gradually the old, slow, deliberate pace and tempo of life increased. In 1902 the Grenada baseball team challenged the crack Memphis Chickasaw baseball team to a series of games. In September of 1902 Grenada Merchants and cotton buyers organized the Grenada Cotton Exchange. There was a private wire for market reports. J. R. Scoll was employed to take charge of the exchange. In 1909 a King's Daughters Hospital for Grenada was incorporated, but the incorporators were never able to build a hospital. On May 21, 1910, according to an article in the Grenada Sentinel, D. G. Ross steamed down the Yalobousha in his launch Mary. The boat drew 32 inches of water; was 30 feet long, and headed for Horn Island on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. W. J. Jennings, Jake Kettle, G. W. Fields and G. W. Terrell were passengers.

J. J. Williams was a man of great talent as a newspaper man, but quite eccentric and unpredictable. When young John W. Buchanan assumed ownership of the Grenada Sentinel Williams served as Senior Editor of the paper but soon quarreled with Buchanan and was dismissed from his position with the paper. He served in the Legislature as a democrat, but later ran for the same office as an independent. For a time he was the editor of a paper which was a competitor of the Sentinel. During the elections relative to prohibition of the sale of liquor in the city Mr. Williams was generally assumed to be the one who wrote up most of newspaper propaganda of the liquor crowd. The foregoing being true, it was with a great deal of surprise that the people of Grenada found in the March 23rd 1889, issue of the Sentinel the following quoted notice by Mr. Williams: "If any young man in this town has ever followed me as an exemplar into any house to take a drink, let me take him kindly by the hand and lead him out, and I have quit drinking, so help me God. I have stopped drinking for my own and others good. Signed: J. J. Williams." We have no definite information as to the cause of the sudden change by Mr. Williams. We do know that it was not unusual for some of the men, to swear off from their bad habits after, or during, some of the high power evangelistic meetings held by such renowned preachers as Sam Jones. Perhaps Mr. Williams may have made his decision under such circumstances.



In the April 6, 1887, issue of the Sentinel the editor introduces his account of a difficulty arising from a matter of school discipline in this way: "It costs more to jump on a school teacher in Grenada than almost any other man. So be careful how you 'monkey' with them." The editor related the incident to which he alluded: "On last Wednesday evening just after the public white school let out, Professor Phillips the Principal gave Arthur Dubard, age about fourteen, a whipping for fighting. Arthur resisted Mr. Phillips, and forced him to use all his strength to control and punish him as he deserved. Mr. L. C. Dubard, the father of the boy heard about the affair and got very angry. About 4 o'clock of the same evening Mr. Phillips walked into the store of Roane & Son where Mr. Dubard clerks, to explain the matter but Mr. Dubard would not listen to him, and according to Mr. Phillips' statement, made toward him, when they had a rough and tumble scuffle which resulted in both of them having their faces somewhat disfigured. Although Mr. Dubard is much the stouter man of the two, judging from appearance, we don't think he got any of the best of Mr. Phillips."

"The news soon spread over the town, creating much comment and excitement, and as soon as the facts were learned, Mr. Dubard as far as we have learned, was unanimously censured and condemned by all classes, while Prof. Phillips was equally upheld and endorsed for his action in the premises. Thursday morning Arthur Dubard went to school as usual, but was sent back by Prof. Phillips, with the understanding that he could not again be received in the school. A few hours afterward the School Board met at the school house and, after a thorough investigation, unanimously approved Prof. Phillips' course and passed a resolution suspending Arthur Dubard from school. Thursday evening the case came before Mayor Adams, and after statements by both sides, Mr. Adams discharged Prof. Phillips and fined Mr. Dubard \$25.00 and cost for assault and battery."

"The Sentinel, as well as an overwhelming majority of the good citizens of the town heartily endorsed the action of Prof. Phillips, The Board of Trustees and Mayor Adams in the action. If such things are allowed or continued, we had as well abolish the free school and do away with any further building of new school houses. We believe in the strictest discipline, and if parents don't want their children punished, they had better keep them away. Go on and maintain order and discipline in your school Prof. Phillips, and we assure you that the people of Grenada will sustain and stand by you."

On Sept 9, 1892, the J. J. Williams, who took the temperance pledge, ran a short advertisement in the Sentinel which was indicative of the variety of things which interested this versatile man. The advertisement read: "If there is anyone in this or surrounding counties, who knows anything about making sugar and molasses, or sugar from Louisiana or West India sugar cane and whose time is not too valuable to be rewarded for a fair compensation, such a one would confer a favor on me and perhaps serve indirectly the public, by communicating at once with the subscriber. I have an acre of very fine cane, which I wish to utilize for my own interest and test to some extent, whether such a crop can be made profitable in Grenada County on a small or large scale. Signed: J. J. Williams."

Editor Buchanan who usually gave his opinion on all matters of public concern did not hesitate to criticize public officials and public policies. In 1893 he wrote an editorial in which he protested the remuneration of the Mayor of Grenada. At the time the Mayor was receiving a salary of \$500.00 per year, and was allowed the fines collected in the Mayor's Court. The editor argued that the position as Mayor was only a part time job, and that the remuneration derived therefrom was far too much for the service rendered.

For a long time after Grenada enjoyed the advantage of railroad service the people of Calhoun, Webster and Chickasaw counties had no railroad facilities,



and Grenada was the town to which they brought their cotton and from which they bought much of the supplies which they needed. . . Because of the ill maintained roads of that time most of the transportation of cotton and supplies was by ox teams. A trip to Grenada from these points would usually take several days. May of the people who made these trips would camp on the site of the present community Putheyville. The Bogue, during times of heavy rainfall, was a rather turbulent stream and much trouble was experienced in assuring safe passage across that stream. During the early years a ferry was operated by a man by the name of Guthey. At a later date the county erected a wooden bridge across the stream, but from time to time this bridge was severely damaged by flood waters. On at least two occasions the bridge was totally destroyed, and ferry service would have to be resorted to while a new bridge was being financed and constructed. The members of the Board of Supervisors eventually came to the conclusion that these make-shift bridges would never be satisfactory and in 1898 they awarded a contract to the King Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio to construct a steel bridge to be floored with first grade lumber. The contract price was \$20,000.00 for a bridge span of 326 feet. At the time it was announced that the bridge would have the longest steel span of any bridge in the South, with the exception of one at Chattanooga. So far as we have been able to determine, this bridge served until the construction of Highway 8 when a concrete bridge across the Bogue relieved the old bridge of its load of traffic. The steel from the old bridge was salvaged, this terminating the service of this historic and vital link in the transportation route which brought much trade to Grenada.

In May 1884 Editor Buchanan had some more advice for the Board of Aldermen: "We call the attention of our City Authorities to the necessity of putting baluster (sic) on the sidewalk all the way from town to the depot, where there are high grades. We say this in the interest of all our citizens who have to travel at all times of night occasionally; and by way of showing the effects of this carelessness we will state that Mr. Tom Phelan, the telegraph operator whose business relations place him in the closest connection with many people, was seriously hurt on last Wednesday night by walking off the embankment in front of the Walthall House. Mr. P. is known to be a sober, faithful and attentive officer who makes many personal sacrifices in his official relations for the accomodation of our citizens, and if he will be liable to such an accident, how will fare the feeble, the infirm and the aged under similar circumstances?"

Some of the leading citizens of Grenada, realizing how much it would mean to Grenada to have a state supported college located in the town, became very much interested in an advertisement appearing in newspapers throughout the state. That advertisement read: "Proposals for the location of Mississippi Industrial Institute and College will be received until August 18, 1884. W. A. Hurt, Secretary of the Board." A movement was initiated to have Grenada offer sufficient inducements in the matter of land and money to bring the new school to Grenada. Other towns had similar ideas. Carrollton, Winona, Kosciusko and Jackson were also bidding for the location of the school. It was expected that the school would be located somewhere near, or on, the I. C. Railroad line preferably at a point somewhere near the center of state population. To the dismay of those towns such as Grenada, Winona and Jackson which had based their hopes on adequate railroad facilities and proximity to the population center of the state, the location selected was Columbus. That city had offered as their inducement buildings worth \$50,000 and \$40,000 in cash. As the years passed the school at Columbus, often called I I & C, grew in size and importance and today is known as Mississippi State College for Women.

There is little available information relative to the location of the mayor's office of the city of Grenada during the early years of its existence. It is probable that the City Hall, if it went by that name, was located in



some rented building. The first documentary evidence which we have been able to find relative to the location of a City Hall is contained in a deed, given on December 18, 1856, by "the Grenada Odd Fellows Lodge to the Town of Grenada" by which deed the Odd Fellows for a cash consideration of \$600.00 and a \$400.00 note granted the City "an undivided half interest in a fractional part of lot 248 in the West Ward of Grenada to wit: 35 feet of said lot fronting on Line street and running back west seventy feet thence south, thence last to Line, together with the lower story of the Odd Fellows Hall situated thereon together with all improvements thereunto belonging or appertaining." For seventeen years this lower story of the Odd Fellows Hall served as the City Hall. In 1873, for some cause, possibly because the building was set apart from the business section of the town, the city conveyed its interest in the Hall to the Odd Fellows for \$250.00 in cash and a note for \$250.00. For the next quarter of a century the location of the City Hall is clouded with uncertainty. It was not until April 10, 1898, that we have other documentary evidence of the location of the seat of City Government. On that date Mrs. L. M. Winn, in consideration of six hundred dollars paid by the city of Grenada, conveyed to the city a fractional part of Lot 67 which part is described in the deed as "the lot and house formerly occupied by the Grenada Sentinel, and now occupied as a Mayor's office." Just how long the Mayor's office had been located at this place before the purchase by the city we have no idea. It is probable that during the twenty five years elapsing between the time of the sale of the interest in the Odd Fellows Hall and the purchase of lot 67 served at the seat of City Government for a period of forty seven years. On December 10, 1945, the City of Grenada purchased from the Federal Government the building on the east side of Main street which had been used as a white U. S. O. building, and the building on the south side of Bell street which had been the negro U. S. O. center. For the two buildings the city paid \$20,000. After necessary renovation, the offices of the City Government were moved to the newly purchased building. The Negro U. S. O. building was sold to the City Schools. On May 21, 1947, the old City Hall was sold to Grenada Auto Company for a consideration of \$7,676.00.

During the early years of Grenada County Government paupers were cared for in private homes, with the home owners receiving a small remuneration for each pauper cared for. This course of action necessitated the issuance of a large number of small warrants each month, and also made it difficult, if not impossible, for the members of the Board of Supervisors to determine if the paupers were receiving proper care and consideration. The usual allowance for caring for a pauper was eight dollars per month, and sometimes the person keeping the pauper tried to make too much profit on the deal, with the result that the pauper did not receive proper care. Paupers had to make application to the Board of Supervisors to be certified as entitled to pauper relief. At times such applications would be rejected. In October, 1874, G. W. Hill and wife applied for pauper relief and the application was not approved on the grounds that "Applicants had five sons physically and financially able to care for their parents." The Supervisors soon came to the conclusion that it would be more satisfactory to provide a home in which all paupers would be cared for under the supervision of some person hired to do that job. On October 7, 1883, we find the following notation in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors: "Whereas the Board having determined to purchase a poor house, and after having considered various propositions have purchased from John Moore a house and lot with the understanding that two additional rooms sixteen feet by sixteen feet be constructed on said land with a stick and dirt chimney." Evidently this statement was a little premature since, in the December 1884 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, that body authorized the Chancery Clerk to issue warrants to the amount of three thousand dollars "in payment of his farm for county poor house and farm." The payment was to be made to J. W. Gibbs who was the former owner of the farm involved. This farm must have been resold by the county since in February of 1886 the Board of Supervisors paid \$1,200.00 for the "Boyoworth



Place" located four miles southwest of Grenada at the forks of the Carrolton and Tuscahoma roads. The poorhouse was definitely located at this place, and the road leading thereto was sometimes called the "poorhouse road". In the same month the Board employed William Gibbs to be Superintendent of the poor house. For this service he was to be paid \$100.00 in county warrants and two bales of cotton. The cotton was to be delivered to him by the people who had rented the farming land connected with the poor house property. This seems to be a very small consideration for the services of a Superintendent of the poorhouse, so it is probable that some other provision was made for food, clothing and medical attention for the inmates of the poorhouse. We do know from allowances of the Board that different doctors were paid by the county for attention to paupers. It is probable that the new poorhouse had been purchased by the county in anticipation of the city of Grenada sharing the facility and the expenses for the benefit of its indigent citizens. This presumption arises from an order of the Board of Supervisors in April 1877: "Ordered by the Board that J. Portevent take charge of the City poor and place them in the Poor House, the Corporation paying their pro rata share of all the paupers." Mr. Portevent was President of the Board which passed this order. Soon after the establishment of the Poor House the Board began to take bids from interested persons who desired to operate the facility. The prospective bidder would agree to furnish food, clothing and medicine for the inmates at so many dollars per month per inmate. At one time the bid which was low was so inadequate that the Board decided that the inmates would suffer. The low bid was \$2.50 per person. At the next meeting of the Board there was another bidding and the person awarded the bid was to receive \$8.00 per month per inmate.

The name Samuel B. Marsh, an early lawyer, would probably have been forgotten by this time were it not for a Deed of Trust recorded in Deeds Records Book, Vol. 1, page 45. That instrument reads: "Know all men by these presents that I, Joseph Logan of the county of Yalobousha and the state of Mississippi for and inconsideration of the sum of \$1.00 to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do bargain, sell alien and convey to Samuel B. Marsh, his heirs and assigns forever 120 acres of land on which I now reside situated in the said county of Yalobousha being, if I am not mistaken, in Section 21, township and range not known to have and hold to the said Samuel B. Marsh his heirs and assigns forever, and also my negro girl slave Betsy age 11 or 13 years old, the condition of the above obligation is as follows: the said Samuel B. Marsh has agreed for one thousand dollars to defend as one of my counsel my two sons Arron and Robert Tyson now imprisoned on a charge of murder in said county of Yalobousha, for which I am indebted to him in the said sum of one thousand dollars. Now if I shall give said Marsh note payable the first of January next for said sum with good security, or shall otherwise pay the sum then the above obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and the said Marsh and his heirs, executor or administrator shall have the power to sell land and slave to pay himself said sum of one thousand dollars provided I fail to pay the sum before the first day of January next the impulsory (sic) to be rendered to me and the sale at public auction. Signed Joseph Logan X his mark." The instrument illustrates the excessive verbiage of many of the early legal instruments, as well as the fact that the seat of justice for a large area was then at Coffeetown. The instrument was dated September 12, 1835. Since the deed of trust is recorded in the Deeds Records of Grenada County Mr. Logan must have lived somewhere in the area now within the boundaries of Grenada County. We do not know the outcome of the trial, but trust that the poor, illiterate father of the two wayward sons got the value of his money and was able to redeem his 120 acres of land and his single slave.

The old practice of apprenticing orphan children to those who would accept the responsibility which is generally thought of as a relic of early colonial times, was practiced in Mississippi even after the beginning of the twentieth



century... In the year 1903 Douglass and Marietta Lister were apprenticed to Mrs. Rosa Willis and Lewis Willis until the apprenticed children reached the ages of eighteen and twenty one years.

The public square must have been an unsightly and unsanitary place in 1882. On June 10 of that year Editor Buchanan of the Grenada Sentinel published the following quoted comment on the condition of the square: "Have any of the good people of this ancient little borough ever reflected seriously upon the misuse to which the public square has been applied, and the beautiful, higenic purpose to which it might have been consecrated? In its present condition it is neither useful nor ornamental, but a source of suffocating heat in summer, mud and slush in winter. Like a great inverted reflector, its soft, dandy surface receives, all through the summer day, the rays of a blistering sun, to be absorbed for evaporation at night, reflected and refracted by day on the walls that enclose its three sides until past meridian, when the evening air abound it becomes thick and stifling. If this be so, and we think that no one who has loitered much upon our streets in front of the square, on summer evenings, will question, why should this inconvenience, to call it mildly, be longer born. In winter it is cut up by the hoofs of mules, oxen, and wagon wheels, until one had as soon plunge into the depths of an Irish bog as to try to cross it. This continued friction cuts up the surface into a soft mass of disintergrated soil ready at the first heavy rain to discharge its thick and slimy contents into the Yalobousha, thus gradually scooping out a basin for the retention of water, from which in the summer, sickening vapors will arise and creep into the parlors and bedrooms of our unsuspecting citizens. This, without the intervention of deeper drains, must be the final issue of leaving the little square an open wagon yard."

"We know but one class of citizen who might advocate the present uses of the square, and oppose converting it into a beautiful, shaded little park; wherein ornamental and forest trees would spread their cooling shadows, whereon green sward would present its carpetlike surface, and rich flowers would bloom to delight the gaze and throw out their fragrant breath in sweet perfumes to enrich and purify the air we breathe, wherein winding walks, hid from the glare and heat of the summer solstice, would be enlivened by the sports of happy children, and people of all classes could sit and enjoy thr refreshing, tranquil evening air, while discussing questions of social life, and interchanging the courtesies of a refined community. The only parties who could oppose any change in the matter would be the merchants, and we hope that we have none so little identified with our material progress, so little acquainted with the laws of health, and the science of pneumatics, as to say all this is silly bosh. Because this has been a wagon yard for fifty years, is no more reason that it should continue so, than that a man should yoke up his oxen to haul a load of goods from Memphis, with a railroad at hand ready to deliver the same in a few hours. Citizens this little square is yours, and you can continue it as a nuisance, or convert it into a little paradise of social joy and health."

This appeal by the editor had no immediate result, and it is doubtful that it had any effect when an attempt was made in the 1890's to improve conditions on the square. It had been the practice, for many years, for the merchants and cotton buyers to weight cotton on scales located on the streets around the square and then dump the cotton on the square until it could be transferred to the railroad station. With the completion of the cotton compress it became much more convenient for the cotton to be weighed and stored at the compress building. Several years after the publication of the article by Editor Buchanan, his paper had an announcement that hereafter all cotton would be weighed and stored at the compress. The farmers who brought cotton to town did not like this. They liked to visit together on the square. Some complained that their teams were afraid of the noise and confusion brought about by the trains which ran by the compress. They claimed that it was dangerous to have their teams



near the railroad. At first the cotton buyers did not pay much attention to the complaints. They took the attitude that it was natural for farmers to gripe; that they were never satisfied with the price of cotton and the arrangement for purchase and storing. But they took notice in the cotton season of 1896 when the number of bales of cotton brought to the Grenada market was only two thirds of the number of the previous year. Cotton buyers at Parsons, the eastern terminus of the Y. & M. V. Railroad, were reputed to be paying better prices for cotton than the Grenada buyers. The drop from 15,000 bales of cotton usually sold in Grenada to 8,000 bales indicated that the farmer resentment was serious. Eventually Grenada leaders began to contact the farmers to find out what was wrong. The farmers let them know. In the July 18th issue of the Sentinel 95 citizens of Graysport, Sabouglia and Williamsville endorsed a printed statement of grievance, chief of which was that the farmers were being forced to take their cotton to the compress against their will. A little later a similar statement was printed in which 92 citizens of Carroll County voiced the same complaint. The merchant John W. Griffis, who also bought cotton, was the first to give in to the demands of the cotton producers. In a statement printed by the Sentinel he stated that he still thought that the existing system was good, but that henceforth he would have scales placed in front of his store along with a man on duty to weigh the cotton. In the meantime J. G. Weeks has bought the old Alliance Cotton Shed, which was located within a block of the public square, and was ready to store cotton for any farmer who wanted to have his cotton weighed up town. A week later the firms of Kimbrough & Perry, Gerard & Nason, James Pryor & Co., Wright and Williams, Berryhill Bros., G. W. Jones and W. N. Pass, announced that they would buy cotton to be weighed on the streets and stored at either the Alliance Cotton Shed or the compress as the seller desired. We do not know if any improvement had been made in the condition of the square during the time the cotton wagons no longer came to the square, but after the change of mind on the part of the merchants and cotton buyers the square reverted to its earlier condition as described by Mr. Buchanan.

It would be a long time after the efforts of Mr. Buchanan before any considerable improvement would be made in the appearance of the square and the streets on the four sides. In fact it would be some years after the death of the Editor of the Sentinel before any kind of street paving was done about the square or in any part of town. In the early 1900's some improvement was made relative to the dust from the dirt streets by beginning to oil some of the streets. This served to settle the dust and to help bind the soil of the streets together, but did not prevent the development of many ruts and pot holes on the streets. During the winter months these were filled with water while in the summer they frequently accumulated dust which would be blown about the adjacent buildings. It was not until the year 1913 that any serious effort would be made to improve the appearance of the streets about the square. In May of that year the Board of Aldermen set up an election to determine if the city of Grenada should issue \$25,000 in bonds for the purpose of paving Depot and the other streets about the square. Mr. W. B. Hoffa, always a booster for any civic improvement, wrote a letter which was published in the May 23rd issue of the Grenada Sentinel. The following excerpt taken from that letter will indicate that the condition of the streets about the square was still far from desirable: "Depot street and the south side of the square last winter and the winter preceeding, has been a municipal disgrace and an object of shame to every patriotic citizen." Most Grenada voters were of like mind as indicated by the vote on the bond issue which occurred on May 30, 1913. One hundred and twenty five voters were in favor of the proposed bond issue while only sixty four voted against it. With the favorable vote on the bond issue, there was every reason to anticipate a speedy improvement on the appearance of the square and Depot street. But complications arose which would delay this accomplishment. The Board of Aldermen had decided to use creosoted wood blocks as the surface material for paving. These blocks would be set up on a concrete base.



The apparent reason for this choice was that the use of wood blocks would lessen the sound of hoofbeats upon the pavement. At the time the use of motorized vehicles was very limited, and no one realized that within a very short span of years the slund of hoof beats on the streets would be a rarity rather than an ordinary occurrence. The paving contract was awarded to the New Orleans Wood Block Creosoting & Paving Company. That company, in a somewhat unusual action, bid in the bonds issued to pay for the paving. For some reason the bond attorneys delayed for several months their approval of the bonds. At least that was the excuse offered by the paving company for delay in beginning work on the project. On January 9, 1914, B. C. Duncan entered a suit to prevent issuance of the bonds. This was a friendly suit filed for the purpose of obtaining a determination as to the validity of the bond issue. In due process the suit reached the State Supreme Court, and on April 17th of the same year that tribunal approved the constitutionality of the bond issue. The paving company still delayed action and the Board of Aldermen, impatient with the long delay, voided the contract for the paving project. For about a year nothing was done to invite new bids on the project. On May 15, 1915, the New Orleans concern entered a suit against the City of Grenada claiming that it had been damaged in the sum of \$10,000 because of the action of the City in voiding the original contract. On May 5, 1916, the city Board opened sealed bids for the paving jobs and found that Sullivan, Long & Haggerty of Bessemer, Alabama was the lowest of seven bidders. This firm was awarded the contract for the paving project. The bid was \$30,973.00. Although earlier bid specifications had specified wood block material, it would seem that in 1916 the Board needed reassurance as to the durability of this material. Dr. J. H. Dorroh, Dean of the University of Mississippi School of Engineering, was retained to go to Greenwood, Jackson and other places where the wood block pavement was in use, and to determine how well this material had served in the several places. Dr. Dorroh reported favorably upon the desirability of the blocks and the small amount of maintenance needed to keep the blocks in good condition. This report confirmed the earlier opinion of the Board, so this was the material used in the specifications when the bidders began to figure on the job. The successful bidder promised to complete the paving in four months, beginning on June 1, 1916. As the work progressed it was decided by the Town Board that Main Street from First to Second street should be paved, this being an area of business houses. In an election relative to issuing additional bonds for this purpose the measure was approved by a five to one margin. A little later the City Fathers decided that Green Street, which had several substantial business houses, should also be paved. Again their proposal was approved by the people. With the completion of the paving project the square was completed encircled by paved streets. Depot Street was paved all the way from its intersection with Doak Street to the Depot, while Main and Green Streets had block long pavement from the square to Second Street. Of course property owners on both sides of the paved streets paid their share of the paving costs. Since the City had assumed ownership of the square, it was necessary for it to assume a greater share of the paving costs than on those streets where there were private property owners on both sides of the street. A white way had been planned to be put in operation as soon as the paving was finished. In late September of 1916 the following excerpt appeared in an editorial in the Grenada Sentinel: "The 'White Way' will adorn Depot Street, the square, and Main street to Second, and the pretty stores, the park, and other attractive places will show to still better advantage." In late December, 1916, the writer on a train trip from Jackson to Oxford, first saw Grenada at night, and he remembers very vividly that an attractive appearance the white way presented. Disinterest, lessening railroad traffic and the passage of time have combined to ruin this beautiful night view from passing rains. 1916 was a good year for the civic pride. Not only did Grenada get its paved streets, but also was selected first in its class of cities as the cleanest city in that category. This was also the year when the people of the city under the leadership of Mrs. Ed Payne raised money to rescue the East Cemetery, sometimes called "the yellow fever cemetery",



from its deplorable unkempt appearance. Money was solicited from individual business firms, religious and fraternal organizations and any other available sources. About two hundred and fifty dollars was contributed, and with this money the area was cleared of weeds, briars and small trees which had been allowed to grow up. The entire area was enclosed by a fence composed of heavy wire fastened to white oak posts embedded three feet in the ground and extending five feet above surface. The ground end of the post was heavily tarred, and the upper part painted. Although a few half-hearted attempts have been made to clear the cemetery, it is today a disgrace to a people who claim to be proud of the history and accomplishment of those who built the foundations of town in which we reside. We need today some of the spirit of those civic minded people of fifty years ago who were determined that their sacred dead should not lie in an abandoned and forgotten cemetery.

Outside influences and practices were rather slow in coming to Grenada during the first fifty years of its existence. People continued to do things pretty much as they had done in the past. The town and county was a rather closeknit community in which most of the people knew each other. Of course there were the usual differences between the people of the town and those of the county, but these differences were minor in nature. Usually the positions of leadership in the county and town were held by either first, or second generations, of those early pioneers who came into the area during the early development of the region. But changes were due to come about. Business was to become more specialized. General stores began to disappear, and the number of small stores decreased as larger establishments obtained the capital necessary to enlarge their operations. Transportation over the country roads was still primitive, and one shrewd yankee came into the area built his sawmill on the banks of the Yalobousha river; had his timber cut along the areas near the river and floated the logs down river to the mill. He constructed a large artificial lake which was connected with the river. This lake served two purposes; one was to keep the logs from being floated down the river beyond the mill, and the other purpose was to keep the logs in water where they would not be damaged by a kind of larva stage insect known as 'sawyers', so called because of the way they attacked any log which was left unused for any length of time. This method of preserving a large number of logs made it possible for the owner of the mill to keep his mill well supplied with logs. The logs were usually cut early enough to take advantage of the high river stage caused by early spring rains. Farmers and other land owners near the river would cut their own trees into logs and float them down to the Van Osdel Mill. Mrs. Edith Guidry, a daughter of Mr. Van Osdel, remembers living in the vicinity of the mill when she was a small girl. She has this to say relative to the operation of that mill: "My family lived at that place for eleven years. My father had not dreamed the supply of timber would hold out that long. The farmers from quite a distance floated their logs down the river to him and they were coralled in the basin formed by the cut-off. My earliest remembrance of my father was seeing him in hip-boots being called out before dawn to see about the in-coming logs. Men with long cant-hooks had to keep the logs separated in order to avoid pile-ups and log-jams. I think that with each different invoice of logs a man, probably hired by owner of the timber, rode a log raft along with the logs to guide them along the river which was said to have a 'mean current'."

The operation of the mill was under the direction of Mr. M. S. Van Osdel. The first documentary evidence of the prospect for this mill is found in a deed to the mill-site. On February 13, 1896, W. N. Pass conveyed to M. S. Van Osdel "a certain parcel of land for a steam mill site situated on Yalobousha River in Grenada County". The deed then went on to establish the location more specifically as being in Section five, Township twenty two, Range Five East. The mill was on the north side of the river almost due north of the present community of Futeyville. The mill operated for a number of years, and many of the substantial Grenada homes constructed during this period, were con-



cted from lumber cut by the Van Osdel Mill. The mill must have ceased operation sometime prior to 1909, since on March 20th of that year Mr. Van Osdel sold the mill site to J. H. Dunaway.

Not only were outside interests coming in to tap the raw resources of the area, but women were beginning to feel emancipated from old ideas of the restrictions which had been placed upon the professional fields in which women were privileged to work. On October 22, 1915, the following quoted news item appeared in the Grenada Sentinel: "The legal fraternity of Grenada never witnessed before what was seen in Chancery Court this week. Reference is had to Miss Bessie Young, a young lady of Grenada duly and properly equipped for the practice of law. Miss Young graduated from the Law Department of the State University last June and enjoys the distinction of being the first lady ever to receive a law degree from the University. Outside of Miss Young's legal training, she is a most cultured, refined and charming woman, and can be relied upon to apply the rule of reason and good old-fashioned common sense to any proposition she undertakes. She is in no sense an up-to-dal woman. She believes in old time Southern standards and Southern modesty. Miss Young's office will be opened in November over Heath Bros. Store. There is frequently litigation that seemingly only a lady should handle and in due time it is assumed that the people of the county will make her acquaintance and consult her especially about such matters." We do not know just what Editor Lawrence meant by the term 'up-to-dal' nor the nature of the litigation which seemingly only a lady should handle, but in a way he seems damning with faint praise the entrance of ladies into what had been deemed a masculine profession. We do not know just how successful Miss Young was in the Practice of her Profession in Grenada, but we do know that, at a later date, she went to Washington, D. C., and was employed, in a legal capacity, by some agency of the Federal Government.