

**Courtesy of the Tishomingo County Historical & Genealogical Society
Original files are housed in the John Marshall Stone Research Library**

**Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum
203 East Quitman Street
Iuka, MS 38852
Phone: 662-423-3500
E-mail: tcarchives@nadata.net
URL: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mstchgs/>**

TCHGS COPYRIGHT NOTICE: In keeping with our policy of providing free information on the Internet, materials may be freely used by non-commercial entities, as long as this message remains on all copied material, AND permission is obtained from the contributor of the file.

These electronic pages may NOT be reproduced in any format for profit or presentation by other organizations. Persons or organizations desiring to use this material for non-commercial purposes MUST obtain the written consent of the contributor OR the legal representative of the submitter and contact the listed Tishomingo County Archives & Historical Society (TCHGS) with proof of this consent.

The following information was transcribed by RaNae Vaughn from Jerry Martin's book entitled A Place Called Belmont.

In 1907, the boll weevil invaded Mississippi. At the time, this caused little concern for the Belmont area people, who were more interested in the progress of the railroad. In the fall of 1907, the first train passed through Belmont. A Mr. Johnson was reportedly the first depot agent. Short, mixed trains were on the line first. The memorable "Doodlebug," beloved in the hearts and minds of many, arose from these early trains. Other faster trains operated later on the Illinois Central Railroad through Belmont, like the Seminole and City of Miami; but the little "Doodlebug" train is the one Belmont people recall with the fondest memories. The "Doodlebug" consisted of three or four cars as follows: an engine, a mail and baggage car, and one or two passenger cars. It usually ran around 9 a.m. going north; and many people went to Dennis, Neil, Tishomingo, and Corinth for pleasure and business. About 3:30 p.m. in the afternoon, the "Doode" went through Belmont going south to Golden, Red Bay, Vina, Hackleburg, and Haleyville. The "Doode" furnished a means of travel, while its stopping in Belmont furnished a gathering place and simple social atmosphere at the depot. Down through the years, many people gathered at the depot to watch passengers get off the "Doode," called "short train," and the Seminole, called "the fast mail." The coming of the railroad was surely going to have a solid influence on the Belmont area in terms of travel, commerce, and the learning of new social ideas.

Most assuredly, the railroad made Belmont. It furnished the catalyst which enabled a wooded pasture to be transformed with human effort and co-operation into an enthusiastic village of people interested in making their world a better place. The coming of the railroad started a new era in a place called Belmont.