

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 3—NO. 12—MARCH 1986

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Personalities and Legends

Chapter XI

MENTONE ALABAMA: A HISTORY

By Zora Shay Strayhorn

Across the years Mentone has attracted people with strong personalities and creative minds. Their innovative and artistic inclinations have placed them into borderline between history and legend. Carl Carmer's book *Stars Fell on Alabama* deals with the aftermath of a meteor shower which illuminated north Alabama skies in November 1833 and caused people to run for shelter.

Many personalities have illuminated the history of Mentone, leaving their marks and their reflections. Four such stars are Colonel Milford Howard, Congressman Miles C. Allgood, Granny Dollar, and Martha Berry.

The saga of Martha Berry is chronicled in many articles and books, principally in the volume by Harnett Kane. From the cabin where she began Bible classes for underprivileged boys from the Possum Trot area near Rome, Georgia, she developed Berry College, a 30,000 acre school of international renown. Largely built by students, it embodies classrooms, shops, farms, dairies, kitchens, bakeries, weaving rooms, orchards, poultry lots, brick plant, nurseries, printing plant and other facilities.

Of Martha Berry, President Theodore Roosevelt said, "This is the greatest practical work for American citizenship that has been done within the decade." Her enthusiasm brought a similar statement from President Coolidge, financial support from Andrew Carnegie, Adolph Ochs, Henry Ford and friendship with President Franklin Roosevelt.

She received the American Institute of Social Science Medal and honorary doctorates from an array of colleges, including Oberlin and the Universities of Georgia and North Carolina. In a 1931 nationwide poll she was voted one of the twelve greatest American women.

On a tract of land overlooking Moon Lake in Mentone, her large summer home was built, designed by Atlanta architect Sam Cooper. Key person in construction was Albert Cash, who did the stone work, and Geddis Cannon, Miss Berry's chauffeur. Large wooden gates, built at Berry College, formed the entrance. Hand-made furniture, rugs and drapes were made by Berry students. In the garden were embedded mill wheels among ferns and native flowers. A large screened porch, hand-hewn logs for posts, overlooked the lake.

Martha Berry's father also built a house at Mentone. Several generations of the family have vacationed here. Mentone resident Eleanor Graham Glover, Martha's niece, was sister of the prominent artist John Graham, and was mother of Alex Glover and the late Rev. Graham Glover.

Martha Berry's Moon Lake house was finished in 1939. Only two weeks after moving in, she became seriously ill. In 1942 she died at age 76.

Miles Clayton Allgood had a long, distinguished career. He is mostly remembered because he persuaded President Franklin Roosevelt to visit Alabama, leading to establishing the Tennessee Valley Authority. In 1932 Allgood was summoned by the President to Warm Springs, Georgia, for advice on methods to help farmers. Allgood pointed out that fertilizer was one of the greatest needs, and that government facilities at Muscle Shoals could be reactivated to produce fertilizer for Southern farmers.

Allgood, Senator Lister Hill, and other members of the Alabama delegation accompanied Roosevelt on a tour by special train to visit the Muscle Shoals properties utilized during World War I for nitrate, used in munitions. In the President's special car Allgood pointed out potential sites for developing hydro-electric power. The result was the TVA Act of 1933.

Congressman Allgood represented the district which stretches from DeKalb and Cherokee Counties on the Georgia line to Franklin County on the Mississippi border, the old seventh district. His congressional career

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Councilman Davenport Dies



As this issue was ready for the printer, it was learned that Mentone Town Councilman Garrett Lee Davenport died Thursday afternoon, Feb. 6. Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon, Jan. 8, at Burt-Whitmore Funeral Home in Valley Head. A member of the original town council in 1936, Councilman Davenport had been ill for several months. He is survived by his wife, the former Lottie Cooper, and a son, James Lee Davenport of Atlanta; two daughters: Patricia Ann Hulet, Mentone; and Barbara Jane Cook, Indianapolis, Indiana, and five grandchildren.

Editor Is Speaker

Speaker at the Feb. 4 meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association was Editor Charles White McGehee. Mr. McGehee gave a brief history of how *The Groundhog* came into being, its financial earnings, its staff structure and told members present what they can do to assist, and gave his opinions of the future of the publication.

Since *The Groundhog* began publication some three years ago, it has given \$1,500 in donations to MAPA and has raised some \$3,000 in out-of-town memberships. Copies of the paper are mailed to each out-of-town member. Residents of the area receive copies free, and stacks of the publication are placed in area businesses and in places of interest to tourists.

The 23 members and guest, Helen Turner, gave high school junior Greg Purvis an ovation for his reporting work. Mr. McGehee, an active ordained Unitarian clergyman for 23 years, said that he was "proudest of not having preached" about his denomination in *The Groundhog*.

The most important way MAPA members (and anyone) can help the publication is by letting advertisers know how much they are appreciated. It helps the staff if people submit photos for use in the paper; color or black and white pictures can be printed and will be returned to the donors. Local residents can best help by joining MAPA since *THE GROUNDHOG* is the publication of the organization.

Each month the Executive Board (whose names appear on the masthead of *The Groundhog* on page two) reads all copy before it is taken to the printer. Mr. McGehee believes that the future of the publication lies in increasing professionalism and warns that it cannot be produced by volunteers indefinitely.

Those present praised the paper. "It's the greatest thing that ever happened to Mentone," said Ed Disney, operator of Nippersink. "It's very worthwhile."

Cloudmont Ski Report

Cloudmont Ski Resort continues with its very best season. Despite two mild weeks, some 3,500 skiers have utilized the slopes. During one of the low-temperature times Gary Jones' snow-making machines made artificial snow (better than real, he says) of up to 10 feet. During this period both slopes were open simultaneously, for the first time in two years.

Mayor On Committee

Mayor Rob Hammond is one of the members of a committee for redistricting being formed according to provisions of a bill sponsored in the state legislature by Senator Lowell Barron. Other members of the committee are members of the county commission and mayors of the towns involved. Public meetings will follow for discussion of the new districting, which has been stressed by Mentone council members and citizens for better representation on the county commission for Lookout Mountain.

Garden Club And MAPA Thanked By Principal

The Mentone Area Preservation Association and the Rhododendron Garden Club have been publicly thanked by Principal Charles A. Bell of Moon Lake School for their contributions of \$200 each to the school library.

"It is a pleasure," he says, "to express the gratitude of Moon Lake School in this public paper to the Rhododendron Garden Club and MAPA for their generous contributions to the library. Each club contributed \$200."

Willie Nelson Buys Eight Acres

The Willie Nelson rumors have come to rest. The well-known singer has definitely purchased eight acres on the brow of Lookout Mountain about six miles north of Mentone. The property is situated between Eagles Cliff and the Georgia line, with a stunning view of the valley and unusual patterns of rock formation.

The purchase was recorded Friday, Feb. 7, at the DeKalb Probate Judge's office by attorney Bill Scruggs, under the name "Willie Nelson."

The Groundhog had previously contacted Edmund Cash of Cash Construction Company in Rome, Georgia,

who confirmed that the deal was being made final. He refused to speculate about what the property would be utilized for, saying, "We got to know Willie because we do business in the area of Austin, Texas, where he lives."

When the singer dropped in at The Hitching Post in December with Edward Cash, of Cash Construction, it was revealed that he was looking for property in the area.

Various rumors previously arose that he was planning a restaurant, a lake, a motel, an entertainment center at such places as LaHusage, Battelle, or Eagles Cliff.

Work Soon To Begin On Local Cable TV

In the only action taken at the Feb. 3 Town Council meeting, Councilmen Lee Davenport, Hobson Kirby, Richard Meadows and Bill Russell voted to award Bill Kidder's Cable TV Company the contract for Mentone. Abstaining were Mayor Rob Hammond and Councilman Max Cash. Mayor Hammond stated that he would instruct the town's attorney, Steve Noles, to draw up the contract immediately. Mr. Kidder, present at the meeting, promised to begin installation within sixty days of his receiving the contract. "We won't let you down; I assure you of that," Kidder said.

Completion of the first phase of installation of cable TV in Mentone should be completed within ninety days after the start of construction. There will be no installation fees for charter subscribers. The service to these initial subscribers will be \$11 each month for twelve channels, including the three major networks, PBS, channel 7 and CNN. Beginning service will include the heavier populated in-town area.

A converter box will be made available on a one time charge for a trial of four to six weeks to see whether members prefer Show Time, Cinemax or other special channels. These will cost \$9 each. It is estimated that the tax franchise payment will be \$2,000. The exact amount will be determined at the end of each year and will be 3 percent of the gross revenues of the company.

Mr. Kidder promised a phone answering service to be monitored daily for service, and each subscriber will receive the repairman's phone number.

At the special called meeting of the council on Jan. 13 to decide whether to award the contract for cable TV to Boyce Dooley of Clear-Vu Cable TV Company or to Mr. Kidder's company, the council split its vote, with Mayor Hammond, Max Cash and Lee Davenport voting for Mr. Dooley's company and Hobson Kirby, Richard Meadows and Bill Russell voting for Mr. Kidder's company. Therefore, action was delayed until the February council meeting.

In addition to Catherine Bailey, town clerk, and council members, Buck Ellis and Jean McGehee were present at the February meeting. — JDM

Gourdie News

Thus far in the month of February, Sharon Barron's Gourdie's have received new media attention. *The Fort Payne Times-Journal* ran a half page story Feb. 7; *The Huntsville Times*, reports Sharon, "ran a picture so large it embarrassed me!" The Association Press picked up a story released by *The Birmingham News* that resulted in *The Canadian Broadcasting System* phoning Sharon for an interview. Production of the Gourdie's moves along each day in The Gourdie Shop in The Hitching Post and in homes as a cottage industry.

MARCH MEETING

THE MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Speaker: James Sullivan
Public Utilities Commission,
Montgomery, Alabama

Presiding: Amelia Kirk Brooks, Director

Everyone Welcome
Refreshments follow

The Parlor

St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Church
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Brow Briefs

Ruby Stalvey, who operated businesses in Mentone for over 30 years, was victim of a precarious robbery on Friday, Jan. 10, at Ruby's Variety, which she operates in Valley Head near the athletic field. A young man brandished a gun and left the place with around \$200. After an 8-hour search involving a helicopter, private plane, and tracking dogs, Charles Clayton Todd, 18, was arrested and placed under \$50,000 bond. About \$88 was recovered.

The yellow dots down the center of DeSoto Parkway are preparations for the painting of the center line, promised by State Highway Director Ray Bass at the November MAPA meeting.

Shela Barron is one of 10 percent of the Senior Class at Fort Payne High School nominated by classmates and voted on by the faculty for "outstanding achievement" in all areas of school life.

The lower dam valve feeding into DeSoto Falls was opened Jan. 25 in an attempt to drain the river to a level which might freeze over. This freeze would kill a weed-like growth at the bottom of the river which is causing clogging effects on the valves. The result is a rather interesting water formation spraying over the falls. Because of the rain lately, the river has not drained as planned.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Henderson will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary Feb. 23. They are parents of eight children. Mr. Henderson says he has "been preaching for 53 years in several states." Congratulations!

Jeff and Jon Bain of Mentone combined for 43 points to lead the Valley Head Tigers to a 53-48 victory over Fayette on Feb. 4. The win gives the number 5 ranked Tigers a 17-2 record into the regular season finale on Feb. 7. Jon Bain scored 17 of his 19 points for the night in the first 16 minutes of the game. Jeff netted 10 of his 15 points during the second half. Valley Head forward Scott Tate also scored big, 6 points during the final minute of the game. The Tigers, ranked No. 5 in the state, are headed into the regional and, hopefully, the state tournaments. The VH girls are also in the finals.

Gymnasium Contract Let For Moon Lake

Contract was let Friday, Jan. 31, at the DeKalb County Board of Education to Wilkins Construction Company of Rainsville for building of the Moon Lake Elementary School gymnasium. According to Principal Charles Bell, construction should begin by March 1 and be completed within 90 days.

The gymnasium will serve as the school's physical education building. Funds have been provided by the PTA May Day and Harvest Festivals, the Alabama Band, and individual contributions. More financing will be needed for completion, according to Principal Bell.

Bell stated that donations are tax deductible and should be mailed to Moon Lake Elementary School, Mentone, Alabama 35984. He also stated that Senator Lowell Barron has indicated possibility of additional governmental funding.

Avid Reader



Shown above is Jordan Hammond, 2, son of Mayor Rob Hammond and his wife San, enthusiastically holding a recent issue of *THE GROUNDHOG*.

The Groundhog

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. First conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 6, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone Area. Chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.

Charles White McGehee, Editor
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Amelia Brooks, Director
Donna Bukley, Associate Director
Bill Riedesel, Secretary
Shurlee Froehler, Treasurer
Homer Crow, Past Director
Gregory Purvis, Student Reporter

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Rhododendron Committee

Initial meeting of the May 17-18 Mentone Rhododendron Festival was held Feb. 1 at Cragmere Manna. Present were Donna Bukley, coordinator; Bill Riedesel, assistant coordinator; Shurlee Froehler, Randy Still and Angelo Rosario. Other members of the committee are Homer and Bernise Crow, Ray Froehler, Sandra Padgett, Harrell Jenkins and Jane Blansit.

Various projects were formulated which will be coordinated by: Parade, Angelo Rosario; Beauty Pageant, Sandra Padgett; Publicity, Bill Riedesel; Rhododendron Sales, Randy Still and Harrell Jenkins; Ticket Sales, Signs, and Porta-Let, Ray and Shurlee Froehler. It is expected that hay rides will again be provided by Ed Jones.

Valley Head Honor Roll

The Honor Roll students from Valley Head High School for the First Semester are 12th Grade: Bonnie Blalock (All A's); Shelly Blalock, Susanne Crabtree, George Huie, Kim Langston, Karen Prestwood, Stacey Smith and Lisa Strickland (All A's and B's).

11th Grade: Joy Bain, Steve Campbell (All A's and B's).
10th Grade: Lea Smith (All A's); Karen Bain, Leslie Bell, Missy McSpadden, Brevin Brown and Frankie Hall (All A's and B's).

9th Grade: Laura Harrison (All A's and B's).
8th Grade: Holly Brown (All A's); Andrea Kirby, Shannon Hunt, Keith Langston and Georgette McGee (All A's and B's).

7th Grade: Paul Blalock (All A's); Tammy Hopper and Charles Pullen (All A's and B's).

The Fort Payne High School Honor Roll for the First Semester is 12th Grade: Shala Barron (All A's).

9th Grade: Krista Dunaway (All A's); Melanie Purvis (All A's and B's).

Groundhog Emerges

Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, is the anniversary of the founding in 1982 of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

There was no local celebration this year, but attention was paid throughout the nation. Most notable was the big occasion when Phil, the premier groundhog of Punxsutawney, Penn., emerged from his electrically heated burrow and failed to see his shadow.

According to legend and tradition, Phil's prediction, dubbed by some as "the eighth wonder of the world," indicates that winter will not continue for six additional weeks. The official weather people disagree. They predict that temperatures will be lower than usual.

Meanwhile, Mentone squirrels are frantically gathering additional walnuts and hickory nuts. We shall all too soon find out who is correct.

DeKalb Tourist Association

Attending the January 15 board meeting of the DeKalb County Tourist Association were the following from Mentone: Amelia Brooks, Jack Jones, Donna Bukley, Shurlee Froehler and Richard O'Ferrall. At the meeting it was reported that the new DeKalb County brochures are ready for distribution. President David Marion revealed that the association received \$500 from the Alabama June Jam IV. The Tourist Association will sell show books again this year.

Fire Department News

The Mentone Fire Department will meet in February every second and fourth Thursday nights. January was the scene for three fires in the region. The first was up from the water towers last January. This fire took about three hours to get under control, but was allowed to burn out. There was also a woods fire near the back road leading to Dr. Annis' farm, which was quickly controlled. The Mentone department assisted Valley Head during a tractor-trailer fire on I-59. The department is still looking for volunteers from this area. Phone Hershell Pruitt at 634-4274.

Mentone Rescue Squad

The Desoto Rescue Squad, based in Mentone, is considering plans on starting Basic Emergency Training during the first March meeting. The Rescue Squad received a donation of \$1,000 from the country group Alabama recently.

GROUNDHOG FINANCE REPORT December Issue

Income:	
Balance on hand	\$650.27
Ad sales	870.00
	\$1,520.27
Debits:	
Greg Purvis, reporting	\$15.00
McGehees, editing, expenses	100.00
Donna Bukley, sales & delivery	180.50
Angelo Rosario, photos	15.00
Summerville News Co.	422.50
U. S. Post Office	81.18
	\$814.18
Balance on hand	\$706.09

Groundhog Finance Report

January Issue

Income:	
Balance on hand	\$706.09
Ad Sales	490.00
Donations	21.00
	\$1,217.09
Debits:	
Greg Purvis, reporting	\$15.00
U. S. Post Office, includes permit	122.20
Donna Bukley, sales & delivery	103.50
McGehees, expenses, editing	100.00
Summerville News Co.	213.50
	\$554.20
Balance on hand	\$662.89

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Moon Lake Attendance

Names were given **The Groundhog** by Principal Charles Bell for those Moon Lake School students having four months' perfect attendance:

Kindergarten, Gay Godbois: Krissy Brown, Teri Campbell, Ryan Drake, Brad Hale and Haley Hilliard.

Grades 1 and 2, Brenda Bobo: Amy Crane, Ginger Gray, Cassidy Hudgins, Heather Jackson, Renee Pruitt, Brian Smith, Nikki Smith, Brandon Taylor, Shaun Flannigan and Chris O. Smith.

Grades 2 and 3, Bill Berry: Jon Baggett, Crystal Bettis, Nichole Cash, Lyndall Elkins, Holly Gardner, Jennifer Hale, Cheri Keith, Eric King, Joseph Lee, Flynt Purvis, Chris Smith and Cyle Springman.

Grades 4 and 5, Joyce Smith: Michael Flannigan, Bridgett Blalock, Duane Blalock, Sally Sharp, Junior Smith, Greg Wheat, Kip Taylor, Carla King, Whitney Smith, Kelly Johnson and Stacie Worthey.

Grades 5 and 6, Charles Bell: Shannon Blalock, Sam Whatley, Clay Green, Ivy Godbois, Allison Kirby, Spring Wimberly, Tiffany Coots, Dwayne Cash, Clark Smith and Chris Stallings.

Those students having had perfect attendance for three months are Rene Brendle, Grant Meadows, Nathan Keith, Curt Miller, Lee Worthey, Chad Smith, Joseph Bain, Cayla Bell, Shaunathan Bell, Lisa Drake, Josh Goss, Jeffrey Hopper, Trevor Strickland, Angelia Coots, Terry Durham, Jason Goss, Nickey Langston, Matthew Smith, Melissa Worthey, Shaun Wheat, April Langston, Marian Crane, Charlton Bell, Nathan Baggett, Jeremy Webb, Jeff Crow and Jennifer Furgerson.

Pupils with perfect attendance for two months are Anna Crow, Christy Ferguson, Misty Ferguson, Adam Hilliard, Nathan Keith, Curt Miller, Lee Worthey, Matthew Kilgore, Darrin Smith, Richard Harrison and Wendy Manifold.

Those with one month's perfect attendance are Kevin Helms, Kevin Worthey, David Dodd, Vanessa Helms, Ricky Frasier and Richard Dodd.

Valentine's Day

Schools in the Mentone area are busily preparing for one of the biggest holidays of the year, Valentine's Day. Children cut and paste together pieces of lace and construction paper to form heart-shaped cards for their mothers and sweethearts. Ready-made cards are bought for classmates, and candy abounds.

Valentine's Day is a unique festivity, in that its origins are Roman, not English or French, where we get most of our holidays. The festival of Lupercalia was a celebration in pre-Christian times of love and fertility rites. Our celebration commemorates love and romance and is often associated with Spring.

For whatever the purposes, Feb. 14 is a day to spend with those you love and care about most. — Gregory Purvis

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Reading classes are now underway at Moon Lake Elementary School each Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. One may begin anytime. Full information may be obtained by calling 634-4113.

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Dr. Williams graduated with honors from National College of Chiropractic in Chicago, Ill., in 1982. His undergraduate college was the U. of Miami. He joined his father's practice in Palm Beach, Fla., for two years. The Williams family has been in Fort Payne a year and they have recently moved to the old Wilks farm, south of Hammondville.



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Personalities and Legends

Continued From Front Cover

began March 4, 1923, continuing until he married Jan. 3, 1935.

Algood was born in Chepuc, Dec. 16, 1875. The town was later named Allgood in honor of Miles' father, Dr. W. B. Allgood. At six he drove horses at a cotton gin, picked cotton at fourteen, and at eighteen played the county examination to teach. He taught at a three-month school near Chepuc for \$16 a month.

While in jailment he spent a night at Hat Howe's Hole, and sensed improvement from the hay fever he was suffering. In 1924 the Algoods bought a lot from Howe, built a home on the brow, and lived there for the remainder of their lives. He died in March, 1937, at age 61. Mrs. Algood, the former Miss Randal Fox, died in 1984, in her nineteenth year.

Milford Emerson Howard was born Dec. 15, 1862, in northeast Georgia of a mother, patronage, a mother he adored, a father he feared. When the family moved to Arkansas, he worked in a cotton gin, where at age 13, sitting on a bag of cotton, he heard two lawyers argue a case — an event which caused him to decide to become a lawyer. The family moved back to Georgia. Shortly thereafter Howard moved to Fort Payne. With less than two years of formal education, he was admitted to the Alabama Bar in 1880.

Thereafter he was referred to as "Colonel." After applying to lawyers at that time, in 1880 he married Sally Lenard. In 1880 he became a county solicitor. The following year being very involved in teaching the poem in Fort Payne.

He was a towering man of six feet four, easily moved to deep emotion. He had visions, but in many cases the vision died appearing or had an ephemeral existence. Although in his later years Colonel Howard thought of himself as a laudable credit to the nation for the assistance of Alpine Camp for Boys, Sally Howard Memorial Chapel, and the Scenic Highway to run the length of Lookout Mountain. His dreams led to Comer Scout Reservation, DeSoto Park and DeSoto Parkway.

Of political note, he served two terms in the U. S. Congress was nominated for the presidency of the nation, was seriously considered as a candidate for governor of Alabama and the U. S. Senate. Howard wrote several books, one was made into a movie with him starring in the title role. He was a self-taught lecturer.

Returning to this area after his home-making and film-making in California, Howard first settled on a farm north of Fort Payne. In 1923 he became absorbed with developing a Master School for Southern Mountain Boys and Girls. With co-founder Stella Vivian Harper, the school was located near the present Comer Scout Reservation. Classes began in September, 1923. The school existed for only a short time, closing because of lack of funds and support.

Colonel Howard then became promoter of River Park, providing a golf course, recreation and scenic highway. The Lodge at Alpine was completed, present site of Alpine Camp for Boys.

A year after his wife Sally's death, Colonel Howard married his cousin Stella Vivian Harper. An elegant red-haired woman, he referred to her as "Lady Vivian." For several years Colonel Howard was a correspondent for The Birmingham News with a Sunday feature, "Magabond Sketches."

While the Howards were traveling in Europe, he interviewed Doctor Ben to Mussolini of Italy. The interview secured his political ideology, causing him to endorse fascism. The couple returned from Europe decided of course, Lady Vivian supervised construction of the building of a mountain cabin. Work on the cabin was done by Frank Kirk, who was killed at the time.

In the last year of his life, a feeble health and with meager funds, Howard braved freezing weather to oversee and fund construction of the Sally Howard Memorial Chapel, a memory of his devoted wife, mother of his children, who died in California Oct. 28, 1975. Her funeral services were held at the "Wee Kins of the Heather" at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Glendale, California, a reproduction of the Annie Laurie Church in Scotland. Sally Howard Chapel is a reproduction of the Scottish chapel.

also. Across one of its beams is a quotation from her last letter: "God Has Always Been as Good to Me as I Would Let Him Be." Across another beam is the word IMMORTALITY, which had become a strong preoccupation with him in his later years. The chapel was dedicated June 27, 1937.

Seemingly unable to withstand the simple rugged mountain life, with little or no luxury, Lady Vivian left the mountain. They were divorced. But after his death Dec. 28, 1937, in California, she brought back his ashes to be entombed in the granite rock which is the solid anchor in which the Sally Howard Memorial Chapel is attached.

Nancy Emmaline Callahan Dollar, who came to be known as "Granny Dollar," is buried beside her husband in Little River Cemetery. On her tombstone are the dates "1826-1931." She died Jan. 29, 1931, but her birth date is uncertain.

There is no doubt that she was what is known as a character. Her mother, Mary Suxton, was Scottish, and her father was a tall full-blooded Cherokee Indian, William Callahan, two wives, and some twenty-six children lived in Buck's Pocket, a few miles out of town on Sand Mountain in DeKalb, Jackson and Marshall counties.

When the Cherokees were forced into the long march westward, called The Trail of Tears, the Callahan family hid in a cave in Buck's Pocket. Later William Callahan was involved in a fracas with local residents, and fearing revenge, he moved his family to Mariettaville, near Atlanta, Georgia.

Nancy inherited her father's stature, rugged features, and tremendous lung power. During the Civil War she drove a mule wagon on a regular route from Mariettaville to country stores, with thirty head of hogs. Thus she continued for almost twenty years. During the Civil War her husband, Tom Porter, was killed in battle, as was her father.

In her seventies, Granny married Norman Dollar and moved to the Marietta area. Twenty years later, her husband died. She managed to buy his tombstone by selling her cow. From that time until her death eight years later, the legends grew around Granny Dollar. She enjoyed embellishing the stories told about her and encouraged their telling. She sold tomatoes and managed to survive by growing chickens and vegetables, and by the generosity of friends and neighbors.

Her last years were spent on Colonel Milford Howard's property. The ruins of her cabin are almost hidden from DeKalb County Highway 156 on the south side of the road a short distance east of DeSoto Parkway. The chimney still stands and vines have taken over the decaying ruins. Across the paved road a dirt road meanders up a hill to the former site of Colonel Howard's Master School.

Colonel Howard is responsible for much of the legend surrounding Granny Dollar. In 1928 he wrote a feature story about her for The Birmingham News. He met Granny upon his return from a long stay in California. She had then settled into one of his cabins. Although his financial situation was precarious, Howard agreed to Granny's desires, which included a lot of fat meat in her greens and biscuits, her "safety" for her ever-present corned beef and potatoes for her "human chickens and mongrel" dog Buster.

Preparing for her own demise, Granny had saved twenty-three dollars toward a tombstone, but the money was stolen from her. People in the community arranged for her burial, and Colonel Howard delivered the eulogy. Soon afterward, Buster had to be put to sleep, and he was buried beside his mistress, with Colonel Howard again delivering the funeral oration.

Many residents of the Marietta area remember Granny Dollar. Essie Quowner and Frank Kirk remember youngsters shopping for Granny and bringing in wood for her. Clyde McNew was born in her cabin, when his mother had gone to seek Granny's midwifery care.

In 1973, largely through the efforts of Anne Young of Fort Payne, Granny's tombstone was erected. The head of an Indian woman is inscribed at the top and "Daughter of the Cherokee" is written at the bottom.

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