

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Jerry McKelvy, Editor

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HENRY BROTHERS STORE AT BLUFF CITY

The Henry Brothers—Homer, John, and Anthem—had a store in Bluff City in 1910 and 1911 according to information I have found in old newspapers. This photo was in the collection of Mrs. Mollie Henry, wife of Anthem Henry. The three men standing on the porch are Homer Henry, John Henry, and Anthem Henry. The man in the chair is Neal Byrd, who also had a store at Bluff City at one time. Judging the ages of the men in the picture, I think this picture was taken sometime about 1910 to 1915. It had to be before 1931 because one of the brothers died that year. John L. Henry is listed in the 1910 census as age 29 with the occupation of merchant (dry goods and ???). It seems that this store specialized in clothing and shoes. Thanks to Sandra Beaver for sharing this great photo. Anthem Henry was Sandra's grandfather and Homer and John were her great-uncles. I am also related to these men. All three brothers were my great-uncles.

By using a magnifying glass, I was able to read some of the signs on the store. The large sign at the top of the store front reads: "Hamilton-Brown Shoe Co.—the Largest in the World-- American Lady Shoe and American Gentleman Shoe." On the right porch post are two signs, one advertising American Lady Shoes and the other advertising Patriot shoes for men. A small sign under the roof advertises Peter's shoes. One sign on the wall advertises Groves Chill Tonic and another is for Dr. Robert's authentic healing oil. A sign on the wall

behind Mr. Byrd reads “Healing Oil—No cure—No pay”. The sign on the second post from the left advertises overalls. The wooden boxes stacked on the porch appear to be shipping boxes with writing on them, but I was unable to make out the words. They are possibly shipping boxes for shoes, but many products were shipped in wooden boxes in those days.

Notice the “handicapped access ramp” on the right. The pole to the left of the porch has a wire attached which was probably a telephone wire. The area had telephone service many years before electricity. Newspapers in 1909 mentioned a new telephone line from Bluff City to Chidester via Foss (an old town that no longer exists). Another thing I noticed about the picture was the total absence of grass around the store. There is an overturned trash barrel on the right side of the picture which should have been picked up before the picture was made.



Sandra also had another picture of the Henry brothers inside their store. They appear to be dressed the same, so the inside picture was probably made the same day. The quality of the picture is not too good, but I can see stacks of clothing and caps on a counter in the center of the store, more signs advertising overalls, and a stack of large round containers with a picture of a lady in a hat. I'm not sure what these are, but there are at least 20 of them and they are displayed in a prominent place. In this picture, John Henry (on left) has a pair of scissors in his right hand, which reinforces the idea that this was mainly a dry goods store. One prominent sign advertises Carhartt clothing, a company which still makes popular outdoor clothing. I see a large assortment of bottles on the wall behind John Henry which could be medicine bottles. A lantern can be seen hanging from the ceiling of the store.

I have been looking for pictures like these showing early buildings in Bluff City and other towns in this area and also pictures of the early settlers. If you have any stored away, please share them with us so we can all learn more about our ancestors and how they lived.

A STRANGE NEWS STORY FROM THE PAST
UPSIDE DOWN WOMAN CURED
(from the May 18, 1932 issue of The Camden News)

The extraordinary case of a woman who spelled backwards and read books and drew pictures upside down is recorded in the current *Lancet*, British medical journal by Dr. R. Eager and Dr. J. W. Fisher of the Devon Mental Hospital.

After a cure by hypnosis, the woman found that she was unable to read passages which she had written before her treatment.

The woman, a house servant in Devonshire, was subject to such trembling of the hands that she broke more than the usual number of cups and saucers. After an illness, she was committed to the hospital for examination. She had previously been classed as a congenital mental defective.

In the hospital, failure of speech necessitated her writing her wants on a slate, but the nurses could not understand the script. Each word was written backwards, though put down from left to right in the customary manner and with the right hand. The letters were correctly oriented, though in reverse sequence.

Thus, requested to write "policeman", she put down "namecilop". All words were similarly reversed.

In mathematics, she wrote all the figures upside down, and did the same thing in drawing elementary objects like dogs, cats, and houses. In cleaning up a room, she turned pictures and vases upside down.

After certain tests of vision based on the theory that the physic shock which had temporarily deprived her of speech had upset the coordination of other closely related centers of the brain, the physicians put the patient under light hypnosis.

The cure seems to have been complete, and the woman has spent a large part of her time lately writing normal letters to her friends, ridiculing her previous eccentricities.

<p>Be true to your teeth or they'll be false to you. (Bits of Wit and Wisdom- J. O. Wentzell)</p>
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CAMDEN FIREMEN HAVE BIG CARS
(from the February 1, 1932 issue of The Camden News)

Camden has an unusual fire department as far as motor transportation is concerned. When the siren sounds, volunteer firemen hop into their automobiles and speed to the scene of the blaze.

Fire Chief Charlie Jones has to be content with a lowly Ford painted red while one member drives to the fire in his own Rolls Royce complete with chauffeur, another rushes to the fire in a Packard, another in a Buick, one in a Chrysler, another in a Plymouth, and the rest in Chevrolets and Fords.

There are 14 firemen in the city and each drives his own car whenever they miss the fire truck.

In all, about \$30,000 worth of automobiles follow the \$12,500 fire truck to the fires.

If more than one mouse is Mice, and more than one louse is Lice, you must agree, that obviously more than one spouse is Spice. (Bits of Wit and Wisdom-J. O. Wentzell)

**SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR A. E. ADAMS OF BLUFF CITY
(from the 11-22-1934 issue of *The Nevada County Picayune*)**

Editor's note: Albert Erasmus Adams was known as "Uncle Plug" and also known as "The Terrapin Man of Bluff City" (see the August, 2005 issue of The Sandyland Chronicle for that story). On the occasion of his 76th birthday, a surprise birthday party was given in his honor by the family of J. W. Adams, sponsored by his daughter, Mrs. N. B. Hall of Hot Springs. The following poem was written for that occasion:

**Lines to Uncle Albert
by
Minnie Hall of Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas—Nov. 11, 1934**

We are gathered here on this good day
To Uncle Albert a tribute pay.
Of years he's lived not quite four-score,
And we hope he'll live to see many more.

No place we go gives us more joy;
A trip down here is without alloy.
We always feel so welcome here,
He and Aunt Lucy are always so full of cheer.

When we were tiny tots at mother's knee
A trip down here filled us with glee.
For we knew with "Uncle Plug" on hand,
We'd receive the best in all the land.

To Uncle and Aunt and Miss Bettie too,
We pledge to you our hearts so true,
We love you dearly love sincere,

And hope to meet here again next year.

Dear Uncle, as you older grow,
May the Lord on you his riches bestow.
And with our hearts all full of love,
We hope to meet some day in the world above.

Editor's note: Albert E. Adams died on February 27, 1941. His wife, Lucy, died on the same day, a few hours after her husband's death. They are buried in the old section of Bluff City Cemetery.

The older generation thought nothing of getting up at five o'clock in the morning, and the younger generation doesn't think much of it either. (Bits of Wit and Wisdom-J. O. Wentzell)

A LETTER TO A FRIEND

This letter dates back to about 1932 and was found in a collection of old photos. Thanks to Sandra Beaver for sharing it.

Prescott, Arkansas

I dislike very much to write you this letter, but I consider you the one who is closest to me, so I come to you with all the confidence in the world in the most trying time of my life. The time has come when I must have some advice on a very important question. This has caused me many days of restlessness and long nights of agony, so I feel as if you could probably relieve me of this horrible feeling. When I tell you happiness of future life has been ruined over this terrible state of affairs, you will understand why I am writing to you, because you should know all about this in all sincerity. It means life and death to me. I dare not make known to anyone besides you, this sad affair.

So in my distress, I come to you of all my friends. I think there will be none more willing to help me in this matter. I realize I am asking a great deal of you, but because you are my dearest friend, I think you will realize that I am not asking too much of you.

I am asking you to lay aside everything and tell me from the bottom of your heart. Do

you think Jeff will ever be as tall as Mutt?

Words, like eggs, should be handled with care. For eggs, once broken and words once spoken, are hard to repair. (Bits of Wit and Wisdom- J. O. Wentzell)

STORIES OF FAITHFUL SLAVES
(article found on microfilm in Camden Public Library)

Old Aunt Mary was the black mammy in the family of Mr. Thomas Stone. In her young days in Alabama, she was a maid for Mrs. Stone, but by the time they reached Camden, she was promoted to the dignity of cook, to be the “chief cook and bottle washer” in the family of an early settler, where everybody took in boarders and “big dinners” occurred frequently which required a deft hand and much culinary skill. Aunt Mary had both, and was never so happy as when basting a pig roasted whole or rolling out the dough for a batch of apple dumplings. The fame of the eatables at John Stone’s “infair” is a part of the history of those days.

In addition to Aunt Mary’s service as cook, she was the “Mammy” of all the Stone children for two generations. “Miss Ora” was her favorite and during the dark days of the war in the long absences of Capt. Newton, she was unflinching in her devotion to the young mother and her babies. When freedom came, it brought unwanted burdens upon her, but in the care and attention which she had received from her beloved “Miss Ora”, she reaped an abundant reward for the faithfulness of her youth.

If I died and came back as a dog, my wife would come back as a flea. (Bits of Wit and Wisdom- J. O. Wentzell)

THE OLD FAMILIAR PLACE
The Nevada News—January 28, 1925

There’s been a change in recent years
In almost everything;
The old time things our parents knew
Have surely had their fling.

Yes, progress since we all were young
Has set a record pace;
But for spanking, I believe they still use
The old familiar place.

A boy is pretty apt to tread
The path he starts at home;
It isn’t after he leaves
The narrow path to roam.

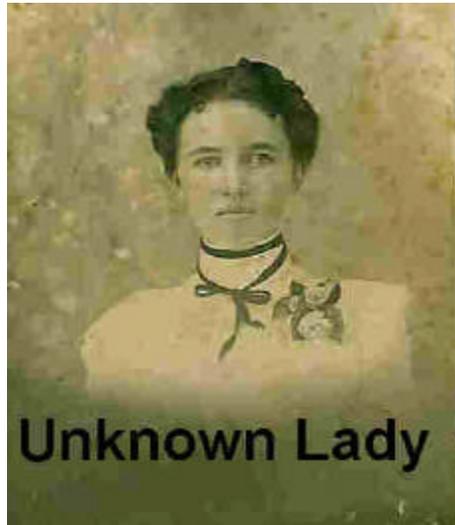
But no matter when he’s started—
It always is the case,
He’s started well if father spanked
The old familiar place.

Tom S. Elrod

THINGS A TRUE SOUTHERNER KNOWS: (from the Internet)

1. The difference between a hissie fit and a conniption fit.
2. Pretty much how many fish make up a mess.

3. What general direction kittywampus is.
 4. That “gimme sugar” don’t mean pass the sugar.
 5. When somebody’s “fixin” to do something, it won’t be long.
 6. Knows what “Well, I Swannie!!” means.
 7. When “by and by” is.
 8. The difference between “pert near” and “a right fer piece”.
 9. The difference between a redneck, a good ol’ boy, and trash.
 10. Never assume the other car with the flashing turn signal is actually going to make a turn.
 11. You may wear long sleeves, but you should always roll ‘em up past the elbows.
 12. You should never loan your tools, pick-up, or gun to nobody.
 13. Rocking chairs and swings are guaranteed stress relievers.
 14. Rocking chairs and swings with an old person in them are history lessons.
 15. A good dog is worth its weight in gold.
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This picture was found in the Mollie and Blanche Henry photo collection, but was not identified. Let me know if you know who this person is.

Many of the photos in this collection were of members of the Henry, Robinson, and Epperson families. Could this be a member of one of those families????

REMEMBER THE WORD “LAD” WHICH STANDS FOR “LABEL” AND “DATE”

LABEL AND DATE ALL YOUR PICTURES

FEEDBACK FROM READERS

I enjoyed the article about Lackland Springs (*June, 2006*). I spent the first nine years of my life less than a mile from them.

I think there were three springs (could have been more). One spring has an awful odor (sulphur, I believe) and one spring was called the iron spring. Each one had a different taste.

I attended my first school at Lackland in 1925. My teacher was Ida Byrd and my second teacher was Elisa Nichols Cox (from Reader). They stayed at our house. My mother and dad gave them free room and board to walk me to school through the woods.

Not having brothers and sisters, I didn't know that children played games. The first game we played was called "stealing sticks".

My dad would take me fishing on Caney Creek. I remember one spot in the creek with some unusual fish—about six inches long with red, white, and blue bands around them. A few years ago, there was an article in the *Gazette* about a rare fish near Eureka Springs. It fit the description of the fish in Caney Creek. I could never get one to bite my hook. I wonder if they are still there? That was 78 years ago.

I plan to go back to that area and see if I can find anything familiar. I enjoy *The Sandyland Chronicle*.

Zettie Griffith Link

SOURCES FOR OLD TIME MERCHANDISE AND HARD TO FIND ITEMS

(For your information only—*The Sandyland Chronicle* does not endorse any of these stores)

The Vermont Country Store—Purveyors of the Practical & Hard to Find

<http://www.vermontcountrystore.com>

They have free catalogs you can request online. I know some folks who have used this store.

(*Editor's note*)

Their mailing address is Vermont Country Store, P. O. Box 6998, Rutland, VT 05702-6998

Cumberland General Store—"goods in endless variety for man and beast"

<http://cumberlandgeneral.com>

I once had one of their catalogs and found it very interesting to look at. (*Editor's note*)

They have a catalog, but it costs \$4.00. Their mailing address is: Cumberland General Store, P. O. Box 4468, Alpharette, GA 30023-4468

Jack and Friends

<http://www.jackandfriends.com>

No catalog. Strictly an online store

Mast General Store

<http://www.maststoreonline.com/index.htm>

An online store; no catalog