Citronelle, Alabama

Main Street Citronelle - c. 1900

This photo was taken on Main Street near State Street and shows the First National Bank of Citronelle on the left and the Mercantile Building to its right. The Mercantile Building was constructed in the early 1890’s.

Excerpt from "Limited Edition of Citronelle’s Centennial Celebration 1892 - 1992"

By 1905 Citronelle had developed as the major business center for a wide area of Mobile County and most of Washington County. According to the Alabama Business Directory printed in that year, Citronelle had a total of 39 business places. These included:

- Ballweg Manufacturing Company
- S.D. Bartlett Livery & Feed Stable
- S.H. Beal Real Estate
- W.P. and W.H. Beard General Merchandise Company
- Dr. Belwett Means
- E.G. Bradley Stables
- J.W. Bushong Dry Goods
- Citronelle Business Men’s Association
  - Citronelle Call Newspaper
  - Citronelle Mercantile Company
  - DeLong & Simmons Real Estate
  - W. Denmark & Sons Meat Market
- Dr. A.M. Duffield
- First National Bank of Citronelle
- Lida C. Gray Millinery
- D.A. Hall Jewelers
- Healy & Hall Grocery
- J. Hedge Real Estate Company
- Hotel Citronelle
- Hygeia Hotel
- Southern Hotel
- Dr. W.B. Jeffries
- Meyer Drug Company
- Peoples Drug Store
- L.C. Smith China Shop
According to Hamilton’s History of Mobile, Citronelle was recorded as an Indian Settlement in 1702; that in 1777, according to the Chicago Pure Water Journal of 1903, William Bartram (pictured left), an American botanist, took a canoe trip of thirty miles up the river from Mobile to find a plant [collinsonia canadensis] which his Indian allies assured him would cure him of malaria. He found the plant and named it “Citronella” and to this day it is still a favorite domestic remedy in Alabama households. Citronella then grew in profusion on a plateau thirty miles from Mobile, through which the Mobile and Ohio Railway passed and where they appropriately named the station Citronelle.

[Collinsonia canadensis, pictured below, is a perennial herb in the mint family. Common names include Citronella Horsebalm, Heal-All, Ox-Balm, Richweed, and Stone Root.]
Citronelle’s second public school building was built in 1885-86. Prior to the building of this school, a one-room school (built circa 1860’s) stood approximately where the football stadium stands today, at the corner of State Street and Rowe Avenue. The property for the second school was deeded to the Mobile County School Board by the M&O Railroad in 1884. The school only went through 8th grade. Any student wishing to graduate had to take the “Accommodation Train” to Mobile to attend Barton Academy. At that time, Alabama students graduated at the end of their 11th year, there was no 12th grade.

Originally this building housed a two-room school and stood on the corner of Lebaron and Rowe Avenues in front of the current high school’s main entrance, which is now a parking lot. In 1891, an additional two rooms were added to the structure; authorized at a cost of $300.00.
It is very difficult to point to one year or one period of years and say that that was the day when Citronelle enjoyed its best growth. It has never been like the ebb and flow of the tide, now reaching a new mark and now receding below former marks. The growth has been slow, steady, constant. Those who are most intensely interested in its development have always tried to avoid a “boom”, believing that the reaction is in the long run detrimental to the best kind of growth.

Therefore it is not possible to collect a set of figures for a period of six months or one year, giving them as an example, and saying that they are wonderful. It will, however, be of interest to the tourist to know seven years ago, when the Illinois Hotel was erected, it was in a thicket of small oak and brush; that at the same time there was but two or three houses on the east side of the railroad track between the Hygeia Hotel and the Hotel Citronelle; that at this period West State Street, now lined with many of the prettiest houses in Citronelle, was practically unbroken woods. With a few exceptions the same marked and substantial improvement has gone on in all parts of town. Only three years ago, in the distance between the Drummers’ Home and State Street, now occupied by about fifteen firms or offices, there was but two small buildings.

The increase in trade has kept pace with the town’s growth. More and more Citronelle merchants have branched out and every year the territory they embrace is widening. The idea that people must go to Mobile for anything outside of the line of staples is fast disappearing.
This home sat at the northwest corner of State Street and Mobile Street where the present day Regions Bank is located. First recorded as the home of Richard Payne in 1876, the house was begun as a one story Victorian cottage with a semi-octagonal bay on the front, later becoming a boarding house.

Around 1898, D. E. Jewett added the second building, which was placed on the left to serve as a dining room for quests in the house and as a restaurant. This area was also once used as a butcher shop.

Sometime, probably in the 1920’s, a second story was added to provide more bedrooms for boarders. The Russell family lived here for many years and operated the boarding house.

Like many other homes and businesses in Citronelle the Russell House burned and the business was relocated to where the present day Citronella Inn is located on Main Street where it operated under the same name for most of the 20th century. The Russell House was said to have the finest dining in town.
The Stebbin/Johnson Home - built in 1911

An excerpt from an article printed in the Newsday, August 12, 1987 Edition - “Homes of Citronelle” by Abbeygail O’Riley. The property was a part of an original United States Land Grant in 1860 made to B.S. Trigg. Minnie Corey Stebbins and husband, Edwin J. Stebbins purchased 80 acres of property in 1911 and began construction on the home. Records show the property tax increased in 1912 so it’s safe to deduct that the house was completed in one year.

The home has had several owners. Harold Jernigan once owned it for a rental. John A. Hurt lived there and his brother Claude Hurt, President of Citronelle Bank at the time, lived next door. (South) Claude Hurt was shot and killed in a bank hold-up. C.B. and Alma Johnson purchased the home in March of 1951 from Hazel Childers, owner for ten years.

The exterior of this two-story, turn of the century house is stucco. The interior was done with pine floors and the walls were of wall board which resembled our paneling of today. The walls have been redone in Honduran Mahogany downstairs and Honduran Yellow Pine upstairs. The home has a total of ten rooms. The living room contains an original sandstone fireplace made from native stone and the fireplace can still be operated. The front gate posts are also made of these same type sandstones.

The Johnson home is filled with pleasant surprises and unique originals of many sorts. Instead of door knobs are heavy metal handles for pulling and a press lever to open and close. Each door is made of tongue and groove planks. They are secured by cross pieces of a thicker size board by wooden pegs. They are supported on iron strap hinges large enough to last forever. The windows in the master bedroom are unusual. They are hinged and open to the inside of the room by means of a rope and pulley attached to the ceiling. It is not known at present exactly who designed this home. The house came with four (4) walk-in closets which were virtually unheard of in those days.
The W. G. Woodbury home on State Street was built circa 1900 by George Tyrrell who later purchased it as his own. At present, it is the home of his granddaughter Pat Tyrrell Atkinson. The front of the home doesn’t actually face State Street, it faces Main Street; where it once had an unobstructed view of downtown Citronelle.

Because so many young couples rented it as their first home, the smaller cottage to the left of the main house was affectionately called "The Honeymoon Cottage".

The windmill (still standing on the property today) pumped water to a tank located in the tower and provided water to a number of the adjacent houses. This wooden windmill is the only one of its kind still standing in Mobile County. An oil on canvas painting of this windmill by local artist Grace Stebbins can be found in the Citronelle Memorial Library.
The first electric lights came to Citronelle in 1912. The Citronelle Light, Ice and Power Company was located east of the railroad tracks and just north of the end of Center Street. The company purchased and remodeled the plant of the Citronelle Planing Mill Company and installed a 75 kw direct connected generator. The plant had an ice making capacity between 10 and 20 tons.

Located in front of the building is the turntable that was built to turn steam engines around to take trains back to Mobile. This was the first railroad built in South Alabama. The railroad was later extended into Mississippi, and on to St. Louis, MO and Chicago, IL.
“Citronelle as seen by the Nemean Boys”

Two years ago and again this year, the members of the Nemean Club collected material by reading and by conversation with some of the older residents, wrote essays and read them to the club. These proved so interesting to the boys that they thought the readers of the THE CALL might like to see some extracts from the papers. Accordingly, a committee consisting of R. B. Donavan, Jr., George Tyrrell and Richard Lynch was appointed to prepare the material for publication.

“Surrender Oak and It’s Associations”

The large white oak tree under which the final surrender of the Civil War took place was blown down in the storm of September 1906. The Business Men’s Association wrote Col. W. D. Mann, who very generously donated the fallen tree to the Association for the purpose of advertising Citronelle. The wood was made into gavels, walking canes and other souvenirs. Each article sent out is marked “Surrender Oak, Citronelle, Alabama,” and a certificate stating that the article is genuine accompanies it. The remains of the old stump even are fast disappearing and this historic spot can scarcely be reached. The tree was located not far from the southeast corner of the old casino, but as that building is rapidly falling, there will soon be nothing to mark Citronelle’s most widely known locality.

NOTE: This Historical Marker, pictured above, at Camp Pushmataha marks the relative spot of the “Surrender Oak” in Citronelle commemorating the end of the War Between the States.
According to Sam "Buddy" Andrews, the library, built in 1923, was largely due to the work of two black men: Marshall Lee Hughes, who lived at the eastern end of Union Street and Sam Reed, who lived out past Pinecrest/Mt. Nebo Cemetery. They poured and finished the slab and then put up eight 8-inch high forms around the outside. At the end of each business day, white business owners came to the site and then carried the cement with 2 and ½ gallon buckets to fill the forms. The two cement workers finished off the course and the next day moved the form up so that an additional course could be poured. The Library was built in two sections; the west section, which contains a basement and a ground floor, and then the east section. In 1982-83 a second floor was added at the rear of the east section.

Excerpt from the "Citronelle Guide to Health and Wealth" published 1903 - The Citronelle Library is the result of the "Citronelle Book Club" which was organized in June 1893. The library contains over 500 bound volumes, to which new ones are frequently added. The room containing the library is conveniently situated in one of the principal business blocks. The annual fee is one dollar, but books can be taken out for a shorter time, a privilege enjoyed by many tourists and guests. From the Book Club and the History Class has spring the "Chautauqua Circle", which during the year 1902-03 followed the prescribed course with a membership of 12.
Citronelle College (Dunkards College) built in 1896

In the 1890’s, Citronelle had established two colleges. The Citronelle College and the College of Music. The Citronelle College (Dunkards College) was built in 1896. It was a two story building with nine classrooms and a chapel. This College stood at Fifth and North Streets.

The Dunkards were German Baptists, known as the Brethren or Church of the Brethren, who had left Germany because others did not agree with their practice of adult baptism. Each one who was baptized was dunked, fully immersed, three times, face-first, one dunk for each of the Trinity - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - hence Dunkards.
Pulman Hotel c. 1900

While the area around Citronelle was first settled in 1811, Citronelle’s Historic Downtown District was not settled until 1821 when the Simms Family came here and built a log cabin. This log cabin occupied the lot where the present day mortuary, Freeman’s Funeral Home, is located. The Hotel Pullman was built around and adjoining the original log structure. The Pullman Hotel was later sold and used as a private residence for many years. This structure was razed when the present day mortuary was built.

According to a survey done in 1937 by the Historic American Buildings Survey, the original structure of the hotel, built in 1821, had log walls, board siding exterior, and a ceiled interior. The interior ceilings were of a wide beaded edge material. The front extension was one large room, and no doubt served as an office, parlor or lobby. It was added onto and around the original log cabin in 1853. Another extension was added on the south side during the same period. The front extension to the hotel was of particular interest having a bay window on each side of the front door and a porch extending all the way around the entire structure. The original survey documents can be found in the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C.

It is unknown just how long the Pullman Hotel served as an inn, but we believe it served as such before and after the Civil War and well into the 20th Century.
In the early 1900’s there was a six-link golf course located at Sunset Park (present day Citronelle Memorial Park). Except for the four-room school building, Sunset park took up the entire block and the golf course much of the park. This golf course was advertised by both the Hygeia Hotel and Hotel Citronelle as one of their many amenities.

During the Chautauqua Assembly held each year in Citronelle from 1905 to 1927, interesting outdoor sports were offered, the most notable was the Golf Tournament for the Fulton Cups, offered by C. E. Fulford of Leeds, England, to any man or woman with the lowest score.

Today, the Mill Creek 18-Hole Golf Course and Mill Creek Lake in Citronelle is one of the best kept secrets on the Gulf Coast. It is nestled in a picturesque setting of piney woods spotted with dogwood trees and skirted by a 100 acre lake. The golf course features a well stocked pro-shop, a clubhouse café with all the amenities, and lessons by appointment.
The Citronelle Chautauqua Association was organized in 1904 for the purpose of maintaining and operating an institution for “entertainment, instruction, and culture; literary, scientific, religious, and otherwise.” It was composed of 141 members. It opened each year on March 2 and ended on March 29 (27 days of delightful entertainment). Twenty two acres were purchased, located on the northern section of the present Citronelle Baptist Assembly grounds [Camp Whispering Pines - formerly Camp Smile] on Center Street.

The auditorium seated 2,000, and many times had standing room only. There were several dressing rooms, a large stage, wooden benches and a sawdust floor. Just north of the Auditorium was a lake made to the depth of 90 feet. The cost of a season ticket was $3.50 (for all 27 days) a single attendance ticket was 25 cents. In the 1930’s the W.P.A. did extensive work, such as rebuilding the dam and a pier at the lake, which had been destroyed during the hurricane of 1916. During the same work project they had to tear down the already condemned unsafe Chautauqua.
CITRONELLE: READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

The following is one in a series of articles written by members of the Nemean Club [much like the present day Boy Scouts] that were published in the Citronelle Call from April 3 - June 22, 1928, and were collected and placed in a scrapbook by Mrs. Mary B. Carruthers. This collection is on display at the Citronelle Depot Museum. This particular article written by Otto Miller.

Citronelle Memorial Library

“History of Citronelle Library and Community House”

Mrs. Michael, wife of the proprietor of the Hygeia, was the first to get the idea of a public library in Citronelle and she had charge of its small beginning while she lived. They kept the books in the Council room and later Mrs. Brown took charge. After a time the ladies started a campaign for a separate building and then Mrs. Michael’s dream came true, for the money was raised, the library built with a community house added. The first library was a collection of books contributed by the ladies of the town. The present council room in the James Lynch Building was used for a library until the books were transferred to the Presbyterian Church. Nine years ago a change was made resulting in the reorganizing of the Association and making it a community affair.

There had been some talk of a memorial to Mr. Rowe, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, who had gone to France and given up his life for the soldiers of the World War. This idea was expanded to make a new building as a memorial to all those who had served in the war. Mrs. Muehleisen was the giver of the largest single gift to pay for a memorial window to her brother, Mr. Gross and to her husband, J. C. Prine. Mr. James S Lynch worked very hard to complete the building, as did Rev. R. G. McClelland. It was finished on Armistice Day, 1923. Mr. Sylvester furnished complete a corner for children where they may come and read and take out books free of charge.

Finally the memorial hall and library was finished and dedicated with appropriate ceremonies conducted by Rev. McClelland, the first president. It was sometime later that the basement was finished. Moving pictures are shown under the care of the Association once a week on Tuesday evenings. Christmas, 1927, we had our first Community Christmas tree on the grounds. Mr. R. Prime gave us a fine cedar tree and Mr. Jones also gave a tree to be planted for the same purpose in years to come.
CITRONELLE: SCHOOL DAYS

Class of 1896

The following is an excerpt from: All Roads Lead to Citronelle Published January 24, 1902. The articles in this booklet are actual accounts, word for word as they were written in that issue. Nothing is added. They will give you an idea of how life was in Citronelle, Alabama around the turn of the 20th century. - Charles Hattenstein) This booklet can be purchased at the Citronelle Depot Museum.

The public schools of Citronelle are in the hands of good teachers. Mrs. Cora V. Cowan, the principal, has just been transferred to Mobile. Miss Mary Cox has for twenty years taught the little ones of our town. She needs no other recommendation. Any one who can toil for that many years, trying to teach the children, must do it partly as a labor of love. Citronelle has excellent public schools, being a part of the system of Mobile County, which is everywhere known among the finest. We have four teachers, with an enrollment of about 125.

Excerpt from Citronelle: Then and Now 1811 - 1988 by Cora Chastang Barnett published in 1988 - More about Mary Cox - She taught at Citronelle for over 40 years. When the second school house was built on the corner of Rowe Street and LeBaron Avenue, she planted a young live oak tree on the grounds. It stands today to the left of the walk from LeBaron Avenue to our present new school building. [in front and to the right of the office and to the left of the three-story building] “Miss Mary”, as she was affectionately known, left our school to teach in the Leinkauf School in Mobile, where the Auditorium is named for her

NOTE: The oak tree mentioned above has since died and was cut down in 2012.
The following is an excerpt from *All Roads Lead to Citronelle* published in 1902

The Hygeia is the most widely and favorably known hotel between Chicago and the Gulf Coast. This beautiful hotel and its cottages are located upon the highest elevation in the county, the hills sloping in every direction, with its own special depot on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad immediately in front of the house, where all trains stop when conductors are asked to do so.

The house is provided with hot and cold baths and their modern conveniences. The elevation combined with its pure water and the mild sea breezes that waft through the pines, impregnating the air with healthy ozone, renders this place one of the most attractive and healthful resorts in the South. The grounds of the hotel proper consist of fifteen acres, and are handsomely laid out in drives and serpentine walks, while beds of semi-tropical flowers, variegated roses and numbers of evergreen flowering trees greatly beautifying the premises. Surrounding the main building and out among the pines are numerous cottages, and in all there are about 38 to 40 rooms, all of which are neatly and newly furnished, and all are connected with the office by electrical bells, and are heated principally by open fireplaces.

There are 225 acres of land belonging to the hotel, upon which are barns, pastures, gardens and timber. In the park surrounding the hotel are croquet, golf and tennis grounds. Pure water is an essential feature with any hotel. No hotel in the South has such pure water as does the Hygeia, for it comes from a spring nearly a half mile from the hotel, thereby being absolutely free from the contamination of any impurities. There is no place in the South where the comfort of every individual guest is more closely looked after than at the Hygeia.

The general manager of this house and popular resort is Dr. J. G. Michael, who is a native of this county. Dr. Michael has ever been a very progressive and prominent man, and was instrumental in the incorporation of the town and will ever have the proud distinction of having been its first Mayor.
An excerpt from Citronelle of Long Ago by Lucy Williams Metcalf - The little town of Citronelle, Alabama lies scattered carelessly around the station which gives the town its name. It was for many years the terminus of a special branch of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. On this little branch ran the "Accommodation Train" which went daily back and forth between Mobile and Citronelle for the benefit of commuters between the two towns. This special road was thirty-three miles long, rising gradually to an elevation of 300 feet, and ended in a part of the vicinity known as "Citronelle Plateau".

The Accommodation Train, affectionately known as the "Doodle Bug" train consisted of two cars. The first car was divided into 3 parts: The Engine, the post office, and the express baggage. The second car had 4 parts: White Smoking/Non-smoking and Black Smoking/Non-smoking sections.
“Citronelle Banker, Shot by Bandit, Expires - Hurt Dies Here from Gun Wound” - Claude D. Hurt, President of the Citronelle State Bank was shot down when he resisted an attempt of three Mobile youths to rob the bank last Thursday morning died at 8:40 o’clock Tuesday night in Mobile Infirmary. He succumbed to two bullet wounds in the abdomen, fired by Jack Jarvis, 24, leader of the bandit band, who also is accused of willfully slaying Willie Hanson, 16, youngest member of the bank robber trio. Charges of murder in the first degree will be filed today against Jarvis and Robert Collins, 17, third member of the band. The plucky banker, whose courage frustrated the robbery, when he defied the bandits’ command to put up his hands.

Friday, April 11, 1930 - Jack Jarvis, convicted slayer of Claude Hurt, Citronelle banker, forfeited his life to the state of Alabama this morning. His last hope for clemency vanished yesterday when Governor Graves announced he would not review the case further.
The Citronelle Depot, built by the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, was completed in 1903. It was an integral part of the development of Citronelle as a resort and commercial center. Much of the original building remains. Except for the turret, the restoration of the depot is complete. The depot was moved from its original location in the spring of 1983. It has been restored by the Citronelle Historical Preservation Society to its original Queen Anne style and is being used as a museum.

A baggage car and freight car have been placed on tracks on the museum grounds. The baggage car is used to display the extensive collection of railroad tools and the freight car houses a variety of items including a turpentine display. The sole remaining cottage from the Hygeia Hotel completes the museum grounds.
The following are random excerpts from: **All Roads Lead to Citronelle**
Published January 24, 1902.

Taxes in Citronelle: The tax rate in Citronelle is very low, only four-tenths of 1 percent. The schools of the entire system of Mobile County are supported almost entirely by the revenue derived from licensing the saloons of Mobile.

Morality: Citronelle has no saloons and the morality of the town has always been considered average.

Summer in Citronelle: Perhaps the testimony of those Northern people who remain here throughout the summer will give this desired information. As a rule, they will tell you they would rather remain in Citronelle from April until November than to go North for the corresponding period. Of course, there are more days here when the thermometer will range from 75-95 degrees than it will in the north, but it seems a different heat. The same degree of temperature does not oppress us here as it does there. There is no danger from sunstroke and no matter what the thermometer may register in the sun, a few moments in some shaded spot will always refresh you. It is a rare thing indeed that the government thermometer at the Hygeia Hotel shows a temperature above 100 degrees.
Five miles north of Citronelle is the town of Dwight. This little village and the people of the surrounding country represent one of the most aggressive communities of the South. They are from many different localities, but they are here with but one purpose - to build up for themselves homes in the new Southland and to make a neighborhood which is in every way a desirable place to live.

Mr. J.H. McLatchy, who runs the Hotel Dwight, is a more recent acquisition. He has recently gone in the Angora goat business on a large scale. The greatest industry within the town of Dwight is the sawmill, owned by the Vinegar Bend Lumber Company. The mill is well equipped, cutting about 100,000 feet of lumber every day. The industry of the future here is fruit growing, trucking and farming; with special attention given to cassava and sugar cane.
S. D. Bartlett - Failing health made it necessary for Mr. Bartlett to seek a milder climate and he came from Litchfield, Ill., to Deer Park, Ala., where he remained for two years. There seemed no good opening at that place and last spring he purchased land in Citronelle and erected a new livery barn [stable].

It was considered a somewhat risky thing to embark here in this business when there was already one barn in the town, but notwithstanding this Mr. Bartlett has had a good patronage. His equipment is all new, and he was the first to introduce rubber tires in Citronelle. They have been found to draw very easily, even in sand beds.

Mr. Bartlett is a hustler and he will get a share of the business that is going. His investment here seems to prove the statement that “the more competition there is the more trade it will develop.”
On February 25, 1850, construction began from Beauregard Street in Mobile on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. A large crowd witnessed the first step or stroke when Marshall J. D. Baldwin, axe in hand, cut down a pine tree at the corner of Royal and Lipscomb Streets in Mobile. In February of 1851 the cost of building the railroad from Mobile to Citronelle totaled $439,433.00 or $13,318.00 per mile. On June 23 trains began to run regularly between Citronelle and Mobile.

Records of the railroad show that by the end of 1851 stations had been opened at Prichard, Whistler, Eight Mile, Kushla, Mauvilla, Oak Grove, Bel Air, Chunchula, Beaver Meadows, Langdon, Sidney and Citronelle. The records show that during that year, a total of 2,247 persons boarded trains in Citronelle.

Among the earliest business places in the new town was the Griffin Hotel opening in the summer of 1852, located on Main Street. It was at Citronelle on May 4, 1865, that the last Confederate Army east of the Mississippi River surrendered. The actual surrender terms were signed under a grove of oak trees at Sidney Station in the Southern portion of the city.
Rosa A. Lott was born in Citronelle, Alabama where she spent most of her life. After graduating from high school, she continued her formal education at Alabama State Teachers College. Not only was she a great educator, she was a renowned humanitarian as well. Because of her love for and commitment to young people, she saw the need of a high school for black students in the Citronelle area.

With the support of the community, she used her own money to travel on the Gulf Transport Bus month after month to the Mobile County School Board pleading for a high school for black students in Citronelle. It was largely through her untiring effort that the Citronelle Consolidated School was built in 1949. She served as principal until her death in 1952. In 1958, the school was renamed Rosa A. Lott in honor and memory of her.
The photo above was taken just outside of Citronelle in Beaver Meadow, now Gulfcrest, in 1895

An excerpt from the
“Citronelle Guide to Heath & Wealth”
for the years 1903-1904”

Citronelle is indebted to the Mobile & Ohio Railroad not only for its rapid development and present prosperity, but also for its very existence and its name. It came into life with the advent of that road in 1851, and when the line was surveyed for some distance, the stations and future towns had to be located and named.

It so happened that many of them received names connected with Indian history and tradition. The first station out of Mobile is Kushla, then Mauvilla, Chunchula and Citronelle.

It may interest some of our readers to know that tradition says that a wandering tribe of Indians, in search of hunting grounds of ideal beauty and health found both here in this lovely country of healing springs and healing air - Citronella meaning “healing” in the Indian tongue.

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A century and a quarter ago (1777), William Bartram, a botanist, took a canoe trip of thirty miles up the river from Mobile to find a plant which his Indian allies assured him would cure him of malaria. He found the plant and named it "Citronella" and to this day it is still a favorite domestic remedy in Alabama households. Perhaps it was still more popular some fifty years ago, and at any rate citronella then grew in profusion on a plateau thirty miles from Mobile, through which the Mobile and Ohio Railway passed and where they appropriately named a station Citronelle. All this we learned after we had gotten there, for somehow we had gotten it in mind that "Citronelle" was a diminutive of Mignon's "citron land"; but one glance would convince one that there are no orange trees there. It is the land of the pine and the live oak and to Northern eyes it looks, in the dusk of your first arrival, somewhat barren and unpromising.

Except in the way of hotels the town does not seem to have made startling progress during the fifty years of its placid existence. There is one long wide street, after the fashion of Southern towns, on either side of which are ranged the stores, churches, residences and hotels, two of which, the Hotel Citronelle and the Hygeia, we can speak of with pleasant memories, not the least of which was the surprise which greeted our eyes on waking the next morning. Instead of the conventional railroad and one long street of the previous night, we found ourselves looking from our chamber down into a gigantic bowl on whose eastern rim is perched Citronelle. As far as the eye could reach the horizon bounds the upper margin of this Titan's chalice, filled to its uttermost rim with piney woods, live oaks and red earth, and redder earth we have never seen.

You cannot find the luxury of the Waldorf-Astoria or the social gaieties of Narragansett Pier at Citronelle, and if you look for these, we advise you not to seek for them in the piney woods of Alabama, but if you want rest, the breath of spring with ozone in the air with such creature comforts as are necessary for peace of body as well as of soul, all these may be found in Citronelle, together with spring water, the like of which, probably, cannot be duplicated in America.

There are several chalybeate and other mineral springs near Citronelle, one of which, Dr. Duffield informs us, is of great diuretic value, but the water that chiefly induced the representative of the The Chicago Clinic and Pure Water Journal to take a journey of nearly a thousand miles, is the one supplying the Hotel Citronelle. The American water which most closely approaches the Citronelle water is that of the Poland Springs of Maine, with owes its deserved reputation to its comparative freedom from mineral salts. (Continued on next page.)
(Continued from previous page) The situation is one on a high elevation, reputed the highest point at similar distance from the gulf of Mexico, over looking the great basin of the gulf. The country is covered with pine, the air is salubrious, the climate good at all times of the year and well suited to disorders of the respiratory tract, even incipient phthisis yielding in many instances.

The mineral springs are many and interesting, ferruginous and remarkably lightly mineralized waters being found. The Citronelle Hotel spring has a most liberal flow and shows the following analysis, according to Professor Arthur W. Palmer, of the University of Illinois:

Sodium nitrate..........0.28 grains.
Soduim chlorid........0.26
Magnesium chloride....0.04
Calcium chloride.......0.34
Calcium sulphate.......0.13
Iron carbonate..........0.03
Silica....................0.34
Total mineral salts to the gal... 1.44 grains

The value of a water with so small a percentage of mineral salts is apparent to any physician. Dr. A. M. Duffield reports his own recovery and that of a number of cases of the early stages of phthisis in the climate of Citronelle, while cases of chronic laryngitis and bronchitis do well there the year round. The hotels at Citronelle are good and are well conducted, both the Hotel Citronelle and the Hygeia offering excellent accommodations at very moderate rates.

Were these springs situated in Germany or in some of the European countries they would be exploited by their paternal government which would proceed at once to errect spring houses and provide proper attendants and medical men to supervise the use of the waters. The picturesque glen, in which the springs arise would be taken in hand by a government landscape gardener and made a "thing of beauty and joy forever." Near by you would find a casino, bath houses, a band stand, a lake and kunanetalten [sic], all under government subsidies and to its subsequent profit.

For more than fifty years the value of these springs and the salubrity of the Citronelle climate have been known to the American people. Today there is the one long street and about five hundred inhabitants and Alabama -- "Here We Rest" -- perpetual Alabama in Citronelle until its Citizens’ Association becomes thoroughly interested in the value of the waters, its climate and the beauty of its location, where tired women and weary men learn again that life is, after all, worth living.
In the middle 1850's there were a number of prominent families recorded as living here. Among the most eminent was a Colonel Borden who had built a magnificent mansion, with all the adornments of that era, at the site of our present day Boy Scout Camp, “Pushmataha”. Here Colonel Borden had a swimming pool, a stable with full blooded horses and three carriages.

This magnificent home was razed by fire and rebuilding was undertaken by Colonel Mann in the early 1890’s. [Mann] came to Citronelle a physical wreck and left, as many before him and since then have, in perfect health. During his sojourn here, he founded a newspaper, The Citronelle Times.

NOTE: The terraces pictured above are still part of the Pushmataha landscape.
CITRONELLE: EAGER BEAVERS

An excerpt from:  
All Roads Lead to Citronelle  
Published January 24, 1902

Beaver Meadow, situated only 25 miles north of Mobile on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad, enjoys the advantages of the latter city, both its ready markets and its well-known social festivities. Numerous trains both to and from the city afford quick transportation. This place is a splendid retreat from the busy cares of life, where mind and body can rest and breathe the pure air which makes life worth living. With meadow luxuriant with grasses, gardens with appetizing vegetables and fruits on every side, all contributing to the comforts of life, we find the ideal home place.

Large springs of pure, sparkling water afford an abundance of water for all purposes. Indeed, this is the band of pure, clear waters, which owing to the high elevation here, wend their way southward to the Gulf at a rapid pace, affording great water power, and the time is fast approaching when they will be utilized. There is an abundance of timber, such as long leaf pine, sweet gum, cypress and oak, in this section, and we have here the ideal place for a furniture factory, a box and basket factory, or in fact, any kind of a woodworking plant.

On the east of Beaver Meadow rises a beautiful plateau, where we find splendid farming and fruit lands. It is here "Homehurst," the home of George N. Bressler, is located. This place is well known for its beautiful lawns, its majestic oaks and its splendid fruits. Seven hundred bushels of pears were sold from one small orchard on this place last season. Fine pecan, fig, plum, mulberry and other trees yield an abundance of fruit and grapes equal to sunny Italy’s best, in color and flavor, and merit attention. The house is a model Southern home, large rooms, high ceilings, cheerful fireplaces and spacious verandas, and is at once an inviting place. Mr. Bressler has opened a hotel where good accommodations are had.

A good Public school has been established, consisting of a school year of nine months. Religious services are held in a neat little church on the hill. A two-story store building has also been erected by Mr. Bressler and is now filled with a splendid stock of general merchandise. Goods are sold at this place as low as in the Northern cities and many things at a much lower price. Mr. Bressler is endeavoring to make Beaver Meadow a model town, and invites Northern people to write to him relative to this place.
CITRONELLE: A BREATHE OF FRESH AIR

The photo above is of a mural painted by JC Turner of the Hygeia Hotel, a popular health resort in Citronelle. As of this printing, The mural can be seen at Sugar Creek, a local restaurant.

Citronelle was a booming Health Resort with as many as 7 hotels at the turn of the 20th century.

The following is an excerpt from: All Roads Lead to Citronelle
Published January 24, 1902)

Why Citronelle is Healthful - The stranger asks, "Why is Citronelle more healthful than other places?" It is not difficult to make a reply. In this section of the country altitude means health. We have an elevation of 366 feet above sea. This is the highest elevation, equally distant from the coast, between Maine and the mouth of the Rio Grande river. We are only 33 miles from salt water, and 60 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. We have all the advantages of the salt air without the disadvantage of the coast dampness.

For miles in every direction dense forests of pine lift their boughs to the breeze, and the air is constantly laden with the balsamic odor, always so healing. The needles from pine trees are often made into pillows and sold in the North, that the sufferer may get even a faint odor of the aroma. But here countless millions of these pine boughs are always, day and night, swaying in the pure air, and every breath which people draw is literally a "breath of Life." You must breathe pure, health-giving atmosphere. There is none other here. Even if you come here only for a winter season, and are so very delicate that you cannot spend all the time out of door, the indoor air is the salt air from the Gulf, coming to you through the pines.
Dr. A.M. Duffield owned an interesting section of land across the road from Pine Crest - Mt. Nebo Cemetery. It was called "the sand pit" [Today, "Sand Hill"]. It was a deep gully with sparkling white sand hills and banks of clay deposits. These pits contained the finest grade of fire clay, kaolin [used in making china and porcelain], brick clay, and sand used in making glass.

The sand was of many colors. A popular pastime was to take clear jars and bottles and fill them with layers of each color of sand. The sand pit was adorned with a fresh water spring on the north end.
The drawing above is of Union Church and is one of a series of six, by C. S. Whistler, of old photographs commissioned by the First Community Bank of Citronelle.

The Union Church was the first house of worship in Citronelle. It housed both the Baptist and Methodist Congregations until it was necessary to establish separate houses of worship. It was located on the corner of State and First Streets.

It served as a walk-in theater (The Waterall Theater) until 1967 when it was torn down. The concrete circular drive to the front door is still there. A small section of the original theater seating is on display at the Citronelle Depot Museum.

There was also an open air drive-in theater at the corner of Sand Ridge Road and Highway 45 South until the late 1960’s.
The following is an excerpt from: All Roads Lead to Citronelle Published January 24, 1902

The Hotel Citronelle, completed in February, 1899, by Messrs. Herbel Bros., of St. Louis, is the most modern, first-class hotel in Citronelle. It is fitted with electric lights, call bells, sanitary plumbing and ventilation in every room. It is heated by furnace and open fireplaces to meet the requirements of guests.

It is located within 200 yards of the depot, express office, bank and post office. The location is on a high bluff, commanding a fine view of the surrounding country. In connection with the hotel building there are two six-room buildings. The poolroom, croquet and tennis grounds are free to the guest.

The analysis of the drinking water is the purest of record. It was analyzed by Prof. Arthur W. Palmer, State chemist of the University of Illinois. Anyone looking for a desirable, comfortable place to spend the winter can find it at the Hotel Citronelle.

NOTE: The water at the Hotel Citronelle was deemed 99.99963 percent free of impurities and bested only by Poland Springs of Maine. The hotel and surrounding grounds were purchased by the Mobile Baptist Association in 1946.

The hotel stood on the grounds of the Citronelle Baptist Assembly (Camp Smile/Camp Whispering Pines) until it was torn down in 1967.
An excerpt from
Citronelle: Then and Now 1811 - 1988
by Cora Chastang Barnett

It is a recorded fact that the last surrender of the Confederate Army, east of the Mississippi River, occurred in Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865.

The closing scenes of that awful bloody drama, the Civil War, were witnessed in this vicinity. Lee and Johnson had surrendered; Mobile had been occupied by Union forces after the Battle of Mobile Bay, and but one organized body of Confederates that could be called an army, remained in the field.

This last army of close to 9,000 Confederate soldiers was surrendered on the 4th of May, 1865 by its Commander, General Richard (Dick) Taylor, to the U.S. Army General, E.R.S. Canby.

A memorial marker has been placed at this spot near a large white oak tree by the Historical Mobile Preservation Society on May 4, 1965.

The original “Surrender Oak” was blown down in the hurricane of 1906. From it was made numerous walking canes, gavels, and other items as souvenirs; most of which have long since disappeared, with the exception of several which were sent to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC.

NOTE: The City of Citronelle and the Citronelle Historical Preservation Society planted a white oak tree to mark the original location of the Surrender Oak on the grounds of Camp Pushmataha on May 5, 2012 during the annual Surrender Oak Festival. The festival takes place every year on the first Saturday in May.
The population of Citronelle being so cosmopolitan, it follows that the ways and ideas of the larger cities have been brought here. Music seems to be the chord that unites the different elements of society, and the musicals and musical evenings form a factor of many of the entertainments. Besides a College of Music, Citronelle has an orchestra and a band. The band is the very latest organization but the members are hard at work perfecting themselves with every prospect of success. The Citronelle Orchestra has been in existence two years and has furnished excellent music for the dances and parties.
In 1902, the first telephone was installed in Citronelle, [23 years after the first telephone installation in Mobile.]

Mr. L.L. Toole opened in Citronelle his privately owned and operated exchange and began with only 12 subscribers. This exchange and business office combination was located in the most southeasterly room of the second story of the practically new Mercantile Building on Main Street.

It is not truly known who took credit of having the first telephone in Citronelle but some elderly residents thought a Mrs. Adams, who lived in "Cherokee Lodge" on West Williams Street, was the recipient of this honor.

In 1906, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co. bought the exchange containing 85 subscribers. Prior to this the only means of outside communication for Citronelleans was by means of telegraphy, the office of which was located in the M&O local depot.

In 1931, the telephone office was moved from its first location in the Mercantile Building to a house in the northeast corner of State and Mobile Streets; beside the Presbyterian Church. With the advent of the dial system in Citronelle in 1938, the old switchboard was no longer needed.

NOTE: For many years, it was long distance to call to Mobile and even closer communities such as Mt. Vernon, Turnerville, and Chunchula. It wasn’t until the mid 1980s that one needed to dial more than the last four digits of a phone number to make a local call on the Citronelle exchange.
The writer hopes that the history, though possibly not entirely complete, will inspire us as a town to greater growth - not only materially, but culturally, spiritually, and educationally - for we could have no greater benediction than the memory of some of the men and women who worked so hard to make it OUR TOWN. - Cora Chastang Barnett

Many of our town boys went into service in 1917 for World War I. Most of them served in the 167th Infantry, the famous “Rainbow Division.” LeBaron Avenue was named for LeBaron Rogers and Howard Avenue for Howard Johnson - named for two who gave their lives during this conflict. The Reverend W. H. Rowe, for nine years pastor of the Presbyterian Church here, volunteered for service and was sent overseas attached to the 303 Engineers in the work of the Y.M.C.A. He died from pneumonia while still in service in 1919. Rowe Avenue is named for him.

Citronelle has two streets with the same name, though spelled differently: Center and Centre Streets. Thompson Drive was named for our late much loved Dr. W.A. Thompson, who not only served Citronelle as a physician, but was its mayor for many years. Oak Street was named for the lovely live oaks that line each side. These oaks grew from acorns planted by Mr. R.H. Dickie, who had gathered these seeds from the oaks in Bienville Square in Mobile. O’Sullivan Street now LeBaron Avenue, was named for the surveyor who first laid out the streets of our town. Third Street has now become US Highway 45. South from LeBaron Avenue it [45] used to be called Park Avenue.
Pictured right is an advertisement for the Citronelle Apiaries from "Facts about Citronelle, Alabama" distributed by the G&O Railroad in 1925.

The apiary [The Citronelle Bee Yard] was located at the corner of Center Street and Irwin Street. Citronelle boasts the largest queen bee apiary in the United States. Over $10,000 worth of these bees were shipped in 1924 and so far this year $22,000 have been shipped. In addition to the shipping of queen bees, many packages of bees are shipped to all parts of the United States and Canada. These bees are used to help build up other hives.

Preparing bees for shipment by train.
Citronelle boasted a booming fruit and vegetable producing community at the turn of the 20th century until a blight wiped out several cash crops in the area years later. The following are excerpts taken from the Press Register “Yesterday’s News”. The original clippings are on display at the Citronelle Museum Depot.

Sunday, July 14, 1901
The peach crop at Citronelle, Fruitdale and Dwight, on the Mobile and Ohio [rail]road, is reported as beginning to ripen, and, although late, will be a money-maker, the peaches being of fine quality. There will be about one hundred [box]carloads shipped this season which will bring in a good reward to peach-growers. Experts say that in two years time, the peach crop in that new fruit district will be worth a million dollars.

Monday, July 27, 1903 - From Citronelle:
Early last fall representatives of the Heinz Pickle Company of Pittsburg met with the Farmers and Fruit Growers Association to interest the truckers and land owners in extensive cucumber raising, promising to make Citronelle a salting station with a market for all the cucumbers raised. The season began May 20 and ended July 19, and in that time fully 10,000 bushels had been put into the huge tanks shipped here for that purpose.
Pictured above is Main Street Citronelle in 1906 just after the fire swept through half of downtown. You can just make out the outline of the Jernigan’s Antebellum style home in the distance in the center of the photo.

Excerpt from Citronelle: Then and Now 1811 - 1988 published in 1988 by Cora Chastang Barnett

In 1906 Railroad Street or Station Street [Main Street] was swept by fire from S. D. Bartlett’s livery stable, [Andrews Crossing] North to O’Sullivan Street [LeBaron Avenue]. Twenty-seven places of business were destroyed. About six years later, the south end of Main Street went up in flames. Since that time more substantial buildings of brick or cement blocks have been erected.

NOTE: The photograph above is on display at the Citronelle Fire Department.
Citronelle is thirty-three miles North-Northwest of Mobile and is said to have the highest elevation (365 feet) of any land located so short a distance from sea level from Texas to the New England states.

Geographically, Citronelle is located in the lower foothills of the Appalachian Range of southern Alabama - 31.19 degrees North latitude, 88.09 degrees West longitude. Situated on a plateau about five miles in diameter, the surrounding land sloping rapidly away in three directions.

The natural drainage from the North and East is through Cedar Creek to the Mobile River fourteen miles to the east. Northwest and west, this takes place through Puppy Creek and Bennett Creek to the Escatawpa (Dog) River, and thence into the Gulf of Mexico. Nearby springs on the Southern slope of the plateau form the head waters of the Chickasawbogue Creek.

Because of its elevation and excellent land drainage there is freedom from excessive moisture and stagnant waters, which condition is conducive to general healthfulness. Only 60 miles from the Gulf of Mexico and because of its elevation, Citronelle enjoys the balmy fresh breezes from that great body of water, bearing with it the fragrance of pine forests through which it passes.
Although settled in 1811, Citronelle was not incorporated as a town until April 2, 1892. Dr. J. G. Michael, who is a native of Mobile county and the first Mayor. He erected the Hygeia Hotel as a sanitarium for tubercular patients in the late 1800’s and it prospered for many years. He was ably assisted by his estimable wife, daughters and son.

Dr. Michael has ever been a very progressive and prominent man, and was instrumental in the incorporation of the town and serves as President of the Citronelle Business Men’s Association. He is a notary public and also does a general conveyancing business. Mrs. J. G. Michael started the Citronelle Book Club in the Hygeia Hotel. The little library that was begun at the Hygeia Hotel in the 1890’s had been in several homes but finally attained a permanent one in the new Community House [Citronelle Public Library] where it remains today.
The feeling of the Old South is unmistakable when one passes the Jernigan home at the corner of Main Street and Labaron Avenue in Citronelle. One may think of the grandeur of "Tara" from "Gone with the Wind."

Admirers from all over have long enjoyed and praised the beautiful architecture that is rare, not only in Citronelle, but in the entire Southeast as well. When one enters the beautiful home that was built around 1905, the historical nostalgia becomes even stronger. The massive stairwell immediately evokes images of a past of long ago.

The house was started in 1902 by N.Q. Thompson, who owned a mercantile business in Citronelle. When Thompson died in 1903, about 90% of the home was complete. His daughter, Virginia, then took over and the home was finished in 1905. In 1920, Tom B. and Talullah S. Jernigan bought the home and it has been in their family ever since. The house is highly influenced by the Victorian style. Fireplaces are in every room of the 11 room house.
Welcome to Citronelle Sign

Excerpts from a booklet published by the Citronelle Economic Development Board and Citronelle: Then and Now 1811 - 1988 by Cora Chastang Barnett respectively.

“The Best Kept Secret in the South” - Citronelle is the site of the first oil well in South Alabama which was drilled to a depth of 11,515 feet in 1955. Within 27 years over 150 million barrels of oil were produced by Citronelle wells. In 1982 it was estimated another 700 million barrels of oil were still to be gained from our oil fields.

A brochure called “Citronelle, Oil Capital of Alabama - the Land of Healing Waters,” was printed in 1962 by the Citronelle Publicity Commission. On August 6, 1955 the first oil well was brought in and since that date 415 wells have been drilled and are producing. In 1962 this field ranked 78th in the nation. [There are] 455 wells in 1988.

NOTE: This above sign, and one just like it, were placed at the north and south ends of town on Highway 45. As oil wells were added, the numbers were changed.
CITRONELLE: THE PRICE OF RICE

J.K. Kennedy Grocer in the Mercantile Building on Main Street at the intersection of State Street in Citronelle, Alabama - c. early 1900’s

Excerpts from *All Roads Lead to Citronelle*, January 24, 1902 and the *Citronelle Call*, March 10, 1932 article, "Now You Have Mobile Prices in Citronelle"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grocery Prices in 1902</th>
<th>Grocery Prices in 1932 advertised by DeVan’s Cash and Carry</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 dozen eggs - $0.25</td>
<td>5 pound bag of rice - $0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bushel of sweet potatoes - $0.60</td>
<td>10 pound bag of rice - $0.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 chicken - $0.20 to $0.60</td>
<td>10 pound bag of sugar $0.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 roast - $0.12 to $0.14 per pound.</td>
<td>5 pounds of Irish Potatoes $0.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 24 lb. sack of flour - $0.65</td>
<td>5 pounds of baby lima beans - $0.25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5 pounds of navy beans - $0.25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5 pounds of black eyed peas - $0.25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 jar of peanut butter - 2 for $0.25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 can of coffee (Luzianne) $0.25</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 pint of Wesson oil - $0.25</td>
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September 14, 1908 marked the tenth anniversary of the
death of William Seward Burroughs. Had he lived until
January 28, 1908, the inventor of the adding machine would
have but 51 years old, which goes to show what a tremendous
amount of activity was crowded into his comparatively brief
life.

When we remember that Burroughs was a bank clerk
without any mechanical knowledge until he was 25, and that
he left the bank under a practical sentence of death,
pronounced by his physicians, at that early age, it seems
wonderful indeed that he succeeded in accomplishing his
life-work before death overtook him.

Mr. Burroughs had practically completed his work on the machine by the year 1895. He then found
himself in possession of a comfortable fortune, which has since increased many-fold, and was able to
give up active work and retire to a climate mild enough to afford some relief from the pulmonary
trouble with which he had been fight off for years.

The spot he finally chose in which to spend his last days was near Citronelle, Alabama, situated
among the pines. Here he lived happily with his children and passed away peacefully in the fall of
1898. He was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis, and the marble shaft above his grave
bears this inscription: “Erected by his associates as a tribute to his genius.”

Mr. Clay W. Gooch, of Lynchburg, Va., who knew Mr. Burroughs intimately, once said: “The
Burroughs Adding and Listing Machine was the life-work and invention of William Seward
Burroughs, who loved the Machine better than he did the dollar. It was never gotten up simply to
sell, but, first of all, to do its work perfectly, then it was made to last indefinitely, and then, of course,
its sale couldn’t be stopped. That is history, cut short, which accounts for the enormous Burroughs
plant at Detroit, and for the fact that 90 percent of all adding and listing machines are Burroughs.”

NOTE: William Seward Burroughs was a founder of the American Arithmometer Company (1886),
which later became the Burroughs Adding Machine Company (1904), then the Burroughs
Corporation (1953) and in 1986, merged with Sperry Corporation to form Unisys. He was
posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. He was the
grandfather of William S. Burroughs the Beat Generation writer, and great-
great-grandfather of William S. Burroughs, Jr., who was also a writer. He died in
Citronelle, Alabama and was interred in Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis,
Missouri. There is a memorial window dedicated to Burroughs in the Citronelle
Presbyterian Church on State Street at Mobile Street.
In 1913-1914 a three story brick building was erected next to the old school house [located where the present day parking lot is to the left of the three story building]. This new building housed Elementary grades five, six, and seven and four grades of High School [eight through eleven]. The second and third stories were used as classrooms and the basement was used as a cafeteria.

Citronelle High School, at that time, was the only accredited school in Mobile County outside the city limits of Mobile. Prior to the building of this school house, students wanting to graduate from the 11th grade (at that time there was no 12th grade) had to take the “Accommodation Train” to Mobile to attend Barton Academy.
The Tyrrell - Vernon Home was built in 1882 and was the first private residence in Citronelle to receive recognition and an Historic Shield and Banner from the Mobile Historic Development Commission when Glenn and Sylvia Vernon purchased the home in 1980.

In the attic of this home, you stand on one of the highest points in Mobile County. It was said that, from the upstairs veranda, one could see the stacks of steam ships on the Mobile River 20 miles away to the East.

This home was built by George Tyrrell for E. G. and Tilda Bradley from Illinois. The home is a two story; frame of Victorian vernacular with neoclassic details; pattern book design; off center T-plan; full length attached wrap around porch with tapered boxed columns and rectangular balusters; interior has elaborate Victorian detailing.

The Petres and the Dennis Greens lived in the house for 44 years from 1936 to 1980. Glenn and Sylvia Vernon purchased the home in June of 1980. The house had a wood shake roof until the hurricane of 1916. At that time it was replaced with the tin shingles that are now on the house and on many homes in Citronelle.
Henry Mortikar Rosenberg (1858 - 1947), an engraver and painter of landscapes and seascapes, was born in Brunswick, New Jersey. His early training was in Chicago, after which he studied in Munich, Paris, Florence and finally, Venice. He returned to Chicago, but moved to New York, where he met James E. Roy of Halifax, who encouraged him to discover Nova Scotia. Rosenberg settled in Dartmouth in 1897. From 1907 to 1910, he was the head of the Victoria School of Art and Design in Halifax, and in 1910, he founded the Nova Scotia Museum of Fine Arts (today the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia). His many paintings reflect his attraction to Whistler’s work. In 1934, he retired in Citronelle, Alabama, where he died in 1947.

While in Venice, Henry M. Rosenberg studied painting and etching under James MacNeill Whistler, an experience that was to forever influence Rosenberg’s work. Rosenberg found his subject matter in the area where he lived. He infused his paintings with mood and was more concerned with the evocation of feeling than the description of precise topographical details of the places he painted. D.C. MacKay said, “Rosenberg created mysteries which are only resolved when the observer’s eye penetrates the veil of colour, dissolving the mists to reveal the form.”

Rosenberg rented a studio from Dr. William A. Thompson, MD in the Mercantile Building on Main Street in Citronelle. Some have memories of the wonder of going into his studio and seeing his paintings and sketches, both oil and pastel, and furniture he had collected from all over the world, especially a full suit of chain mail! At his death, he left many of his paintings to Dr. Thompson who gave the bulk of them to the museum in Mobile.
An excerpt from All Roads Lead to Citronelle Published January 24, 1902.

The community of Lambert is about 5 miles south of Citronelle. The work of this industrious little colony of people has proved beyond a doubt that the sunny slopes of Southern Alabama will yet be as famous for their vineyards as the historic fields of old Italy. It is now almost ten years ago since Mr. A. Brock came to this country from Austria. When he arrived at Citronelle his prospects in life were not of the brightest. He had a family to support and had but very little ready money.

An examination of the soil convinced him that it was well adapted to grapes, and he went to work, clearing land which was not worth on the open market perhaps more than 50 cents an acre. Today he has fourteen acres of vines in full bearing. The vintage this season was 1,600 gallons of wine, more than 100 gallons to the acre. He never sells it for less than $1.50 per gallon. Every year his land is yielding him more than 300 times its original value per acre.

The success which Mr. Brock has attained has been an incentive for others of his European friends to come here. Among these are D. Damenico of Turin, Italy, who has but seven acres of grapes and this year made 600 gallons of wine; Carlo Roman, who has out seven and a half acres, though not all in full bearing, and he made 400 gallons this season; Louis Roman, who came only two years ago, and is getting out a wine vineyard of two and a half acres; Louis Giaconnelly, from Italy, has four acres.
Citronelle was the site of a major oil find in 1955, the largest discovery east of the Mississippi River at the time. Citronelle is known as the "oil capital of Alabama." However, there was knowledge of this oil since 1900. The following excerpt from *All Roads Lead to Citronelle* published on January 24, 1902 reports "Genuine crude oil seeping out of the ground."

We have had no excitement equivalent to that at Beaumont when the first gusher came in, but the people of Citronelle have been most thoroughly interested in this question of oil, just the same. For the past two years, it was known to parties living here that genuine crude oil was seeping out of the surface of the ground less than two miles away from town. That was before oil was thought of at Beaumont. It was carefully watched and studied and the discovery at other places only confirmed the belief that it really existed here.

Last spring the State geologist, Dr. Smith, visited Citronelle personally and a hurried examination of the seepage made one of two things evident to him; that someone was either "salting" the ground or that we had a seep of a remarkable nature. To determine which theory was correct, he sent his assistant, Prof. Anderson, to take charge of the field and not stop until he was thoroughly satisfied one way or the other. During the past summer and fall Prof. Anderson has been here, seldom being away over a week at a time, and exhausted every known means to prove that the field was a "salted" one. Being absolutely unable to prove it, he gave the result of his investigation to Dr. Smith. Then followed the report by that gentleman, announcing officially that crude petroleum had been found seeping from the ground here and also stating it was the only spot in the State of Alabama where, to their positive knowledge, such a condition existed.

This report commanded instant attention among capitalist. The first to be represented in Citronelle was the Thompson-Johnston-Bush syndicate of Birmingham and Mobile. Mr. W. W. Thompson, who is in Citronelle and has charge of the active operation, was formerly sheriff of Birmingham and is a man of means. Mr. Johnston was formerly Governor of the State. These gentlemen are operating on a wide scale. They are down several hundred feet and have already gone through the finest indications for oil. They will soon begin similar work in Choctaw county. Their engines and machinery have been here for several weeks and the derrick for boring is now being built as rapidly as possible. Unless some unforeseen thing should happen it will not be many months before Citronelle will know whether it rests on a lake of oil or whether we have naught beneath us but the firm old earth. Whatever the results may be, one thing is certain; if no oil is found, it will not in any way stop the growth and development of the town. We will be just where we were before oil was thought or talked of. It is not a question of life or death by any means.
"Annie Lisle" is the name of an 1857 ballad by Boston, Massachusetts songwriter H. S. Thompson first published by Moulton & Clark of Newburyport, Massachusetts, and later by Oliver Ditson & Co. It is about the death of a young maiden, by what some have speculated to be tuberculosis, although the lyric does not explicitly mention tuberculosis, or "consumption" as it was called then. The song might have slipped into obscurity had the tune not been adopted by countless colleges, universities, and high schools worldwide as their respective alma mater songs.

The first college to have used the tune in a spirit song seems to have been Cornell University. Written by two roommates around 1870, the Cornell Alma Mater is perhaps the most widely copied alma mater in existence. According to the "Citronelle Guide to Health and Wealth" published in 1903, Citronelle also used this tune to sing of our own fair city. The lyrics closely resemble Cornell's Alma Mater and are as follows:

"Our Own Fair Citronelle” to the tune of “Annie Lisle”

Far above the Gulf's salt water,  
With its waves of blue,  
Stands our fair and thriving village,  
Glorious to view.

Lift the chorus, speed it onward,  
Loud her praises tell.  
Hail to the, Oh ! goodly village,  
Our own fair Citronelle.

Far above the busy humming,  
Of Mobile's distant town,  
Reared against the arch of heaven,  
Looks she proudly down.

Lift the chorus, speed it onward,  
Loud her praises tell.  
Hail to the, Oh ! goodly village,  
Our own fair Citronelle.
Social Hour at the Depot

The old Mobile & Ohio Depot at Citronelle was once the center of activity in this little town. To meet the old M&O 5 o’clock train from Mobile was the social event of the day. Built in 1903-04 of unusual artistic design, it was completed in time for the first opening of the Citronelle Chautauqua in 1905.

The telegraph operator, ticket agents, and station masters have all since disappeared, but the original Queen Anne style structure still stands to reflect the status Citronelle had at the turn of the 20th Century as a Winter Resort. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serves today as the Citronelle Depot Museum. Hours are from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturdays. By request at all other times. You can actively assist the Society in preserving Citronelle’s rich history by becoming a member today.
St. Thomas Episcopal Church and Rectory in Citronelle, Alabama. c. 1900 postcard

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is the oldest church still in use in Citronelle, Alabama. The church had its beginnings in 1890 when a small group of earnest church workers started holding services in the dining room of the Hygeia Hotel. Dr. and Mrs. J. G. Michael, Citronelle’s first mayor and proprietor of the hotel, along with his family, and others, were the founders of the church. The church building was constructed and dedicated in 1895 and a rectory was built shortly after. The church and rectory are on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

The Rev. Gardner Tucker was the first rector and Ms. Marie Michael was the first organist. Mrs. J. G. Michael organized the St. Thomas Episcopal Guild which met monthly and raised funds for the church with bazaars, teas, plays, and suppers. The roof was replaced in 1924 for $625.00 and remains on the church today.

The church was closed from 1946-56 due to lack of members, but was reopened as more communicants moved into the area. Supply priests were sent from the Mobile Diocese. Rev. G. Pardington served for many years. Mr. Joe Benson, a Citronelle native, was the Senior Warden, Treasurer, and caretaker. He served faithfully until his death in 1992.

As of January 1, 2012, the Citronelle Historical Preservation Society is leasing the church and rectory from the Mobile Episcopal Diocese and show both buildings as part of the Citronelle Depot Museum and grounds. As part of the leasing agreement, church services are still held every other Sunday making this church the oldest church in Citronelle still in use. The church and depot are available for weddings and meetings. For more information, please contact CHPS.
Citronelle was a leader in Tuberculosis Research and Treatment at the turn of the 20th Century. Arnold C. Klebs and his father Edwin Klebs both worked as physicians at the Hygeia Hotel in Citronelle. According to an old post card published for the hotel, Arnold C Klebs was the Medical Superintendent and his father Edwin Klebs served as Consulting Physician and Bacteriologist. The postcard can be seen at the Depot Museum.

Arnold C. Klebs (March 17, 1870 - March 6, 1943) was a physician who specialized in the study of tuberculosis. Born in Berne, Switzerland, Arnold Klebs, the son of renowned bacteriologist Edwin Klebs, was raised in the presence of an extensive array of scientists, artists and historians. Klebs took a medical degree from the University of Basel in 1896, then moved to the United States to practice medicine. Klebs worked with William Osler at Johns Hopkins University for a year after arriving in the U.S., and was a contemporary of William H. Welch.

Following his work with Osler, he worked as a sanatorium director and tuberculosis specialist in Citronelle, Alabama and Chicago. Given his long experience with the ailment, Klebs was named one of the first directors of the National Tuberculosis Institute. In 1910, he returned to his native Switzerland, and settled in a villa on Lake Geneva. In 1939, Klebs donated his collection of books to Harvey Cushing for its inclusion in what would become the Yale University’s Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library. These included incunabula, plague tracts, herbals, books and pamphlets on tuberculosis, and books on inoculation and vaccination. Klebs’ library included 3000 texts related to tuberculosis alone.
Mr. F. E. Matson, the local representative of THE CALL, was the first Northern man who settled there [Dwight], and he has always been a leading citizen. Mr. J. H. McLatchy, who runs the Hotel Dwight, is a more recent acquisition, and he is a hustler. He has recently gone into the Angora goat business on a large scale, shipping 100 head of pure-blooded Angoras here from Kansas City the past summer. He is more than pleased with the experiment, and declares they do splendidly in this climate, and that the range just seems to suit them. It’s hardly just, however, not to mention every citizen of this community, for all are so energetic and progressive that they are deserving of it. But space forbids it.

They have recently completed a good schoolhouse, the school being in charge of Miss Belle Robinson, formerly of Beloit, Wis. Rev. K. P. Simmons of Citronelle holds religious services in the school building every two weeks. The greatest industry within the town of Dwight is the sawmill, owned by the Vinegar Bend Lumber Company. Mr. Tyler Turner is resident manager. The mill is well equipped, cutting about 100,000 feet of lumber every day. The industry of the future here, as elsewhere in this section, is not sawmills or turpentine stills. It is fruit growing, trucking and farming; with special attention given to cassava and sugar cane.
Capt. Jack Crawford is a unique character and made a great hit with the audiences who heard him at the Citronelle Chautauqua. He is a poet by inspiration. He has not been taught it within college walls. The following lines were written by him in a few moments at his cottage on the Chautauqua grounds:

Farewell, farewell, dear Citronelle,
Dear ears whose kindly greetings
Were buds of joy without alloy
In Love’s assembly meetings;
And then the glow and overflow
While angels watched and waited
To see arise each jewel prize
When souls were irrigated.

God bless you all - the great and small
White ribbons queens of glory,
Whose hearts wet out to rustic scout
With simple song and story.
To boys and girls, Columbia’s pearls
In every walk and station,
I fling to-day love’s own bouquet
Dear Hope buds of our nation.

Farewell, Farewell - dear Citronelle,
To Blue and Gray, my brothers,
Good, brave and true, my love to you
My pity for the others.
For dirty mouth in Sunny South
That nurture seeds disorden’,
Uncouth, uncult, a vile insult
To Lincoln, Lee and Gordon.

Thank God to-day for Blue and Gray,
I grasp the hand that fought me,
I’d love to meet, I’d love to greet
The dear old Reb that shot me.
Oh! comrades mine, this is sublime
This thought and thus combining
Our attitude for God and good.
The truth and right defining.

Farewell, farewell, dear Citronelle,
the love of our great nation,
Is due to you, your Gray and Blue,
For this grand inspiration.

~ Capt. Jack Crawford
CITRONELLE: THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF RUSSELL

M&O Train Depot at Russell, Alabama c. 1900.

The following are excerpts from: All Roads Lead to Citronelle Published January 24, 1902.

The enterprising little town of Russell is located about two and a half miles away from Citronelle, to the south. As a town it contains but little more than the railroad station, store and post office, but as a neighborhood it is made up of as fine a set of people as you would care to live among. Some of the finest orchard anywhere in this section are found at Russell.

Mr. Riedemann, who has the store and post office, came to this place from far-away Scotland, SD. He was prospering there in all but one respect it took too much of his profits to pay doctors’ bills. Not long since we heard Mr. Riedemann make this somewhat remarkable statement that in all the years he has lived here he has paid out less than $10 in physicians’ fees for himself and family.

Mr. S. F. Cooper, just southwest of Russell, has the most beautiful country home in this section. It has a background of one of the most dense of pine forests, while in front long symmetrical rows of peach trees mark plainly the great contrast which Mr. Cooper has wrought in a few years.

The “Gardens of Langdon,” the home of Capt. J. M. Rulifson, have long been noted as a beautiful spot. Messrs. White Bros. & White and C. L. Sharf have pretty homes and most promising young orchards. Mr. H.P. Pelton, after a drive from Nebraska of about 2,000 miles in and through the Gulf States, bought land here. It suited him. “Lesser Paradise,” the country home of Mr. D. P. Pratt, is always a welcome retreat. Messrs. Kessler, W. S. White, E. Alvord, D. S. Young, H. Winnerholt and others have orchards and truck farms of commercial importance.

Russell is a nice place. It is settled by good people - the kind which make land and homes more valuable. They are with but few exceptions engaged in the fruit and truck business.
The Drummer’s Home and Southern Hotel - Mr. T. B. Jernigan, the genial proprietor of the above-named hotel, came to Citronelle from Deer Park, Ala. purchasing from Mr. J. W. Taylor the two-story hotel building [Drummer’s Home] on Station Street [Main Street]. Fearing lest some should get the idea that only traveling men were accommodated, the name “Southern Hotel” was added. Mr. Jernigan is a Southern man, and although one year is a very short time in which to build up a hotel trade, he has been quite successful. A somewhat different plan has been pursued this winter, the proprietor giving his guests choice of rooms and board, or room alone. In addition to the hotel, Mr. Jernigan has recently opened a store in one of his buildings, and has quite a stock of groceries and canned goods, as well as a line of notions.

NOTE: The Southern Hotel burned in one of the fires that destroyed downtown Citronelle in the early 1900s. The Jernigan family purchased the Georgian mansion on the corner of Main Street and Lebaron Avenue from N.Q. Thompson in the 1920s and the family still owns the home.
CITRONELLE: YOU’VE GOT MAIL

Postmarked envelope dated July 13, 1911

Excerpt from 1903-04 issue of the “Citronelle Guide to Health and Wealth”

“The material welfare of a town is generally judged by the volume of its trade and the amount of business transacted by the post office. Our already large trade is enlarging daily and so are the receipts at the post office, which has risen since January 1, 1903, to the dignity of a presidential office. For this happy result much credit is due to the former postmistress, Mrs. Mary B. Ellyson, who was succeeded last March by her husband, Mr. A. W. Ellyson.”
Guests of the Hygeia Hotel during a dramatic performance for other guests. c. 1900

The following is an excerpt from: All Roads Lead to Citronelle Published January 24, 1902.

What The Guests Say: It may be of interest to people who have never been here to have an expression from those who are regular or transient guests. While it would be impossible to give the opinion of every one, a few were interviewed.

- Mr. R. D. Lyons, Mr. William D. Lyons, Mrs. Ruth Lyons, Evansville, Indiana: “We spent last winter in Texas resorts and we consider the climate here far better than in that State.”
- Mr. Beverly Watkins, Petersburg, Illinois: “Climate best in the United States. Have tried it in California. This beats it.”
- Mrs. N. Watkins: “The fact that I am here for the sixth season should give you a very accurate idea of what I think of this town and climate.”
- Mrs. J. J. Binns, Winnepeg, Canada: “This is the second season that I have traveled about 2,500 miles to get to Citronelle. You don’t think I would do that unless I was in love with the climate, do you?”
- W. D. Frost, Grand Rapids, Michigan: “What? Why, I thought everybody knew my opinion of Citronelle and its climate. It seems to me I have spoken to most of them about it personally. If I have missed any one, though, just tell them it’s the finest climate that I know anything about.”
- Capt. Casey, St. Louis, Missouri: “You know that I return year after year. That is the strongest kind of testimonial.”
The little town of Citronelle, Alabama is rich in literary traditions. On the grounds of the Hotel Citronelle is the Amélie Rives Cottage, where the Princess Troubetskoy wrote The Quick or the Dead and other of her famous novels. The cottage was headquarters for the officials of the Mobile and Ohio railroad in the ’eighties when Colonel Rives, the father of the writer, was vice-president of the system.

Another writer of note who winters at Citronelle is Charles H. Sylvester of Chicago, who compiled the famous eleven volume juvenile series, Journeys Through Bookland, besides doing a number of textbooks. Mr Sylvester had a cottage at the winter resort and is accompanied each season by his sister. He is immensely popular with the local Boy Scout troop, taking them on hikes, offering prizes, and otherwise stimulating the love of outdoors in the youngsters.

Other interesting, if less spectacular writer folk come and go at Citronelle. Anthony M. Rud, magazine and fiction writer ("Saturday Evening Post" et al.). While in this section, Mr Rud found much to interest him in the way of story material. One of the scenes of his forthcoming tales, he states, will be laid between Citronelle and Vinegar Bend, while another will be just this side of Mobile.

NOTE: Amélie Louise Rives Troubetzkoy (1863–1945) was an American novelist and poet. Rives wrote at least twenty-four volumes of fiction, numerous uncollected poems, and Herod and Marianne (1889), a verse drama. In 1888, she published the novel The Quick or the Dead, her most famous and popular work that sold 300,000 copies.
Before the Citronelle Depot was restored and moved, there were Hobo symbols all over the freight room. As a child, Gordon Vernon played in the abandoned depot near his home and remembers seeing maps and symbols depicting the best places to find work, obtain food, and homes to avoid.

Life as a hobo was a dangerous one. In addition to the problems of being itinerant, poor, far from home and support, and the hostile attitude of many train crews, the railroads employed their own security staff, often nicknamed bulls, who had a reputation for being rough with trespassers. Also, riding on a freight train is a dangerous enterprise. One could easily lose a foot falling under the wheels while trying to jump a train, get trapped between cars, or freeze to death in bad weather. When freezer cars were loaded at an ice factory, any hobo inside was likely to be killed. To cope with the difficulty of hobo life, hobos developed a system of symbols, or a code. Hobos would write this code with chalk or coal to provide directions, information, and warnings to other hobos. For instance:

- A cross signifies "angel food," that is, food served to the hobos after a sermon.
- A triangle with hands signifies that the homeowner has a gun.
- A horizontal zigzag signifies a barking dog.[9]
- A square missing its top line signifies it is safe to camp in that location.
- A top hat and a triangle signify wealth.
- A spearhead signifies a warning to defend oneself.
- A circle with two parallel arrows means to get out fast, as hobos are not welcome.
- Two interlocked humans signify handcuffs. (i.e. hobos are hauled off to jail).
- A Caduceus symbol signifies the house has a doctor living in it.
- A cross with a smiley face in one of the corners means the doctor at this office will treat hobos for free.
- A cat signifies that a kind lady lives here.
- A wavy line (signifying water) above an X means fresh water and a campsite.
- Three diagonal lines mean it’s not a safe place.
- A square with a slanted roof (signifying a house) with an X through it means that the house has already been "burned" or "tricked" by another hobo and is not a trusting house.
- Two shovels, signifying work was available (Shovels, because most hobos did manual labor).
In the early years of the twentieth century, truck farming was very profitable in and around Citronelle. The Citronelle Call of August 12, 1912 lists 12,387 packages (492,970 pounds) of vegetables and fruit sent by freight from Citronelle that spring. A like amount of the same commodities was also sent by express for the same period.

The Tung Oil industry came into being about this time and did a prolific business for many years. One of the orchards was regarded by experts as the prize orchard of the United States. The seed from this orchard has been shipped to Soviet Russia after special representatives of the country made an inspection trip here. Tung oil from here was one of the highest money producers at that time, amounting to over a quarter million pounds of seed yearly.
In my endeavors to learn more about the history of Citronelle, I often use Google to search for historical information and photos pertaining to Citronelle. I’ve found some real treasures among the search results and, surprisingly enough, I’ve even found some really great photos and old post cards on, of all places, eBay. Of course, you have to sort through a lot of junk to find the real gems.

During some of my forays online, I would frequently find photos of random embankments of sand that I thought were erroneously tagged “Citronelle”. The reason I thought they were tagged in error is because these photos were taken in locations all over the southern United States (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida). It had to be a mistake. How could these photos of sand taken in other states be associated with Citronelle, Alabama? Mixed in among the search results were also maps and reports from the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Although these items continued to show in my search results, I ignored them as part of the aforementioned junk. (Continued on next page.)
Recent research from the USGS has caught my attention. The professional paper was entitled, “The Pliocene Citronelle formation of the Gulf Coastal Plain” by C. G. Matson and E. W. Berry. The report was published in 1916 by the United States Geological Survey. Much of the report was written using geological terms I couldn’t quite understand, but I did learn that there is a geological formation named for Citronelle, AL. This led me to call the Alabama Geological Survey where I was directed to state geologist Jack Pashin. Mr. Pashin helped to explain, in layman’s terms, what the report entailed and why this particular formation is named for our fair city.

According to Mr. Pashin, the Citronelle formation is the geological name for the layer of drift sand and clay that occur as a nearly continuous blanket along the southern Coastal Plain and can be traced from eastern Texas across the Gulf Coast into the western peninsula of Florida. The Citronelle formation was named for the town of Citronelle, Alabama by geologist G. C. Matson in 1916 because the formation is best seen on the surface of the land in and around Citronelle.

The thickness of the Citronelle formation ranges from 50 to 400 feet; the thickest beds of the formation are in Louisiana and Mississippi. The discovery of fossils, at a site just south of the city of Citronelle, near the base of the formation, indicate that the maximum age of the Citronelle formation is Pliocene (5 million to 2 million years old).

The Citronelle formation consists of white, yellow, orange and red sands and clays with gravel nearer the surface. This type of formation serves as a natural aquifer. An aquifer is an underground layer of water-bearing rock, or in our case, unconsolidated materials (gravel, sand, and clay) from which groundwater can be easily attained using a water well.

From the early 1880’s until the late 1930’s, Citronelle was a well known health resort with healing springs. The water from the Hotel Citronelle was analyzed in 1906 and was shown to be 99.99963 percent pure. The abundance of sand in and around Citronelle is the reason. All of that sand filters out the impurities. Were that I had some of that sand to filter my Google searches. It would have made finding ‘gems’, like this one, a whole lot easier.
The Mobile Baptist Citronelle Assembly property, originally consisting of about 25 acres, was purchased in 1946 by the Mobile Baptist Association. Later, an additional nine acres were given to the Association by the City of Citronelle and the Citronelle Chautauqua Association. The first camps at the Assembly were held during the summer of 1947 under the direction of J. Cleo Duke and the only building was the old three-story Hotel Citronelle, built in 1899.

Dr. H. S. Sauls became Director in 1948 and in 1949 a wooden tabernacle was built from a garage brought from Bates Field. In 1954 the chapel was erected and three years later, in 1957 an eight-room court was built. In 1962 a recreation hall was added. Woodrow Hudson became Director in 1963 and in 1964 the Dining Hall was added. Oxford Smith was named Director in 1965 and served two years.

In 1968 Glenn L. Vernon was named Director. The old Hotel Citronelle was torn down and three dorms and the lodge were built. In 1979 another 2.5 acres were donated to the camp and the Association later purchased another 42 acres, making the property a total of approximately 78 acres. Reverend Vernon served as Director of the Assembly for 30 years and retired in 1998. (Continued on next page.)
(Continued from previous page) While the Assembly hosts various church, business, and civic organizations, from 1972 - 2008 the Assembly became synonymous with Camp S.M.I.L.E. (Special Meaning In Life’s Experiences - a camping program for persons with physical and developmental disabilities.) Camp S.M.I.L.E. was founded in June of 1972 by Reverend Glenn L. Vernon and his wife, Sylvia. This first camping session, hosted by The Mobile Association for Retarded Citizens (MARC), was four days and three nights and served 27 campers. In June of 1991, United Cerebral Palsy of Mobile joined forces with Reverend Vernon and MARC to expand the program. Beginning that year, UCP began providing two weeks of summer camp specifically for children with disabilities and their siblings. This camp was known as Camp Adventure. In 2009, The Camp S.M.I.L.E. camping program outgrew the Assembly and moved to Camp Grace in Mobile where it now serves over 250 campers with and without disabilities each summer.

The Mobile Baptist Citronelle Assembly was renamed Camp Whispering Pines in 1999. As of 2012, under the direction of Gil Johnson, the camp offers sleeping accommodations for 225 people through the provision of 4 dormitories and a recently completed 29 room hotel. Their indoor amenities include small meeting rooms, a newly constructed chapel, which holds 500 people and boasts an indoor rock climbing wall! Outdoor activities include zip lines, water trampoline, docks, paddle boats, kayaks, a gazebo and a large outdoor chapel. They also have high and low ropes course and paintball.
Alfred Manley Duffield, M. D. Of Huntsville, Ala., has recently located among us and is already recognized as one of the leading men of his profession. The doctor is a living evidence of what Citronelle climate has done for a broken-down consumptive who had been given up by several of the most prominent physicians. He came to Citronelle from Mobile fifteen years ago a physical wreck, weighing but 106 pounds and having had thirty-nine hemorrhages. After a four years’ residence in Citronelle, a portion of the time being spent as resident physician at the well known summer resorts of Green Lake, Wis.; Portersville, Ala.; Pass Christian, Miss., and Old Orchard Beach, Me., the subject of this sketch had sufficiently recovered his health as to be able to actively engage in his profession.

He located at Huntsville, Ala., where for eleven years he ranked as among the leading physicians of that city. While there he was the house physician of the Huntsville and Hotel Monte Sano, they being two of the largest hostelries of the South. Dr. Duffield was the founder and one time president of the Alabama Homeopathic Medical Association. He is an honorary vice-president of the American Institute of Homeopathy, this organization being the oldest national medical society in the United States. The doctor is also ex-president of the Southern Homeopathic Medical Association and is at present time treasurer of this society. At Huntsville he was president of the United States Board of Pension Examiners and surgeon, a position which he still retains. During the World’s Fair he was the delegate from Alabama to the International Congress of Homeopathic Physicians at Queen’s Hall in London as a delegate of the American Institute. Dr. Duffield is an active member of the K. Of P., I. O. O., Knights of the Golden Eagle and American Protective League, in all of which he is a past officer.

When Dr. Duffield left Citronelle eleven years ago our present enterprising town was but a hamlet. A return to this place last year impressed upon the doctor the wonderful changes and steady growth of Citronelle. The possibilities of the future, and his knowledge of Citronelle’s health-giving proclivities obtained by personal experience led him to relinquish a remunerative practice to cast his lot among our people, where we predict for him a brilliant and successful future.

NOTE: The Duffield home, located near Pine Crest Cemetery, was razed by fire.
CITRONELLE: HERE WE REST

The following story was printed as the introduction to,
All Roads Lead to Citronelle Published January 24, 1902

“An Indian Legend” By B.B. Baker

Let me tell an old tradition
Handed down through generations
Of the red and dusky Indian;
Tell you how fair Alabama
Found its just and fitting title;
How they came to call the city
Seated by its healing waters
Citronelle, fair and lovely.

Long ago the wandering red men,
Driven from a distant country,
Sore distressed by many sorrows,
Leaving all their fields of hunting,
Taking naught but spear and arrow,
Fled before the grasping pale-face.
Long they wandered to the southward,
Pausing not in field or forest,
Save to fish upon the brookside
Or to gather food by hunting
On they journeyed through the woodland;
And the e’er increasing prospect
Brightening as they saw the Southland
Lured them, weary of their journey,
There to stop and rear their wigwams.
But a vision told the chieftain
Further still to make his journey
Till they reached a land of summer,
Where the flowers blooming ever,
Freely shed their sweetest fragrance.
Never doubting, came they onward
Till they found a land of beauty’
Till they saw a river gleaming
In the sunlight of the morning.
All around the birds are singing,
In the river trout for fishing,
In the forest deer for hunting.
Then they reared their smoky wigwams,
Caught the wary trout and mullet,
Trapped the otter and the beaver,
And pursuing lightly, quickly,
Slew the wild deer of the woodland.
Thus they dwelt in peace and comfort
In the land where the Great Spirit
In the vision bright had shown them,
And their bright dreams of the future
Of the happy hunting places,
Now at last were realizing.

This before the pale-face entered
And destroyed the fruitful forest.
Turned the shining, trackless waters
Into highways for his traffic.
This before the pale-face trampled
And despoiled the red man’s kingdom.
Still the sparkling spring bursts upward
With its wealth of mineral water.
Still the sun shines clear and brightly
And the balmy air blows inward
From the wide expanse of ocean.
But the red man with his arrow,
With his shapely pointed arrow,
Long ago departed sadly
From his happy hunting places.
And the bay tree and magnolia
That once bloomed so gayly for him
Bloom as gayly, bloom as gladly,
For the ever restless white man.
And instead of the dusty wigwams
With the curling smoke uprising
Stand about the healing waters
Happy homes and schools and churches.
Still the name of Alabama
Still the name of Citronella
Best expresses to the people
Their ideal of health and comfort.

MOWA Choctaw Indian Dancer at the 2011 Surrender Oak Festival in Citronelle, AL.
Carvel W “Bama” Rowell was born on January 13, 1916 in Citronelle, Alabama. He attended Louisiana State University on a football scholarship and began his professional baseball career with Cordele in the Georgia-Florida League in 1937. The 23-year-old outfielder played 21 games with the Boston Braves in 1939. The following year, moving to second base, he batted .305 in 130 games and batted .267 in 1941.

Rowell was inducted in the Army at Fort McClellan, Alabama, on December 5, 1941, just two days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He was sent to Fort McPherson, Georgia, and by January he was serving at Edgeworth Arsenal in Maryland with Company C, 1st Chemical Warfare Service Training Battalion. In 1943, Rowell was at Camp Sibert in Alabama. The camp team, which included minor leaguers Spencer Smith and Hy Prosk, won the state semi-pro championship with Rowell hitting .411.

In October 1943, Sergeant Rowell joined a new physical education rehabilitation program designed for convalescent soldiers at Camp Grant, Illinois. The program included major leaguers Heinie Mueller and Euel Moore. In June 1944, the soldier-athletes were assigned to Billings Hospital, Indianapolis. Later in the year he was assigned to the 76th Infantry Division’s combat training facility at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, where he played baseball with the 76th Infantry Division team. Teammates included Cecil Travis and Bill Evans.

After Germany surrendered in May 1945, Rowell served as player/manager with 76th Infantry Division Onaways baseball team with Bill Evans, Cecil Travis, Clarence Maddern and Ken Trinkle. Rowell was honorably discharged in January 1946 after four years. The 30-year-old rejoined the Braves for spring training, he played 95 regular season games and batted .280. Despite hitting a colossal drive at Ebbets Field on May 30, 1946 that broke the famous Bulova clock above the right field scoreboard, Rowell was unable to regain his pre-war skills. Interestingly, the Bulova Watch Company had promised a watch to anyone who hit the stadium timepiece, but it took 41 years – on Bama Rowell Day in Citronelle - before Rowell was able to collect his batting prize. Rowell’s drive was to inspire the scene in Bernard Malamud’s 1952 novel The Natural, in which Roy Hobbs hit a home run off the light tower.

In March 1948, he was traded to the Dodgers with Ray Sanders for Eddie Stanky. The Dodgers sent Rowell to Montreal but he made it back to the majors later in the year with the Phillies - it was his last season in the majors. During the 1970s Rowell coached high school baseball at Thomasville High School, Alabama. Bama Rowell passed away at Citronelle, Alabama on August 16, 1993. He was 77 years old and is buried at the New Home Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery.
CITRONELLE: CLIMATE FINE AND WATER PURE

Listen people, and you shall hear
Not of the ride of Paul Revere
But of a climate fine and water pure
Folks from everywhere it does allure
Not only from the snowy north
But from East and West folks do come forth
Whenever they hear of our glorious clime
And those made well from time to time
You’d scarce believe such things to be true
Unless I could give you positive proof
So in words of description, I’ll mention a few
Of cases relieved, which are really true

Another gentleman - not so old
From asthma suffered pains untold
He, too, had gone from place to place
To find relief - Oh, suffering race
No other place suited him so well
As dear old quiet Citronelle

A lady fair I’ll mention next
Because of poor health was sore perplexed
Which way should she go to try to get well?
And she by chance hear of Citronelle
Quickly made ready, friends hastened to fetch her
With painstaking care she was brought on a stretcher
Thinking perhaps she would live ’til spring
But oh, what joy, I now can tell
It’s been twenty years, and she is alive and well

There are many cases I could tell
Folks who owe years of their lives to Citronelle
But as I promised to mention only a few
And - for lack of time - I’ll hasten through
We do not boast of any great wealth
But what means more than to have good health?

NOTE: Mrs. Floy Porter lived in Citronelle when she was approximately 18 years old and wrote this poem about Citronelle in circa 1930.
Mobile, Alabama was second only to New Orleans as the biggest cotton port of yesteryear. Long lines of wagons filled with cotton used to move through Citronelle in cotton season. The continental Ginning System of the Citronelle Gin Company was busy preparing bales to ship from the port of Mobile. The Citronelle Gin Company was located on Mobile Street in Citronelle on the site of the old police/fire station (Across from the present day Regions Bank and to the left of the Presbyterian Church).
The towering yellow and slash pine trees in Citronelle provided several avenues of industry. Turpentine was one of those industries. There were at least three major turpentine processing facilities in Citronelle at the turn of the 20th century. One was owned by J. C. Prine and the one by a Mr. Macon and the third was the Citronelle Turpentine Company. The Prine Still was located near Prine Curve on Prine Road in West Citronelle and the Macon Still was located behind the now abandoned Greers Building near the junction of Mobile Street and Lebaron Avenue.

Many people were employed by these stills and those that worked for the Citronelle Turpentine Company were paid in tokens that they could only spend at the Company Store. The Citronelle Historical Preservation Society has two of these tokens in our museum; a one dollar token and a 25 cent token.

The process of making turpentine started when pine trees were tapped or cat-faced in the spring for the collection of sap, called resin, into containers hung on the tree. It was then collected and hauled in barrels to a still where it was cooked (distilled). The distilling process very closely resembles the moonshine still (of which Citronelle also had its share). The sap became rosin or spirits of turpentine. The Citronelle Historical Preservation Society has a turpentine industry display at the Citronelle Depot Museum.
Carl V. Tanner, Druggist, organized Tanner Drug Store in November, 1925. The Drug Store was purchased from Mrs. Elizabeth V. Moyers by Carl V. Tanner, Sr. and was located on the corner of Main and State Street in the old Mercantile Building. Dr. William Thompson and Carl V. Tanner, Sr. purchased the building in 1928 from Mr. Turner. The drug store was operated for 40 years on Main Street by Carl Sr. from 1925 to 1965. In 1965 the drug store was moved to 120 Howard Avenue in Citronelle and Carl V. Tanner, Jr. was the new owner.

NOTE: The Tanner Drug Store is still in operation as of this publication at the Howard Avenue location. Tanners has been in continuous business since 1925.
The following is an excerpt from the Doodle Bug Fair Program Book published in 1992 by the Citronelle Historical Preservation Society.

On March 15, 1939, Ted and Ralph Newberry purchased a business in Citronelle called the H.E. Matson Mercantile Store and changed the name to the The Newberry Company. They sold a variety of items which included clothing and shoes for ladies, men, and children; yard goods, grocery items, meat, feed and fertilizer. The store was much like the one we saw on "Little House on the Prairie" run by the Olsens. Ted and Ralph were given much help in the business by their wives, Virginia and Christine.

The Newberry Company had its first sale on March 23, 24, and 25 of 1939. Some of the items on sale were:

- Ladies Dresses - Regular Price $1.00 / Sale Price $0.25
- Children's Dresses - $0.49
- Ladies Shoes - Regular price $3.00 - $4.00 / Sale Price $1.25
- Baby shoes - $0.50
- Stationary Box - Regular price $0.45 / Sale Price $0.10
- Ladies Gloves - $0.38
- 24 lb. sack of flour - $0.64
- 24 lb. sack of corn meal - $0.45
- 6 lb. sack of grits - $0.15
- 4 lb. package of lard - $0.38
- 10 lb. sack of sugar - $0.48

In 1943, Ted was called into the service. He left his brother Ralph and his father Mr. Bert to take care of the business. After three years of service to his country and fighting in World War II, Ted returned home to his wife Virginia and the business. Two years later in 1948, Ted and Ralph bought out D. Miley Dry Goods and renamed it Newberry's Department Store. Ted worked at this business while Ralph ran the grocery business at the Newberry Company. In 1959, Ted and Ralph dissolved the partnership and Ted continued with the dry goods business.

In 1979, Ted's younger son Tom began working in the business full time. Ted's granddaughter also worked at the store during the holidays, making four generations of Newberry's to work in the business. Father and son worked side by side until 1985, when Ted retired. Ted had been in the business full time for 46 years and continued to work at the store on Wednesday mornings. After Ted's retirement, Tom became a partner and manager until October 1991. Tom's wife, Beverly, managed the store thereafter. Newberry's Department Store was an integral part of Citronelle up until its closing in the late 1990's.
Charles Carter Langdon was born in 1805 in Southington, Connecticut. He relocated to Alabama in 1825 and moved to Mobile in 1834. Langdon served the Mayor of Mobile, Editor for the "Mobile Daily Advertiser", a member of Alabama Legislature and Constitutional Conventions, and the Secretary of State of the State of Alabama. The Vineland Nursery, established by Langdon in the 1850's, was the first nursery established in Alabama. It was located just south of Citronelle in, what is now called, the community of Russell (formerly Vineland).

As a trustee of the Agricultural and Mechanical College in Auburn, Alabama, Langdon expressed a great interest in horticulture and scientific farming. In formulating his plans for Vineland Nursery (later know as Langdon Nursery or Langdon Gardens), Langdon was guided by three primary objectives: a desire to satisfy his own personal taste, to substantiate his belief that the South could produce all the principle fruits and ornamentals presently grown in the middle and northern states, and finally, to establish a nursery that was of an appropriate size that could provide the South with a reliable product.

NOTE: The Landon railway station (later renamed the Russell station) and the Langdon home and gardens were well known in Citronelle’s early history and were an important part of Citronelle’s early development. It is said that ancient camellias can still be found on the site of the Vineland Nursery and that descendants of the ornamentals from the nursery can still be found throughout Citronelle, Mobile County, and the South.

The Citronelle Historical Preservation Society is most interested in finding a photograph of the Langdon home and gardens. If you have any old photographs or information on Langdon or about Citronelle in general, please contact us at email@citronellehps.org or (251) 866-7730.
When the town of Citronelle, Alabama, -- population, 2,000 -- started out this past summer to get itself a modern tung nut and vegetable oil processing plant, it set an example that could very well be followed by every other Southern community seeking to attract new industries and payrolls. In two month’s time the businessmen and the other citizens of Citronelle raised $65,000 in cash and property.

A thermometer, was set up on Citronelle’s Main Street and recorded the process of the the stock selling drive. The sign read, "Get Citronelle out of the red. Invest in the future of Citronelle. Buy shares in our new industry... Our Goal $65,000. Shares $1.00 each. [In addition to the funds raised by the citizens of Citronelle, there were other investors in this venture as well.]" 

The drive was completed on August 15 with the club raising $60,000 [in cash] including a plant built in 1947 by the South Alabama Sweet Potato Association for decorticating potatoes [the property]. The plant was rendered inoperative when a quarantine was placed on shipping sweet potatoes. [This plant would be converted into a modern tung oil processing plant.] About 6,000 tons of nuts are needed to keep the plant running at full capacity during the four to (Continued on next page.)
(Continued from previous page.) six months winter and spring crushing season. During the summer months the plant will process peanuts, soybeans, cottonseed, and possibly imported coconuts.

NOTE: In the 1950’s and 1960’s freezes wiped out commercial tung oil production in parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Hurricanes Betsy and Camille dealt the final blows to the tung plantations of the south. By the late 1960’s many of the US tung oil mills had closed due to the fact that importing tung oil from Argentina had become cheaper than producing it in the states.

Tung oil is made from pressed seeds from the nut of the tung tree. The tung tree, native to China, is named for its heart-shaped leaves because “tung” is Chinese for “heart.” In the 14th century, Chinese merchants were noted for using tung oil to waterproof and protect wooden ships from the eroding powers of the sea. There are even mentions of tung oil appearing in the writings of Confucius in around 400 B.C. For these reasons, it is also sometimes referred to as “China wood oil.”
CITRONELLE: BUILDING AN EDUCATION

Unsigned sketch in pencil of the Vineland School
(a two-room Rosenwald Foundation School built in 1921-22) just outside of Citronelle in the community called
Vineland (now Russell). This school was located just behind the original Rosa A. Lott School (the blue building)
and Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church.

Rosa A. Lott School: A Descendent of the Rosenwald Rural School Building Program

The original Rosa A. Lott school building (the original blue school building) is important for its
African American Ethnic history and its local and statewide significance as a descendant of a
historical two-room Rosenwald Foundation School built in 1921-22 just outside of
Citronelle in the area community of Russell (then Vineland).

Rosenwald Schools refer to a group of educational institutions established in the
South for African Americans in the first half of the twentieth century. (Continued
on next page.)
(Continued from previous page.) The Rosa A. Lott High School was the first African American high school in North Mobile County, Alabama and is registered on Alabama’s Register of Landmarks and Heritage historical sites.

The Rosenwald Rural School Building Program was a major effort to improve the quality of public education for African Americans in the early twentieth-century South. In 1912, Julius Rosenwald gave Booker T. Washington permission to use some of the money he had donated to Tuskegee Institute for the construction of six small schools in rural Alabama, which were constructed and opened in 1913 and 1914. Pleased with the results, Rosenwald then agreed to fund a larger program for schoolhouse construction based at Tuskegee. In 1917 he set up the Julius Rosenwald Fund, a Chicago-based philanthropic foundation, and in 1920 the Rosenwald Fund established an independent office for the school building program in Nashville, Tennessee.

By 1928, one in every five rural schools for black students in the South was a Rosenwald school, and these schools housed one third of the region’s rural black schoolchildren and teachers. At the program’s conclusion in 1932, it had produced 4,977 new schools, 217 teachers’ homes, and 163 shop buildings, constructed at a total cost of $28,408,520 to serve 663,615 students in 883 counties in 15 states.

Historical Marker at Rosa A. Lott School
Citronelle, Alabama native, Richard Barr "Ozzie" Lynch, a 1935 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, notched up an impressive career as a submariner in World War II.

Rear Admiral Lynch, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, began his career as a submariner when he reported to the USS SKIPJACK (SS-184) on July 1, 1939 and got underway for Pearl Harbor as part of Submarine Squadron 2. He could not have known it at the time, but Lynch would go on to know the waters of the Pacific very well, notching up a stellar career as a wartime submarine commander.

Lynch was promoted to the rank of full lieutenant on August 1, 1941 and received orders in early 1942 to report to the USS NAUTILUS (SS-168). He was promoted to the rank of full commander on March 1, 1944 and accepted orders as the commanding officer of the USS SEAWOLF (SS-197). On September 7, 1944, Lynch took command of the USS SKATE (SS-305).

After the war, Lynch went on to command Submarine Development Group Two and, later, Submarine Squadron Ten. He served as Naval Attaché in London and then commanded both Cruiser Destroyer Flotilla Six and Cruiser Destroyer Flotilla Eight.

Lynch eventually attained the rank of rear admiral and served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His final assignment took him back to the Pacific serving as the Commander Hawaiian Sea Frontier, commanding naval operations in the mid-Pacific and coordinating the successful recovery of the first unmanned Apollo spacecraft on November 9, 1967.

Rear Admiral Richard Barr "Ozzie" Lynch died while on active duty on January 19, 1968. His daughter, Kathy Richardson, still resides in Citronelle and is an active member of the Citronelle Historical Preservation Society.
During his Naval career, Lynch was awarded the following awards of valor:

**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL**  
Awarded for actions during the World War II  
Action Date: January 1, 1943  
Service: Navy  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Division: U.S.S. Nautilus (SS-168)

**BRONZE STAR**  
Awarded for actions during the World War II  
General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 8432 (June 30, 1945)  
Action Date: January 1, 1943  
Service: Navy  
Rank: Commander  
Division: U.S.S. Nautilus (SS-168)

**SILVER STAR**  
Awarded for actions during the World War II  
Action Date: September 16 - October 16, 1943  
Service: Navy  
Rank: Commander  
Division: U.S.S. Nautilus (SS-168)

**SILVER STAR**  
Awarded for actions during the World War II  
General Orders: Commander in Chief Pacific: Serial 0619 (November 18, 1946)  
Action Date: September 8 - November 2, 1944  
Service: Navy  
Rank: Lieutenant Commander  
Company: Commanding Officer  
Division: U.S.S. Skate (SS-305)

**NAVY CROSS**  
Awarded for actions during the World War II  
General Orders: Submarine Forces Pacific Fleet: Serial 02268 (September 11, 1945)  
Action Date: April 11 - July 4, 1945  
Service: Navy  
Rank: Commander  
Company: Commanding Officer  
Division: U.S.S. Skate (SS-305)

**LEGION OF MERIT**  
General Orders: Board Serial 4944  
June 29, 1967  
Action Date: June 1965 - June 1967  
Service: Navy  
Rank: Rear Admiral

**LEGION OF MERIT**  
Awarded Posthumously  
General Orders: Board Serial 00158  
(April 4, 1968)  
Action Date: July 20, 1967 - January 19, 1968  
Service: Navy  
Rank: Rear Admiral
Ralph Waldo Emerson may have written, "The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn," but he probably didn’t realize the amount of luck that was involved in the process. The majestic oak is complex in nature, and, given its ability to grow in both age and size, it is one of the true wonders of the forest.

Anyone with an old oak tree in their yard will tell you what a treasure it is, but few truly understand what is involved. It takes many elements, including good weather, ample rainfall and proper temperatures, just to enable a bloom to become an acorn, and even then its odds of surviving to the tree stage are slim. Thanks to such things as hungry squirrels, late frosts and extreme drought, only one acorn in every 10,000 will be lucky enough to grow into a tree.

So, it is a miracle, indeed, that Mr. Robert H. Dickie was able line Oak Street in Citronelle with Live Oaks from acorns he collected from the oak trees in Bienville Square in Mobile. Remember... Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.”
THE LAST CONFEDERATE SURRENDER
by Andy Turner

The fact that Richard Taylor was a successful Civil War general should come as no surprise. His grandfather, Richard Lee Taylor, was an officer in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. His father, President Zachary Taylor, had a forty-year career in the army including his prominent role in the Mexican War. Unfortunately for Richard Taylor, his military service would end in surrender.

Taylor served throughout the war and received high praise from his commanders Stonewall Jackson and Richard S. Ewell. Nathan Bedford Forrest, considered to be one of the greatest natural military geniuses this country has ever produced, said if the Confederacy had more men like Taylor, they would have whipped the Yankees. In the end, however, he was in command of force that could not go on. The end had arrived.

In the following article by Taylor, printed in the Southern Historical Society Papers in 1877, the general discusses the circumstances of his surrendering his army in May 1865. Lee had surrendered. Johnston had surrendered. The writing was on the wall. (Continued on next page.)
To write an impartial and unprejudiced account of exciting contemporary events has always been a difficult task. More especially is this true of civil strife, which, like all "family jars," evolves a peculiar flavor of bitterness. But slight sketches of minor incidents, by actors and eye-witnesses, may prove of service to the future writer, who undertakes the more ambitious and severe duty of historian. The following "memoir pour servir" has this object:

In the summer of 1864, after the close of the Red river campaign, I was ordered to cross the Mississippi and report my arrival on the east bank by telegraph to Richmond. All the fortified posts on the river were held by the Federals, and the intermediate portions of the stream closely guarded by gunboats to impede and, as far as possible, prevent passage. This delayed the transmission of the order above-mentioned until August, when I crossed at a point just above the mouth of the Red river. On a dark night, in a small canoe, with horses swimming alongside, I got over without attracting the attention of a gunboat anchored a short distance below. Woodville, Wilkinson county, Mississippi, was the nearest place in telegraphic communication with Richmond. Here, in reply to a dispatch to Richmond, I was directed to assume command of the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, etc., with headquarters at Meridian, Mississippi, and informed that President Davis would, at an early day, meet me at Montgomery, Alabama. The military situation was as follows: [Maj. Gen. William T.] Sherman occupied Atlanta, [Maj. Gen. John Bell] Hood lying some distance to the southwest; [Vice Admiral David] Farragut had forced the defenses of Mobile bay, capturing Fort Morgan, etc., and the Federals held Pensacola, but had made no movement into the interior.

THE CLOSING SCENES.
Major-General [Dabney H.] Maury commanded the Confederate forces garrisoning Mobile and adjacent works, with Commodore [Ebenezer] Farrand, Confederate Navy, in charge of several armed vessels. Small bodies of troops were stationed at different points through the department, and Major-General [Nathan Bedford] Forrest, with his division of cavalry, was in northeast Mississippi. Directing this latter officer to move his command across the Tennessee river, and use every effort to interrupt Sherman’s communications south of Nashville, I proceeded to Mobile to inspect the fortifications; thence to Montgomery, to meet President Davis. The interview extended over many hours, and the military situation was freely discussed. Our next meeting was at Fortress Monroe, where, during his confinement, I obtained permission to visit him. The closing scenes of the great drama succeeded each other with startling rapidity. Sherman marched, unopposed, to the sea. Hood was driven from Nashville across the Tennessee, and asked to be relieved. Assigned to this duty I met him near Tupelo, North Mississippi, and witnessed the melancholy spectacle presented by a retreating army.

(Continued on next page.)
Guns, small arms and accoutrements lost, men without shoes or blankets, and this in a winter of unusual severity for that latitude. Making every effort to re-equip this force, I suggested to General Lee, then commanding all the armies of the Confederacy, that it should be moved to the Carolinas, to interpose between Sherman’s advance and his (Lee’s) lines of supply, and, in the last necessity, of retreat. The suggestion was adopted, and this force so moved. General [James H.] Wilson, with a well appointed and ably led command of Federal cavalry, moved rapidly through North Alabama, seized Selma, and turning east to Montgomery, continued into Georgia.

General [Edward R. S.] Canby, commanding the Union armies in the Southwest, advanced up the Eastern shore of Mobile bay, and invested Spanish fort and Blakely, important Confederate works in that quarter. After repulsing an assault, General Maury, in accordance with instructions, withdrew his garrisons in the night to Mobile, and then evacuated the city, falling back to Meridian, on the line of the Mobile and Ohio railway. General Forrest was drawn in to the same point, and the little army, less than eight thousand of all arms, held in readiness to discharge such duties as the waning fortunes of the “cause” and the honor of its arms might demand.

SOLDIERLY COURTESY.

Intelligence of Lee’s surrender reached us. Staff officers from [Gen. Joseph E.] Johnston and Sherman came across the country to inform Canby and myself of their “convention.” Whereupon, an interview was arranged between us to determine a course of action, and a place selected ten miles north of Mobile, near the railway. Accompanied by a staff officer, Colonel William M. Levy (now a member of Congress from Louisiana), and making use of a “hand car,” I reached the appointed spot, and found General Canby with a large escort, and many staff and other officers. Among these I recognized some old friends, notably General Canby himself and Admiral James Palmer. All extended cordial greetings. A few moments of private conversation with Canby led to the establishment of a truce, to await further intelligence from the North. Forty-eight hours’ notice was to be given by the party desiring to terminate the truce. We then joined the throng of officers, and although every one present felt a deep conviction that the last hour of the sad struggle approached, no allusion was made to it. Subjects, awakening memories of the past, when all were sons of a loved, united country, were, as by the natural selection of good breeding, chosen. A bountiful luncheon was soon spread, and I was invited to partake of patis, champagne-frappe, and other “delights,” which to me had long been as lost arts. As we took our seats at table, a military band in attendance commenced playing “Hail Columbia.” Excusing himself, General Canby walked to the door. The music ceased for a moment, and then the strain of “Dixie” was heard. Old Froissart records no gentler act of “courtesie.” Warmly thanking General Canby for his delicate consideration, I asked for “Hail Columbia,” and proposed we should unite in the hope that our Columbia would soon be, once more, a happy land. This and other kindred sentiments were duly honored in “frappe,” and after much pleasant intercourse, the party separated. (Continued on next page.)
THE SURRENDER.
The succeeding hours were filled with a grave responsibility, which could not be evaded or shared. Circumstances had appointed me to watch the dying agonies of a cause that had fixed the attention of the world. To my camp, as the last refuge in the storm, came many members of the Confederate Congress. These gentlemen were urged to go at once to their respective homes, and, by precept and example, teach the people to submit to the inevitable, obey the laws, and resume the peaceful occupations on which society depends. This advice was followed, and with excellent effect on public tranquility.

General Canby dispatched that his government disavowed the Johnston-Sherman convention, and it would be his duty to resume hostilities. Almost at the same instant came the news of Johnston’s surrender. There was no room for hesitancy. Folly and madness combined would not have justified an attempt to prolong a hopeless contest.

General Canby was informed that I desired to meet him of the purpose of negotiating a surrender of my forces, and that Commodore Farrand, commanding the armed vessels in the Alabama river, desired to meet Rear Admiral [Henry K.] Thatcher for a similar purpose. [Citronelle], some forty miles north of Mobile, was the appointed place, and there in the early days of May, 1865, the great war virtually ended.

After this, no hostile gun was fired, and the authority of the United States was supreme in the land. Conditions of surrender were speedily determined, and of a character to soothe the pride of the vanquished; officers to retain side-arms, troops to turn in arms and equipments to their own ordnance officers, so of the quartermaster and commissary stores; the Confederate cotton agent for Alabama and Mississippi to settle his accounts with the Treasury Agent of the United States; muster rolls to be prepared, etc.; transportation to be provided for the men. All this under my control and supervision. Here a curious incident may be mentioned. At an early period of the war, when Colonel Sidney Johnston retired to the south of Tennessee river, Isham G. Harris, Governor of Tennessee, accompanied him, taking, at the same time, the coin from the vaults of the State Bank of Tennessee, at Nashville. This coin, in the immediate charge of a bonded officer of the bank, had occasioned much solicitude to the Governor in his many wanderings. He appealed to me to assist in the restoration of the coin to the bank. At my request, General Canby detailed an officer and escort, and the money reached the bank intact. This is the Governor Harris recently elected United States Senator by his State. (Continued on next page.)
AFTER THE WAR
The condition of the people of Alabama and Mississippi was at this time deplorable. The waste of war had stripped large areas of the necessaries of life. In view of this, I suggested to General Canby that his troops, sent to the interior, should be limited to the number required for the preservation of order, and be stationed at points where supplies were more abundant. That trade would soon be established between soldiers and people—furnishing the latter with currency, of which they were destitute—and friendly relations promoted. These suggestions were adopted, and a day or two thereafter, at Meridian, a note was received from General Canby, inclosing copies of orders to Generals [Gordon] Granger and [Frederick] Steele, commanding army corps, by which it appeared these officers were directed to call on me for and conform to advice relative to movements of their troops. Strange, indeed, must such confidence appear to statesmen of the “bloody-shirt” persuasion.

In due time, Federal staff-officers reached my camp. The men were paroled and sent home. Public property was turned over and receipted for, and this as orderly and quietly as in time of peace between officers of the same service.

What years of discord, bitterness, injustice and loss would not our country have been spared had the wounds of war healed “by first intention” under the tender ministrations of the hands that fought the battles! But the task was allotted to ambitious partisans, most of whom had not heard the sound of a gun. As of old, the Lion and the Bear fight openly and sturdily—the stealthy Fox carries off the prize.

General Taylor states that after the surrender of his army “no hostile gun was fired.” That isn’t quite true. Although the war was basically over, there was still some skirmishing and the last land battle of the war didn’t take place until May 12 at Palmito Ranch in Texas. It wasn’t until May 26 that Edmund Kirby Smith’s army in the Trans-Mississippi surrendered. So while Taylor’s surrender wasn’t technically the last Confederate surrender, it was awfully close.
Citronelle, Alabama

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