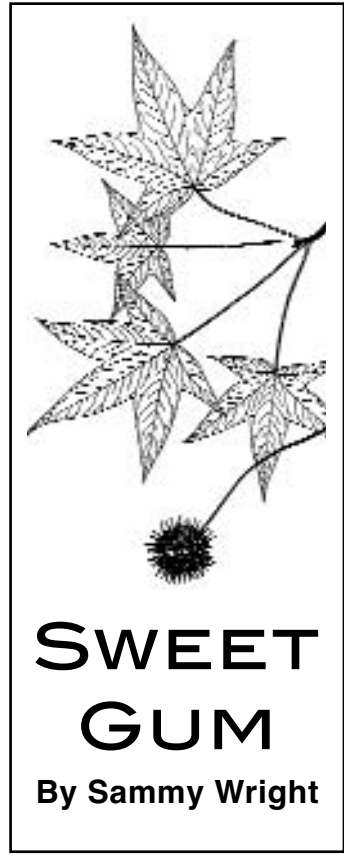


Sharing memories at the Young reunion



SWEET GUM
By Sammy Wright

other cities. In the winter, the farmers sold corn and potatoes, but in summer their products were mostly vegetables.

The roads were really trade roads, but because the farmers usually bought their salt from stores on the boats, the connotation "salt roads" was used to describe the numerous roads. The relationship between villages and settlements can be established by tracing some of the salt roads on a county map. However, it should be understood that the paved roads do not usually faithfully follow the salt roads. Even so, we intend to show the kinship of three villages by tracing a route that somewhat follows one of the salt roads.

Our grandfather did this for us at a time when it was still possible to travel this road in an ox wagon, and that is the way we traveled. The Wimberly road runs through Wimberly and Thornton Springs before ending at the Pleasant Hill road that is toward the east. On the west, the road ends at the Old Lusk road. The Old Lusk road runs near Toxey, but the salt road that it replaced ran through Toxey and just north of the Bonner graveyard. Evidence of this is found in the extremely high banks at that location.

The salt road turned then and ran in a northwestern direction until it ran into the Brightwater road. It ran past the Brightwater Church, turned directly west and ran on through Hebron and finally passed the Stateline Methodist Church and entered Mississippi. What tied the three villages together other than the road? The Grahams, the earliest settlers in Hebron, came through Thornton Springs and Wimberly during the 1840's as evidenced by the dates on some of the gravestones. Even more, in 1835 William Wimberly had a land grant for the area around present-day Wimberly. His son, Robert Wimberly, Sr., the husband of Elena Josephine Young, started the first store in the village. The store, and the Post Office that was located inside it,



Choctaw Sun photo by Mickey Bryant
The oldest person in attendance at the Young reunion was Buck Ozment of Livingston, and the youngest was Aleo Rolison of Butler.

closed in 1912. It is easy to see that people from Hebron who traveled through Wimberly on their way to meet the boats at Lenoir's Landing were able to shop in the store.

Thornton Springs was located a mile up the road from Wimberly, toward the Pleasant Hill road. John Thornton had land grants for the area that were issued in the 1830's. He built a hotel, cabins where travelers could spend the night, and a small café in the settlement. The Youngs were early settlers in Wimberly, but their graveyard is the Pleasant Hill graveyard a few miles away. Names that are common in the Pleasant Hill cemetery and the Wimberly cemetery are: Bush, Gibson, Minor, and Jenkins.

Other evidence that the villages shared some common interests is found in folklore. When grandpa went to the river, especially in the winter when the days were short, it was too far to make the trip in just one day, so he either spent the night with friends in Wimberly or rented a cabin in Thornton Springs. There is some

irony that is found when those long ago times are compared to the present. With the slow method of travel and the total lack of methods of communication the people were closer together than now.

If some things are lost, perhaps others are gained, because in the field of lawfulness, we are definite winners. Many people who traveled on the river often resorted to criminal acts, especially robbery and stealing, to make their way easier. It was not safe to travel alone on the salt roads in the vicinity of the river after dark. Most of the people who expected to be out after dark carried someone with them. They often fired a gun from their wagon after dark just to show that their "back-up" help was ready.

Although the family of actors who performed in Mobile at about the time that Wimberly was settled had no connection with Wimberly or Choctaw County, it is more than possible that they passed through this area on the Tombigbee River. In that time before railroad travel, the river was the surest route between cities. All three

brothers were especially noted for the fine performances that they gave in Shakespeare's tragedies. Junius Booth was very popular, even before coming to this county from England. At the age of 17, he was England's most successful stage actor.

His brother, Edwin Booth, was born in this country. He was so great that at the age of sixteen he replaced his father in Richard III at the National Theater in New York. He was also a talented poet, painter, and sculptor. Both brothers had periodic attacks of mental illness. Genius and madness are never far apart. You can determine the mental stability of the third brother, John Wilkes Booth, the man who shot President Abraham Lincoln.

The descendants of the early Wimberly families, which included Youngs, Gibsons, Wimberlys, Moores, Roberts of Union Grove, Alabama gave an invocation that dealt with the genealogy of our Christ as described in Matthew one. The reading was most especially appropriate for the occasion as most of the day was spent tracing genealogies. After prayer, we all got down to a very serious business: eating.

The food was provided by Brenda Doucet, and cooked by Kenny Mosley and Randy Adams. The delicious food and congenial atmosphere made our day. We were mostly among a group of strangers, but anyone who is interested in history is not a stranger for long. In all, there were just under fifty persons at the affair. We would like to name them all, but regards must be made to space limitations.

The couple that came the greatest distance were Mason and Florette Young of Tulsa. Florette was reared in Tulsa, and Mason in Mississippi. He graduated from Southern Mississippi University.

He flew as a corporate pilot, in both propeller driven planes and jets until reaching the age of 70.

The oldest person in attendance was Buck Ozment of Livingston, and the youngest was Aleo Rolison of Butler. We will not give their ages because Aleo might jump all over us. Two persons who obviously were not there should still be mentioned. They are Benjamin Young and Henderson Wilson.

Benjamin Young was drafted into the Confederate Army and later wounded in battle. He was last seen sitting propped against a tree and bleeding profusely from his wounds. He was never heard from again.

Henderson Wilson had the admiration of everyone. He was also drafted into the Confederate Army, and was captured by the Yankees. He was confined at Vicksburg for a few months and then paroled, but only after signing a sworn statement that proclaimed that he would never again take up arms against the United States of America.

Well, Perhaps some things are hard to remember. All that happened at Vicksburg on July 9, 1863. Only problem was that Henderson was captured again at the Battle of Lookout Mountain in Tennessee on Nov. 24, 1863. He was sent to Rock Island Barracks, Illinois and never paroled again.

We greatly enjoyed meeting and being with all these wonderful people at their reunion, which will be an annual affair. It seemed fitting to give them our own details about early Wimberly that were described to us by our grandfather. We went with him on his last wagon trip to Wimberly. Such a trip would be impossible now because the old salt roads are covered by forests, farms —

— And "No Trespassing"

Thompson is Willow Trace employee of the month

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER — "If I can get a smile from them, I've done my job," says Willow Trace Employee of the Month Kathy Thompson.

She's been part of the Willow Trace family since May of last year, beginning her work in the dietary department. Her job has the source of satisfaction for her, giving her the opportunity to get to know the staff and the residents and placing her at a facility where her mother once worked as a hospital employee years ago.

But in February, Kathy took on a new role at the facility, a role that gave her even more resident contact and a new source of satisfaction in her job.

"I work in the Activities Department now," she explains. "I'm involved in planning the activities that the residents do."

Whether she is playing dominoes or cards with one resident or helping to orchestrate a group cook-out or holiday event, Kathy helps to give the residents a little taste of fun and a lot of extra attention.

"Sometimes I go into their rooms to do activities with them by themselves," she says. "Other times, it's as a group. I really like the group activities, but I guess I like going into their rooms most of all. It lets me get to know them, and they get to know me."



Kathy Thompson

Kathy adds that her work with the residents is not just about playing games and planning cook-outs. Her individual attention to each resident often means simply providing aromatherapy in a resident's room or rubbing them down with lotion, or even playing music when they are feeling down.

"Whatever I can do for them, I do it," she says.

Among the activities she is now planning for the residents are fishing trips with the men and makeovers for the women, as well as a variety of other group activities that include everyone.

Regardless of whether she is helping with a fishing trip or a Mardi Gras parade, Kathy's job means working to give the residents that little something extra that makes the nursing center feel like their home.

Tours of the USS Grand Canyon

USS GRAND CANYON AD-28 1940-1945
Hamul Class Destroyer Tender
Displacement 14,900 Tons full load
Length 492' ft.
Beam 69' ft. 6"
Draft 25 ft.
Speed 18 knots
Armament 1 5" 38DP,

4 3" 50DP, 2x2 40MM, 8 22 20MM
Geared Turbine Engines, Single Screw, 8,500 H.P.
Built, Todd Pacific Shipyard, Tacoma, Washington
Commissioned 1946.
After brief Shakedown off the Coast of California Grand Canyon



Our Veterans

By SFC Richard M. 'Pete' Allen (Ret.)



Departed Port Townsend, Washington June 26, 1946 for Newport, R.I., VIA Canal Zone.

Grand Canyon made her first tour with the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean. After visiting Palermo, Sicily, and a stay in Naples she returned to the States.

Grand Canyon made six Mediterranean Deployments. During this time she participated in some of the largest peacetime service operations ever undertaken. As Flagship, she took part in fleet exercises and visited the ports of August Bay, Sicily, Messina, and Taranto, Italy. After the Suez problem subsided she sailed for Cannes, France, December, in time for Christmas Holidays. She returned to Fall River, Mass.

Grand Canyon got underway with other units of the Atlantic Fleet, this time to participate in NATO Fall exercises. September 16, 1957

she had crossed the Arctic Circle operating West of Norway, Norway has some good ports to visit. (I made a few of them).

Grand Canyon returned to Fall River and continued her tender duties. She sailed for Suda Bay to support the 6th Fleet in operations off Lebanon.

In November 1961 she took up her duties tending ships of the South Atlantic Blockading Fleet during the Cuban Missile Crisis and Subsequent quarantine.

USS Grand Canyon made many more trips to the Mediterranean, and visited many ports of call, before returning to Mayport, Fla. She tended destroyers and other ships in the area. Today the USS Grand Canyon AD-28 is still on the job of tending her destroyers. On board the USS Grand Canyon AD-28 in World War II was Walter Horn Ezell.

Congratulations

Koehn
Our Beautiful Queen
SCA 2007
We Love You!
Mom, Mr. Johnny, & Kaleigh
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