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In Cleveland County's Early Days

BY MAMIE JONES

BUSINESS LEADERS OF 50 YEARS AGO

In a special edition of the Cleveland Star published in October, 1897, by the then youthful editor, Clyde R. Hoey, appears pictures and brief write-ups of the prominent men of Shelby and Cleveland County 50 years ago.

I quote from the columns of this tattered paper:

"The growth of Shelby from a small village of 900 in 1880 to a prosperous little municipality in 1889 shows that its business and natural advantages have not been without recognition. At the present time (October 1897) the population is considerably more than 2,000, and almost every day adds a new family."

(Note: According to the official census in 1900, Shelby had only 1,874 people. But in Number 6 Township there were 4,349; and in the whole of Cleveland County there were 25,078 people. In 1890 there were only 20,394 people living in the county.)

"JUNIOR T. GARDNER . . . one of the most prominent citizens

of Shelby serving his sixth term as Mayor. Since first elected he has never been defeated . . . is gifted with fine executive ability . . . live, progressive. . . To his efforts is largely due credit for establishing and maintaining our fine Graded School system. He is president of the Board of Trade . . . a tireless worker. He owns and operates Gardner's Pharmacy, one of the town's largest drug stores . . . is a fine political manager and a walking encyclopedia of political information. He is captain of the Cleveland Guards Military Company. He married Miss Texie Nooe."

(Note: Mr. Gardner served several additional terms as Mayor. A far-sighted business man he insisted on taking over, about 1912 or 1913 the electric light plant from private owners. And to Mr. Gardner is due much of the credit for the city's ownership of this valuable business asset).

"R. S. JONES (Shelt), Chief of Police, is one of the finest amateur detectives in the State . . . They have long since learned

that Shelby's invulnerable Chief is ever on the alert and can scent a guilty one on a mighty cold trail . . . He served his apprenticeship as a brick mason, and a fine one. He married Miss Kate Beattie. He has been Chief of Police for nearly five years and has made a capital officer. . . . has plenty of coolness and courage." (Note: He died in 1901.)

Leading Farmers

D. D. LATTIMORE, of Polkville, that patriarchal looking, delightful old gentleman, is one of the county's unique and interesting men . . . Is genial, wholehearted . . . one of the best farmers in the State. He understands the science of farming by the successful practice of the scientific principles that his head full of "horse sense" and his own good judgment dictate. Mr. Lattimore owns a big plantation and is one of the county's most successful farmers . . . He married Miss Mary Elliott."

D. S. LOVELACE, Esq., of Boiling Springs, is one of the
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Early Days

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staunchest of the State's most loyal sons. He was born in 1848 on Sandy Run. He began plowing very early, and has been found between the plow handles every year since. . . . When he was 13 years old he could not read. At 18 years of age he could scarcely add up a line of figures. At that age he married Miss Prilla Jane Lee . . . He used his books and a lighted pine knot . . . and acquired knowledge rapidly. He is today (1897) one of the best informed men in the county. He taught school 12 months . . . served as Magistrate 18 years . . . as County Commissioner one term . . . Has been clerk of the K. M. Baptist Ass'n 13 years and is now a member of the County Board of Education."

"G. HAMP SIMMONS of Pearl, does not confine himself solely to managing the farm . . . Has other interests . . . such as saw mill, cotton gin, etc. He was married in 1878 to Miss Josephine Martin."

"J. F. BAKER of Delight . . . big farmer, merchant and mill man . . . Has accumulated a nice estate. Is a pillar in church at Clover Hill . . . Married Miss Alice Hull."

"ROBERT G. WELLS, Esq., of Polkville, another of the county's leading farmers, is public spirited and takes a lively interest in anything that pertains to the welfare of the county or promises to advance the interest of his fellow man . . . He married Miss Virginia Lattimore . . . He taught school a few years, but the major portion of his time has been spent supervising his large and magnificently cultivated farm . . . 576 acres of good land in a high state of cultivation . . .

For 25 years Mr. Wells has been a Magistrate . . . has served as school commissioner. 'Squire Wells is the type of southern manhood of ante-bellum days. His regal residence . . . (and) everything around his house is absolutely perfect in appointment. He is truly a well fixed, independent man."

"M. M. MAUNEY, one of the finest business men of the county and a gentleman of unquestioned native ability, was reared on a farm. He learned the carpenter's trade and was a mill wright . . . His has been a succession of successes, and the story of his achievements reads like a fairy tale . . . A contractor and big farmer . . . director of bank at Ft. Mill . . . superintendent of cotton mill there . . . One of the largest planters in the county . . . Has 900 acres of land in No. 7 and No. 8 townships. The name of M. M. Mauney is a synonym of integrity and honesty. He is at this time (1897) a member of the Board of County Commissioners."

"W. D. LEMMONS of Earl has been awarded a John Wedderburn silver medal for inventing a combination planter, fertilizer and cultivator. The National Recorder, a patent journal, has recently published a portrait and sketch of Mr. Lemmons."

(To be continued)

Little Theater

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Little Theatre. Dick Palmer as Glenn and Jane White as Jacqueline complete the Grayson family. The troupe's director, Dan Lyons, is played by J. T. Jones Jr.

Others In Cast

Others who appear in supporting roles are Corene Bl