

---

Community Archives – Grady County Historical Society  
CA/002/004-003

---

1883-2011

# J.B Wight Folder

---

For this and additional works see: <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/6885>

**UUID:** CC153F72-912B-4595-A2EE-BD5B18811DB1

**Recommended Citation:**

Grady County Museum and History Center. *Grady County Historical Society Collection: J.B Wight Series 4, Item 3*. Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections.  
Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/10428/7338>

This item is from the Grady County Museum and History Center. It is part of the *Grady Historical Society Collection* digitized by the Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. If you have any questions or concerns, contact [archives@valdosta.edu](mailto:archives@valdosta.edu) or <https://gradyhistory.org/gchs/>

John Byron Wight received his Theological Certificate from Vanderbilt University in 1884, but he soon determined he could not provide for his family as an itinerant minister in South Georgia and planted his first pecan nuts in December 1886. He “then knew nothing about them except what he had read”. Fifty years of mingled success and failure brought the valuable lesson; experience is the best teacher. During this time Byron Wight was also a principal in the Cairo Schools and continued in the newly formed Grady County School System as its first Superintendent.

The first commercial orchard was planted and set in 1892.

The trees were marketed primarily to orchardists and other farmers through door-to-door salesmen, mail-order catalogs and advertisements in farming periodicals.

A 1908 shipment of plant introductions from U. S. Department of Agriculture Introduction Garden, Chico Calif included a Tung oil tree.

1912 J. B. Wight, Proprietor, Pecan Grove Farm Nursery and Orchard.

52" w x 43" h



22" w x 30" h



25" w x 25" h



Laity Retreat over the Labor Day weekend at the Conference Center but he was edged out by Dr. Woodrow Powell, professor at Georgia Southern College at Statesboro.

The Laity Retreat had some of the greatest inspirational speakers ever and was unusually well attended, as five family groups from First Church here formed a caravan to attend, along with Mr. and Mrs. James Rineer from Friendship Church. Family groups attending included the Carter Mortons, the Charles Skinners, the Howell McKinnons, the Sid Pridgens and the Billy Winds, along with Mr. and Mrs. Norwood Clark.

Mr. Sumner will be formally honored in the district at the Methodist Men's Rally at the Hand Memorial Methodist Church in Pelham on Sunday, Nov. 9. Everyone joins in congratulating J. T. upon his district honor because of his unselfish, dedicated service to his church, his fellowman and his community. As Carter Morton, the Church Lay Leader, says in announcing his district honor: "He gleams a guiding light that all may follow to help make the world a much better place to live."



**"WORLD'S OLDEST, LARGEST TUNG OIL NUT TREE" ONCE AT CAIRO:** Above, as this week's historical picture taken from the collection of the late E. Woody, distinguished local photographer, is a view, familiar to many oldsters, of what was for many years "the world's oldest, largest tung oil tree" which stood at Wight Nurseries just southwest of Cairo for many years. The tree came from seed obtained from China by the late distinguished developer, John B. Wight, 1st. This picture was perhaps more extensively published than any other about Cairo and has been a favorite among local view card buyers for years. (The lady under the tree is none other than Mrs. Alma Lasseter (C.L.) Browne, Sr., a veteran office manager at the nurseries, who still lives here).

**ACT, GET SIGN UP**  
 (from page 1)

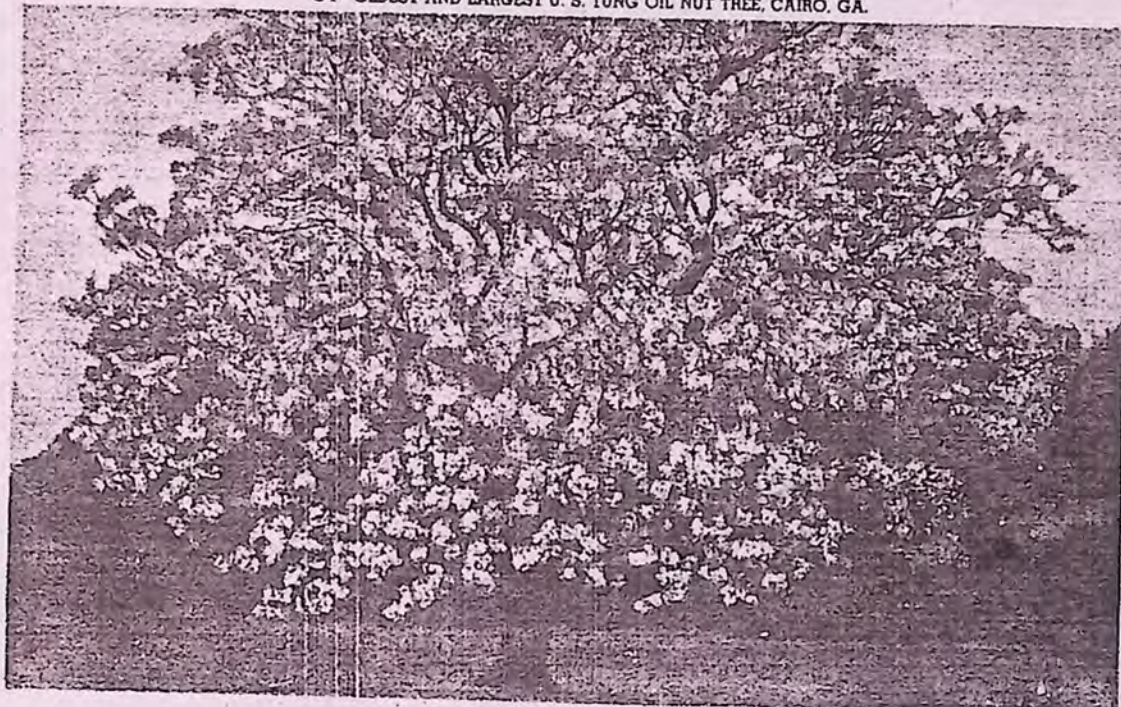
iro and non-

At the C... the Bartlett had directed operations of Bussey of Franklin, Ga., Mrs. legislators... the Soil Conservation Service in Tommy (B)... Harrell of search... since 1971... the Whigh... (Debbie) Miss Patev

increased revenue... render the taxpayers... following re... presently bel... County:  
 1. Recent roof on the... which was quit... with costs... repairing the...  
 2. Expansion collecting serv...  
 3. The up... election polling...  
 4. Increased materials for... construction of... Because of the... this year the... tenance, has f... above normal. A... was obtained for... the county is ha... the state aid cor...  
 5. The incre... balance service...  
 6. Expansion the rural areas... the Grady Cou...  
 7. Addition renovate the meet state r...  
 8. Expen... required recreation...  
 9. Exp... necessar... house" recently... State of... of a Co...

*The article tells the true story*

C-1 OLDEST AND LARGEST U. S. TUNG OIL NUT TREE, CAIRO, GA.



E-9308

252-7370

I found these in  
my papers -

Also enclose 2  
letters that should  
be of interest to  
you.

Hope to meet you -

JHR

WIGHT family genealogy. It is,  
I yesterday returned it  
and assure me of its safe  
proud of their overall family  
the development of Cairo and

the WIGHT BOOK when you read  
etch. I am also enclosing  
, and I request that you, too,  
ned.

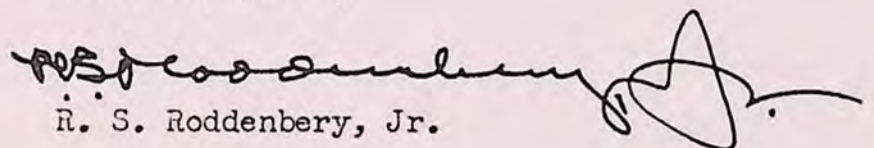
my book, I will record incidents  
Wights, and all others who

were principal actors on the scene. family sketches, such as I am doing on  
the Wights, will be few indeed and it is my present purpose to arrange them  
somewhere near the close of the book. But people make the history of any  
community and, where certain families (and sometimes many individuals in the  
family) are predominant actors in the history, it is necessary and proper to  
tell who those people were and show their relationship to each other, and in  
some instances their connection with other families.

Please help me to complete the sketch on John Byron Wight (born 1859)  
and his family, and note my questions regarding his half-brothers and their  
descendants. Of course I have what you previously wrote me and what William  
Ward Wight printed regarding education of J. Byron Wight. I also know that  
at least some of his half-brothers went to Emory College (when it was at  
Oxford, Ga.) but I have no details.

This work is growing and it is getting to be quite an undertaking.  
I hope to have it completed and published in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

  
R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Small Claims Court  
of Colquitt County  
Moultrie, Georgia

June 4, 1965

Mrs. J. Slater Wight, Sr.  
307 S.E. 2nd Street  
Cairo, Georgia

My dear Mrs. Wight:

Many, many thanks for the use of your WIGHT family genealogy. It is, indeed, a monumental work. After so long a time, I yesterday returned it under separate cover and will thank you to write and assure me of its safe return in good order. The Wights may well be proud of their overall family history, as well as their great contribution to the development of Cairo and southwest Georgia.

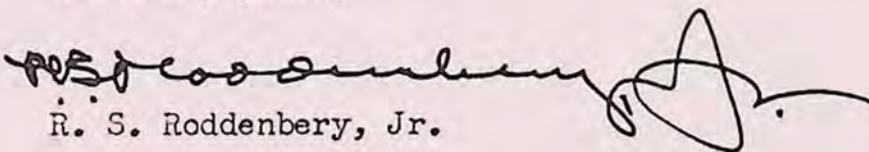
You will see how much I have relied on the WIGHT BOOK when you read enclosed copy of my tentative and incomplete sketch. I am also enclosing copy of my May 31st letter to Mr. John B. Wight, and I request that you, too, assist me in answering questions therein contained.

Of course, throughout the main text of my book, I will record incidents involving activities and accomplishments of the Wights, and all others who were principal actors on the scene. Family sketches, such as I am doing on the Wights, will be few indeed and it is my present purpose to arrange them somewhere near the close of the book. But people make the history of any community and, where certain families (and sometimes many individuals in the family) are predominant actors in the history, it is necessary and proper to tell who those people were and show their relationship to each other, and in some instances their connection with other families.

Please help me to complete the sketch on John Byron Wight (born 1859) and his family, and note my questions regarding his half-brothers and their descendants. Of course I have what you previously wrote me and what William Ward Wight printed regarding education of J. Byron Wight. I also know that at least some of his half-brothers went to Emory College (when it was at Oxford, Ga.) but I have no details.

This work is growing and it is getting to be quite an undertaking. I hope to have it completed and published in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

  
R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Small Claims Court  
of Colquitt County  
Moultrie, Georgia

June 4, 1965

Mrs. J. Slater Wight, Sr.  
307 S.E. 2nd Street  
Cairo, Georgia

My dear Mrs. Wight:

Many, many thanks for the use of your WIGHT family genealogy. It is, indeed, a monumental work. After so long a time, I yesterday returned it under separate cover and will thank you to write and assure me of its safe return in good order. The Wights may well be proud of their overall family history, as well as their great contribution to the development of Cairo and southwest Georgia.

You will see how much I have relied on the WIGHT BOOK when you read enclosed copy of my tentative and incomplete sketch. I am also enclosing copy of my May 31st letter to Mr. John B. Wight, and I request that you, too, assist me in answering questions therein contained.

Of course, throughout the main text of my book, I will record incidents involving activities and accomplishments were principal actors on the scene: the Wights, will be few indeed and somewhere near the close of the community and, where certain family) are predominant actors I tell who those people were and in some instances their connection

*Rebecca - Did  
Le f...  
this?*

and all others who such as I am doing on those to arrange them the history of any y individuals in the essary and proper to o each other, and in

Please help me to complete the sketch on John Byron Wight (born 1859) and his family, and note my questions regarding his half-brothers and their descendants. Of course I have what you previously wrote me and what William Ward Wight printed regarding education of J. Byron Wight. I also know that at least some of his half-brothers went to Emory College (when it was at Oxford, Ga.) but I have no details.

This work is growing and it is getting to be quite an undertaking. I hope to have it completed and published in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

*R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.*  
R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Small Claims Court  
of Colquitt County  
Moultrie, Georgia

June 4, 1965

Mrs. J. Slater Wight, Sr.  
307 S.E. 2nd Street  
Cairo, Georgia

My dear Mrs. Wight:

Many, many thanks for the use of your WIGHT family genealogy. It is, indeed, a monumental work. After so long a time, I yesterday returned it under separate cover and will thank you to write and assure me of its safe return in good order. The Wights may well be proud of their overall family history, as well as their great contribution to the development of Cairo and southwest Georgia.

You will see how much I have relied on the WIGHT BOOK when you read enclosed copy of my tentative and incomplete sketch. I am also enclosing copy of my May 31st letter to Mr. John B. Wight, and I request that you, too, assist me in answering questions therein contained.

Of course, throughout the main text of my book, I will record incidents involving activities and accomplishments were principal actors on the scene. The Wights, will be few indeed and somewhere near the close of the community and, where certain families (family) are predominant actors I tell who those people were and in some instances their connection

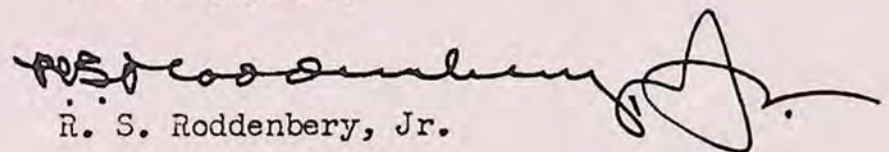
Rebecca - Did  
he finish  
this?

and all others who such as I am doing on those to arrange them the history of any many individuals in the necessary and proper to connect each other, and in

Please help me to complete the sketch on John Byron Wight (born 1859) and his family, and note my questions regarding his half-brothers and their descendants. Of course I have what you previously wrote me and what William education of J. Byron Wight. I also know that others went to Emory College (when it was at Atlanta).

and it is getting to be quite an undertaking. and published in the near future.

Sincerely yours,


  
R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Also, do you know if it is still possible to buy the Grady County Books? From whom & how much?

Georgia Deed Book

This indenture made this (25th) Twenty fifth day of January (1854) Eighteen hundred and thirty between George A. Wright of the County of Burke and State of Georgia of the one part, and S. A. Jenkins of the County of Burke and State of Georgia of the other part, Witnesseth, that the said Wright for and in consideration of the sum of seven hundred dollars to him in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, sold, aliened, conveyed and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Jenkins his heirs executors administrators and assigns, all that tract or portion of lot of land (No 54) more or less mine in (18th) Eighteenth district of Thomas County State of Georgia, all that portion of said lot lying East of a certain Branch (running through the lot) and South of the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad containing (190) One hundred and ninety acres more or less, and also a portion of lot (No 53) fifty Eight in the same district county and State aforesaid, lying and being North West of a certain Branch, called Little Bridge Branch and South of Little Creek, containing (80) Eighty acres more or less. To have and to hold the said tract or parcels of land unto him the said Jenkins his heirs executors administrators and assigns, together with all and singular the rights, premises and appurtenances thereto in any manner whatsoever or belonging to him and his now proper use, benefit and behoof forever in fee simple. And the said Wright for himself his heirs executors administrators and assigns, the said Jenkins from and unto the said Jenkins his heirs executors administrators and assigns will warrant and forever defend the rights and title thereof against himself and against the claims of all and every other persons whatsoever. In testimony whereof the said Wright has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of  
 Henry Wright  
 Littleton Tresser  
 Lehas Wray & Co. Notary Public

 George A. Wright J.D.  
 Recorder July 16th 1854  
 J. W. Jones Secy  
 2 Stamps attached & cancelled

Cairo Public Library

# The Tung Oil Nut Tree

*Tung Trees*  
Cairo Public Library

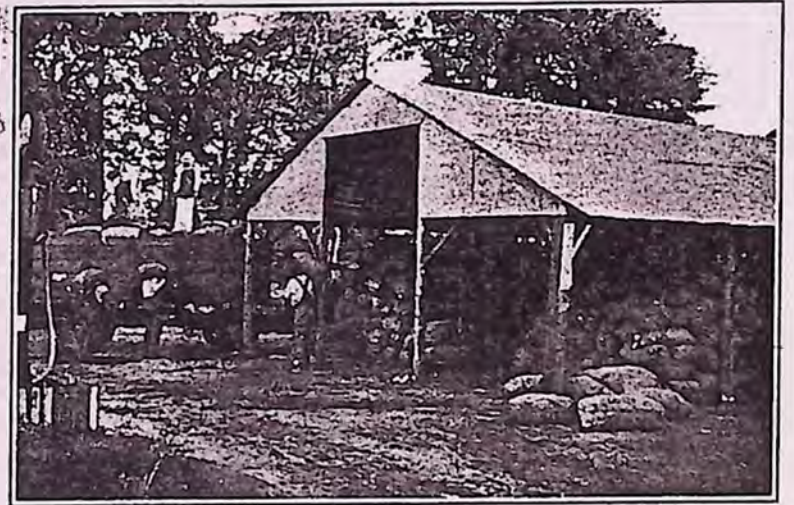
*Tree, Tung & Oil*  
Roddenberry Memorial Library

GRADY COUNTY COLLECTION

AUG 8 1964

A NEW AND PROFITABLE  
INDUSTRY OF THE SOUTH

ROSE PRINTING COMPANY, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA



Loading Tung Nuts at Wight Nurseries for Market.



By J. B. WIGHT  
Cairo, Georgia



# The Tung Oil Nut Tree

A New and Profitable Industry of the South

By J. B. WIGHT, Cairo, Ga.



THE tung oil nut industry is rapidly expanding. The world is learning of the superior qualities of tung oil, and industry is demanding it because it fills a place that no other product can. Heretofore China has had a monopoly in its production; but it is now being learned that other parts of the world can grow it, and are rapidly responding to the demand for it.

As an example of this, England which is too far north to grow tung oil, is encouraging its production in its colonies where soil and climate are adapted. As a result the writer of this article has during the last three years shipped more than thirty thousand pounds of tung nuts to foreign countries for seed purposes.

There is a strip of territory 150 to 200 miles wide and extending from the Atlantic ocean to the Mississippi river in which the tung nut tree is at its best. The southern lines of Georgia and Alabama are about the middle of this territory. North of this territory the danger of cold is too great; south of it the cold is frequently not sufficient to bring about dormancy necessary to a profitable crop. The territory, therefore, best adapted to tung nuts is limited. This is further restricted by the fact that some of the lands within this limited territory are not suitable to tung culture, such as those not well drained or those with high lime or phosphate content.

This emphasizes the fact that those who have suitable lands within this territory have a most favorable opportunity to add a crop which is easy to grow, readily marketable, and for which there is practically no likelihood of overproduction.

It is interesting to note the widespread comments made on this now industry by those who have watch-

[2]

ed its development. The following are given to show the nature of these, and for the information they contain.

From Charles S. Emerson in the Farm and Live Stock Record:—

"Crowning the hills and rolling lands of North Florida, South Georgia and Southern Alabama, a new kind of tree is shooting up by the millions, with a beautiful bloom like a small orchid, a large glossy leaf and—best of all—a nut that contains a golden liquid that is destined to rehabilitate the South and make it a leader in production and industry.

"Tung Oil trees have been grown for centuries in China, in about the same latitude as North Florida, South Georgia and Southern Alabama. They have grown there on the hillsides without cultivation or care of any kind, producing nuts much as our hickory trees produce in this country.

"The Hardy Chinese gathered them in sacks, carried these on their backs to the nearest stream, loaded them into their small boats and paddled down to some town where a crude hand-operated crusher extracted the tung oil, that was shipped to other countries for use in manufacturing high grade varnishes and for water-proofing purposes in many materials.

"To the United States came most of this valuable product, until the importations reached around fifteen million dollars annually. About a quarter of a century ago the government secured a quantity of nuts from China and distributed them in several sections of the country. They were first tried out in California, but never seemed to be successful there. Tallahassee and Gainesville, Florida, have trees raised from some of these first nuts, and at Cairo, Georgia, probably the largest tree in this country, rose from one of the nuts to the stately proportions of 24 feet in height and a spread of over 40 feet."

Extract from Radio Broadcast by the American Farm Bureau Federation:—

"An untouched market of one hundred million dollars! What farmer would not welcome such a one for his crops? It sounds indeed, like a wild dream in these days of overcrowded markets when supply far exceeds the demand. And yet—tung oil production offers just such a market to the American farmer—a market in which demand far exceeds the supply! . . . . .

"Today, the waiting market for tung nut oil is \$100,000,000 annually—not considering any new uses

[3]

for the product that might be developed. It is estimated that if 500,000 acres of tung-nut trees were planted today in the United States, it would be at least twenty years before these acres could equal the present demand and market for the oil."

Dr. Henry A. Gardner, the well known chemist of Washington, D. C., before the American Chemical society in session at New Orleans:—

"Experiments with the growing of tung trees, have shown that there is a very definite region in which they will develop properly here. This zone extends from the southern border of Georgia to the south-central part of Florida and westward along the Gulf coast of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

"Tung oil is used principally in the manufacture of varnishes and varnish tints. It is also used in making insulating compounds, as an ingredient in automobile brake linings, in gaskets for steam pipes, in linoleum and table oilcloth, for waterproofing fabrics, paper and cartridges, as a binder for wallboard and plastic synthetic lumber, or lacquers, primers, synthetic resins, battery jar compounds and airplane tubing fillers.

"Tung oil is an important ingredient in quick-drying varnishes and the demand for it will necessarily grow. The value of the importation of tung oil annually from China has average about \$12,000,000. About 20,000 acres so far have been successfully planted here to tung oil trees, and it is probable that between 50,000 and 100,000 acres, with about 100 trees to an acre, would be necessary to supply the quantity that has been imported from China."

J. M. Hughes, Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Cairo, Ga., in the Atlantic Cost Line News, from an article entitled "Interesting Facts About Grady County, Georgia":—

"This story would not be complete without saying something about our newest crop—Chinese Tung Oil. This crop was brought to our attention about three years ago. However, J. B. Wight, our leading orchardist, secured one of these young trees from the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1908, and since it was three years old, has not failed to make a crop of nuts, and for the last four years has produced more than two hundred pounds of dry nuts each year. Three years ago we secured 7,000 pounds of seed nuts and distributed them through the Chamber of Commerce to more than one hundred farmers of this county, and

now we have three hundred thousand young trees growing in the county. One man alone has 30,000 trees. This development has been done entirely by the home farmers. We have organized the only cooperative Tung Oil Association, composed of resident farmer growers in America, and will erect a crushing plant to extract the oil in the fall of next year."

From the Literary Digest February 20, 1932:—

"Few of us ever heard of tung oil.

"Yet it has been one of China's stable products for centuries, and is the base of the choicest Chinese paints and lacquers.

"We are now undertaking its production on the largest scale, and plantations of tung-oil trees, thousands of acres in extent, are growing in the South.

"The tree is a beautiful one, we learn from The Industrial Bulletin of Arthur D. Little, Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.) and we may soon see it also in our front yards, if we live far enough south."

Dr. C. C. Concannon, Chief of the Chemical Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C., after seeing the start that has been made in the Tung Oil Industry, said among other things, as quoted in the Florida Times-Union:—

"This baby industry is the beginning of a realization of a dream visualized nearly eight years ago when I was through this section.

"An inferior grade of oil, lacking uniformity of price, as well as quality, has been imported into this country from China through the years, to be used in the manufacture of linoleum, varnishes, electrical insulation, and a dozen other products. A better quality can be raised in the Gulf States, and manufacturers can be assured of uniformity in both quality and price.

"We already have the market in the United States for tung oil. While there is an overproduction in desks, chairs, electrical appliances, and a lot of other things in the country, that's not the case in tung oil. Last week a carload of the oil was shipped out of Gainesville. If 10 cars, or 100 cars or 1000 cars were made available, they would find a market as quickly.

"Tung oil has not been much used in the manufacture of paints yet, and when that is started, no telling how many more uses it can be put to. In varnishes, the oil is closely related to rosin, and there are possibilities of a number of industries springing up where the oil is produced.

Miss Susan Myrick in an article on Tung Oil in the Macon Telegraph, May 15, 1932:—

"A crop, which farmers may grow with no danger of over-production, a crop easily harvested, easily marketed and bringing a fair return per acre, sounds like a wild flight of fancy; yet such a crop is tung oil and it finds suitable climate and soil in South Georgia."

Mr. W. H. Blue in an extended article in the Florala (Ala.) News, among other things says:—

"Realizing, as far back as 1920, the great necessity of America producing its own supply of tung oil, for which there is already a well established demand, and for which new uses have been and are developing constantly, the writer has availed himself on every opportunity to gather information on this important industry."

"One of the advantages of going into the tung tree cultivation is that there is already a market established for the product which amounts to more than \$14,000,000 annually, and when one considers the small area in which the nuts can be profitably grown, it offers an alluring opportunity for those who can afford the small cost of bringing a grove into bearing."



Tung Oil Nut Orchard 30 months after setting. Trees set 25x25 ft., interplanted with peanuts. All trees have some nuts.

### SOME TUNG OIL BREVITIES



Up to the present time China is the source of more than 99% of our tung oil.

It has been thoroughly demonstrated that tung oil can be profitably produced in the United States where soil and climate are favorable.

Tung trees are easy to transplant. A live of 95% to 99% can easily be gotten if proper transplanting methods are followed.

Trees frequently begin bearing the second year after transplanting, and they should come into profitable bearing in four or five years after setting.

Until profitable bearing is reached much of the expense of cultivation may be met by interplanting with almost any farm crop.

A well-cared-for orchard should yield annually from two to three tons of dry nuts per acre when it is from 7 to 10 years old.

A yield of 6000 lbs. of nuts per acre has been made on a seven-year old orchard near Gainesville, Fla., belong to Mr. B. F. Williamson.

Mills for the extraction of the oil can pay from \$25.00 to \$45.00 per ton for the nuts, and make a profit on the transaction.

Two thousand acres of bearing tung trees will amply justify the erection of an oil mill.

These mills (like cotton gins) will be built in all centers where there are sufficient nuts to operate them. Nuts can be profitably trucked or freighted from 50 to 100 miles to a mill.

A valuable by-product of the extraction of oil is tung meal, which as a fertilizer has about the same value as cotton seed meal. This meal is unfit for stock feed.

Tung trees will stand as much hard treatment as any tree, but it won't pay to neglect them.

They respond readily to good treatment, and this will yield a handsome return.

Grady County, Georgia is the center of the tung oil nut industry in Georgia, where there are now,

according to figures given by the Chamber of Commerce, 3000,000 trees growing.

A crushing plant for the extraction of the oil is to be built in Cairo in 1936. Until other mills are built this plant can accomodate the territory for 100 miles in all directions.

The largest tung tree in the U. S. is on the farm of J. B. Wight at Cairo. Its average yield of nuts for four consecutive years has exceeded 200 pounds of dry nuts per year.

Tung nuts is the ideal crop for farm diversification. In proportion to their value they require less time to handle than any other crop, and they are harvested in December and January after all other crops are gathered.

Seventy to one hundred trees per acre should be planted. The trees combine beauty and utility; and will add to the value of any farm.

A grove of tung trees can be brought to bearing in a shorter time and at less expense than can a grove of any other nut or fruit trees.

Any farmer in the territory where they thrive, is neglecting an opportunity who does not put out some tung trees.

The reader is invited to look carefully into the advantages of this new industry. The greatest profit will come to him who gets in on the ground floor.

My tung nursery and orchards are two miles southwest of Cairo. I am always ready to show both to interested parties. Nursery trees are grown from select nuts of the cluster type.



COST OF SETTING



AND CARING FOR ONE ACRE OF TUNG TREES 25x25 ft. apart, based on personal experience extending over several years:—

70 trees at 5c each .....	\$3.50
Preparing soil and setting .....	3.50
Fertilizer first year ( 1/2 lb. guano per tree) .....	.60
Fertilizer second year (1 1/2 lbs. guano per tree) ...	1.50
Fertilizer third year (3 lbs. guano per tree) .....	3.00
Fertilizer fourth year (4 lbs. guano per tree) .....	4.00
Extra care in plowing and hoeing 4 yrs. \$1.00 per yr. ....	4.00

Total cost per acre up to profitable bearing .....\$20.10

This estimate is based upon interplanting some crops for the first four years. The third year the trees will yield some nuts. With good care the fourth year may begin to show a profit.



**A STEP FORWARD**



The profits to be made from growing tung oil nuts have been calculated on the basis of seedling trees. Some of these trees are prolific, others are not. Some bear nuts of high oil content, others are low in oil. Calculated even on the basis of mixed seedlings the results from tung nut culture have been profitable.

But a forward step is being made. Nuts have been taken from fruitful trees and chemically analyzed for oil content. Out of 51 samples analyzed, the lowest oil content of air dry nuts in the hull is 14.16%; the highest is 25.99%. The general average oil content of nuts is about 20%.

High oil content is the most important point in selecting parent trees for budding or for seed purposes. Along with this quality of high oil content the following points have also been considered in the selection of foundation stock: (a) prolificness, (b) shape of the tree, (c) late blooming, (d) vigor and healthfulness of tree.

With these points in view, two trees have been selected as parent stock for budding. One of these is serial number 24, with an oil content of 25.99%. The other is serial number 39 with an oil content of 25.75%. These analyses were for nuts of the 1934 crop and from trees which were not fertilized. It is reasonable to conclude that proper fertilizing will add to this high oil content.

A small quantity of trees budded from the above trees will be available for setting during the season of 1935-36. This number of trees will be increased for later plantings.

(For the opinion of experts as to the value of this selective process see "Tung Oil Culture" circular No. 476, pages 81-84 by Dr. Henry A. Gardner, Washington, D. C.).

This is a forward step and promises to do for the tung nut industry what the same selective process has done for peaches, pears, apples, pecans, etc.



The largest tung tree in America. Has yielded over 200 lbs. dry nuts per years for four consecutive years. Set in 1908. Spread of Top 41 ft. Height 29 ft. Circumference, Aug. 1935, 67 inches.



Cairo Is Easily Reached.

Come and See!

K. P. WIGHT,

W. J.

Vice President.

# WIGHT BROTHERS CO

AL MERCHANDISE AND COUNTRY PRO

BUYERS AND SHIPPERS OF

GEORGIA CANE SYRUP.



*Cairo, Ga* \_\_\_\_\_

Cairo, Ga., \_\_\_\_\_

*W. B. Poddenbery*

In Account  
With

J. B. WIGHT,

High-Grade Budded and Grafted Pecan

irms Cash.

Quitto, Ga., Dec. 1, 1899.

W. M. Raaberg

TO WIGHT BROTHERS, DR.

General Merchandise & Country Produce.

BUYERS AND SHIPPERS OF

GEORGIA CANE SYRUP.

Nov 1	Stationer's Rend	447.53
1	10 Window pane	90
1	48 Sample Card. 36 sample size	6.60
6	Free Mail of Jug	60
75	Rev Stamp	30

455.93

Recd Payment

W. M. Raaberg

1/22/99.

12	Sup. Sigs. 0700 pms	96
24	722 "	173
36	Sample 0322 "	143
12	Carburetor 0760	77

W. M. Raaberg 1855

W. M. Raaberg to W. M. Raaberg

26	1 lb Powder of 1 Box	63
	10 that of	12
	will 6 small Box	
23	1 Bulk hat	2
14	2 bags 4	1.25
	1 lb that of 1 Box	25
25	2 Box Pills 2/1 Box Small	25
	1 Limer coat 16-1 lb	213
2	14 lb Coffee 16/1 Box	225
	1 Strain hat 1/6	77
	16 John 1 lb Powder 3/1 Box	50
	49 that of	50
	30 7 lb Coffee	1.0
	6 1/2 lb Coffee	1.0
	13 1 Arithmetic 3	
	20 1 G. L. Penail of 1 Do. Pens	38
	John 1 Quire paper 2/1	25
	27 Order 8 yds Damask 10	153
	" 1 White Madras 3-1 paper	50
	" 2 B. Madras 16 John 1 Bulk hat 12	167
3	1 Cedar Pail 4/1	2
	1 Litter Cases 9 Savers 3/1	38
	10 1 or 2 amples 2/1	75
	1 Boston Oil 2/1	125
		\$27.6

RATES PER 100,000 ESTIMATED POPULATION, BY CAUSES, IN GEORGIA: 1922 TO 1924.

Death	Death Rate Per 100,000 Population.		
	1924	1923	1922
	1148.8	1126.7	1040.4
typhoid fever.....	22.1	20.5	23.5
.....	13.1	15.7	16.9
.....	0.8	0.1	0.7
.....	18.6	12.7	0.2
.....	0.7	0.8	0.9
.....	15.0	9.2	4.7
.....	7.3	9.7	13.3
.....	30.7	58.4	41.0
.....	1.3	1.6	1.6
ingitis.....	0.6	0.7	1.1
alignant tumors.....	88.4	91.3	85.0
.....	46.0	44.6	39.8
.....	8.8	9.0	9.0
.....	73.3	64.3	66.6
.....	108.5	100.8	91.1
.....	5.4	4.7	4.8
.....	99.1	92.0	79.8
.....	32.4	33.3	28.9
.....	10.5	11.2	10.6
.....	8.7	8.8	8.3
.....	4.0	3.5	3.8
.....	102.8	98.0	89.4
.....	7.4	8.2	8.0
.....	16.9	15.8	15.1
.....	75.8	69.9	60.7
.....	6.4	5.7	5.8
.....	18.3	17.2	18.0
.....	64.3	61.8	57.9
.....	51.3	46.7	53.2
.....	209.4	209.9	206.9

death rates per 100,000 population by certain important causes (1922, 1923 and 1924) when our registration of deaths is complete to be included in the Federal report of Mortality. The decision of the Supreme Court in 1925, declaring it the duty of the county to pay the fees of local registrars, the registration and births has fallen off to such an extent that any from them would be not only worthless but misleading. A constitutional amendment, providing for the collection and records of births and deaths, is ratified at the polls this and other valuable vital statistics cannot be continued. We are unable to tell how she stands in matters of public health.

of Table A. It is found that Diseases of the Heart took the most lives in each of the three years, the highest rate (108.5) in 1924. Next in gravity is Nephritis with a death rate of 75.8.

death rates from Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever show a decrease of about 18 and 6 per cents respectively compared with 1922, we must not let our optimism cause us to relinquish our vigilance. Deaths from Typhoid Fever one lot, for we still have not reached the low rate, 7.5, established by the Registration Act.

Whooping Cough both show big increases in their rates compared with the rates (0.2 and 4.7 respectively) in 1922. This is not peculiar to Georgia, for an increase in the rates for Whooping Cough is shown throughout the Registration Area in 1923 and 1924.

### Union News.

Mrs. E. Whidden spent Thursday p. m. with Mrs. T. J. Threlkel.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Holley were shopping in Cairo Saturday p. m.

Mr. Alex Waters and daughters attended Sunday school at Spring Hill Sunday a. m.

Several from this community attended the Sunday School Rally at Pine Level Sunday.

Miss Hattie Threlkel and Mr. Jessie Dekle were quietly married at the home of Rev. F. O. Ontes, Wednesday night. Miss Threlkel is the daughter of Mrs. T. J. Threlkel of this community. Mr. Dekle is the son of Mrs. Clara Dekle, of Woodland.

Miss Relia Holley called on Miss Bessie Waters Saturday p. m.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Waters and son, Lavelle spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jess Owens of Capel.

Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Burt made a business trip to Ochlocknee last Monday p. m.

Several from this community attended preaching at Pine Forest Sunday night.

### Elpino News.

Our school has started again and is progressing nicely, with Mrs. Ethel E. Standridge as principal.

The Sunday School Rally was enjoyed very much by the students of Elpino.

Miss Bessie Robinson was the guest of Miss Dartha Harrison Saturday night.

We are glad to know that Mr. Paul Swann is able to be in this community again.

Mr. Litt Barrett from Miami is visiting relatives here.

Miss Dolle Green and Mr. Howard Reed attended the Sunday School Rally Sunday.

Mr. Wight Hurst, and sisters, Audrey and Sadie, attended services at Pine Forest Sunday night.

The United States Department of Agriculture has enlisted the motion picture screen in its campaign to improve the farm water supply. Turn On the Water, a single reel film produced by the department, and describing the installation of simple, inexpensive water systems for farms and suburban dwellings, is now available.

### Fine Kudzu Crop Here on Farm of J. B. Wight

The article below is from the pen of Gb F. Hunnicutt, editor of the Southern Cultivator and Farming, a widely known farm publication, about the present crop of Kudzu on the farm of Mr. J. B. Wight, near Cairo:

About a year ago one of our subscribers wrote to us asking that we visit some farmers who had made a success with the Kudzu vine, as a hay plant, and to tell how he managed it. Until recently we had been unable to find this man. On the 10th day of August we were at Cairo, Ga., and went with Mr. J. B. Wight to see his farm. He showed us 40 acres solidly covered with Kudzu vine that was

shoulder high to us all over, making one of the finest hay fields that we had ever seen. He starts to cutting it about the first of September. He says on account of the thick, rank growth, it is some trouble to cut and to rake up, but the quality and quality of the hay compensates him for all this troubles. He has to keep hands with pitchforks to rake back the vines whenever the mower becomes clogged. We know this field would make around four tons per acre. Mr. Wight has learned just how to manage the Kudzu to secure a perfect stand. He sets out the plants eighteen feet rows and ten to twelve feet in the drill. Then for two years he cultivates corn or cotton in the middle. This cultivates the Kudzu vine and throws all the runners back along a narrow ridge along the drill row, and causes them to make a thick growth. It takes three years for it to cover the land perfectly. It is no trouble after the vines have become well matted along three or four feet of the row. There was not one single weak spot in Mr. Wight's Kudzu. It was as smooth and even as any grain field or meadow. We know now that Kudzu can be used as an economical hay plant. We have always known that any plant that made the wonderful growth the Kudzu would make, and that had its nutritive value, should be a great blessing to our farmers. But they have been very slow to learn just how to handle it. Well, it is being done on the Wight farm at Cairo, Georgia, and any farmer can do so who will carry out Mr. Wight's method.

Our Messenger want ads pay. Try them.



# The Cairo Title

The Official Organ of Grady County.

The man who wandereth out of the way of advertising shall remain

15) 12 PAGES.  
24

CAIRO, GRADY COUNTY, GA., FRIDAY NOVEMBER

## TO SOUTH AFRICA

Another Shipment Of Nursery Stock From Cairo Going There.

The Wight Nursery & Orchard Co., of Cairo, this week received an order for pecan trees from J. F. Fette, Esq., at Pinetown, Natal, South Africa. The remittance was in the form of an International money order for seven pounds, sterling, about \$33.88 in American money.

Trees from the local nursery are now growing well in more than one South African community, and trees have also been shipped to Italy.

Several different varieties of trees will be included in the order, and the shipment will be made at once. The money order bears a September date. The trees should reach their destination in plenty of time for the present planting season.

## TRANSMISSION LINE APPROACHES CAIRO

STEADY PROGRESS IS MADE IN CONSTRUCTION OF LINE NEAR HERE.

The Hoosier Engineering Company, of Indiana, which is engaged in constructing a power transmission line between Bainbridge and Waycross, via Whigham and Cairo, is making

## GENERAL STATE ELECTION HERE PROVES VER

### Vote Is Probably The Lightest In His Joins State In Ratifying Nine I Constitutional Amendmer

In what was probably the lightest vote ever recorded here in a general state election, the voters of Grady county Tuesday assisted those of the state in ratifying the full Democratic ticket and nine proposed constitutional amendments.

While the absence of opposition, and a general lack of interest in the proposals to amend the state constitution, naturally would have caused a light vote, the weather was most inclement, and this made the vote here the smallest in years.

There were 186 votes recorded in the official consolidation for Grady county. This is slightly more than eight percent of the registered voters and considerably less than one percent of the entire population of the county, which indicates what part of the people really have a voice in the government.

Two Grady county precincts; Spence and Blowing Cave, did not send in ro-

The following the proposed am To create bure for 161; again To authorize P ary increase—for To authorize ( hydro-electric pc against, 15. To create a st for, 146; again Public school endment—for, To authorize issue bonds to 167; against, 7. To authorize cational purpos ies of more tha for, 160; again To authorize its be tional purposes To authorize des county, el bonds to establ

# Wight NURSERIES, INC.

AREA CODE 912  
TELEPHONE 377-3033

WHOLESALE

SINCE 1887

CAIRO, GEORGIA 31728

May 19, 1965

1887

Mr. J. B. Roddenbery,  
Box 60,  
Cairo, Georgia.

Dear Julian:

I am embarrassed that I have not given you before the information requested for Mr. Robert Roddenbery, Jr., of Moultrie.

Last week was the first full week I've put in the office since mid December. With Johnny out all week I didn't have an opportunity then to answer your letter and I'm just getting to it now.

We have been searching this afternoon for some original bulletins on tung oil and pecans which gave some of the early history of their introduction into this area. Unfortunately I haven't run across them, so what information I have will have to be given to you from memory. In 1908 my father got from the U. S. Introduction Garden, Chico, California a shipment of plant introductions, among them was a tung oil tree which later became one of the highly publicized tung trees in America. In some of Dad's old records I find an entry dated July 13, 1929 as follows "old tung tree has circumference of 60 inches three feet above the ground and the spread of top of 35 feet". In early 1930 he planted his first tung orchard and also planted the first seed for the production of tung seedlings which were widely distributed in the Southeast. Dad was certainly a pioneer in the tung oil industry although I don't think it would be correct in saying that the tung industry in the Southeast started from our original tung tree planted here in 1908.

Dad was definitely a pioneer in the paper shell pecan industry in Georgia and throughout the Southeast. Wight Nurseries began in 1887 as strictly a pecan nursery. One of his early bulletins on pecans began

"Young man plant a pecan tree. Take care of it in your youth and in your old age it will take care of you".

cont'd.



*Plant America*

HOLLY

PECAN  
TREES

CONTAINER  
BROAD LEAVED  
EVERGREENS

ESPALIERED  
SPECIMENS

AZALEAS

CAMELLIAS

# Wight NURSERIES, INC.

AREA CODE 912  
TELEPHONE 377-3033

WHOLESALE  
SINCE 1887

CAIRO, GEORGIA 31728

HOLLY

J. B. Roddenbery

PECAN  
TREES

This advice started me in the pecan business and is good advice still".

Wight pecan trees have been planted in every southern state and a number of foreign countries including China, Japan and the Union of South Africa.

CONTAINER  
BROAD LEAVED  
EVERGREENS

The pecan is native to the river bottoms of Louisiana, Texas, Missouri and Arkansas but the bulk of those states production is still largely seedling nuts.

ESPALIERED  
SPECIMENS

The fact that Georgia is the leading producer of paper shell pecans today can be traced in no small degree to the early interest and promotion of the late J. B. Wight.

I hope the above information will be what Mr. Robert Roddenbery wants. I am inclosing a copy of this letter which you may forward to him.

AZALEAS

With kind personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*John B. Wight*  
John B. Wight. *by f.*

CAMELLIAS

JBW:mc

cc: Mr. Robert Roddenbery, Jr.,



*Plant America*

Cairo Public Library

*Tung Trees*  
 Cairo Public Library  
*Trees, Tung & Oil*  
 Roddenberry Memorial Library  
 GRADY COUNTY COLLECTI

# The Tung Oil Nut Tree

AUG 8 1964

A NEW AND PROFITABLE INDUSTRY OF THE SOUTH

ROSL PRINTING COMPANY, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA



Loading Tung Nuts at Wight Nurseries for Market.



By J. B. WIGHT  
Cairo, Georgia



250  
+ 500  
500 000

J. Byron Wight planted his first peach trees (around Softlee) in December 1886. Budding + grafting, developed the papershell peach. In 1924 there were over 17,000 bearing papershell peach trees in Gadsden County, "more than in any other county in the State." By this time, 100,000 young peach trees (nursery stock) were being shipped from Cairo annually, + 13 tons of nuts were shipped by R.R. express in a single day.

From Gadsden, peach tree planting spread northward into Mitchell + Decatur counties, etc.

#

The papershell "peach business for a great section had its origin in Gadsden Co. chiefly through the interest + faith of J. B. Wight whose nurseries during the season just closing (Feb. 1924) shipped more than 60,000 young trees + who in a good crop year harvests from his groves 50,000 pounds of nuts. He is still extending both nurseries + orchards. Now has several hundred acres in bearing groves. (Diseases + pests - fight to overcome). J. B. W. for years an official in the State Horticultural Society - is "father of the peach industry for a great area". - an authority in the South - home of papershell peach - a benefactor to people of the South. He made a success, a fortune and a name in the business + was a benefactor to the South not only peaches, but citrus trees, grapes - elms + various other trees for shade + for fruit.

grapefruit + Satsuma oranges (Satsuma, Japan) -

Half a million pounds of nuts annually -

300,000 dozen eggs annually (shipped) from Cairo

corn + peanuts - cotton - sweet potatoes

flower plants - Mrs. Kelly (purch.)

## PREACHER'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 11)

the communion of saints and feel the oneness of the Church on earth with the Church in the skies.

One army of the living God,  
To His command we bow;  
Part of the host have crossed the flood  
And part are crossing now.

Even in the Church triumphant the Psalms may not be out of date or out of place. The angels may use them as they ascribe glory and honor to Him who sits on the throne and has the keys of death and hell.

The grass withereth and the flower fadeth, but the word of the Lord endureth forever. This Book will never be cast as rubbish to the void, as thousands of books have been and thousands more will be ere time is done. Thou wast not born for death, immortal Book, no hungry generations tread thee down. Its hold on the human heart will not be shaken or lessened by the passing years. All the brilliant books of today and of days to come shall not be able to take its crown as the King of books. Its glory will never be dimmed nor its message become obsolete.

A thousand poets pried at life  
But only one amid the strife  
Rose to be Shakespeare.

Just as there is but one Shakespeare there is but one book of Psalms. Age does not wither it nor use make it stale because God has set eternity in its heart. Next to the words of Jesus Himself, it will ever be read and loved by the Christian world. It will always be a light and a comfort to hearts that feel after God if haply they may find Him, though He be not far from everyone of us. When men forget the words of the brilliant man who says we need a new Bible, when they forget who it was that said it, they will still be charmed by the freshness and beauty of the book of Psalms.

A glory gilds its sacred page,  
Majestic like the sun;  
It gives a light to every age,  
It gives, but borrows none.

## Gray's Ointment

USED SINCE 1820 FOR----  
**BOILS** SUPERFICIAL CUTS AND BURNS AND MINOR BRUISES  
25c at your drug store.

FOR COLDS--Use our Gray's (Nothol) Nose Drops. 50c at your druggist.

## HAVE YOU BAD NERVES?



Mrs. Claire Groover of 1345-16th St., Columbus, Ga., said: "At one time I suffered from a case of nerves and from headaches due to functional disturbances; also poor appetite caused loss of weight. I took Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription as a tonic and noticed a decided change for the better before I had taken it a full week, I had a good appetite. I used three bottles in all." Buy now! New size, tablets 50c., liquid \$1.00 & \$1.35.

## LATE MR. J. B. WIGHT WAS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING LAY LEADERS IN STATE

The late Mr. John Byron Wight, Sr., of Cairo, Ga., one of the very best, one of the most faithful, one of the most unselfish, one of the saintliest, one of the greatest and one of the most useful of the Methodist laymen of Georgia of the last generation, whose death occur-



The Late Mr. J. B. Wight

red September 12, 1936, was most fittingly and beautifully remembered in memorial exercises held in Cairo on March 9, 1937, when the citizens of his native section assembled upon the Grady County Court House grounds to plant a tree to his memory as a further manifestation of their abiding love and appreciation of him, as a friend and fellow-citizen, and in recognition of his prominence as one of the foremost agriculturists of Georgia and one of the outstanding horticulturists of the nation.

Mr. Wight was quite as prominent in Church and Christian activities as he was in business. He became a member of the Methodist Church when thirteen years of age, received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory College in 1881 and an English Theological Certificate from Vanderbilt University in 1884. After devoting five years to the itinerant ministry in South Georgia, he located, spending the remainder of his life in Cairo, where for practically fifty years he rendered conspicuous service in the local church. He was Superintendent of the Cairo Methodist Sunday School thirty-seven years; served on the Board of Stewards (much of the time as chairman) for nearly forty years; was Treasurer of the South Georgia Annual Conference for twenty-five years; and attended the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, four times as a lay delegate. Besides being connected with the public schools of Grady County for thirty years, as superintendent, as trustee, and in other of-

fices, he served more than twenty years as a trustee of Andrew College, Cuthbert, and as a trustee of Emory College, Oxford, for quite a number of years.

The Wesleyan Christian Advocate, which he regularly read and faithfully supported throughout his long life, is delighted to publish herewith the excellent tribute paid Mr. Wight on the mentioned occasion in the address delivered by Hon. Lee W. Branch, of Quitman, a devoted friend for many years:

"I feel deeply sensible of the honor which has been conferred upon me in my selection to discuss the man, John Byron Wight, on this memorial occasion. There has been no reason which has developed through the centuries to change the estimate of man's value as compared with the rest of God's creations which finds expression in the first chapter of the Book of Genesis. The greatest of all human thinkers on one occasion said, possibly having in mind the relative importance of man, that the things which are seen are temporal and the things which are unseen are eternal. If God had failed to create man and had left the earth and heavens as they would have been without man, there would have been and could have been no unseen things such as Paul had in his mind when he wrote his epistle to the Ephesians a short while after he came very near losing his life because of the superstitious adoration and the selfish partisanship of the silversmiths of Ephesus when they thought that the unseen things which Paul was teaching endangered the temple of Diana and the profitable business which grew out of its location in Ephesus. While the unseen things are eternal, and the seen things are temporal, it is almost impossible to estimate the value of a man's life independent of the seen things which he has dreamt about and created.

"I do not think it would be of any value to you or in perfect keeping with the spirit of this occasion for me to dwell overlong on the mere historic facts of the life and activities of our departed friend. It may not be amiss, however, as provocative of the thoughts which I will try to bring to you to give a skeleton sketch of his life.

"He was born in what is now Grady County, Georgia, in 1859, and therefore his youth was spent in the conquered and devastated South during the very tragic years immediately following the Civil War. When he attained his manhood, the South had begun to look up and forward again, and the great task of reestablishing the most beautiful social order that the world has ever known and rebuilding one of the most secure industrial conditions founded upon agriculture was challenging the very best man power, physical, intellectual, and spiritual, which the South could command. With these problems beckoning him to devote his magnificent powers to this patriotic and inspiring task, at the very threshold of the enterprise, he took counsel with the Man of Galilee and remembered that He had said 'Seek ye first the

It Does So Much for So Little!

**REMOVE CORNS**  
with  
**KOHLER ONE NIGHT CORN SALVE**  
In the Handy Green Tin. **15c**  
"Famous For 50 Years"

Send For Free Kohler Antidote Sample  
KOHLER MFG. CO., Baltimore, Md.

## HEADACHE

Every person who suffers with headache, Neuralgia, periodic pains, Muscular aches and pains, from inorganic causes should be relieved quickly.

Capudine eases the pain, soothes the nerves and brings speedy relief.

It is composed of several ingredients which blend together to produce quicker and better results.

Capudine does not contain any opiates. It acts quickly and restores comfort. Try it, Use it.

**CAPUDINE**

## PREACHER'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 11)

the communion of saints and feel the oneness of the Church on earth with the Church in the skies.

One army of the living God,  
To His command we bow;  
Part of the host have crossed the flood  
And part are crossing now.

Even in the Church triumphant the Psalms may not be out of date or out of place. The angels may use them as they ascribe glory and honor to Him who sits on the throne and has the keys of death and hell.

The grass withereth and the flower fadeth, but the word of the Lord endureth forever. This Book will never be cast as rubbish to the void, as thousands of books have been and thousands more will be ere time is done. Thou wast not born for death, immortal Book, no hungry generations tread thee down. Its hold on the human heart will not be shaken or lessened by the passing years. All the brilliant books of today and of days to come shall not be able to take its crown as the King of books. Its glory will never be dimmed nor its message become obsolete.

A thousand poets pried at life  
But only one amid the strife  
Rose to be Shakespeare.

Just as there is but one Shakespeare there is but one book of Psalms. Age does not wither it nor use make it stale because God has set eternity in its heart. Next to the words of Jesus Himself, it will ever be read and loved by the Christian world. It will always be a light and a comfort to hearts that feel after God if haply they may find Him, though He be not far from everyone of us. When men forget the words of the brilliant man who says we need a new Bible, when they forget who it was that said it, they will still be charmed by the freshness and beauty of the book of Psalms.

A glory gilds its sacred page,  
Majestic like the sun;  
It gives a light to every age,  
It gives, but borrows none.

## Gray's Ointment

USED SINCE 1820 FOR—  
**BOILS** SUPERFICIAL CUTS AND BURNS AND MINOR BRUISES  
25c at your drug store.

FOR COLDS—Use our Gray's (Nothol) Nose Drops. 50c at your druggist.

## HAVE YOU BAD NERVES?



Mrs. Claire Groover of 1345-16th St., Columbus, Ga., said: "At one time I suffered from a case of nerves and from headaches due to functional disturbances; also poor appetite caused loss of weight. I took Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription as a tonic and noticed a decided change for the better before I had taken it a full week. I had a good appetite. I used three bottles in all." Buy now! New size, tablets 50c., liquid \$1.00 & \$1.35.

## LATE MR. J. B. WIGHT WAS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING LAY LEADERS IN STATE

The late Mr. John Byron Wight, Sr., of Cairo, Ga., one of the very best, one of the most faithful, one of the most unselfish, one of the saintliest, one of the greatest and one of the most useful of the Methodist laymen of Georgia of the last generation, whose death occur-



The Late Mr. J. B. Wight

red September 12, 1936, was most fittingly and beautifully remembered in memorial exercises held in Cairo on March 9, 1937, when the citizens of his native section assembled upon the Grady County Court House grounds to plant a tree to his memory as a further manifestation of their abiding love and appreciation of him, as a friend and fellow-citizen, and in recognition of his prominence as one of the foremost agriculturists of Georgia and one of the outstanding horticulturists of the nation.

Mr. Wight was quite as prominent in Church and Christian activities as he was in business. He became a member of the Methodist Church when thirteen years of age, received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory College in 1881 and an English Theological Certificate from Vanderbilt University in 1884. After devoting five years to the itinerant ministry in South Georgia, he located, spending the remainder of his life in Cairo, where for practically fifty years he rendered conspicuous service in the local church. He was Superintendent of the Cairo Methodist Sunday School thirty-seven years; served on the Board of Stewards (much of the time as chairman) for nearly forty years; was Treasurer of the South Georgia Annual Conference for twenty-five years; and attended the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, four times as a lay delegate. Besides being connected with the public schools of Grady County for thirty years, as superintendent, as trustee, and in other of-

fices, he served more than twenty years as a trustee of Andrew College, Cuthbert, and as a trustee of Emory College, Oxford, for quite a number of years.

The Wesleyan Christian Advocate, which he regularly read and faithfully supported throughout his long life, is delighted to publish herewith the excellent tribute paid Mr. Wight on the mentioned occasion in the address delivered by Hon. Lee W. Branch, of Quitman, a devoted friend for many years:

"I feel deeply sensible of the honor which has been conferred upon me in my selection to discuss the man, John Byron Wight, on this memorial occasion. There has been no reason which has developed through the centuries to change the estimate of man's value as compared with the rest of God's creations which finds expression in the first chapter of the Book of Genesis. The greatest of all human thinkers on one occasion said, possibly having in mind the relative importance of man, that the things which are seen are temporal and the things which are unseen are eternal. If God had failed to create man and had left the earth and heavens as they would have been without man, there would have been and could have been no unseen things such as Paul had in his mind when he wrote his epistle to the Ephesians a short while after he came very near losing his life because of the superstitious adoration and the selfish partisanship of the silvermiths of Ephesus when they thought that the unseen things which Paul was teaching endangered the temple of Diana and the profitable business which grew out of its location in Ephesus. While the unseen things are eternal, and the seen things are temporal, it is almost impossible to estimate the value of a man's life independent of the seen things which he has dreamt about and created.

"I do not think it would be of any value to you or in perfect keeping with the spirit of this occasion for me to dwell overlong on the mere historic facts of the life and activities of our departed friend. It may not be amiss, however, as provocative of the thoughts which I will try to bring to you to give a skeleton sketch of his life.

"He was born in what is now Grady County, Georgia, in 1859, and therefore his youth was spent in the conquered and devastated South during the very tragic years immediately following the Civil War. When he attained his manhood, the South had begun to look up and forward again, and the great task of reestablishing the most beautiful social order that the world has ever known and rebuilding one of the most secure industrial conditions founded upon agriculture was challenging the very best man power, physical, intellectual, and spiritual, which the South could command. With these problems beckoning him to devote his magnificent powers to this patriotic and inspiring task, at the very threshold of the enterprise, he took counsel with the Man of Galilee and remembered that He had said 'Seek ye first the

It Does So Much for So Little!

**REMOVE CORNS**with **KOHLER ONE NIGHT CORN SALVE**In the Handy Green Tin: **15c**

"Famous For 50 Years"

Send For Free Kohler Antidote Sample  
KOHLER MFG. CO., Baltimore, Md.**HEADACHE**

Every person who suffers with headache, Neuralgia, periodic pains, Muscular aches and pains, from inorganic causes should be relieved quickly.

Capudine eases the pain, soothes the nerves and brings speedy relief.

It is composed of several ingredients which blend together to produce quicker and better results.

Capudine does not contain any opiates. It acts quickly and restores comfort. Try it, Use it.

**CAPUDINE**

Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all of these things will be added unto you.' Just at what age he dedicated himself to his God or Church I do not know. Evidently it was in his boyhood or young manhood, and I am convinced that the most outstanding and gripping lesson to be gathered from his life is the fact that as a foundation for all other activities and enterprises he put first in time and in importance the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. I can not believe that his life was an exception to the truism expressed in the poet's lines:

"He, who in life seeks one thing and one thing alone,  
May hope to achieve it before life is done;  
But he who seeks all things,  
From the hopes which around him he sows  
Will reap a harvest of barren regrets."  
For I believe that the one thing he sought was that to which he dedicated himself early in life and all of his other activities were but the fruitage, direct or indirect, of the great purpose of his life.

"I have known very few men, however, who were active in as great a variety of ways and consecrated to as many and various public and private projects as was Mr. Wight. Most outstanding were his Church activities. For forty years he was a member of the Board of Stewards of the Cairo Methodist Church, and, knowing him as I did, I am confident that his stewardship was not merely a perfunctory one, but that it meant constant thought and unremitting activity as such. For many years he was a minister of the Gospel. He was treasurer of the South Georgia Conference for twenty-five years, and for over forty years served as treasurer of the General Conference Board. For thirty-seven years he was Superintendent of the Cairo Methodist Sunday School and under his leadership it became one of the most vital forces for righteousness in this section of the State. He was a delegate to the General Conference of his Church for sixteen years, these conferences being had every four years. It would seem that for an ordinary or average man these activities would have been sufficient to give outlet for the most unusual energy, physical, intellectual and spiritual, but these were only a part, although I believe the major part in importance, of his career as a man. For fifteen years he was Worshipful Master of the Cairo Masonic Lodge. He took his Masonry seriously as it was natural for a man of his spiritual outlook to do. He was frequently President of the Cairo Chamber of Commerce. In the educational world we find him serving for twenty years as Chairman of the Board of Education of Grady County, thus giving his splendid intellectual powers to the up-building of the common schools of the State. Not content with this service to education, he was a trustee of Andrew College at Cuthbert and Emory College at Oxford for a great number of years. Is it not rather significant and inspiring that while through a long life he filled many positions of honor, not a single one of them seems to have had any financial emoluments, but every one implied a consecration of himself to the most unselfish service for his town, his community, his State, his people, his Church and his God?

"It has not been true through the years that all truly great men were possessed of anything nearly approaching to perfection in body as well as in mind and spirit. Outstanding and inspiring through the ages have been such men as Demosthenes, who became a great orator in spite of his physical defect in speech; Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles, who took the torch of Christianity and bore it around the world, suffering from some infirmity from which he was never relieved; Alex Stephens, who was a giant intellectually, while a pigmy and an invalid physically, but who was so far superior to his physical infirmities as to have ranked as a statesman, an orator and a patriot with Bob Toombs, the physically perfect giant; Bunyan, blind to the seen things of life, but with an almost divine vision of the unseen; and our great President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who has risen superior to what has always been heretofore thought an insuperable obstacle to a successful life. I do not know what was the physical condition of Mr. Wight. He was rather a frail looking man, and I often thought, when brought in contact with him, of the description of inner power which was expressed as

"A power hid in pathos: a fire veiled in cloud,  
Yet still burning outward: a branch, "which though bowed  
By the bird in its passage, springs upward again."

"His spirit was so vigorous and dynamic that frankly we thought very little about his physical condition. His experience, however, contradicted the current thought that work, service, activity, wear out the vital forces, for he lived to be seventy-six years old, and as far as I have ever been advised he kept up his multitudinous activities almost to the end.

"I think we are often too much prone to take the enormous energy, the almost inconceivable amount of work which a man of this type ex-

pends in his activities, as a matter of course. We say he loves his work—and that is true; but we must remember that the difference between him and men of lesser greatness is that he loves his work well enough to be willing to pay the price for accomplishment. One of the lessons that I have brought down through the years from my college days was expressed by the great President of Emory College in the statement that there is nothing in life whether worthwhile or not for which each individual does not pay a great price. From the cradle to the grave we are met at the threshold of every desire, of every ambition, with the inexorable law of compensation, not one step further until the price is paid or guaranteed. This is true of man's trinity—of his body, his mind, and his spirit. The trained body makes an athlete; the educated mind, a scholar; the sanctified heart, a saint. The trained body, the educated mind and the sanctified heart make man—the Almighty's masterpiece—the full and exhaustive expression of His power—but there is a price, and that not an inconsiderable one, which we must all pay—and the price is three-fold which the full man, the complete man, must pay. Self-denial and a conformity to the laws of correct living is the price which must be paid for a sound body. To enter into the full fruition of man's intellectual and spiritual heritage mountains of difficulty must be scaled and chasms of discouragement bridged. Over yonder somewhere is this sun-kissed land—its hillsides clad in verdure and its valley flowing with milk and honey. Our spies tell us that its walled cities are strong; that its Jerichos must be encompassed seven times seven ere their walls will crumble at our command. It can be reached only by the rocky ford of the Jordan—no secret and easy way leads to its treasures. If we would walk beside the river of life with Milton in his beautiful vision of Paradise Regained; if we would join Bunyan's Pilgrim in his progress to the Celestial City; if we would laugh with the Merry Wives of Windsor, or float down the Thames with Three Men in a Boat, or join in the exciting pursuit of the House Boat on the Styx; if we would hold converse with the choice spirits who gathered in the London Coffee House; if we would stand with the shepherds on the Judian Hills bathed in the mystic light of divine revelation with our senses ravished with the music of the angels singing "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men"—the price we must pay is denial of the carnal pleasures of life and the taking up of the cross of patient research in our pursuits of knowledge and virtue.

"And such was the price which Mr. Wight paid through seventy-six years of unremitting labors and of great achievements, and, even if it were a labor of love, it was a tremendous and gruelling price!

"The apostle Paul did not write of himself alone, but of all men who have undertaken to bear the burden of the gospel in its message to human hearts and human lives, the immortal words 'I have fought a good fight; I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.' Of very few men of my acquaintance do I know that this can be more truly said than of our friend who passed away a few months ago!

"To summarize, John Byron Wight was a great man:

"First: Because early in life he obeyed the divine command, 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.'

"Second: Because after he had made his decision he was steadfast and immovable. If he ever doubted the wisdom of his choice it was never indicated by a weakening of his activities. Apparently his steps never faltered and there was never any relaxing of his purpose.

"Third: Because he was a man who dreamed dreams and saw visions and brought his dreams to pass.

"Fourth: Because he was dauntless and courageous and the chances that he took were always on the side of accomplishment and victory.

"Fifth: Because, while he fully realized the price that he must pay, he never attempted to bargain with nature or with God for a cheaper price.

"Sixth: Because he loved his fellowman and for over a half century served humanity to the best of his ability.

"A man of this type is the greatest asset

that a community can have, and with him in a position of leadership it follows as the night the day that all of these other things will be added unto the community. The fact that Cairo is today holding this memorial service to the man is one of the most convincing evidences that the idealism of John Byron Wight has become a part of the character of the community in which he lived and that this community has learned the superior importance in the scheme of life of human values over against mere property values.

"Of him, therefore, can be used the immortal words:

"No life can be pure in its purpose and strong in its strife,  
And all life not be purer and stronger thereby.

The spirits of just men made perfect on high,  
The army of martyrs who stand by the throne  
And gaze into the Face that makes glorious their own.

Know this, surely, at last. Honest love,  
Honest sorrow;

Honest work for the day; honest hope for the morrow;

Are these worth nothing more than the hand they make weary,

The heart they have saddened, the life they leave dreary?

Hush! The sevenfold heavens to the voice of the Spirit

Echo! He that overcometh shall all things inherit!"

## Use a GOOD Laxative

Just as surely as you need a laxative, you need a good one. Constipation is not to be trifled with.

So many things about Black-Draught make it stand out as a "good laxative."

It is purely vegetable, made from plants widely used and scientifically approved for their good laxative qualities.

Black-Draught acts thoroughly and brings prompt, refreshing relief from constipation.

It does not upset the stomach, but benefits the lower part of the digestive system. Many persons have found that in long-standing cases of constipation it was not necessary for them to increase the size or frequency of the dose of Black-Draught in order to secure full evacuation. And many have found that by a slight change in the diet, and an increase in the consumption of liquids, the dose of Black-Draught may be reduced until it is no longer necessary except for temporary upsets. Sold in 25-cent packages.

## For Health Insurance Bennett's B108

A dependable prescription for Colds, Chills and Fever, Malaria. At drug stores 25c or send stamps to Southern Drug Co., Jacksonville, Fla.

## Help Kidneys

Clean Out Poisonous Acids

Your kidneys contain 9 million tiny tubes or filters which may be endangered by neglect or drastic, irritating drugs. Be careful. If functional kidney or bladder disorders make you suffer from Getting Up Nights, Nervousness, Loss of Pep, Leg Pains, Rheumatic Pains, Dizziness, Circles Under Eyes, Neuralgia, Acidity, Burning, Smarting or Itching, don't take chances. Get the doctor's guaranteed prescription Cystex, the most modern advanced treatment for these troubles. \$10,000.00 deposited with Bank of America, Los Angeles, California, guarantees that Cystex must bring new vitality in 48 hours and make you feel years younger in one week or money back on return of empty package. Telephone your druggist for guaranteed Cystex (Siss-Tex) today.



# DEATH CLAIMS JOHN B. WIGHT, SR. AT AGE 64

## Final Rites On Saturday Here

### Nationally Known In Horticultural Field

John Byron Wight, Sr., 64, a nationally-known horticulturist and one of Cairo's most distinguished citizens, passed away at 3 a.m. last Friday, May 16, at Kentucky Baptist Hospital at Louisville, where he had been undergoing treatment by specialists periodically, after an extended illness.

His passing, although not unexpected, was nevertheless a sad shock to countless relatives and friends here and elsewhere.

Born here February 2, 1905 the youngest of seven children of the late John Byron and Alice Slater Wight, pioneer South Georgia leaders, he spent most of his life here. After graduating from Cairo High School, he in 1924 received his degree from Emory University, Atlanta, where he became a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He then studied engineering at Georgia Insti-

He served the First Methodist Church here in numerous lay positions of leadership through the years. For the customary two years, he was chairman of the old Board of Stewards (which several years ago became the Official Board and will as of July 1 become the Administrative Board). He was associated in several church expansion and improvement programs, he having only recently served as a member of a new Expansion Program Committee.

Since he became ill a few years ago and was forced to curtail many of his normal activities, he distinguished himself as a leader in advancing the cause of the American Cancer Society and for two years found it possible to effectively lead the business division of Education - Funds Crusade of the local ACS unit, speaking to various groups to dramatically urge everyone to follow the ACS rules for the early detection of cancer and to join in supporting the extensive cancer research programs.

A man of unusual vision, Mr. Wight dynamically gave himself to varied community and humanitarian causes and to the advancement of his chosen profession. He leaves many monuments to his dedication and zeal in services to mankind and to his



JOHN B. WIGHT, SR.

tute of Technology, Atlanta, for one year, but discontinued those studies to enter the real estate business in Miami, where he met and later married his wife, the former Miss Elizabeth Allen, of Little Rock, Ark. They located here and he joined his father in the nursery business. Upon his father's death he became president of Wight Nurseries, Inc. and held that position until 1966, when his health necessitated his

(Cont. on Last Page First Section)

gallantry and exemplary stewardship of his talents and opportunities toward making this a better world in which to live.

Final rites for Mr. Wight were quite simple but dignified. Conducted at the First Methodist Church last Saturday at 4 P.M., they were in charge of his pastor, Rev. Henry K. Erwin, and Rev. Dr. Albert S. Trulock, retired, of Valdosta, a former pastor. There was no eulogy — only soft organ music, passages from the Scriptures, the Lord's Prayer in concert, the reading of Alfred Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar," and a concluding prayer. Interment was by Clark Funeral Home in Cairo cemetery. Pallbearers were from among the older employees of Wight Nurseries and friends: John R. (Bob) Bearss, Cecil and Henry Cook, retired, Woodrow Cook, Osgood Gainous and Melvin Walden. Many out-of-town people joined the host of sorrowing relatives and friends for the rites.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Allen Wight; one son: J. B. Wight, Jr., who now heads Wight Nurseries here, established in 1885; one daughter: Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson, Cape Girardeau, Mo.; two brothers: Robert P. Wight, Cairo, and Edward A. Wight, Berkeley, Calif.; and eight grandchildren.

the founders of the vast pecan industry in the Southeast and as a pioneer in the introduction of tung oil production into the United States from China. His father, a minister and long-time treasurer of the South Georgia Methodist Conference, gained prominence as a local leader in various fields, and was one of the organizers of the local Chamber of Commerce which he served as president in 1929 and 1930.

Mr. Wight's unusual leadership capabilities steadily found favor in his profession and as a still young man he was chosen to lead the Georgia Nurserymen's Association as president. Only a few years later, he became president of the Southern Nurserymen's Association. Continuing to gain national stature as a leader in his field, he several years later became president of the National Association of Nurserymen, for which service he received a special citation. Afterward, he served the national organization for some years as chairman of legislative affairs, during which he spent much time in Washington. In that connection, he also served for more than 15 years as National Councillor of the local Chamber of Commerce, an office since discontinued, in which he was the effective liaison between the local community and Congress and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce on legislative affairs, generally.

Mr. Wight also became president of the American Tung Oil Association, which for years was a large and influential agency promoting the interests of domestic tung oil production. Continuing his father's work in developing and introducing new ornamentals, and in developing azaleas, camellias and pecans, he also served as president of All-America Camellia Selections, with sponsorship of the nation's nurserymen, until those operations were broken down on more of a regional basis.

Locally, in the civic field, Mr. Wight became a charter member of Cairo Kiwanis Club, which he served as president in 1939. When his extensive travels in connection with his national activities prevented his attendance at so many meetings, he withdrew as a Kiwanian. However, later, he became a charter member of Cairo Rotary Club, which he also served as president, and continued active therein until his health prevented.

## DEATH CLAIMS JOHN B. WIGHT, SR. AT 64

(Continued from Page One)

semi-retirement. His father was a widely-known nurseryman and became recognized as one of

Wight Family

PREACHER'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 11)

the communion of saints and feel the oneness of the Church on earth with the Church in the skies.

One army of the living God,  
To His command we bow;  
Part of the host have crossed the flood  
And part are crossing now.

Even in the Church triumphant the Psalms may not be out of date or out of place. The angels may use them as they ascribe glory and honor to Him who sits on the throne and has the keys of death and hell.

The grass withereth and the flower fadeth, but the word of the Lord endureth forever. This Book will never be cast as rubbish to the void, as thousands of books have been and thousands more will be ere time is done. Thou wast not born for death, immortal Book, no hungry generations tread thee down. Its hold on the human heart will not be shaken or lessened by the passing years. All the brilliant books of today and of days to come shall not be able to take its crown as the King of books. Its glory will never be dimmed nor its message become obsolete.

A thousand poets pried at life  
But only one amid the strife  
Rose to be Shakespeare.

Just as there is but one Shakespeare there is but one book of Psalms. Age does not wither it nor use make it stale because God has set eternity in its heart. Next to the words of Jesus Himself, it will ever be read and loved by the Christian world. It will always be a light and a comfort to hearts that feel after God if haply they may find Him, though He be not far from everyone of us. When men forget the words of the brilliant man who says we need a new Bible, when they forget who it was that said it, they will still be charmed by the freshness and beauty of the book of Psalms.

A glory gilds its sacred page,  
Majestic like the sun;  
It gives a light to every age,  
It gives, but borrows none.

Gray's Ointment

USED SINCE 1820 FOR...  
**BOILS** SUPERFICIAL CUTS AND BURNS AND MINOR BRUISES  
25c at your drug store.  
FOR COLDS--Use our Gray's (Nothol) Nose Drops. 50c at your druggist.

HAVE YOU BAD NERVES?



Mrs. Claire Groover of 1345-16th St., Columbus, Ga., said: "At one time I suffered from a case of nerves and from headaches due to functional disturbances; also poor appetite caused loss of weight. I took Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription as a tonic and noticed a decided change for the better before I had taken it a full week, I had a good appetite. I used three bottles in all." Buy now!  
New size, tablets 50c., liquid \$1.00 & \$1.35.

LATE MR. J. B. WIGHT WAS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING LAY LEADERS IN STATE

The late Mr. John Byron Wight, Sr., of Cairo, Ga., one of the very best, one of the most faithful, one of the most unselfish, one of the saintliest, one of the greatest and one of the most useful of the Methodist laymen of Georgia of the last generation, whose death occur-



The Late Mr. J. B. Wight

red September 12, 1936, was most fittingly and beautifully remembered in memorial exercises held in Cairo on March 9, 1937, when the citizens of his native section assembled upon the Grady County Court House grounds to plant a tree to his memory as a further manifestation of their abiding love and appreciation of him, as a friend and fellow-citizen, and in recognition of his prominence as one of the foremost agriculturists of Georgia and one of the outstanding horticulturists of the nation.

Mr. Wight was quite as prominent in Church and Christian activities as he was in business. He became a member of the Methodist Church when thirteen years of age, received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory College in 1881 and an English Theological Certificate from Vanderbilt University in 1884. After devoting five years to the itinerant ministry in South Georgia, he located, spending the remainder of his life in Cairo, where for practically fifty years he rendered conspicuous service in the local church. He was Superintendent of the Cairo Methodist Sunday School thirty-seven years; served on the Board of Stewards (much of the time as chairman) for nearly forty years; was Treasurer of the South Georgia Annual Conference for twenty-five years; and attended the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, four times as a lay delegate. Besides being connected with the public schools of Grady County for thirty years, as superintendent, as trustee, and in other of-

fices, he served more than twenty years as a trustee of Andrew College, Cuthbert, and as a trustee of Emory College, Oxford, for quite a number of years.

The Wesleyan Christian Advocate, which he regularly read and faithfully supported throughout his long life, is delighted to publish herewith the excellent tribute paid Mr. Wight on the mentioned occasion in the address delivered by Hon. Lee W. Branch, of Quitman, a devoted friend for many years:

"I feel deeply sensible of the honor which has been conferred upon me in my selection to discuss the man, John Byron Wight, on this memorial occasion. There has been no reason which has developed through the centuries to change the estimate of man's value as compared with the rest of God's creations which finds expression in the first chapter of the Book of Genesis. The greatest of all human thinkers on one occasion said, possibly having in mind the relative importance of man, that the things which are seen are temporal and the things which are unseen are eternal. If God had failed to create man and had left the earth and heavens as they would have been without man, there would have been and could have been no unseen things such as Paul had in his mind when he wrote his epistle to the Ephesians a short while after he came very near losing his life because of the superstitious adoration and the selfish partisanship of the silversmiths of Ephesus when they thought that the unseen things which Paul was teaching endangered the temple of Diana and the profitable business which grew out of its location in Ephesus. While the unseen things are eternal, and the seen things are temporal, it is almost impossible to estimate the value of a man's life independent of the seen things which he has dreamt about and created.

"I do not think it would be of any value to you or in perfect keeping with the spirit of this occasion for me to dwell overlong on the mere historic facts of the life and activities of our departed friend. It may not be amiss, however, as provocative of the thoughts which I will try to bring to you to give a skeleton sketch of his life.

"He was born in what is now Grady County, Georgia, in 1859, and therefore his youth was spent in the conquered and devastated South during the very tragic years immediately following the Civil War. When he attained his manhood, the South had begun to look up and forward again, and the great task of reestablishing the most beautiful social order that the world has ever known and rebuilding one of the most secure industrial conditions founded upon agriculture was challenging the very best man power, physical, intellectual, and spiritual, which the South could command. With these problems beckoning him to devote his magnificent powers to this patriotic and inspiring task, at the very threshold of the enterprise, he took counsel with the Man of Galilee and remembered that He had said 'Seek ye first the

It Does So Much for So Little!  
**REMOVE CORNS**  
with  
**KOHLER ONE NIGHT CORN SALVE**  
In the Handy Green Tin. **15c**  
"Famous For 50 Years"  
Send For Free Kohler Antidote Sample  
KOHLER MFG. CO., Baltimore, Md.

**HEADACHE**  
Every person who suffers with headache, Neuralgia, periodic pains, Muscular aches and pains, from inorganic causes should be relieved quickly.  
Capudine eases the pain, soothes the nerves and brings speedy relief. It is composed of several ingredients which blend together to produce quicker and better results.  
Capudine does not contain any opiates. It acts quickly and restores comfort. Try it, Use it.  
**CAPUDINE**

GRADY COUNTY COLLECTION  
HODDENBERRY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hoddenberry Memorial Library

GRADY COUNTY COLLECTION

Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all of these things will be added unto you.' Just at what age he dedicated himself to his God or Church I do not know. Evidently it was in his boyhood or young manhood, and I am convinced that the most outstanding and gripping lesson to be gathered from his life is the fact that as a foundation for all other activities and enterprises he put first in time and in importance the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. I can not believe that his life was an exception to the truism expressed in the poet's lines:

"He, who in life seeks one thing and one thing alone,  
May hope to achieve it before life is done;  
But he who seeks all things,  
From the hopes which around him he sows  
Will reap a harvest of barren regrets."

For I believe that the one thing he sought was that to which he dedicated himself early in life and all of his other activities were but the fruitage, direct or indirect, of the great purpose of his life.

"I have known very few men, however, who were active in as great a variety of ways and consecrated to as many and various public and private projects as was Mr. Wight. Most outstanding were his Church activities. For forty years he was a member of the Board of Stewards of the Cairo Methodist Church, and, knowing him as I did, I am confident that his stewardship was not merely a perfunctory one, but that it meant constant thought and unremitting activity as such. For many years he was a minister of the Gospel. He was treasurer of the South Georgia Conference for twenty-five years, and for over forty years served as treasurer of the General Conference Board. For thirty-seven years he was Superintendent of the Cairo Methodist Sunday School and under his leadership it became one of the most vital forces for righteousness in this section of the State. He was a delegate to the General Conference of his Church for sixteen years, these conferences being had every four years. It would seem that for an ordinary or average man these activities would have been sufficient to give outlet for the most unusual energy, physical, intellectual and spiritual, but these were only a part, although I believe the major part in importance, of his career as a man. For fifteen years he was Worshipful Master of the Cairo Masonic Lodge. He took his Masonry seriously as it was natural for a man of his spiritual outlook to do. He was frequently President of the Cairo Chamber of Commerce. In the educational world we find him serving for twenty years as Chairman of the Board of Education of Grady County, thus giving his splendid intellectual powers to the up-building of the common schools of the State. Not content with this service to education, he was a trustee of Andrew College at Cuthbert and Emory College at Oxford for a great number of years. Is it not rather significant and inspiring that while through a long life he filled many positions of honor, not a single one of them seems to have had any financial emoluments, but every one implied a consecration of himself to the most unselfish service for his town, his community, his State, his people, his Church and his God?

"It has not been true through the years that all truly great men were possessed of anything nearly approaching to perfection in body as well as in mind and spirit. Outstanding and inspiring through the ages have been such men as Demosthenes, who became a great orator in spite of his physical defect in speech; Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles, who took the torch of Christianity and bore it around the world, suffering from some infirmity from which he was never relieved; Alex Stephens, who was a giant intellectually, while a pigmy and an invalid physically, but who was so far superior to his physical infirmities as to have ranked as a statesman, an orator and a patriot with Bob Toombs, the physically perfect giant; Bunyan, blind to the seen things of life, but with an almost divine vision of the unseen; and our great President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who has risen superior to what has always been heretofore thought an insuperable obstacle to a successful life. I do not know what was the physical condition of Mr. Wight. He was rather a frail looking man, and I often thought, when brought in contact with him, of the description of inner power which was expressed as

"A power hid in pathos: a fire veiled in cloud.  
Yet still burning outward: a branch, which though bowed  
By the bird in its passage, springs upward again."

"His spirit was so vigorous and dynamic that frankly we thought very little about his physical condition. His experience, however, contradicted the current thought that work, service, activity, wear out the vital forces, for he lived to be seventy-six years old, and as far as I have ever been advised he kept up his multitudinous activities almost to the end.

"I think we are often too much prone to take the enormous energy, the almost inconceivable amount of work which a man of this type ex-

pends in his activities, as a matter of course. We say he loves his work—and that is true; but we must remember that the difference between him and men of lesser greatness is that he loves his work well enough to be willing to pay the price for accomplishment. One of the lessons that I have brought down through the years from my college days was expressed by the great President of Emory College in the statement that there is nothing in life whether worthwhile or not for which each individual does not pay a great price. From the cradle to the grave we are met at the threshold of every desire, of every ambition, with the inexorable law of compensation, not one step further until the price is paid or guaranteed. This is true of man's trinity—of his body, his mind, and his spirit. The trained body makes an athlete; the educated mind, a scholar; the sanctified heart, a saint. The trained body, the educated mind and the sanctified heart make man—the Almighty's masterpiece—the full and exhaustive expression of His power—but there is a price, and that not an inconsiderable one, which we must all pay—and the price is three-fold which the full man, the complete man, must pay. Self-denial and a conformity to the laws of correct living is the price which must be paid for a sound body. To enter into the full fruition of man's intellectual and spiritual heritage mountains of difficulty must be scaled and chasms of discouragement bridged. Over yonder somewhere is this sun-kissed land—its hillsides clad in verdura and its valley flowing with milk and honey. Our spies tell us that its walled cities are strong; that its Jerichos must be encompassed seven times seven ere their walls will crumble at our command. It can be reached only by the rocky ford of the Jordan—no secret and easy way leads to its treasures. If we would walk beside the river of life with Milton in his beatific vision of Paradise Regained; if we would join Bunyan's Pilgrim in his progress to the Celestial City; if we would laugh with the Merry Wives of Windsor, or float down the Thames with Three Men in a Boat, or join in the exciting pursuit of the House Boat on the Styx; if we would hold converse with the choice spirits who gathered in the London Coffee House; if we would stand with the shepherds on the Judean Hills bathed in the mystic light of divine revelation with our senses ravished with the music of the angels singing "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men"—the price we must pay is denial of the carnal pleasures of life and the taking up of the cross of patient research in our pursuits of knowledge and virtue.

"And such was the price which Mr. Wight paid through seventy-six years of unremitting labors and of great achievements, and, even if it were a labor of love, it was a tremendous and grueling price!

"The apostle Paul did not write of himself alone, but of all men who have undertaken to bear the burden of the gospel in its message to human hearts and human lives, the immortal words 'I have fought a good fight; I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.' Of very few men of my acquaintance do I know that this can be more truly said than of our friend who passed away a few months ago!

"To summarize, John Byron Wight was a great man;

"First: Because early in life he obeyed the divine command, 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness';

"Second: Because after he had made his decision he was steadfast and immovable. If he ever doubted the wisdom of his choice it was never indicated by a weakening of his activities. Apparently his steps never faltered and there was never any relaxing of his purpose.

"Third: Because he was a man who dreamed dreams and saw visions and brought his dreams to pass.

"Fourth: Because he was dauntless and courageous and the chances that he took were always on the side of accomplishment and victory.

"Fifth: Because, while he fully realized the price that he must pay, he never attempted to bargain with nature or with God for a cheaper price.

"Sixth: Because he loved his fellowman and for over a half century served humanity to the best of his ability.

"A man of this type is the greatest asset

that a community can have, and with him in a position of leadership it follows as the night the day that all of these other things will be added unto the community. The fact that Cairo is today holding this memorial service to the man is one of the most convincing evidences that the idealism of John Byron Wight has become a part of the character of the community in which he lived and that this community has learned the superior importance in the scheme of life of human values over against mere property values.

"Of him, therefore, can be used the immortal words:

"No life can be pure in its purpose and strong in its strife,  
And all life not be purer and stronger thereby.

The spirits of just men made perfect on high.  
The army of martyrs who stand by the throne  
And gaze into the Face that makes glorious their own,

Know this, surely, at last. Honest love,  
Honest sorrow;

Honest work for the day; honest hope for the morrow;  
Are these worth nothing more than the hand they make weary.

The heart they have saddened, the life they leave dreary?

Hush! The sevenfold heavens to the voice of the Spirit

Echo 'He that overcometh shall all things inherit!'"

## Use a GOOD Laxative

Just as surely as you need a laxative, you need a good one. Constipation is not to be trifled with.

So many things about Black-Draught make it stand out as a "good laxative."

It is purely vegetable, made from plants widely used and scientifically approved for their good laxative qualities.

Black-Draught acts thoroughly and brings prompt, refreshing relief from constipation.

It does not upset the stomach, but benefits the lower part of the digestive system. Many persons have found that in long-standing cases of constipation it was not necessary for them to increase the size or frequency of the dose of Black-Draught in order to secure full evacuation. And many have found that by a slight change in the diet, and an increase in the consumption of liquids, the dose of Black-Draught may be reduced until it is no longer necessary except for temporary upsets. Sold in 25-cent packages.

## For Health Insurance Bennett's B108

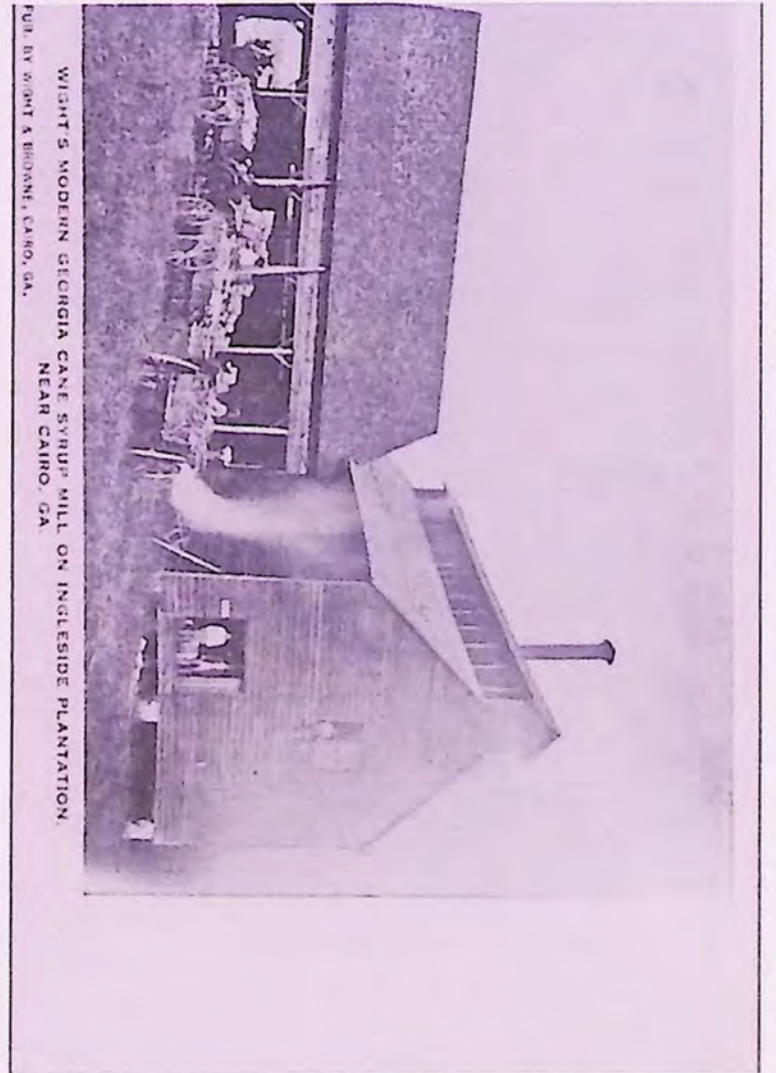
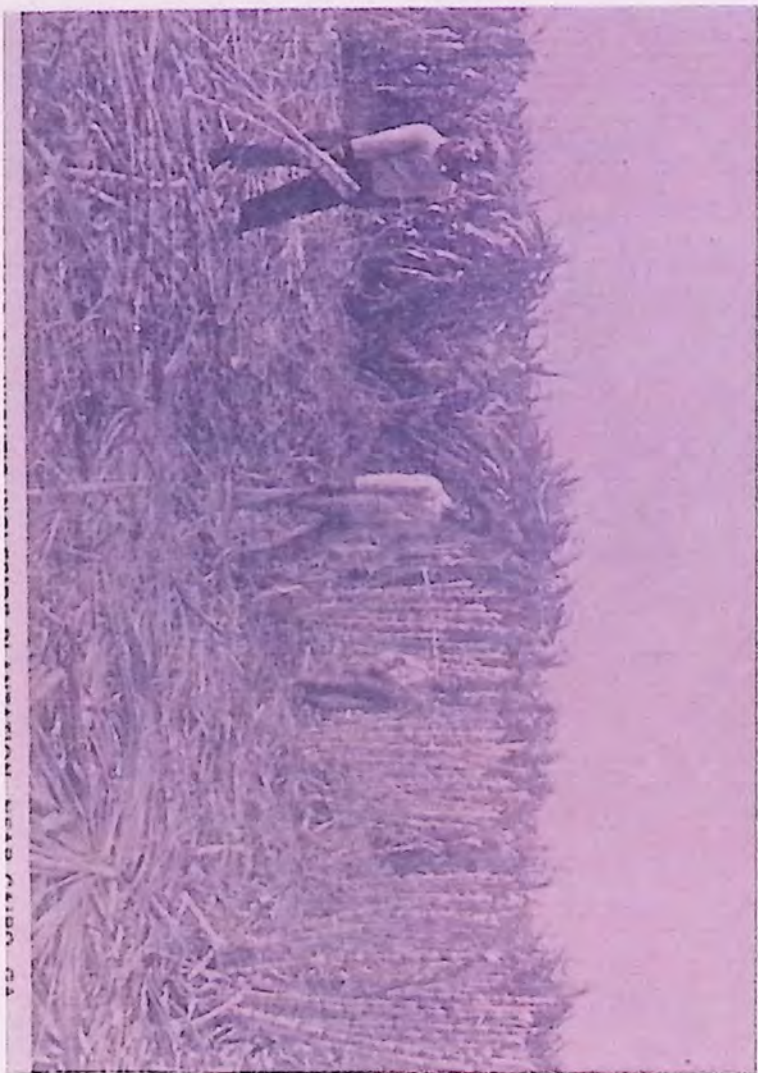
A dependable prescription for Colds, Chills and Fever, Malaria. At drug stores 25c or send stamps to Southern Drug Co., Jacksonville, Fla.

## Help Kidneys

Clean Out Poisonous Acids

Your kidneys contain 9 million tiny tubes or filters which may be endangered by neglect or drastic, irritating drugs. Be careful. If functional kidney or bladder disorders make you suffer from Getting Up Nights, Nervousness, Loss of Pep, Leg Pains, Rheumatic Pains, Dizziness, Circles Under Eyes, Neuralgia, Acidity, Burning, Smarting or Itching, don't take chances. Get the doctor's guaranteed prescription Cystex, the most modern advanced treatment for these troubles. \$10,000.00 deposited with Bank of America, Los Angeles, California, guarantees that Cystex must bring new vitality in 48 hours and make you feel years younger in one week or money back on return of empty package. Telephone your druggist for guaranteed Cystex (Siss-Tex) today.





WIGHT S. MODERN GEORGIA CANE SYRUP MILL ON INGLETSIDE PLANTATION  
NEAR CAIRO, GA.  
PH. BY WIGHT & BROWN, CAIRO, GA.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AMERICAN RED CROSS

Historical Business Information (for Grady County Centennial)  
Wight Nurseries, Inc. Est. 1887

Wight Nursery and Orchard Company was established by J. Byron Wight, a Methodist minister, in 1887. His original interest in founding the nursery was in pecan tree production. He believed the future was bright for pecans in southwest Georgia. He later added fruit trees such as pears, plums, peaches, figs and citrus to his production. All were shipped bare root, mostly by rail or picked up at the nursery by farmers, hobbyist, or mail order customers. At this time, Wight Nursery was retail, wholesale, and mail order. Business was good.

J. Byron's son, John, joined the firm in 1928 and added to their plants grown many ornamental and landscape varieties; especially, camellias, azaleas, and hollies.

For a short period of time, J. Byron Wight's son, J. Slater Wight, was associated with the nursery. He left later for banking and a tung oil crushing operation.

With the great depression came a period of slow growth. Emphasis was on home orchards for food.

J. Byron died in 1936.

After World War II, there was great emphasis in the U.S.A. on beautification of homes, factories, right of ways and parks. Wight Nurseries grew rapidly as a large wholesale grower.

Retailing and mail order were discontinued about 1955.

Bare root, in ground, and fruit trees were discontinued in the early 1960's.

A new type of growing in containers in bark, peat and sand was taking over gradually at Wight Nurseries about 1950. This container growing gradually eliminated field in ground growing so that today Wight has almost 1000 acres of container grown plants only.

In January 1955, John B. Wight, Jr. returned from the Korean conflict and joined Wight Nurseries. He had previously worked at nurseries in Texas, Alabama, and Michigan. He aggressively pushed container grown plants and as sales manager hired regional salesmen to solicit landscapers, garden centers, and re-wholesalers in the southwestern states and all of the United States east of the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean.

John B. Wight, Sr. was president of the company from incorporation as Wight Nurseries, Inc. until 1965 when John B. Wight, Jr. assumed the presidency. Sr. died of cancer in

1969. John B. Wight, Sr. served as president of the American Association of Nurserymen in 1950-51. John B. Wight, Jr. served as president of A.A.N. in 1980-81. The father and son were only 2 of 3 Georgians to ever serve A.A.N. as president.

In 1982, Wight Nurseries was sold to the Weyerhaeuser Company a huge forest products and land company seeking to diversify. John Wight, Jr. and his management team were retained intact. John, Jr. worked as president until retirement in December, 1989.

Our centennial celebration in October, 1987, was the largest party ever held in Grady County, 6 bands, 600 dignitary guests, 1000 for a seated dinner with 800 for lunch, with an employee party for all and spouses featuring "the Manhattans and Mocha" plus a circus and hot air balloon rides. A \$50,000.00 fireworks display was featured.

In 1991, a group of employees led by Richard VanLandingham, Bob Jones, Leslie Hudson and their key management team plus John Wight, Jr. bought the nursery back from Weyerhaeuser. Richard VanLandingham was president and the board was made up of investors and management.

Many new color items, Junipers, perennials and larger landscape sizes were added to the production mix.

Wight Nurseries bought an existing nursery in Ohio and developed one in eastern North Carolina in the 1990's.

In 2001, Wight Nurseries was sold to Monrovia Nursery Company, Azusa, California. Monrovia now is the largest nursery in the world. Monrovia currently operates in Grady County as Wight Nurseries, Inc.

"Wight Grown Means Grown Right – Since 1887"

# THE GRADY COUNTY

VOL. 1.

CAIRO, GRADY COUNTY, GEORGIA, FRIDAY.

## MANY PEARS FOR SHIPMENT

About 3,500 Barrels Shipped From Cairo

## MANY PEAR TREES HAVE BEEN CUT

Which Curtails the Shipment for Season 1910—New York Market Consumed the Bulk of Shipments—The Keller Will Now Open Market, Next Find Ready Sale in the West.

The present season for LeConte shipments is about closing for Cairo.

The principal shippers have been J. B. Wight, Dr. W. A. Walker, Walter L. Wight and Kedar Powell.

Owing to the fact that many pear trees have been cut down the shipments from this place this year will not exceed three to four thousand barrels. Most of these have gone to the New York market.

Owing to the heavy crop of peaches as well as pears, prices have been very moderate.

There is a good crop of Keifer pears this year, and they will begin to move soon. Most of these are shipped in bulk to western markets.

The Albany Herald has the following to say in regard to the pear crop this year:

"The Lee Conte pear is unusually fine this year. The trees are loaded almost to the breaking point, and the quality was never better. The pears are quite juicy and of splendid flavor, and are commanding a good price. Prices quoted are \$2.00 to \$3.25 for choice to fancy Le Conte pears, in well-filled barrels.

"Pears, as a fruit, seem to be in a class to themselves. The price does not seem to be affected by the abundance of other fruit. In fact, the growers are getting as good a price this year, when fruit of other

the audience up into the air and in response to a persistent encore, another thrilling rendition was given. The sextet was composed of Miss Erie Smith, piano; Mr. Jennison, cornet; Col. G. A. Wight, violin; Mr. Martin Powell, clarinet, and Messrs. Afton Williams and Roy Ponder, drums. Miss Erie Smith, also, filled in occasional necessary intervals in the more formal program with a number of bright, sparkling piano pieces, to the great delight of her numerous admirers.

The duet, by Messrs. Jennison and Farley, on the sliding cornet and trombone, was a charming feature of the occasion, and the other duets, by the same gentlemen, on the xylophone and silver bells, together with Mr. Jennison's solo on the aluminum harp, were very unique and pleasing.

The audience, while larger than on some former occasions, as well as thoroughly representative, was not such as the meritorious performance deserved. The Cairo Concert Band is really a superior organization. While yet scarcely eighteen months in existence, it ranks among the best amateur bands and its musical excellence is evident. Composed of a number of our most estimable young men and nicest boys, the organization is a credit to the town and our people ought to patronize far more liberally than they do, the splendid concerts that it gives. Mr. C. H. Jennison, the accomplished musician and almost peerless teacher, has most admirably developed, the excellent material brought under his hand and, although on account of sickness and for other reasons, several members have been compelled to drop out, thus requiring the introduction of new ones, at all sorts of irregular intervals, the progress of the members as a body has been phenomenal.

Let us remember that these young men have equipped and qualified themselves, at great expense, for our wholesome entertainment and the credit of the town, as well as their own pleasure; that there are

## ANOTHER BANK FOR CAIRO.

Movement on Foot to Establish Third Bank.

## WILL HAVE AMPLE CAPITAL BEHIND IT

To Occupy the Building Next to Wight & Browne Now Occupied as a Barber Shop—To Be Thoroughly Remodeled.

Cairo is to have another bank. This will make three banks for the town.

The Progress has been informed that all arrangements were about completed for the launching of the enterprise about January 1, 1911.

It is said that the building joining Wight & Browne's drug store, now occupied as a barber shop, has been secured, and just as soon as the present lease expires work will be commenced to remodel the building, and when completed will be one of the handsomest bank buildings in Southwest Georgia.

The projectors are well-known business men, who feel that there is ample room in Cairo for another bank, and that it will not interfere with the business of the old banks or their prosperity.

Both of the old banks are doing a splendid business, with deposits of nearly \$300,000.

But as Cairo and Grady county are growing, and a brighter future in store for each, and all lines of business, it is felt that a third bank will help along the growth.

## A VISIT TO THE TOWN OF WHIGHAM

A Busy and Hustling Place and a Live, Progressive People.

A representative of The Progress made a visit to the thriving town

## TEN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BOYS AND 5 BOYS AND 5 GIRLS TO THE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

For the Boys and 5 Boys and 5 Girls to the Agricultural School

## TO THE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

The School Now Better Than at Any Time J. B. Wight, Trustee Scholarships.

If there are ten boys and five girls in Grady county wanting to go to the Agricultural School, the opportunity is now open to their door.

Mr. J. B. Wight, trustee of the Agricultural School, has been at Tifton, Georgia, for the purpose of securing the school for disposal and will find it to be one of the best in the State. He will see him at once as follows:

Free Scholarships

As trustee for Grady County the Agricultural School have at my disposal 10 for the next scholars for boys and five for one who is interested in one of these, should see the school is now equipped than former first class work in every J.

## CROPS DAMAGED BY SUN

Blowing Have Destroyed Crops.

Sheriff Dollar informed Monday that the district was visited by the heaviest rains known to this section of the State.

encies  
in any

# The Cairo Mail

The Official Organ of Grady County.

The man who wandereth out of the way of advertising shall remain

Nov 5,  
1926  
12 PAGES.

CAIRO, GRADY COUNTY, GA., FRIDAY NOVEMBER

## NT AW TO SOUTH AFRICA

Another Shipment Of Nursery Stock  
From Cairo Going There.

The Wight Nursery & Orchard Co., of Cairo, this week received an order for pecan trees from J. F. Fette, Esq., at Pinetown, Natal, South Africa. The remittance was in the form of an International money order for seven pounds, sterling, about \$33.88 in American money.

Trees from the local nursery are now growing well in more than one South African community, and trees have also been shipped to Italy.

Several different varieties of trees will be included in the order, and the shipment will be made at once. The money order bears a September date. The trees should reach their destination in plenty of time for the present planting season.

## TRANSMISSION LINE APPROACHES CAIRO

STEADY PROGRESS IS MADE IN  
CONSTRUCTION OF LINE  
NEAR HERE.

The Hoosier Engineering Company, of Indiana, which is engaged in constructing a power transmission line between Bainbridge and Waycross, via Whigham and Cairo, is making steady progress

## GENERAL STATE ELECT HERE PROVES VERY

### Vote Is Probably The Lightest In Hist Joins State In Ratifying Nine P Constitutional Amendment

In what was probably the lightest vote ever recorded here in a general state election, the voters of Grady county Tuesday assisted those of the state in ratifying the full Democratic ticket and nine proposed constitutional amendments.

While the absence of opposition, and a general lack of interest in the proposals to amend the state constitution, naturally would have caused a light vote, the weather was most inclement, and this made the vote here the smallest in years.

There were 186 votes recorded in the official consolidation for Grady county. This is slightly more than eight percent of the registered voters and considerably less than one percent of the entire population of the county, which indicates what part of the people really have a voice in the government.

Two Grady county precincts; Spence and Blowing Cave, did not send in returns for the official consolidation by

The following is the proposed amendment—  
To create bureau for 161; against,  
To authorize Mu any increase—for,  
To authorize Cri hydro-electric power against, 15.  
To create a state for, 146; against,  
Public school te amendment—for, 160  
To authorize C issue bonds to pay 167; against, 7.  
To authorize mo cational purposes ies of more than for, 160; against,  
To authorize I increases its bond tional purposes—f  
To authorize V des county, eithe bonds to establish

BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAIRO

A PROCLAMATION

WIGHT NURSERIES, INC.

- WHEREAS: J. BYRON WIGHT, in planting pecan trees and citrus fruit trees in 1887 under the name, Wight Nursery and Orchard Company, became the founder of a budding industry, and
- WHEREAS: J. SLATER WIGHT, a son of the founder J. BYRON WIGHT, entered the company in 1914 and caused the company to expand as a growing business, and
- WHEREAS: JOHN B. WIGHT, SR., the youngest son of the founder joined the company in 1927 and further increased the Wight Nurseries, Inc.'s line of nursery stock and markets, and
- WHEREAS: JOHN B. WIGHT, JR. joined the company in 1955 and upon the death of his father in 1969 took over the company and under his leadership Wight Nurseries, Inc. matured as a business and became one of the nation's largest nurseries, and
- WHEREAS: The Wight family owned the company ninety-six years until 1982 when Wight Nurseries, Inc. became a part of the Nursery Products Division of Weyerhaeuser Company and has continued as a matured nursery upholding its Wight Nursery, Inc. motto "WIGHT GROWN IS GROWN RIGHT"; now
- THEREFORE: We, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Cairo at a regular meeting assembled do hereby join in paying special tribute to WIGHT NURSERIES, INC. in it's celebration of its centennial; and

well being of our city and county and extend our efforts  
for continued success in the nursery business throughout  
the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and  
caused the Seal of the City of Cairo to be affixed. This  
28th day of September, 1987.



James H. LeGette  
James H. LeGette, Mayor

Johnny Mack Butler  
Johnny Mack Butler, Councilman

Ernest W. Cloud, Jr.  
Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Councilman

Anthony Cochran  
Anthony Cochran, Councilman

David Stallings  
David Stallings, Councilman

Richard VanLandingham  
Richard VanLandingham, Councilman  
ATTEST

Martha Faye Lewis  
Martha Faye Lewis, Clerk

The Harvester, Ga Horticultural Soc.  
Vol 16, No 4, Fall 1981

---

1942-43 Diversify your income - Pecan Trees

---

1906 Some Mistakes in Pecan Growing

---

1936 'Tung Oil Trees are Ornamental - Profitable

---

1931

# Wight Nurseries



Employees spacing plants to allow for future growth. Left to right are: Darlene Duncan, Dianne Lamons, Gloria Brinson, Teresa Prince and Joyce Mobley.



Partial overview of Hawthorne Trail Division.

Wight Nurseries was established in 1887 by J. Byron Wight, who was an ordained Methodist minister.

The original name was "Wight Nursery and Orchard Company" and the primary crop was pecan nut trees. Later bare root fruit trees became one of the major items.

J. Byron Wight was a horticulturist of note and his friendship with Dr. David Fairchild resulted in the introduction in the Cairo area of the tung oil nut industry. Dr. Fairchild's gift of a number of tung oil trees from China were propagated and resulted in a thriving industry in the 1930's and 1940's.

In 1914, J. Slater Wight joined his father in the business. He had a master's degree in horticulture from Cornell and became closely identified with the pecan and tung oil industry.

In 1927 son, John, entered the expanding enterprise and brought with him the interest in diversifying into a general line of nursery stock to augment the bare root fruit tree crops. Azaleas, camellias, hollies and other woody ornamentals were added with the nursery selling both wholesale, retail, and mail order. In 1952 the nursery went "wholesale only".

Founder J. Byron Wight died in 1936.

John B. Wight, Sr. bought out his brothers and sisters in the nursery in 1945, and was owner and operator until the business was incorporated in 1956, at which time his son, John B. Wight, Jr., became a stockholder.

John B. Wight, Sr. was very active in trade associations. He served as President of the American Association of Nurserymen, the Southern Nurserymen's Association, All-American Camellia Selections, the Georgia Nurserymen's Association, and many committees of the American Association of Nurserymen.

Container plant production was added in the late 1940's and in the 1980's makes up about 99% of the production of Wight Nurseries, Inc.

John B. Wight, Sr. died in 1969.

The nursery has continued since 1969 under the management of the third generation of the family to head the nursery; John B. Wight, Jr. John also is very active in industry trade associations and was the President of the American Association of Nurserymen in 1981. Other officers of the corporation include Richard VanLandingham, Vice President of

Production and Operations; George Hackney, Vice President of Marketing; David M. Chase, Secretary/Treasurer; and Richard "Dick" Hackney, Vice President of Sales.

Currently, we are very proud of a top flight crew of over 400 excellent nursery people working in the company. Twelve salesmen live, travel, and sell throughout all the states east of the Mississippi River. Within the last 3 years, sales territory has been expanded to include Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois.

Wight Nurseries continues to work under the premises of the founder: we strive to produce top-quality plants at a reasonable price which will make good profits for our customers; we strive to make Wight Nurseries a good place to work; we strive to produce plants that will make our world a more beautiful place in which to live.

Wight Nurseries started the new 220 acre Hawthorne Trail Division container nursery, located 4 miles north of Cairo on the Camilla highway, in 1980. This nursery is one of the most cost efficient, progressive and innovative wholesale container nurseries in the country. Other locations include a 70 acre nursery in Oglethorpe County near



Plants being assembled for shipment.



Partial overview of Main Division.



Plants being loaded on trucks and shipped all over the eastern United States. Left to right are: Sarah Clark, Martha Johnson, Mary Lou Herring, Alvin Herring, Jeanette Williams, Henry Ruffin, Earnest Ingram, Dennie Hightower and George Anthony James.



Careful stacking assures customer satisfaction. Left to right are: James Wyatt, Larry Strange and James Wooten.

Athens, Georgia; the River Division located on Highway 93 and the original home place located on Highway 111. about 300 acres of container

=====  
Gleanings ;W. R. VanLan... ;1827 ;Peter VanLandingham Sr. had five sons: Peter, Jr., Benjamin, Edward John and William. two sons Peter, Jr. and Benjamin came to Decatur County about 1820. William Robert, son of William, came to this area btw 1865- 70. m. second wife Eliza Matilda. children were Robert Lee, Ruth and Maxie. Ruth married a Swicord; Maxie married a Paulk. Eliza ran an early Cairo "institution" a hotel called "Drummers' Retreat," located near where the post office ow stands. (salesmen were called "drummers") Robert Lee m. Henrietta Jones and four children were Robert Roscoe, Marian, Carol and Grace. Robert Roscoe "Ros" m. Mabel Maxwell and had five children. Robert Leon "Bobby", William Maxwell "Billy", Mabel Kral, Mary Hackney, and Elizabeth **Wight**. Robert Lee and Robert Roscoe both served as mayors of Cairo.  
=====

Gleanings ;Rev John Byron **Wight** ;1829 ;Henry 1791 m. Abby Wardwell came to the Sofkee in 1829. son, George Alden **Wight** 1834-1894 was a merchant in Cairo and Sofkee m. Julia Florence Herring 1841-1860 then m. Amanda Melvina Powell?. After the War George Alden became owner and proprietor of the White Springs Hotel in Fla. son, John Byron **Wight** 1859-1935 graduated from Emory and completed a two-year course in theology At Vanderbilt and served several small Methodist churches. He returned to Cairo where he founded **Wight** Nursery and Orchard Co in 1887. m. 1888 Alice Slatter. in 1889 he was appointed co-principal of Cairo High School and published a booklet, Tobacco: Its Use and Abuse. His friendship with David Fairchild, resulted in the introduction of the tung nut oil industry to this area. John Byron **Wight** Jr. 1905-1969 was responsible for the growing of ornamentals at **Wight** Nurseries. John B. **Wight** III b. 1929 m. 1950 Elizabeth VanLandingham, daughter of Robert Roscoe and Mabel Maxwell. Served in the Korean War and later joined **Wight** Nurseries in 1954.  
=====

Savannah and South Georgia; 1056; 1829; Henry **Wight** b. 1791 at Bristol, RI. in 1829 came south and located in Georgia. a boat brought him as far as Savannah. From there he used teams to convey his goods and family across the state to Decatur County. Later opened a store at Sofkee, and his stock of goods was drawn overland in carts from St. Marks, Fla. a resident of Sofkee until his death Feb 1885.  
=====

Pearl **Wight** Clower ;letter dtd 3/14/1960 ;Sofkee ;1829/12/00 ;Henry **Wight** moved his family from Rhode Island to Ga. in December 1829, and settled at Sofkee in Decatur Co. He lived there continuously until July 1888 when he moved his family to Cairo. 'My' brother Henry had come to Cairo 2 years before to manage Father's mercantile business after the 2 brick stores were built on Broad St.  
=====

Mail ;1854/12/16 ;George A. **Wight** PM, Sofkey (sp) PO. **Wight** letter indicates GAW was PM as early as 1849  
=====

Gleanings ;**Wight**/Sheehy ;1865 ;William Samuel **Wight**, one of the early ancestors of eight generations of **Wights**, was born in Sofkee in 1865. williams's father was G. A> **Wight**. W. S. "Will" and his brother Kader were in the mercantile business together, known as "**Wight** Brothers"  
=====

Cairo ;WBR would have been 4yrs 8mths ;1866/12/15 ;George A. **Wight** purchases 1/2 acre from James H. Hayes. Block A Lot 2  
=====

Cairo ;1867 ;The Powells and **Wights** were in Cairo before Dr. Roddenbery. George A. **Wight** built a store south of the railroad, that was located on what is now 1st ST. SE. In 1871 named **Wight** st., described as running from the **Wight** dwelling to **Wight**'s store. Known as "the Red House"-boarding running up and down and painted red. About 1870, or a little George A. **Wight** moved to Sofkee to Sofee, and about this time the mercatil business became **Wight** & Powell, with William Powell as a partner. RSRs thinks the oldest **Wight** son remained in Cairo in the mercantile business, but most of the family was raised at Sofkee. Later years, he moved back to Cairo and built a large house which also served as the only hotel in town at that time. house faces west on SE corner of 1st St. SE, and 3rd Ave.  
=====

Rogers ;1865 - 1900 ;204 ;Schools ;1867 ;The Georgia Teachers' Association was organized in 1867 and  
=====

accomplished important work for education. ... J. B. Wright (**Wight**), a Cairo resident, wrote letters in 1884 and 1885 urging teachers of neighboring counties to meet together and discuss their problems and goals. ... Teachers needed an organization because "school-teaching is the senior of all the professions. Its greatness and utility are indescribable, and its dignity is commensurate." ... there was no response. (Times 2/21/1885, 12/6/1884, 2/21/1885)

tr dtd 7/13/1965 fr RSRJ to Wilma T. Burch ;discrepances ;1867 ;Hayes building-one of the first store buildings. a two-story wooden building on the east side of Broad St., immediately south of the railraod (in LL59) and adjoining the RR ROW. The Masonic lodge held its meetins on the second floor of this building.... George A. **Wight** built a store on the rr but immediately east of the Hayes building.

Savannah and South Georgia ;1057 ;1868 ;George Alden **Wight** established a store at Sofkee when nineteen years of age. in 1863 enlisted in the Georgia Volunteers. 1871 began business at Cairo. when he located there, business was conducted in two small stores kept in log cabins. he erected a good frame building and put in a stock of general merchandise. **Wight & Powell** was the first business title,and the G. A. **Wight & Sons**. continued as a merchant at Cairo until his death 8/21/1894. at this time also bought the property of White Springs, Fla, and erected a hotel which was operated by a lessee.

srs ;Schools ;1870 ;... teacher was W. D. Howren. later gave up teaching and became bookkeeper for **Wight & Powell**. 1874 and 1875 was Clerk & Treasurer of the Town of Cairo. after Howren, Professor Lunsford came to Cairo from Mitchell County. bachelor, tall, thin, bald, and gray beard 1874/00/00: date??? then Robert H. Harris, Dan Rountree, from Quitman, A. Q. Moody, from Boston (did not move to Cairo)

srj dtd 7/7/1959 ;Cairo ;1871/01/25 ;1871/01/25: liquor licenses... chief revenue of the town in tis early uears. first liquor license was granted to B.L. Hearn dtd Jan 25, 1871, **Wight & Powell** dtd Jul 3, 1871, SAR dtd Sep 4, 1872, SAR dtd Sep 3, 1873, roddenbery & Paulk dtd 3/1/1874, roddenbery & Pauld dtd 2/24/1875 for the month of April (.."after considerable discussion the license ws granted", SAR stopped handling liquor in his store

Minutes ;Cairo ;1871/06/28 ;: "The committee on Streets reported names for the streets on south side of RR which were adopted, toiwit: The street running south from A&G RR Depot shall be called Broad Street, and the street running north from **Wight** dwelling to **Wight** store shall be called **Wight** Street. And the first cross street nearest the Depot shall be called Monroe Street, and second cross street from Depot running East & west shall be called Ochlocnee Street..."

Cairo ;1871/07/03 ;**Wight & Powell** bond

srj 7/8/65 ;Schools ;1871 deed to Trustees of Cairo School 1872 rsrs thinks there was no school in Cairo until after Dr. Roddenbery moved there in 1872, and in 1875 'papa' first started to school, and Robert H. Harris was then teacher. In those days very few youg children went to any school. There were many who never went. No compulsory education. U. Walter and A. Berthat went to school on Hawthorne Trail (north of old stage road) before a school started in Cairo. ...school at Sofkee, Henry **Wight** taught there in the early days... great majority of people of all ages were illitereate, and the few who did have some schooling taught their own children to read, write and figure.

Dr. W. A. Walker ;My Life ;Mon. Aug 16, 1954 ;Cairo ;1872 ;William Albert Walker b. Sep 20, 1866 on High Bluff over the Ockolocknee. 1st visit to Cairo in 1872. west side of Broad St. north of the rr there was a small wooden building, built in the cottage style, 28 or 30 feet wide and 50 ft long (SAR store). In the rear of this building was paneled off a small enclosure which was called and used as a post office. About 50 feet north of this building and back about 50 ft. off Broad St. there was a little log shanty in which was operated a barroom. On the south side of the rr, where the old abandoned livery stable is now situated (1954), there was a small store building in which G. A. **Wight** and John A. Powell operated a small general

mercantile building. Broad St, North and South of the rr was just a winding road, that could scarcely be dignified by calling it a street.

Minutes ;Cairo ;1873/03/05 ;Wight & Powell \$500 Bond

Cairo ;1873/10/24 ;Wight & Powell \$500 Bond

Century of Progress ;Churches ;1873? ;First Methodist Church. Grew out of the efforts of "three good women" and the Sunday School they first organized. The three were Mrs. D. H. Wilmot, Miss Lizzie Everett, and Mrs. Julia Hall. The church and Sunday School services were held at the home of Mrs. Hall until the first edifice, described as "a beautiful little white wooden sanctuary with Grecian arched windows," was completed in 1873. Records show there were 20 charter members, but do not list all of them. in addition the the 3 women: Tom W. Brown, Stephen A. Chester, Rev. P. C. Harris (pastor of both Bold Springs and Cairo Church), James H. Hayes, William Powell, Benjamin (Doc) Powell, and Capt. E. A. Vanlandingham. "Henry's Steeple" "towering in four separate and matchless tiers above the tree tops, covered with slate roofs" was built when the Wight families moved from Wightville (Sofkee)

srj ;6/17/1959 ;Schools ;1874 ;date??? Walter and Bertha rode the 3 miles to school in a horse drawn buggy... teacher wa W. D. Howren. later gave up teaching and became bookkeeper for Wight & Powell. 1874 and 1875 was Clerk & Treasurer of the Town of Cairo 1870/00/00: date??? after Howren, Professor Lunsford came to Cairo from Mitchell County. bachelor, tall, thin, bald, and gray beard 1874/00/00: date??? Robert H. Harris Dan rountree, from Quitman A. Q. Moody, from Boston (did not move to Cairo)

Pearl Belcher to jbr 4/22/65 ;Churches ;1874 ;"father had a deed that was made by a Mr. R. M. Griffin who was donating one acre of land for the church (Tired Creek Methodist Church). ..deed was made in 1874, not recorded until May 15, 1877... From the wording of the dde, there was a building there at the time - according to my mother, the present building was moved there in about 1884. ... that the church had been there before was a Baptist church. The present church was moved from a place newar what is known as the Poulk Cemetery on the Bainbridge Highway... Trustees of Cairo Circuit - P. H. Herring, Peter VanLandingham, David Williams, David Cooper, George As. Wight, Joseph Hall (Decatur Co. ) T. W. Ballard, J. H. Stephens, and William Powell (Thomas Co.) Sunnyside School House was located just north of Deas Belcher's home - it was used as a school building until 1925.....

Rogers ;1865 - 1900 ;229-230 ;Schools ;1874 ;Cairo had perhaps the best school system outside of Thomasville. By 1874 the Cairo district had two public schools for whites and one for blacks. (Times 2/14/1874) In 1875 the solidly established whit Cairo Academy held a well-attended graduation exercise. Among other events, there was a spelling bee that saw Sallie Hirst defeat Walter Roddenbury ... (Times 6/5/1875)... Robert H. Harris was the principal of Cairo Academy, In 1876 he enrolled eighty-one boys and fitls ranging in age from six to eighteen and hired Mrs. Mary R. Moore as his assistant. He charged tuition, averaging about six dollars, for each of the three quarters but assured parentss that "pupils...who may attend, will receive the benefit of the Public School Fund, agreeable to provision made by the County Board of Education, in accordance with the Public School Law." Times 6/3, 8/12/1876)... Harris continued to operate the Academy (Times 6/30/1877, 7/6/1878) but in the 1880s retired to devote himself full time to the Baptist ministry. By that time Cairo had grown into a small town, and a wel-run hight school was established. Professor J. M. Glenn became the principal and by the early 1890s had a school that averaged over one hundred pupils. (T-E 7/4/1891, 6/10/1893). Glenn's work was carried forward by his successor, J. B. Wright (Wight), and by 1900 Cairo High School, under the leadership of Olin S. Dean, had 160 students. there were two classes in the primary department, and in addition, there were the following departments: intermediate, advanced, and high school. (T-E 8/26, 11/4/1899, 6/9,16,23/1900) Other schools were opened at Cairo and in the immediate vicinity. By the 1890s a Professor Wilson was running the Cairo Institute in North Cairo, and in 1895 james Evans' cahson Academy was called "one of the most flourishing schools on the other side of the river." T-E 6/15/1895, 6/16/1894) E. L. Cragmiles opened a school at Pine Summit near Cairo in 1896 and enrolled eighty pupils. (T-E 1/18/1896)

=====  
Georgia Directory, vol. I, 1876-77, ;Wheeler, Marshall & pardBruce, Nashville, TN, 1876-77 ;Cairo ;1876  
;CAIRO - A post village and express station of Thomas County, 14 miles west of county seat, situated on  
Atlantic and Gulf Tailroad. Population 300 - 2 churches, Methodist and Baptist. Bryan, James, watches  
and jeweler Davis, S. W. , physician Davis, W. H. (W. A. ) physician Groover, J. W. , saloon Hainsworth &  
Finn, general store (Ainsworth, Thomasville) Hays & Chester, brick makers Hayes, Jas. H., Justice of the  
Peace Harris, R. H., attorney High School, R. H. Harris McManus (wheelright or blacksmith), B. W.,  
wheelwright Moore, J. T., physician Parvill, Wm., general store (Kader Powell) Rigsby, W. T., Justice of  
the Peace Roddenbery, S. A., psotmaster Rddenbery, S. A., physician and sawmill Roddenbery & Paulk,  
general store **Wight & Parvill** (powell), general store Wilmot, D. H. physician  
=====

The Times ;1876/01/08 ;The following are the officers elect for the ensuing year in Cairo Lodge No. F.A.M.  
J. J. Higdon, WM; G. A. **Wight**, SW; J. C. Hawthorn, JW; W. A. Chester, T; James H. Hays, Sect'y; John  
M. Robertson, SD; G. S. Key, JD; E. A. Vanlandingham, W. B. Hawthorn, Stewards; S. A. Dickey, Tylor.  
=====

cm dtd --- ;Cairo ;1876/07/04: ;'How And When Cairo Got Her Name' - Original Minutes of Mass Meeting  
Here On July 4th, 1876 contains Some Interesting Data - assembled in Hayes Hall ... Robert H. Harris was  
appointed secretary of the meeting... following facts were elicited: ---first house built in Cairo as a town -  
for Mr. Wm. G. Hall in the early part of the year 1867, second - by Dr. H. M. Mitchell, third - by Mr. John P.  
Watts, fourth - by Mr. George A. **Wight**, of **Wight & Powell** ---first postmaster - Wm. J. Hall ....when the PO  
department at Washington submitted the two names, Miller's Station and Cairo, to him he selected the  
latter as the name of the post office, a name by which the post office at two or three other points ..in ... this  
section of the county had previously been designated. ---There are at present forty-seven families residing  
within the corporate limits of the village, a radius of half a mile in each direction from the RR depot. -There  
are between two hundred and forty-five and two hundred and fifty inhabitants of all ages--- there are  
seven mercantile business houses in the place.  
=====

note ref 1/15/1965 Myrtle C. Allen ;1878 ;...Clower wrong in date (1888) G. A. **Wight** moved to Cairo.  
Church records show that the session met in Mr. G. A. **Wight's** home in 1878 when his father, Henry was  
received into the Cairo Presbyterian Church.  
=====

Churches ;1878/01/05 ;Cairo Presbyterian Church organized and constituted (only one in Grady County  
1965) original five members Joseph W. Maxwell and wife, Dr. J. T. Moore and wife, and Mrs. N. J. Walker.  
1st addition to membership was Henry **Wight** Jan 17, 1878. church records show that on Oct 4, 1883,  
Hector MacLean submitted plans and offered to build a one room bhurch building for the sum of \$650.00.  
George A. **Wight** donated 1 acre of land.  
=====

Century of Progress ;Churches ;1878/01/05 ;First Presbyterian Church was organized by Rev. R. P. Kerr  
and Rev. James A. McKee, commissioned by the Savannah Presbytery. 5 original members: Mrs. M. R.  
Moore, Mr. J. W. Maxwell, Mrs. L. M. Maxwell, Mrs. N. J. Walker and Dr. J. T. Moore. Session meetings  
were offer held in private residences for the first six years. Records show that on Oct 4, 1883, Mr. Robert  
Hector McLane made a bid of \$650.00 to conctruct the church building and promised to have it finished in  
three months... The land ... was given by G. A. **Wight** and the deed was recorded on Oct 9, 1883 for one  
acre.  
=====

srj 5/1/1965 ;Churches ;1878/01/05: ;Cairo Presbyterian church was constituted Jan 5, 1878. Henry  
**Wight**, and father of George A. **Wight**, joined that church Han 17, 1878, and continued a member until his  
death in 1885... George A. **Wight** deeded that land on which the church was built on Oct 9, 1883. The  
Minutes show that on Oct 4, 1883 Hector MacLean was awarded contract to construct the church building  
at a bid of \$650.00 organized and constituted with Joseph W. Maxwell and wife, Dr. J. T. Moore and wife,  
and Mrs. N. J. Walker as the original five members.... church records show that on Oct. 4, 1883 Hector  
MacLean submitted plans and offered to build a one room church building for the sum of \$650, George A.  
**Wight**, son of Henry **Wight**, donated and deeded the land (one acre) on which the building was erected.  
=====

=====  
srj dtd 2/16/1966 ;Cairo ;1880 ;??.What was later named Broad St. was just a part of the Camilla to Tallahassee road. For travel between the **Wight & Powell** store and the storehouse built by Judge (Justice of the Peace) Hayes on the Camilla-Tallahassee road, people walked or drove wagons or buggies by the side of the railroad - along and on the right of way. ...they didn't need streets  
=====

The Times ;Cairo ;1881/11/11 ;**Wight & Powell**  
=====

br 7/1/1974 ;Cairo ;SEE HENRY MILLER HOG PEN FOR BROAD ST. ;1884 ;**Wight** stores. two brick stores, the first brick stores in Cairo built 1884-1885, and Henry came as the new buildings were ready. "Their building those stores in 1884-86 set the North and South lines for the other stores that were built on a straight line Southward. These two stores were where **Wight** and Browne and the old hardware store was just a few years ago. This is what brought about the jog in Broad St. The railroad had built it's station the year or the year after it arriving in 1867. When Dr. Roddenbery built his building on North side he made it in line with the railroad station which was 6 or 8 years before the brick stores were built. Also, at the time Dr. Roddenbery built his store on the West side of North Broad street there was a line of wooden stores directly across the street Eastward. Until those wood stores were torn down and the brick stores put up..., they didn't make Broad St. wide enough on North side to be in line with the **Wight** stores on the South side. Of course this would have been entirely too wide and the line on North side had already been set by several stores going Northward...."  
=====

A Century of Progress 1870-1970 ;1887/00/00 ;J. B. **Wight** founded **Wight** Pecan Grove Farm  
=====

Pearl **Wight** Clower ;letter dtd 3/14/1960 ;Cairo ;1888/07/00 ;Henry **Wight** moved his family from Rhode Island to Ga. in December 1829, and settled at Sofkee in Decatur Co. He lived there continuously until July 1888 when he moved his family to Cairo. 'My' brother Henry had come to Cairo 2 years before to manage Father's mercantile business after the 2 brick stores were built on Broad St.  
=====

?? Cairo ;1889 ;the firm of G. A. **Wight & Sons** has succeeded to firm of **Wight & Powell** (pg 21)  
=====

Cairo, Georgia - A Century of Progress 1870-1970 ;Cairo ;1890 ;brick store building was constructed on South Broad Street to house G. A. **Wight & Sons**.  
=====

Minutes ;Cairo ;1890/01/29 ;"Petition of G. A. and J. A. **Wight** for street granted with instructions to open street 60 feet including side walks..."  
=====

Minutes ;Cairo ;1890/02/03 ;"..aid in ditching braches through lands of various parties. Railroad authorities petitioned by council to open ditch under culvert near depot...." "G. A. **Wight**, B. F. Powell, and Dr. Clower petitioned council to open and maintain street beginning at southern limit of town in land of Dr. Clower's running north through Dr. Clower's land thence through G. A. **Wight's** land directly west of the academy, thence to Ochlocknee Street to B. F. Powell's lands. Street is to be sixty feet and known as South College Street."  
=====

Minutes ;Cairo ;1890/02/26 ;"Health Committee reported that Messrs C. Sapp and J. B. **Wight** proposed to give one half of the cost to put ditch through their lands, beginning at head of branch near Negro church and extending downward across **Wight** Street. Ditch ordered cut." "Matter of cutting ditch near Lem Powell's passed..."  
=====

Minutes ;Cairo ;1890/03/26 ;"..petitioners ask that you open up a street running nearly north and south on a route surveyed out by Mr. G. A. **Wight** on Mar 25 said street running through or by land owned by your petitioners the width of said street to be 50 ft. including side walks and to commence on street or road running west from T. W. Browns and run thence south to the rail road.-- S. A. Roddenbery, July Thomas, Andrew Adkisson, A. C. dickey, C. M. Lewis, Wm. Powell, G. T. Hurst, Petitioners" "Petition signed by S.  
=====

A. Roddenbery, A. F. Richter, Lewis & Roddenbery and W. B. Roddenbery asking for street to be opened from Broad St. at a point just north of the Baptist Church and run west by the new school house about two hundred yards and then open a cross Street running north and south the the Street in front of A. F. Richters place on the south and to be about two hundred yards in length. Petitions granted. J. W. Glenn, Clerk and Treasurer

Minutes ;Cairo ;1890/08/27 ;"J. B. **Wight** moved that council advertise for bids for setting out 400 Water Oaks on streets."... "...railroad section Mster refused to allow ditch to run through the culvert below east end of the switch."

srs dtd 3/30/1963 ;Cairo ;1890?? ;**Wight & Powell** was a partnership of George A. **Wight** and his brother-in-law Joh A. Powell and for many years the business was run by John Powell who was a brother of William Powell, the first railroad agent at Cairo and the second Major of the Town.

Minutes ;Cairo ;1891/07/29 ;"G. A. **Wight** was ordered to purchase a bell for the benefit of the town, have erected and watchman to ring each hour of night commencing at 8pm and continue till 5 next morning."

1895 ;tobacco-cigars in Calvary area. chk **Wight** Family letters for a **Wight** living in Key West at this time. growing tobacco? Cairo Cigar store

Rogers ;1865 - 1900 ;70 ;Cairo ;JBR: **Wight & Roddenbery** had packing plant. - when? 1899 At Cairo a Pear Growers' Association was formed in 1889; it was not county-wide, and greater concert of action was needed. (T-E Jul 11, 1889)

Gleanings ;Joseph VanLan ;1900? ;Bill VanLandingham, great-grandson of E. A. VanLan... James I. "Jim", grandson of E. A. managed Ingleside Farms for Thomas **Wight** before purchasing approximately 700 acres in the Cranford community.

Gleanings ;Cairo ;**Wight/Crine** ;1903 ;George Alden **Wight's** second marriage to Margaret Louisa Powell. son, Thomas 1870-1943 m. 1902 Annie Ola Herring. during the first year they lived on a farm south of Cairo in an area known s Ingleside (the site of a sawmill owned by Kelly Clark Lumber Co.) The next year they moved to Cairo and lived on South Broad. Then bought the hotel on First St. SE which he made into a home.

Book A, pg 186 ;Cairo ;1903/09/29 ;It was moved and carried that the Mayor appoint a Committee to see Mr. Wilder of the Cairo Variety Works as to furnishing Electric lights to the town of Cairo., The following Committee was appointed K. P. **Wight** and Chas. Mauldin

srj dtd 6/22/1965 ;Banks ;1903/12/03 ;Cirizens Bank of Cairo was chartered Dec 3, 1903 Original incorporators of the Citizens Bank were J. W. Booth, Z. F. Booth, W. H. Brandon, F. M. Brannon, H. G. Cannon, J. P. Chason, T. W. Faircloth, P. H. Herring, W. G. Lewis, J. C. Mathews, W. C. Mathews, James L. Mauldin, W. T. Merritt, D. F. Oliver, Mrs. Maxey Poulk (wife of Jos. E. Poulk), Lemuel B. Powell, S. B. Singletary, R. L. Vanlandingham, Casper Walker, Kedar P. **Wight**, Mrs. M. L. **Wight** (widow of Geo. A. **Wight**, Sr.), and Will S. **Wight**. Closed and opened after re-organization in 1930 depression

Dr. W. A. Walker ;My Life ;New County ;1904-1905 ;In 1904 the Legislature of Georgia passed an enabling act providing for the creation of eight new counties in Georgia. I was in Atlanta the day the bill passed the Legislature. Judge H. W. Hoplins of Thomasville, a member of the Legislature from Thomas County, informed me of the passage of the act (jbr: error. Cairo supporters helped pass the act), stating that he did not know any place in Georgia that need a new county more than Cairo did, and offering to help us to secure the creation of a new county. -- I immediately transmitted this information to W. B. Roddenbery and J. B. **Wight** and asked them to confer with Judge Hopkins, thanking him for his support and assuring him that we would fight to the finish for the creation of a new county. At eleven am on Aug 5,

1905 the bill creating Grady COunty was passed by the Legislature ... executive mansion (then occupied the present site of the Henry Grady Hotel) photographer made a picture of the group...

Grady Clerk ;Cairo ;1905/11/02 ;Thomas **Wight** to P. H. Herring 3 ac in Cairo. North by Grady St., East by Broad St., South by land of F. J. Miller and West by land of B. F. Powell

br 12/19/67 ;Schools ;1906 ;J. B. **Wight** was County School Superintendent beginning in 1906 and to February 1, 1910; J. S. Weathers on February 1, 1910 to Dec 31, 1924.

br ;Railroads ;1906 ;PELHAM & HAVANA RAILROAD ú draft date of application for the charter 1906, The draft shows it lasted 1906 to 1924 I believe. ú search of Messenger at one time there were two other applications for charter in Cairo Messenger, for railroads in different directions: Pelhan & Havana of course started at Cairo and ran to Havana but never did go up to Pelham ú RSR said it was the PUSH HARD railroad. when it had difficulty to keep going, as the "Poor & Hungry" railroad. ú from Virginia, Mr. Edwin Wilkinson, with his daughters, came to live in Cairo and Ruth became the wife (about 1922) of Edgar Thrower. They were well educated and intelligent girls, And in many ways were ahead of the little town of Cairo in their social developments, and this is a compliment for they had had greater opportunities along this line. papers will show there was a Dad Riley who was quite a character. ú The Messenger told on June 18, 1909, it was being pushed to completion. ú railroad added a new dimension to Cairo life. Sunday school picnics when all the churches combining would get on flat cars and make the trip down to Havana, and in one instance they stopped at Turkey creek. To get to ride the train was a treat for the children. ú Mr. A. C. Felton, the President of the P & M, had donated free passage over his road and place flatcars with seats and railings all around to prevent any possible accidents to children, etc. I cite this to remind the one who will write this to look at the Messenger, for it says this new town of uncle Jesse Macwell, 10 miles out from Cairo is booming right along with a tine new large depot. ú The last years was a struggle with they being really bankrupt before they closed up and I believe Alvin **Wight** acted as receiver when it did fold up. ú 1908 it says "Hurrah for Cairo and Grady Obunty'. No panic can keep down our development~" That was years of tough times. ú In those days great things were expected of railroads. They had opened up the west. There are some good articles about the railroad and what they would do for a country and they were great until good roads and the trucks came along. ú article in the paper denying that there was a case of Scarlet Fever in the home of Mr. c. G. Stephens, the manager of this new railroad. ú stations on this 25 mile railroad were. Calvary, Maxwell, Reno, Booth, Cranford, Gradyville, Cairo. This is from the railroad. ú a main source of revenue to the railroad was the Kelly-Clark Lumber Company, about 3 miles south of Cairo at what was called Gradyville. ú located adjoining the farm of the **Wights** which was Ingleside. ú RSR letter to me of April 13, 1966 tells of a joint picnic of Sunday Schools of Cairo was held about April 26, 1921.

Grady ;1906 ;1st Grand Jury: J. W. Booth, J. G. Moore, T. B. Andrews, T. M. Whigham, Z. Trulock, B. A. Connell, H. J. Poulk, H. E. Collins, J. L. Ingram, F. M. Brannon, A. L. Vickers, W. B. Roddenbery, Foreman, L. B. Powell, W. R. Godwin, W. S. **Wight**, D. S. Swicord, Albert Powell, E. L. Broome, A. C. Sellers, A. B. Cook, T. M. Chastain, J. L. Peebles, T. O. Duggar Listed, but not chosen in open Court: H. V. Shepard, W. G. Baggett, T. J. Mills, J. M. Sasser, G. S. Key, John B. Crawford, M. M. McCord Early Attorneys: S. P. Cain, W. H. Duckworth, Y. L. Watson, R. C. Bell, R. R. Terrell, Whigham, J. Q. Smith, Louis H. Foster, 1909, J. S. Weathers, W. J. Willie, 1910, M. L. Ledford, Ira Carlisle, 1911, Randolph B. Russell, E. D. Rivers, John R. Singletary County Court Judge, 1906 J. F. Stone, County Court solicitor S. P. Cain, City Court Judge Apr 1, 1907 John R. Singletary, City court Solicitor S. P. Cain

WP Jones ;Ga. to Cleveland ;Cairo ;1906 ;WC Jones 1906 moved back to Cairo. Purchased the Davis estate, one mile from the center of Cairo, for \$3,250, together with the home site of the old Chester place for \$2,500. Aided in the building of the Pelham and Havana Railroad. Developed the "place across the Creek"...place he bought and planted in nut trees. 1906 bought a large tract of land adjoining his land but east of the creek of \$1,900, and set out 35 acres in pecan grove. Five years later, he sold this part of the tract alone for \$5,750, and later sold the remaining highland for about \$6,000 and still owns about 50

acres of swampland 1905 entered the nursery business with J. B. **Wight**, who had a large pecan nursery two miles west of Cairo. 1910 he bought out the half interest of **Wight** and after that personally owned and operated Magnolia Nursery, Orchard, and Farms. Moved out to the country a mile from town with the school halfway. We grew crops and developed pecan groves practically in town, built a large new house with four white columns where my memories begin...the house burned, and Mama sold the lots one by one down to the pines in the creek swamps on either side of the highway. Must have moved to the farm when I was about six, for there was still a while when I could roam freely around before I started to school near the age of seven. Papa had bought the two farms about a mile from the courthouse. One of them had a frame six-room house set in the middle of a grove of three large magnolia trees and three huge re oak trees, and here we lived for several years until the new house was built. They called it the old Chester place, for the original log cabin the Chesters had built was still there, a substantial structure that I remember well as our ironing house, where a big fire was built in the fireplace once a week to heat the flatirons for ironing our clothes. We called our place Magnolia, because few places even in Georgia had such large magnolia trees as ours. WPJ gave most of the land for the hospital to be built at the southern edge of the property, and brothers and sisters gave the rest.

=====  
1906 ;(no date on note) original settlers (1st to locate after county formed?) -to the list may be added: W. B. Roddenbery, J. L. Paulk, J. B. **Wight**, Ira Higdon, R. H> Harris, W. C. Jones, J. A. Gainey - Cairo; W. R. Hawthorn, R> R> Terrell, J. L. Peebles, C. B. Trulock, Z. Trulock, Martin Harrell, Sampson Harrell - Whigham; J. M. Blackshear, Henry Mitchell, S. M. Beach - Beachton; C. W. Maxwell, E> H> Maxwell, J. O. Darsey, B. H. McNair - Calvary; C. F. Rehberg, J. M. Sasser, J. J. Terrell - Reno; M. Pope - Ochlochee; L. L. Barwick - Pine Park (names furnished by Judge P. H. Herring, Ordinary of Grady)

=====  
Schools ;1906/00/00: ;County School Superintendents J. B. **Wight** J. S. Weathers Rev. J. P. Swann  
Walter Eskew W. H. Muggridge Lloyd Connell

=====  
Cairo, Georgia - A Century of Progress 1870-1970 ;1906/01/05 ;CM contained ... a petition for charter. K. P. **Wight**, W. S. **Wight**, M. L. **Wight**, and T. W. Wood respectfully requested incorporation under the "name and strle" of :**Wight** Brothers Company." The charter for incorporation was granted on January 23, 1906.... It became the first corporation charter of record in the office of the clerk of the court.

=====  
Book A, pg 268 Minutes of Town Council ;1906/04/24 ;By motion K. P. **Wight** and John Hall was appointed as a committee to investigate the feasibility of putting in a sewerage system to be run by private subsciprtion and report at next regular meeting.

=====  
srj dtd 5/8/1966 ;1906/07/00 ;At the turn of the century Cairo had its second railroad, a short line and short lived, and this came on the heels of the creation of Grady County. In July 1906 the Cairo Messenger published notice of application for a charter for the Pelham &Havana Railroad company to be built and operated from Pelham, Georgia, via Cairo and Calvary to Havana, Florida, a distance of approximately 40 miles. Information furnished by the Georgia Public Service Commission and by the Secretary of State shows the charter was granted by the State of Georgia on August 16, 1906.... The petitioners for the aforesaid charter were : C. H. Butler of Calvary and H. A. Sanders of Whigham, both in Grady county, W. F. Bamberg, Robert Black, H. C. Briggs, John Lane, J. F. Lewis and J. B. Martin, all of Valdosta in Lowndes County, W. L. Perkins of Jennings, Florida and C. G Stephens of Milltown in Berrien County, Georgia, C. G. Stephens became General Manager of the railroad, and soon moved his residence to Cairo. .... The Kelly-Clark Lumber Company had previously built a system of tram roads in the area and had a large sawmill about two mile south of Cairo and this site became the Gradyville station. This was on the old **Wight** Ingleside Plantation. ... Edwin Wilkinson, father-in-law of Edgar H. Thrower, was the Cairo agent... "Dad" Bailey was the conductor

=====  
Minutes ;1906/07/03 ;Mayor, R.L. VanLandingham; Aldermen, K. P. **Wight**, C. E. Mauldin, J. L. Poulk, J. E. Hall

Cairo Messenger dtd 7/27/1906 ;1906/07/27 ;petition for a rail road to known as Albany, Cairo, & Gulf Railroad, to run 180 miles from Albany south. Petitioners were: O. T. Davis, W. A. Walker, WBR, W. C. Jones, M. L. Ledford, J. T. Malloy, J. M Sasser, J. B. Wight, W. S. Wight of Grady County, and Hall of Newton, Ga., and Forkas and two others of Albany. (... don't know whether that was to put the pressure on the P&H Railway, but Cairo people were in behind this, but evidently the P&H got busy and got their charter and then the others faded away and people backed up the Lewis railroad, for he was the main money man.)

Minutes ;1906/11/12 ;...municipal election sheld in and for said city on Nov. 7, 1906. Mayor, Hugh G. Cannon; Councilmen, K. P. Wight, J. L. Poulk, J. W. Booth, Walter L. Lewis, W. B. Brown; Clerk J. H. Connell

Grady 1904-1968 ;Schools ;1907 ;County School Supt J. B. Wight reported that there were 40 white and 23 negro schools in the county serving 3667 pupils, 71 percent of the school age childre. The county schools stayed in operation for five months. - all that funds would justify. - during the year, Pine Park and Oak Hill agreed to the first school consolidation and citizens of the two districts made plans to construct a new ... school. Aldredge and Chason schools quickly followed suit.

Minutes ;1907/11/06 ;result of the election: Mayor, H. G. Cannon; Councilman, John L. Poulk, K. P. Wight, W. B. Brown, W. C. Mathews, L. B. Powell, J. H. Connell, Clerk

srj dtd 4/16/1966, 4/17/1966 ;1908 ;"About 1908 the Cairo concert Band was organized by Charles H. ("Pop") Jennison, who also organized and directed bands in Moultrie and Thomasville, Jennison was an accomplished musician and teacher, a natural born organizer and promoter, and became one of the foremost band directors of all times in Goergia. He died in Moultrie in 1956. The Cairo band flourished under Jennison's direction for a number of years and produced some fine instrumentalist. They gave weekly open air concerts which proveded fine entertainment for the large audiences they attracted. The band was an area asset for Cairo. For the most part it was composed of young Cairo business and professional men and had no connection with the public schools but it was the forerunner of many fine bands the Cairo High School has had in later years. A complete roster is not available but among those who composed the band in its first three or four years were: T. Alton Arline, Chas. R. Beale, Sr., Walter C. Bell, M. Anderson Brown, Thomas W. Jones, Sr., Frank Massey, M. C. (Cullie) McManeus, Roy W. Ponder, Carl M. Poulk, Martin H. Powell, Dr., W. N. Searcy, Sam H. Sutton, W. A. (Doc) Sutton, George A. Wight, Jr., and Afton Williams. T. Alton Arline "...best I can remember, the band was formed in 1908, but I joined it probable during 1909. It continued for several years, but I do notknow just how many. ...spelling of Wh Searcy is as he signed, capital W and little h together. His father was W. H. Searcy, Sr., for some years Cairo City Clerk & Treasurer, but his son, who was obviously a Jr., who was an executive officer in Citizens Bank for many years, but finally moved to Thomasville, was Wh Searcy. Dr. Wm. Maxwell Searcy, his brother, was a dentist, and bother were in the band. ...I do not recall definitely that Charles Beale played in the band when I was it, ... ..I was perhaps the youngest member. My father was Dr. Thomas J. Arline. Martin H. Powell was the son of B. F. (Dock) and Mary Emma Martin Powell and the brother of Louis A. Powell here. ...." JBR says "that Frank Massey was one of the original members. ..also Charles R. Beale, Sr., played .. at various times, though he was in school at Mercer and played in that band for two years....Mrs. C. H. Jennison says that the Cairo band was started sometime about 1908."

Gleanings ;Jessie Ewell Forsyth ;1908 ;Jesse Ewell Forsyth moved to Cairo in the summer of 1908 seeking economic and social independence.... became interested in Cairo through correspondence with J. B. Wight Sr. He planned to get into the pecan growing industry, but that plan did not materialize. first job in Cairo was handling brick and mixing mortar at \$1.00 per day for the J. B. Carr Company, contractors who were constructing the GC courthouse. also helped build the old jail. WBR offered him a job in Roddenbery Hardware. home at 39 6th Ave. SW in 1914.

cm ;Railroad ;1908/06/26 ;... perhaps no line of road (P&H) of equal length in the South opens up a finer

all round country than this short line of about 25 miles. It passes through the famous tobacco belt from one end of the road to the other; and that portion of territory lying in Grady county is here known as "down in Egypt". dtd 8/28/1908: ..work is progressing rapidly..The company through its attorney, Col. M. L. Ledford, has got an extension of the charter from the Secretary of State, and it now has two years more in which to build and equip the road. dtd 12/4/1908: ... Mr. C. G. Stephens is pressing work on this road and we are informed that grading is about complete and ties ready to lay for the first ten miles and that rails have been bought for 10 miles, which means that the road will soon be in operation down into the magnificent belt of timber owned by this company.... more building is being done in Calvary than in Cairo, and several people are clamoring for lots at Calvary. dtd 3/19/1909: .. the bridge or trestle work across Tired and Turkey Creeks Swamps has just been completed ready for the ties. This is an exceptionally long bridge being 2700 ft. in length.. work is expected to begin on the the ACL RR connection in Cairo. dtd 10/16/1908: "A False Report" signed by Dr. Eugene Clower, denying an apparent rumor that there was a case of Scarlet Fever in the family of Mr. C. G. Stephens. dtd 12/10/1909: The P&H had quite a wreck last week. Conductor Elliott and a darkey were hurt, but not seriously. dtd 7/16/1909: ...commissioners proceedings " It has been called to the attention of this Board that the public crossing of the P&H RR at the **Wight** (Ingleside) place is in bad condition, and that it is the duty of the railroad company to put same in proper condition. It was ordered that the clerk notify the officials in charge of affairs of the said railroad to make the necessary repairs without delay."

=====  
Grady 1904-1968 ;1909 ;the Farmers Union bought a warehouse...to hold their cotton until spinners needed it. WBR spoke at at Union meeting "Grow crops you can grow profitably and leave off cotton, grow more hogs, establish a central cold storage and ice house, and use business methods." - the Farmer's Institute of Grady, Colquitt, Thomas, and Brooks counties meet in Cairo, and Prof Jamigan of the State College of Agriculture says "as long as we have the cattle tick it will take five years to grow a steer that will weigh 100 lbs to the quarters." - members of the Ga.-Fla Pecan Growers Assn. met in Cairo, and visited groves of W. C. Jones and J. B. **Wight**. There 6950 acres in pecans in Ga. and 1650 in east Florida. - The Ga. Cane Syrup Ass. organized and held its first meeting in Cairo to determine a grading system for syrup....

=====  
Grady 1904-1968 ;1909 ;W. S. Baggett & son shipped first carload of the year of cantelopes. 420 crates, expected to bring \$100. Thomas **Wight** shipped 17 crates of tomatoes to Tenn. and North Ga. "the first shipment known of from this immediate area."

=====  
Grady 1904-1968 ;1909 ;Cairo Cornet Band gained respectability because "Professor Jenison showed so much patience in teaching each one of them. They gave performances during the year in front of **Wight** and Browne on Broad Street and at the Courthouse.

=====  
Minute ;Cairo ;1908/08/26 ;Certified and entered on the minutes this the 26th day of Aug 1908. ;J. H. Connell, Clerk of the City of Cairo. Ordinance introduced by Councilman L. B. Powell. An ordinance to fix the salary or compensation of the City Clerk & Treas of Cairo, Ga at 240 per annum, and for other purposes. Councilman K. P. **Wight** made a motion to pass the above ordinance to its second reading, motion carried. --- Ordinance introduced by Councilman L. B. Powell. An ordinance to fix the salary or compensation of the mayor of the City of Cairo, Ga at 100 per annum, and for other purposes. Councilman K. P. **Wight** made a motion to pass the above ordinance to its second reading. Motion carried. --- Mr. D. J. Bloodworth came before the Council asking the Council to condemn the property of Mr. Parrish or Mrs. Bass? property and to open up a street or continue??? Mock street running west across Miller St.

=====  
Minutes ;Cairo ;1908/11/05 ;...declare H. G. Cannon duly elected Mayor and R. L. VanLandingham, J. L. Poulk, K. P. **Wight**, T. J. Brown and J. E. Hall duly elected as Councilman, and J. H. Council duly elected Clerk & Treasurer for the ensuing term

=====  
Minutes ;Cairo ;1909/01 ;Mr. Thos. **Wight** came before the council in behalf of Mr. Ira Higdon and the farmers union in regard to the town trying to get the lot square where Mr. Higdon was going to build a big

wholesale grocery store, and the farmer's union are going to build a cotton warehouse, he stated that it would take 9 ft. to square the lot. Councilman R. L. VanLandingham made a motion for the mayor be authorized to give 9 ft. on the back of the lot as soon as **Wight Bros.** would ??? the town out a deed for 9 ft. on the fron of the lot or ?????

=====  
Plat recorded in Grady County ;Schools ;1908/12/17 ;Plat of property of M. L. **Wight**, surveyed by P. B. Lawrence, C.E. shows 'Academy' at NE comer of College St. (5th Ave.) and Mitchell St. (3rd Ave.)  
=====

Minutes of Decatur County Board of Education ;Schools ;1905/10/13 ;Mr. J. Byron **Wight**, representing the new county of Grady, appeared before the Board in order to adjust the school census of 1903 between said new county & Decatur County. After discussing plans for a just division of same, it was agreed to enumerate the entire school population of Lime Sink (621st) Dist. which is nearly equally divided by the new county line, making a separate return of the children of school age in said district on each side of the new county line. -- Then to ennumerate only such part of Bell's (1005th) and Climax (1361st) districts as lie within Grady Co. and such part of Calvary (553rd) district as lies within Decatur Co. The school population as found within the new county of Grady in the Bell's & climax districts to be taken from the Dec. Co. consolidation of the census of 1903 and the school population as found within the county of Decatur in the Calvary district to be counted for Dec. Co. out of the census of 1903 for said district. -- It was further agreed that whatever increase or decrease since the census of 1903 in the school population of Lime sink dist should be taken as the basis for the other three districts. -- It was further agreed that the expenses incurred in taking the foregoing cnesus be equally divided between the new county of Grady & the county of Decatur.

=====  
Minutes of Decatur County Board of Education ;Schools ;1906/01/08 ;"Mr. J. B. **Wight**, representing Grady co. appeared before the Board and at his requeset the Bd authorized the CSC to make contracts with teachers for Grady Co. Schools, which were formerly in this county, on the basis of appropriations authorized by him (Mr. **Wight**). THis arrangement to be of force until a County Board of Education can be created and a CSC elected for said county of Grady. At the request of Mr. **Wight**, this Board established the Sunnyside and Hawthome Schools for Grady Co." -- "It was further agreed that those pupils attending school on the line of Grady and Decatur Counties shall be paid on the average attendance by the respective counties on the basis of attendance and length of term of each county." -- "The following resolution was adopted: "Whereas, on account of the division of Decautr Co. byt eh formation of Grady Co. and consequently there being no Federal census of this county as now constituted, and therefore no basis for the division of the convict funds by the state treasurer in accordance with the Act of 1903, therefore be it -- "Resolved, That this matter be referred to the State Board of Education for its recommendation, with the understanding that if the matter be referred back to this Board to agree upon a bisis for the division of this fund between Decatur & Grady Co., then we recommend that the school census of 1903 be made the basis for the apportionment of said convict funds. -- The Bd. fixed the appropriations to the schools for 1906 at \$7 on the avg. atten. of last year for white schools and \$3 on the avg. atten of colored schools for a term of six months."  
=====

Minutes of Decatur County Board of Education ;Schools ;1888/04/10 ;Commissioner presented claim of G.A. **Wight** & Gainey for establishment of schools in 1258th. One at **Wight's** and the other known as the New School. Both adopted.

=====  
Minutes Cairo (exerpts) ;Schools ;1890/03/26 ;yOUR PETITIONERS ASK THAT YOU OPEN UP A STREET RUNNING NEARLY nORTH AND SOUTH ON A ROUTE SURVEYED OUT BY mR. ga **Wight** ON mAR 25TH, SAID STREET RUNNING THROUGH OR BY LAND OWNED BY Your petitioners, the width of said street to be 50 feet including side walks and to commence on street or raod running west from TW Brown's, and run thence South to the railroad. signed by SAR, July Thomas, Andrew Adkisson, AC dickey, CM Lewis, William Powell, GT Hurst. --Petition signed by SAR, AF Richter, Lewis & Roddenbery, and WB Roddenbery,. asking for street to be opened from Broad Street at a point just North of the Baptist church and run west by the new school house about two hundred (200) yards and ??ence

open a cross street running North and South to the street in front of AF Richter's place on the South end to be about two hundred (200) yards in length.

=====  
Grady 1904-1968 ;1911 ;W. G. Baggett has improved appearances by adding picket fences to the residences in Plainview. - Booth Bros began work on Dr. Searcy's house in Southview. - W. P. Brown, J. M. Miller & Sons, and Capt dunn builders in Cairo - two guano factories built - **Wight & Browne's** latest "liquid iceless soda fountain" of "solid marble, with new style square corners, the background being a plate glass mirror with arched woodwork top studded with beautiful frosted electric light globes." Citizen Bank remodeled

=====  
Savannah and South Georgi ;1054 ;1911 ;John Byron **Wight** b. at Sofkee 9/28/1859. degree from Emory in 1881 and taught in Sofkee. 2 yers at Vanderbilt preparing for the Methodist ministry. taught 1-1/2 yrs at Cairo, and in Dec 1886 joined the South Ga. Conference and served the Trinity circuit, Darien Station and the Eden Circuit. after serving as principal of Macon District in 1888 taught as principal of Cairo high school for 8 yrs. while at work in the school room he had become interested in farming and fruit growing. pioneer pecan groves. paper read before the American Pomological Society, Feb 11, 1911... last three para. "The bugbear of overproduction has veen haunting some who are afraid that more nuts will be produced than can be profitably marketed. With a product as nutritious and palatable as pecans, this generation not the next will ever see a glut in the pecan market. As nuts become more plentiful, and consequently cheaper in price, there will not only be more consumed buyt those who are already eating them will use more. Furthermore, they will be introduced into the markets of the world, and hundreds of millions of people will be consuming them where there are now only millions. Our physicians and scientists are telling us that if more nuts fruits were eaten and less meats, that we would be healthier, and if healthier, then happier. Pecans are getting to be more and more a stape product. Future generations may see over- production; but when that far distant time is reached, wheat will be a glut in the market, and porterhouse steak will go begging for a buyer. "I cannot close this paper without urging that every person in the pecan belt, which is practically commensurate with the cotton growing region shioud grow at least a few pecan trees. HTe unfortunate dwellers in the most crowded parts of our cities may not have toom. But there are few homes, enen in our cities and large town, where there is not enough space to accommodate one or more tress. One tree, when well established, will furnish nuts sufficient to last the average family for a year. Aand a farmer, though he may have only a few acres of land, is neglecting a most profitable money crop when he fails to set out a few pecan trees around his garden and yard. These trees will furnish a shade in summer, nuts in the winter, and will add bearyt and stateliness and comfort all the time. There are few New Endland home that have not their apple and other fruit trees; and the day should not be far distant when the same can be said of pecan trees growing about the home in our Southland. As shade trees they are beautiful; and there are none that yield more in pleasure and profit than do pecans. "Twenty-three years ago I read this advice from a veteran pecan grower, who still abides with us: 'Young man, set a pecan grove, and when you are old it will support you.' I velieved than that the advice was sould; I now know it is so. And so I will pass the word along; Young man, plant a pecan grove. It will help to make your days happier and you pockets heavier. It will lighten you burdens whil here; and when you are gone, your children and children's children will rise up ad call you blessed."

=====  
Grady 1904-1968 ;1912 ;another 3 story building being put up on South Broad St. - February tornado damaged or destroyed several, commercial buildings, and the Negro Masonic Hall - auction of 50 lots on south Broad Street in a section called "Ball Park" - G. G. Calloway brought the "picture show" to Cairo and established the Victoria Theater in City Hall. After a few weeks he sold the "V Theater" to r. H. Horton. - The Cairo Ice & Bottling Co was formed - H. J. Hart placed a gasoline filling station in front of his business -Sellers and McDaniel began a law practice in the "front room over the Cairo post office." - busy Bee Cafe on south Broad St. - Cairo Furniture Co. - **Wight** Hardware

# Grady County Historical Society, Inc.

March 25, 2011

Mr. Richard VanLandingham  
1444 Magnolia Drive  
Cairo, GA 39828

Dear Mr. VanLandingham,

I am happy to inform you of the Grady County Museum and History Center's plan to showcase the 'One Hundred Year' businesses of Grady County. In the upcoming months, we will be asking each of Grady County's centennial businesses for memorabilia that can be used for display purposes. Wight Nurseries will be one of the featured businesses in this 'One Hundred Year' exhibit. The Museum has some Wight-related items, but we would like to include other items or information that you or your family would like to loan or donate to enhance our telling of the Wight Nurseries' story.

The process of gathering historical information and display items for each business will be a major undertaking. However, we are confident that if we plan appropriately, we can develop an exhibit that will both enrich the museum experience, and provide an engaging learning opportunity for the citizens of Grady County.

I invite you to contact me or the Museum to discuss the contents of your Wight Nurseries' collection. We are excited to share with the community the story of our county's first businesses, and would be grateful for your contribution as well.

Sincerely,



Rebecca R. Cline  
Curator, Grady County Museum and History Center

cc: Johnny Wight

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

*Donna Powell - President*

*Vonne Childs - Vice-president*

*Beverly Cliett - Secretary*

*Carolyn J. Hopkins - Treasurer*

### Regents

*Joan Drew - Bold Springs*

*Margorie Taylor - Calvary*

*Billy Hester - Midway*

*Logan Lewis - Pine Park*

*Henda Coffey - Reno*

*Barbara Jones - Spence/Elpino*

*Rebecca Cline - Curator*

*April Reckford - Adm'n. Assistant*

*Carolyn Chason - Advisor*

P. O. Box 586  
Cairo, GA 39828  
(229) 377-5142

[gradyhistory@syrupcity.net](mailto:gradyhistory@syrupcity.net)  
[www.gradyhistorical.org](http://www.gradyhistorical.org)

"Unlocking the treasures to our past"

# Grady County Historical Society, Inc.

March 25, 2011

Mr. Richard VanLandingham  
1444 Magnolia Drive  
Cairo, GA 39828

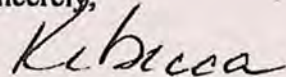
Dear Mr. VanLandingham,

I am happy to inform you of the Grady County Museum and History Center's plan to showcase the 'One Hundred Year' businesses of Grady County. In the upcoming months, we will be asking each of Grady County's centennial businesses for memorabilia that can be used for display purposes. Wight Nurseries will be one of the featured businesses in this 'One Hundred Year' exhibit. The Museum has some Wight-related items, but we would like to include other items or information that you or your family would like to loan or donate to enhance our telling of the Wight Nurseries' story.

The process of gathering historical information and display items for each business will be a major undertaking. However, we are confident that if we plan appropriately, we can develop an exhibit that will both enrich the museum experience, and provide an engaging learning opportunity for the citizens of Grady County.

I invite you to contact me or the Museum to discuss the contents of your Wight Nurseries' collection. We are excited to share with the community the story of our county's first businesses, and would be grateful for your contribution as well.

Sincerely,



Rebecca R. Cline  
Curator, Grady County Museum and History Center

cc: Johnny Wight

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

Donna Powell - President

Vonnie Childs - Vice-president

Deverly Cliett - Secretary

Carolyn J. Hopkins - Treasurer

### Regents

Joan Drew - Bold Springs

Marjorie Taylor - Calvary

Billy Hester - Midway

Logan Lewis - Pine Park

Wenda Coffey - Reno

Barbara Jones - Spence/Elpino

Rebecca Cline - Curator

April Reckford - Admin. Assistant

Carolyn Chason - Advisor

P.O. Box 586  
Cairo, GA 39828  
(29) 377-5142

[gradyhistory@syrupcity.net](mailto:gradyhistory@syrupcity.net)  
[www.gradyhistorical.org](http://www.gradyhistorical.org)

"Unlocking the treasures to our past"

# Grady County Historical Society, Inc.

October 1, 2010

Mr. Richard VanLandingham  
1444 Magnolia Drive  
Cairo, GA 39828

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

*Donna Powell -President*

*Yvonne Childs -Vice-president*

*Beverly Cliett-Secretary*

*Carolyn J. Hopkins -Treasurer*

### Regents

*Joan Drew-Bold Springs*

*Marjorie Taylor-Calvary*

*Billy Hester-Midway*

*Logan Lewis-Pine Park*

*Glenda Coffey-Reno*

*Barbara Jones-Spence/Elpino*

*Rebecca Cline-Curator*

*April Reckford-Admin. Assistant*

*Carolyn Chason-Advisor*

P. O. Box 586  
Cairo, GA 39828  
[gradyhistory@syrupcity.net](mailto:gradyhistory@syrupcity.net)  
[www.gradyhistorical.org](http://www.gradyhistorical.org)


Dear Mr. VanLandingham,

On behalf of the Grady County Historical Society, I would like to thank you for your generous offer to donate items associated with Wight Nurseries and for your interest to contribute towards their display. The Society welcomes the opportunity to share with our museum visitors the great contributions of Wight Nurseries and to highlight the company's legacy as a pillar of Grady County's business community. We support the idea of showcasing Grady County's 'One Hundred Year' businesses and are currently discussing options as how best to do so.

The Society's mission is to promote the cultural and economic history of Grady County. We believe that we can achieve this goal by informing the community of its shared heritage, through a museum that offers a dynamic and diverse display of our proud history. It is the Museum's Policy (*see item 3. Collection Policy, A. Acquisitions*) to follow an open and flexible display process. In so doing, we strive to provide a place of inspiration and discovery, while maintaining relevance within the community.

I hope that you understand the purpose of such a policy and will donate or loan your items to the Museum. We would like to work with you to create a beautiful and educational display featuring Wight Nurseries. The exhibit could begin early next year and remain up for a six month to one year time frame. Please contact us so that we can discuss the contents of your gift or loan and begin planning its display.

Respectfully,



Donna Powell, *President*

"Unlocking the treasures to our past"

*enclosure*

# Grady County Historical Society, Inc.

October 1, 2010

Mr. Richard VanLandingham  
1444 Magnolia Drive  
Cairo, GA 39828

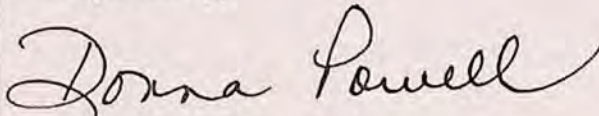
Dear Mr. VanLandingham,

On behalf of the Grady County Historical Society, I would like to thank you for your generous offer to donate items associated with Wight Nurseries and for your interest to contribute towards their display. The Society welcomes the opportunity to share with our museum visitors the great contributions of Wight Nurseries and to highlight the company's legacy as a pillar of Grady County's business community. We support the idea of showcasing Grady County's 'One Hundred Year' businesses and are currently discussing options as how best to do so.

The Society's mission is to promote the cultural and economic history of Grady County. We believe that we can achieve this goal by informing the community of its shared heritage, through a museum that offers a dynamic and diverse display of our proud history. It is the Museum's Policy (*see item 3. Collection Policy, A. Acquisitions*) to follow an open and flexible display process. In so doing, we strive to provide a place of inspiration and discovery, while maintaining relevance within the community.

I hope that you understand the purpose of such a policy and will donate or loan your items to the Museum. We would like to work with you to create a beautiful and educational display featuring Wight Nurseries. The exhibit could begin early next year and remain up for a six month to one year time frame. Please contact us so that we can discuss the contents of your gift or loan and begin planning its display.

Respectfully,



Donna Powell, *President*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

*Donna Powell - President*

*Yvonne Childs - Vice-president*

*Beverly Cliett - Secretary*

*Carolyn J. Hopkins - Treasurer*

### Regents

*Joan Drew - Bold Springs*

*Marjorie Taylor - Calvary*

*Billy Hester - Midway*

*Logan Lewis - Pine Park*

*Glenda Coffey - Reno*

*Barbara Jones - Spence/Elpino*

*Rebecca Cline - Curator*

*April Reckford - Admin. Assistant*

*Carolyn Chason - Advisor*

P. O. Box 586  
Cairo, GA 39828  
[gradyhistory@syrupcity.net](mailto:gradyhistory@syrupcity.net)  
[www.gradyhistorical.org](http://www.gradyhistorical.org)

"Unlocking the treasures to our past"

*enclosure*

---

**GRADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER**

**1. PURPOSE**

The Grady County Historical Society is a regional organization incorporated by the State of Georgia for the purpose of promoting the educational enrichment and appreciation of the cultural and economic history and development of Southwest Georgia, especially Grady County. The Museum and History Center exists for the purpose of identifying, locating, collecting, acquiring and preserving materials that represent and illustrate the County's history and to exhibit and interpret these materials for the public's discovery and understanding of the region's heritage.

**2. ADMINISTRATION**

As provided in the By-Laws of the Grady County Historical Society, the administration of the Museum will be vested in the position of a Curator and a Council of Trustees authorized to serve as agents of the Society.

**3. COLLECTION POLICY**

**A. Acquisitions.**

Materials that are to become part of the Museum collection shall be acquired by direct gift, bequest, loan deposit, exchange, and purchase.

All title for acquisitions to the Museum collection, excluding loan deposits, is conveyed to the Grady County Historical Society.

Acceptability of artifacts and materials for use by the Museum will be determined by the Curator in agreement with the Council of Trustees. Generally, objects with inadequate documentation, or in such a deteriorated condition that they have no educational value will not be accepted. The Museum reserves the right to reject an offered object if it does not meet the objectives of the Museum, especially when duplication is involved, or when adequate storage and protection is unavailable. The Museum will not acquire any object if there is any reason to believe that it may have been obtained illegally or unethically, especially biological specimens and Native American remains and artifacts.

With few exceptions, all acquisitions are unconditional i.e. gifts to the Museum are considered outright and unrestricted donations to be used in the best interests of the Grady County Historical Society. Because the Museum must maintain a flexible exhibit policy, objects on exhibit can be expected to change frequently; therefore, the Museum reserves the right to determine when and how acquisitions will be used.

**B. Accession Records.**

It is the responsibility of the Museum to maintain a complete record of all acquisitions in accordance with standard cataloging procedures.

**C. Appraisal/Authentication.**

The value of donations to the Museum may be tax deductible; however, neither the Museum nor any member of its staff is permitted to appraise or authenticate donations. Appraisal and authentication is the responsibility of the donor.

#### 4. MAINTENANCE OF COLLECTION

The Museum collection shall be curated according to the best possible professional standards. That curation will aim to preserve and maintain the collection and its associated data so that it will be available in perpetuity, except those objects determined to be expendable. The Museum cannot guarantee permanency beyond the best possible curatorial procedures.

#### 5. DISPOSITIONS

Upon periodic evaluation of the Museum's collections, an object may be declared expendable. Also, an object may become expendable when it is superseded by acquisition of a better example, or deteriorates to the point that restoration is either impractical or impossible. The decision to declare an object expendable requires a majority vote of the Museum Curator and Council of Trustees.

When disposition is appropriate, every effort will be made to transfer the object to another museum or public institution for continued use, or exchanged to acquire other needed material for the Museum. Ordinarily, expendable objects will not be sold. Destruction of expendable objects will be done only as a last resort.

A record of all deaccessions, including method of disposition, shall be maintained as part of the permanent records of the Museum.

#### 6. USE OF COLLECTION

##### A. Loans.

Museum materials may be loaned to other museums or educational institutions for the purpose of serious study and research, or for exhibition. The borrower must provide adequate curation and security, consistent with the policies of this Museum, for all items while on loan. A record of all items loaned shall be maintained as part of the permanent records of the Museum. Decisions to loan the Museum's materials shall require a majority vote of the Curator and Council of Trustees.

##### B. Access To Collection.

During normal operating hours, the Museum's materials shall be accessible for legitimate study and research by responsible investigators, subject to restrictions imposed by limitations of space, facilities, staff, and exhibition requirements. Study, at other times, may be arranged by appointment.

##### C. Exhibition.

The Museum will use its acquisitions for exhibition to the public at specified hours, but only under the supervision of responsible staff. Decisions regarding what objects and when those objects will be used in exhibition, will be determined by the Curator and Council of Trustees

#### 7. AMENDMENTS

These Museum Policies may be amended by a majority vote of the Curator and Council of Trustees. Proposed amendments become effective only upon ratification by the Board of Directors of the Grady County Historical Society.

shall sign all corporate instruments whereon his signature is required, and shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may properly require.

**3.07 Salaries.** Salaries, and other compensations to be paid officers and employees of the Society for their services, shall be determined and fixed by the Board of Directors.

**3.08 Absence of Officers.** In the absence or incapacity of any officer, or for any other reason deemed sufficient by the Board of Directors, the Board may temporarily delegate the powers and duties of such officers to any other officer, or to any Director, provided a majority of the Directors concur in such action.

#### **Article IV MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER**

**4.01 Purpose.** The Museum and History Center exists for the purpose of identifying, locating, collecting, acquiring and preserving materials that represent and illustrate the County's past history and to exhibit and interpret these materials for the public's discovery and understanding of the region's heritage.

**4.02 Administration.** The administration of the Museum will be vested in the position of a Curator and a Council of Trustees authorized to serve as agents of the Society.

**4.03 Curator.** The Curator shall be responsible for supervision of the day-to-day operation of the Museum. He shall have authority over the conduct and operation of the museum as such, and shall have authority on behalf of the Directors to carry out such other duties as they shall direct from time to time. The Curator will be appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and shall serve as a member on the Board until his successor is appointed.

**4.04 Council of Trustees.** The Council of Trustees is the major decision making body on matters pertaining to operation of the Museum. All policies recommended by the Council of Trustees are subject to review, and must be ratified by the Board of Directors before they are implemented. The Council of Trustees shall consist of not less than five (5) or more than ten (10) members from the Society at large. Trustees shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the Board, and each Trustee shall serve for a three year term of office. The term of office of each Trustee shall be fixed so that the term of office of approximately one-third of the Trustees shall expire at the time of the Annual Business Meeting each year. Each Trustee shall serve until his successor is elected.

#### **Article V ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEES**

**5.01 Appointment.** Each Organizational Committee shall consist of a Chairman and not less than two members from the members of the Society-At-Large, appointed by the President, after the Annual Business Meeting. In making these appointments, the President shall designate the Chairman of each committee other than the Finance Committee.

**5.02 Duties of the Organizational Committees.** Each Organizational Committee shall promote interaction among other Organizational Committees. It shall be the duty of each

## **Grady County Historical Society, Inc.**

### **Mission**

The purpose of this society shall be to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Grady County.

### **Goals**

The Society will discover, collect, and disseminate any material which may help to establish, illustrate or educate the general public to the history of the area; including exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and in war, and; advancement in population, wealth, education, arts, science, agriculture, manufacturers, trade and transportation.

## **Grady County Museum and History Center**

### **Mission**

The Grady County Museum and History Center will preserve, interpret, and display the materials of the Grady County Historical Society; offering ways to explore the people and events that have made the area what it is today.

The purpose of this society shall be to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Grady County.

## Goals

The Society will discover, collect, and disseminate any material which may help to establish, illustrate or educate the general public to the history of the area; including

- its exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and in war, and;
- its advancement in population, wealth, education, arts, science, agriculture, manufacturers, trade and transportation.

The material may include:

- printed material such as histories, genealogies, biographies, descriptions, gazetteers, directories;
- manuscript material such as letters, diaries, journals, memoranda reminiscences, rosters, service records, account books, charts, surveys, and field books; and
- museum material such as pictures, photographs, paintings, portraits, scenes, aboriginal artifacts, and material objects illustrative of life, conditions, events, and activities of the past and the present.

Fund raising efforts and Membership drives are underway to help support the mission and goals of the Grady County Historical Society and the Grady County Museum and History Center. All of your donations are tax deductible.

Take time to join the Grady County Historical Society, and be a part of preserving your heritage!

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday in January-May and September-November. The public is always invited!

## Museum and History Center

### Mission

The Grady County Museum will preserve, interpret, and display the materials of the Grady County Historical Society; offering ways to explore the people and events that have made the area what it is today.

### Our Vision

**Interactive Exhibits** that encourage exploration and discovery into our past.

**Educational Programs** for children and adults through lectures, performances, workshops, and special activities.

**Archives and Research** in cooperation with the Library.

**Tours** through the Museum, Downtown Cairo, Grady County, and Southwest Georgia.

**Museum Shop** featuring specialty items.

The Grady County Historical Society was organized in 1956 through the efforts of Miss Wessie Connell, the public librarian for many years. The Society received its Certificate of Incorporation with an effective date of April 22, 1993. It has received a tax-exempt status as an organization described under Internal Revenue Service Code section 501(c)(3).