

**NOTE:**

Open Pond/Woodville/Gordon, Alabama is located on the Banks of the Chattahoochee River. The location is about 12 miles from present day Malone, Florida. Many of our pioneer ancestors settled there before migrating to the area of Malone and elsewhere in Jackson County. Enjoy this documentary by someone who was born in primitive times and experienced the hardships of yesteryear.

First: Open Pond  
Second: Woodville  
Presently: Gordon

**TRAILS GROWN DIM**  
**By**  
**HELEN OWENS ROLLINS**  
**1968**

(From the original hand written document)  
From her memory and her ancestors documentation

Many records, dates, places, etc., were given to me by three Cooke sisters, my grandmother and Sam J. Hall Jr. The family bible I have, shows births, marriages, and deaths. William Wood did the writing. This bible is over 140 years old. Pages are fuzzy with age. Betty Bennett Tomlinson knew of my interest in our family records and bought and sent me these books: Henry- The Mother County 1816-1903 and Henry's Heritage.

Daniel Pynes came to the territory after 1810. Daniel Pynes was born in South Carolina about 1775. His son James Pynes was a small boy when Daniel's family came to the Alabama Territory. Daniel was the first man to manufacture man's hats in the whole big Henry County. Settlers were glad to welcome a hat maker and new settler to the Open Pond Community. There are few known facts about the South Caroline Pynes \*\* before this arrival in the Apalachicola – Chattahoochee area about 1810 (see note above) before Alabama became a state (1819) or Henry was hardly a county. The first county seat choice was 22 miles due west of Old Columbia Alabama, called Richmond in honor of Patrick Henry whose native state capital was Richmond, Virginia. Daniel was named by act of the legislature to be Court House Commissioner in 1828 and served on for many years. This legislature on December 20, 1828 approved and decided a permanent seat of

justice should be moved nearer the Chattahoochee River and be called Columbia, Alabama, so it was done.

James Pynes was a son of Daniel Pynes, born in South Carolina April 26, 1801. He and his family entered land near the Chattahoochee River but traded for much more land for twelve and a half cents an acre. We have old papers signed by him and family members showing ownership of lands in Geneve County. Other than this we know little about the Pynes family until James Pynes married Winnifred Register. She was born November 15, 1811 in South Carolina. When she was a small child the Registers moved to the Open Pond area. They too entered and traded for acreage near the Chattahoochee.

The Memorial Record of Alabama 1830 census states that James Pynes was a prosperous farmer and businessman – elected to represent Henry County in the legislature (1840 – 42, 1855, 56, 57) and served there many years. These things were told to me by Angie and Minnie Cooke (neighbors of the Pynes).

The Indians – Creeks, Cherokees and Seminoles that were left after most went west (near 1812) were friendly to our people. They loved and respected the Jimmy Pynes family. One Chief who was unusually tall came often to trade with Jimmy. On every visit he reminded the storekeeper, “We brothers” “We tall” We like Jimmy.

One of Jimmy Pynes first homes after he married was a big four room log house with a hall and a chimney on each side for bedroom warmth. The kitchen and dining room were back of the main house but connected by a walkway called a dog-trot. The kitchen had such a hard floor it seemed to be almost cement. Angie and Minnie said they watched the blacks drive animals over that area until Jimmy was satisfied with the firmness. A big house with a hard clay floored kitchen and yard.

In those days pioneer people were very early risers. They were up and stirring long before the sun appeared. They quit their labors long after dark. During the late afternoon their days pleasure was setting on their front porch perhaps talking, meditating, Maybe just listening to the blacks singing or maybe just “sitting like a duck”. One day Jimmy decided the house should face to the east on Jackson Trail (just across the road), so the evening sun wouldn't mar his pleasure at the end of the day. So the family working members, neighbors and blacks proceeded to move his four big rooms and porch right across the Jackson Trail to the hill. (Jackson Trail is now called the Columbia Road and highway 95). This place was between Alec's house now and the area William Wood had given for a Community Cemetery (at Open Pond). The Kitchen and dining room were left on the old site. Years later my grandmother's children remember it and gathering hen eggs from the hay loft above the weedless hard barn yard. Mammy Lucy, our much

loved black friend (Mammy Lucy Koonce) told us of helping prepare our grandmother's (Missouri Wood's) wedding feast in that log house – wild turkey, deer, barbecued pig, ect. Mammy could do so many things! She nursed my mother and Aunt Lena years ago, sew, cook, comb curls, churn, etc. She was near 6 feet tall and so happy always, but she did have tears when my great grandfather went to Marietta Georgia twice trying to find some trace of her husband who was sold long before. When she came to Alabama she brought a tiny girl with her named Ellen. (Mammies daughter Ellen is an ancestor of General Robinson's family). Mammy married Pap Koonce, a black man looking something like a monkey. When he came to weed my mother's garden my father would say “ Good morning Pap, how do you feel today?” His answer never varied, “He's fine, how she? I, you and we, weren't in his vocabulary. He must have come directly from Africa. Mammy died at an age near 100 years. She was buried at Philadelphia Cemetery in Gordon Alabama. We loved her dearly, never seeming a slave, always a much loved family member to her Pynes families. The faded record book had 102 or 112 years as her age. Her teeth looked like pearls. She died in 1923. All Pynes descendants left, attended her funeral.

Angie and Minnie Cooke moved to Open Pond when very young from Campbellton, Florida. Soon after moving to the area they became playmates and later girlhood friends of Missouri Pynes and her sisters. Isaac Cooke, their father joined the Confederate Army leaving his wife, three daughters and son Columbus Cooke at Open Pond. They lived in a log house on what is now called Monroe Street. In front of their house there was a large Open Pond. Therefore the community was so called after 3 or 4 families moved near. The James Pynes house was where the old well was dug. That road became the Stagecoach Route # 6785. This route began at Eufaula, Alabama via Abbeville, Columbia, Open Pond and on to Marianna, Florida, the distance of 95 miles. Long before the stagecoach got to Open Pond the driver blew several long blast on a bugle. People hurried to reach the stagecoach stop at James Pynes home – an exciting event – partly to get news of the outside world or maybe to send out mail or see if they received any letters. The horses were fed, rested and ready to go on the next lap of the journey. This stagecoach traveled on Jackson's Trail, cleared by Andrew Jackson and his Company of Tennessee “Leather Jackets” in pursuit of hostile Creeks, Seminoles and wandering Cherokees. Andrew Jackson and his Company of Leather Jackets blazed the trail. (This climaxed in the capture of Pensacola, Florida). Stagecoaches stopped by James Pynes Water well each trip. (two trips to and from Eufaula every week, (weather permitting). That old well site can be easily found today (1968). In my childhood when the well was in use the cedar log lining showed no signs of rotting or crumbling, neither did the brick at the bottom, easily seen when the well was low. That was the first and only well at Open Pond for many years. Our family home place in this old,old settlement is now called Gordon, Alabama. The old well has been filled with soil (safety measure)

for many years. For much over a 100 years it gave water to travelers and people of the community. It never went dry but progress and modern conveniences replaced the cold, clear water we enjoyed from that well. There will never be any water so refreshingly good to me as that was. Senile? Perhaps.

Angie and Minnie Cooke often spoke of their birthplace in Campbellton, Florida. The Cooke girls and my grandmother, Missouri (called Zudy) and three more girls went to school in a one room log house (fireplace heat when cold) in Open Pond for three months out of each year. Katie Leslie Long was the first teacher in that area. Franklin, 22 miles from Columbia, Alabama with less than a dozen families, had been of sufficient number to call the trail there a road ( the very first road in Henry County). Open Pond was begun as a small settlement in 1818 to 1820. The greatest change in big Henry County was between 1868 and February 9, 1903 when Houston County finally became Alabama's new and last county. Before the big Henry County was divided, James Pynes served as State Representative (1840-42, 47, 55 and 57). Before this he served as Clerk of County Court (1827, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34). Note: his father Daniel Pynes was County Commissioner at this time. In those days only trails made by animals and hunters between pioneers homes existed, except for one county road from Columbia south to Marianna, Florida on the trail blazed by Jackson's soldiers. The first mail route of sorts was set up by congress, June 15, 1832. James Pynes became the first Postmaster to Open Pond, February 11, 1846. William Wood was appointed to succeed him, November 7, 1850 and served 8 years. (It was at this time that the village became known unofficially as Woodville). Note: The name of the post office was changed from "Open Pond" to "Gordon" October 22, 1866.

### **The Daniel Pynes Lineage**

- I Daniel Pynes-born in South Carolina about 1775 (married Rutha Knotts before 1800)
- II James Pynes (son of Daniel) born in South Carolina April 22, 1801, came to Alabama as a small child. James married Winnifred Register (born in South Carolina November 15, 1811). They had three daughters born in Open Pond, 1830 Ala Census
- III Missouri Pynes (born October 16 1842 – died 1918) married William Wood (born March 22, 1828), on October 15, 1883.
- III Virginia Pynes married James Leslie (born July 18, 1831)
- III Caroline Pynes (born April 19, 1830 – died November 21, 1873) married W.H. Smith

**Note:** The author did not mention that Carolina Pynes and W.H. Smith had four children: Edgar Smith (died young) 1861 – 1874  
 Daniel Smith 1859 – 1932 married Alice Hodgson 1862 – 1901  
 Lilla Nann Smith 1858 – 1907 married William Alford 1853 – 1902

James T. Smith (first born) 1854 – 1889 married Mary E. Polly Chumney 1856 – 1920  
 Note: James T and Mary Polly had five children and their first born was James S. who married Unity Baxter from Malone. She was the great granddaughter of Israel Baxter and Mary Ann Futch. They flourished Jackson County with 11 children. Most of his descendants are still in the Malone area. Gordon Alabama is about 12 miles from Malone Florida.

### **Pynes – Leslie – Cohron – Middlebrooks Generations**

- I Daniel Pynes
- II James Pynes
- III Virginia Pynes married James Leslie and had one child
- IV Norma Kate Leslie married Lum Cohron and had two sons
- V Lum Cohron Jr. married Mayme Wolford and had no heirs
- VI Byron L. Cohron married Lillian Stewart of Newton Alabama  
 (2<sup>nd</sup> marriage to Vivian (?) no children
  
- VII Dorothy married J.B. Middlebrooks and had 3 sons and 1 daughter  
 All moved to Panama City, Florida  
 Byron L. Cohron later married Rotha (?) and had three children
- VIII Norma Kate Cohron (died young)  
 5 and 6 – Lum and Byron were Twins

We called Virginia Pynes Leslie “Mammy Jennie”. She was a very tiny, stooped over sweet little lady. She suffered much with rheumatism of the spine, she said. There were no home remedies or aspirin for the pain she suffered. Byron and Lum (her grandsons) lived with her then. One of her boys would hurry to town on Mammy's painful days, possible to Tuttle's Store to get her a bottle of Morphine. It cost 20 or 25 cents a bottle. (The bottles were blue glass filled with morphine powder). The user would dissolve the powder in water and inject the solution into the forearm. It was sold over the counter as were potatoes, coffee, sugar, etc. I never knew Norma (Virginia Pynes Daughter) but my mother spoke tenderly of her as if she was a loving sister. She died young, leaving her two sons with “Mammy Jennie”. After “Mammy's death” the boys cousin Judge Felix Leslie became their guardian. Being the Houston County Judge, he could have been self-appointed as guardian. Anyway he sent them to a reform school near Birmingham. I do believe they might have started making “leaving plans” right away. Byron and a friend his age began the trip “anyway”, on the way home to Gordon and my family. I never did know about Lum's trip or if he was alone. They both told us they knew to travel through the woods to avoid people on the roads looking for them. After they got to my father and mother they and we were joyful. By some process of law, they were allowed to get some

of the inheritance that was left to them. Now I'll tell you a secret. Lum had “Mammy” convinced before she died, that he needed high chicken wire to make the old garden space into a gopher ranch. He must have had 10 gophers of all sizes in the pen – yes I was afraid of them but not watching them through the fence. The boys around town would come by to watch Lum and my brother give them bread and water, etc. Fripp Tuttle was a special friend to everyone – but his first cousin Roy Tuttle came by one day to see the gophers walk. When Lum and my brother came up and saw fire burning on the gophers back, Lum threw a big rock at Roy. No serious injury, bloody shirt and loud crying. Anyway Lum always said Roy's daddy Bozie Tuttle got Judge Leslie to send him back to the reform school and change his inheritance all because of a gopher, a small nearby rock, plus a cruel deed by others. They stayed with us several months or until they wanted to work for themselves. Lum went to Atlanta and found a job and wrote often. We didn't hear from Byron for some time. Then he came by and brought with him Lillian Stewart from Newton Alabama as his wife. After they left the Gordon area Lillian's brother came to see us. He had won quite a name for himself as a baseball pitcher in the Ozark and Montgomery area. But we didn't hear from Byron or know where he was for years. When he did come back he and Rotha (2<sup>nd</sup> Marriage) had married. He was helping in the road building of U.S. 84. Their little Norma Kate was beautiful and the twins were tiny boys. Norma Kate died as a small beautiful child. Then I think Rotha and Byron and family moved north to Virginia. ?

### **Addenda by Sam Hall III**

After Miss Angie died (around 1920) “Miss Minnie” continued to live in the small house on Jackson Trail. The first job I had (as a small boy) was to get Miss Minnie's grocery list on Saturday morning then get the groceries from my father's store and deliver them to her. She was living in poverty at the time, but she had a few coins and she offered to pay for the groceries. But I had been instructed to tell her they had been charged to her account. There was no welfare in those days and neighbors and friends supported the unfortunate. One day she told me she had never married because she promised her sweetheart she would wait for him when he left to fight in the Civil War. He was killed in action, but she was keeping her promise to wait for him.

### **Angie and her family (Cooke)**

Isaac Cooke and wife had 3 girls: Angie, Minnie, Della and one son, Columbus. Sometimes in early 1800 (1820 – 1825 or 1830) the Cooke family moved from Campbellton, Florida to the Open Pond settlement. There might have been one or two other families camped near the Jackson Trail, close to the Chattahoochee River. Anyway the Daniel Pynes family were there followed by others from the Columbia area and so

the area became known as the Open Pond community. Angie and Minnie Cooke were for many years the oldest citizens in Gordon. If I'd only known to ask them questions about my forefathers, I'd be happy tonight to write the whole story of my people. Minnie died at age 98. Angie a few years earlier. Neither ever married. They were seamstresses in Open Pond – Woodville and last Gordon, Alabama for over 60 years. After coming to Open Pond they became friends and playmates with three more little girls their age. Missouri, Carolina and Virginia Pynes whose father was James Pynes - an earlier arriver and already the owner of tracks of land and a store. These little girls went to a one room log school house, heated by a fireplace. This first Open Pond school was taught by Kate Leslie Long for three or four months a year in the small log cabin. Isaac Cooke built a log cabin for his wife, three daughters and one son Columbus. Then he left to join the Confederate Army. He had killed two deer and pickled them in a wooden barrel for his family to have meat for a while. He used the deer hide to put on the chair bottom he had made. The soft chair his wife and daughters would sit on to sew for the settlers nearby for years. Son "Columbus" did odd jobs hauling wood, running errands, hunting, etc., to earn what he could to help the family. This chair mentioned is still in the home of a member of the Wood family (1968). Angie and Minnie told my sisters and me that William Wood and his family were living near Campbellton, Florida when they were all children and that William's father and mother died their and were buried in Campbellton Cemetery. They were young when Isaac Cooke moved his family to Open Pond. Angie and Minnie had forgotten many of those years

### **Pynes, Wood, Tuttle, Bennett, Tomlinson, Shinholster and Wiley Lineage**

- I Daniel Pynes b Darlington South Carolina 1775, married Rutha Knotts
- II James Pynes b South Carolina 22 April 1801 d 18 February 1873, married Winnifred Register they had three daughters: Missouri, Carolina and Virginia
- III Missouri (Zudy) married William Wood and had 2 daughters (Winnifred Lena m. Elwood F. Tuttle) Son Fripp died young, daughter Daisy M. Buford Dean had no children
- IV Harriet Tuttle married David Thurman Bennett and had 2 girls and one boy, David Thurman Jr. - died no children, Betty S. married Hoke Tomlinson, no children
- V Nell B. married Horace D. Shinholster and had 2 children, Horace Jr. who had one child, Louise
- VI Louise Shinholster married Lloyd Wiley and had twins: Leslie and Lloyd Jr. Leslie never married
- VII Lloyd Jr. married Beck and had 2 daughters

Betty Sue Bennett married Hoke Tomlinson. She's the only member of the Daniel Pynes ancestry now (1968) living in Gordon, Alabama. Daniel Pynes came from North and

South Carolina to Open Pond – Woodville – Gordon, Alabama in the early 1800. Betty Sue and Hoke live in an old Gordon family home and sail and fish in the Chattahoochee River that our people have loved many many years.

### **Tuttle Family**

Robert and Harriet Davis Tuttle were natives of South Carolina. They were the parents of eleven children. They owned land on the Santee River and farmed for a living for a number of years and were both members of the Methodist church. She married at age 15. E.F. Tuttle was brought up as a farm boy. Gaining his limited education in the local school. At the age of 11 he moved with his family to St. Stevens, South Carolina and was engaged in farming for a while. Later he was a clerk in a store and continued so employed until 1878. At this time he moved to Georgia where he began working in the turpentine business learning fast all the details of it's making. In 1885 he came to Alabama and began a turpentine business on the property of Missouri, Alice and Lena Wood. The location was known as Horse Shoe Pond (now on the Mixon farm near Gordon, Alabama). In 1888 he married Lena Wood, daughter of William and Missouri Wood. She was in her 20<sup>th</sup> year. To them were born Daisy Wood, T. Harriet, and Fripp. In 1893 he employed 35 men at an outlay of \$46 a day. He was called "Captain Tuttle", the name conferred upon him by the Turpentine blacks working in the turpentine woods.

### **Bozie Tuttle**

I don't know what year Bozie came to Gordon nor when he married Ruby Long. When he came to Gordon only three of the 11 children of his parents, had survived. He came to town soon after E.F. Tuttle died. Bozie and Ruby Tuttle had a son Roy and a daughter Annie. Bozie with the help of Walter Smath. a black friend, built a blacksmith shop just back of E.F. Tuttle's store. There was a strong bond between E.F. And Bozie Tuttle. I was told the following story: In November 1908 Fripp Tuttle and his cousin Roy went rabbit hunting, taking with them a black boy named Barrow to carry all the rabbits, etc. Fripp was much loved, but Roy was not so popular. When they got home, a few feet from the front yard gate Roy said: "Black Boy", show me how high you can Jump". Fripp said: "you didn't unload like I told you to, never point a gun at anyone Roy". Roy smiled and pointed the gun at Fripp. In seconds Fripp lay mortally wounded, the artery in back of one of his knees almost severed. His grandmother, Zudy Wood was standing about 10 feet away. The nearest hospital was 153 miles away in Montgomery. He didn't make it there! November 28, 1908, two months before his sixteenth birthday, he was buried in the cemetery his great, great grandfather cleared and gave to Open Pond for his love ones and friends years before that date.



Lena and E.F. Tuttle moved from her plantation home to the town of Gordon, probably in the early 1890's before Fripp was born. When quite young their youngest daughter Harriet, called "Pat" saw in her school classroom a boy with the reddest hair, bluest eyes and friendliest smile she had ever noticed before. Possibly he saw her and thought "how cute". Anyway they became friends, each writing childish notes to each other. Her parents thought vacation time would end any relationship, if they even had one. He came by on his bike one day and she saw him leave something in a rose bush by the gate. It was a kind of lonely like note. She answered hiding it in the same rose bush. They saw each other in the months and years at school, probably at church or the post office. Anyway he was now working every day he could to help support his widowed mother, grandmother, half sister and two half brothers. The rose bush became prettier, larger and taller, and holding more letters. Finally it was time for the Methodist church summer Protracted Meeting. The Tuttle's all being staunch Methodist church attendees went often to the services. The minister and his wife had one daughter. She and Pat were close friends, so at the end of that week Pat went home with her Dothan friend for a visit. I never knew how David Thurman Bennett knew Pat was in Dothan. He ask Pat to marry him then, because her parents would never consent. After much discussion the minister agreed to have a short talk to them about their obligations in the pledge given in a marriage ceremony, not by the Justice of Peace. Then his wife played the piano, they marched in holding hands and became husband and wife. Pat and Thurman had three children, Nell Wood, David Thurman Jr. and Betty Sue. We thought of Pat as part of our family. When they lived in Montgomery and she came home for a visit, she always stayed at our house. My grandmother came early ever day to pet and love Pat. She was Zudy Wood's favorite family member always. Next came Pat's children. Pat called Alice Woods husband (M.T. Owens) "Big Daddy" and Bill Owens "Buddy". When "Cotton" (D.T. Bennett Jr.) was a small child Pat went to her old home again to see her father who was very ill. She took Cotton and Nell with her. At that time each of my mothers 5 children thought of Pat as a sister. Lum, Byron and Daisy were our "near cousins".

### **Cemetery**

In an old plot in the cemetery were buried James and Winnifred "Register" Pynes, Caroline "Pynes" Smith, Virginia "Pynes" Leslie, James Leslie, Byron Jr., and Lum Cohron III's grandmother Virginia "Pynes" Leslie and grandfather James Leslie.

### **William Wood**

William Wood was born in South Carolina. He said his father must have been a debonairing young man? When he was a young man some gypsies camped within easy riding distance of the family South Carolina home. Great grandfather courted and

married the daughter of the camp leader. (My mother Charlie Alice Wood said her father William Wood told her this story). Disowned by his family, William and his wife came down into Georgia. Then later to Campbellton, Florida. I think they had three children. My grandfather didn't know how his father provided for his family. He died when William was too young to remember very much. He was buried in Campbellton. His mother died soon and quickly thereafter. Grandfather Wood thought his parents probably died of pneumonia. There being no orphanages those days, the children were "bound out" to neighbors. The man with whom William found a home became involved in a fight, killed a man and ran away to Texas. Again William was homeless and near age 10. Weeks later at about sunset Angie Cooke and family heard a call and their dogs barking. when they opened the door they saw a little boy and a smaller little girl waiting. They recognized their former Campbellton neighbors (William Wood and his sister Susan) took them in and cared for the little homeless children. William Wood and his little sister had found friends. At that time William and his sister were poorly clad and probably half starved.

He became a good little gardner and errand boy for the community of Open Pond. He was always anxious to earn some corn, a piece of meat, potatoes, etc., to help provide food for his little sister, the Cooks and himself. A year or so later he met a black man with a yoke of oxen and cart. This man, as a reward for his years of toil and age was given the oxen and freedom by his master. William and the man made a trade. William would help the black man anyway he could cut cord wood and load it on the cart. William would then haul it to the Chattahoochee River boat landing (a short distance away), back as soon as he could to get another load. ( The wood was used as fuel for the steamboats) Sometimes the boat captain would give him a sack of candy. The black man got half, the Cooke family and his little sister the other half. The first year with his Friend and oxen he helped provide food for his sister, the Cooke family and himself. Sometimes the boat Captain gave him sugar, salt or flour. That first year William earned and saved fifty dollars working with the black man. The next six months he was partner and general run-about for Henry Hawley, a merchant at the Open Pond settlement. Angie Cooke said William was "fascinated with learning". She and her sister helped him with arithmetic and writing by the fire on winter nights. The store owner watched William work in his store (attitude toward customers, etc) and suggested he put half his salary back into the store's stock. The elderly man that encouraged him to do so, sold one-half interest in his store to William Wood at the end of the second year.

William then began acquiring land. Many people were his friends and helped him often. In 1854 he formed a partnership with E.E. Pearce in buying and selling cotton and lumber and a warehouse on the Chattahoochee River. The cotton would be shipped via the river to Apalachicola on the way to northern states an to Europe. In 1859 he was elected to the Alabama Legislature. His health was such that he could not take soldering

in the Civil War. During that bloody struggle he help look after the families of the men who enlisted with food and shelter. He helped find homes for many of the homeless and fatherless families. By 1861 he had amassed the enormous fortune of over \$100,000. With the exception of what was invested in land, most was swept away by the war. No one had much cash, with the slaves free there was no way to support themselves. The land was practically without value at that time. Never a strong man he tried to keep his boat landing, warehouse, etc. He and R.H. Walker became owners of a big mercantile business in Gordon, Alabama in 1877. The next year he bought out his partner and was sole owner until 1883. This store had 16 clerks. Samuel J. Hall left his family to fight in the Confederate Army, When he returned with only one leg, William Wood asked him if he wanted to work as a bookkeeper in his business. He did and Mr. Hall became the father of six sons. One son Samuel Hall Jr., also worked in the store, finally he became buyer. In those days that was an honorable position. Twice a year he or William Wood had to go to Baltimore or New York to buy stock for the store.

### **Sam J. Hall Jr.**

Mr. Sam J. Hall Jr. told us of Missouri Woods and Miss Alice coming to his home to see his mother who had terminal cancer. Walter Smith, a black house boy and cook for the Wood family would be driving the surrey with a big straw basket by his side. On the back seat set Alice Wood and Miss Zudy (Missouri "Pynes" Wood). Of course the small Hall boys saw first the high riding basket. They were happy knowing Miss Zudy had it packed with candies and cookies for them as well as soup and fruit for their grandmother. Mr. Hall said that was a happy day for them. I vividly remember the night after my father's funeral when Sam J. Hall Jr. came and sat with our mother and 5 children. He told us several stories about our grandparents when he and his father worked in the Woods General Store after the Confederate War. One I vividly remember was, before going north on a buying trip he always took a satchel with samples of all kinds of cloth materials for sheets, towels, work garments, top and bottom shirts, trousers, etc. Then dress clothes samples for Zudy Pynes Woods to select material for her family workers clothing. She, Angie and Minnie Cooke did the sewing. Minnie's job was always making button holes, sewing on buttons and simply beautiful tiny tucks on some of the clothes. After my grandfather died, Zudy always had him bring only black cloth for her with tiny checks of gray. This was for her dresses and wrap-around aprons. The pocket on the back side of her apron always held her keys to her locked wardrobe.

### **Some Records**

The first boat trip on the Chattahoochee River bringing trade goods was in 1822: an Italian trader, John Logarthy brought a small bit of rough lumber, sugar, coffee and

spices.

The first school opened in 1820 at Columbia.

The first whiskey store was built in 1820.

The first trips James Pynes made to serve as legislator at Montgomery, Alabama were made on horseback. 250 miles on trails, not roads and often very rough, with flooding creeks and rivers. William Wood probably traveled the same way when elected to the legislature in Montgomery.

James Pynes was elected the first postmaster in Open Pond on February 11, 1846 and served until 1850. All settlers tried to stay close to some others for safety. Some Creek, Seminole and Cherokee Indians were not far away. Seminoles were the most hostile. William Wood succeeded James Pynes as Postmaster in 1850 and served 8 years. All mail was discontinued during the Civil War. The Post Office reopened October 22, 1866.

The first mail route set by congress for Henry County June 15, 1832 was from Montgomery, Alabama via Open Pond to Wilford, Florida. The postmaster at Franklin, near Columbia, Alabama was paid a yearly salary of \$20.69.

The British war ended in 1815. The lower territories became safer to enter and colonize. The Seminoles were the most hostile tribe to southern settlers. By the end of 1815 they slowly began moving west. As they did so, white settlers from the Carolina's and Virginia began pouring in to take their place in Patrick Henry County in Alabama territory, named for a small tribe called Alabamac Indians. Peace again reined in 1817. Daniel Pynes came to the territory in the early 1800's just after the Indians gave up much land (over 25,000 square miles). The new pioneers found cleared places in the forest near the Chattahoochee River. They were the abandoned farms where the Indian woman had grown corn, beans and potatoes. Indian trails between the good hunting grounds now became roads to travel. The woods were teeming with wild game, many kinds of birds, squirrels, deer, opossums, raccoon's, etc. The pioneers found in the south a very abundant food supply almost at hand. These pioneers must have rejoiced and enjoyed the beauty and bounty they found in the Chattahoochee Valley. They found land where the Indian woman had cleared and the Chattahoochee River had fish as well as was an easy mode of transportation.

Matthew Franklin Owens born in Saratoga, New York September 30, 1866 came to Alabama as a construction worker on the new railroad from Bainbridge, Georgia to Montgomery, Alabama in 1892. He married Charlie Alice Wood in her Gordon, Alabama home March 5, 1893. To them were born five children (He died February 22, 1934, she died January 10, 1943).

- 1) William Wood Owens, born December 18, 1893 died ?
- 2) Mattie Owens, born December 29, 1894, married Jefferson Davis Floyd in 1945, died October 28, 1988.
- 3) Virginia Frances Owens, born July 17, 1896, married Joseph Christopher Kennedy, December 25, 1918 died ?
- 4) Dell Owens born October 8, 1904, married George Y. Arant
- 5) Helen Owens born November 11, 1905 married Rollins ?

### **Birth and Death Dates Where Known**

Daniel Pynes, born South Carolina about 1775, married Rutha Knotts before 1800,

James Pynes, born South Carolina March 22, 1801, married Winnifred Register born in S.C. November 15, 1811, James died 2-18-1873, Winnifred died 6-3-1886

William Wood, born South Carolina March 22, 1826, died October 15, 1885

Missouri Pynes, born October 16, 1842, died January 30, 1918

Carolina Pynes Smith, born September 19, 1830, died November 21, 1873

Charlie Alice Wood, born December 5, 1865, died February 10, 1943

Matthew F. Owens, born August 30, 1866, died February 22, 1934, married 1888

Winnifred Lena Wood, born November 5, 1868

Daisy Wood Tuttle, born October 13, 1889

Harriet Tuttle Bennett, born December 16, 1891, died December 6, ?

Fripp Tuttle, born January 26, 1893, died November 28, 1908

Dell Owens Arrant, born October 8, 1899

Helen Owens Rollins, born November 11, 1905

Nell Wood Bennett, born March 5, 1915, married July 1, 1933

Horace Shinholster Jr., born September 3, 1936

Louise Shinholster, born October 5, 1934

Betty Sue Bennett, born September 19, 1922

Holk Tomlinson, born July 19, 1911

Peggy Wood Allen, born December 6, 1927

Edward F. Tuttle, born May 19, 1857

Edward Leroy "Roy" Tuttle, born May 6, 1894, died May 22, 1938 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, death by drowning)

William Wood married Ida Ballard April 29, 1856

Ida Ballard, born December 25, 1834, died June 12, 1857