

# THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

PETER A. BRANNON, *Editor*



*Published by the*  
**State Department**  
**of**  
**Archives and History**

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Vol. 17

Nos. 1 & 2

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SPRING AND SUMMER ISSUE

1955

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## FOREWORD

The present issue of the Quarterly, Volume 17, Numbers 1 and 2, is the first issue under the new administration of the present Editor. Mrs. Owen, who served as Director of the Department from March, 1920, until her retirement March 1, 1955, edited the first sixteen volumes. Subsequent numbers of the Quarterly will be distributed as promptly as possible.

Peter A. Brannon

March 31, 1955

THE  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY  
OF  
SAMUEL FORWOOD\*

FEBRUARY 27, 1888.

Contributed by Doy L. McCall, Monroeville, Ala.

\*Col. Forwood who settled in Clarke County in 1828, was the great-grandfather of Mrs. D. L. McCall, living at the present time at Monroeville.

## H A R F O R D   D E M O C R A T

BEL AIR, MARYLAND.

Friday Morning, May 11th, 1888.

A N

## A U T O B I O G R A P H I C A L   S K E T C H

OF SAMUEL FORWOOD,

A Native of Harford County, Md., now a Resident of Gosport, Ala.  
Written for Preservation in the Archives of the Harford Historical Society.

READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY APRIL 28, 1888.

My name is Samuel Forwood. I was born May 7th, 1799, at my father's residence, on Deer Creek, on the plantation called "Spittle Craft," in Harford county, Maryland. My present residence is Gosport, Clarke county, Alabama. My father's name was John Forwood. He was born in Brandywine Hundred, New Castle county, State of Delaware, five miles north of the city of Wilmington, on April 1st, 1762. My mother's name was Hannah Forwood, a daughter of Samuel Forwood, a first cousin to my father. She was born October 6th, 1767, in Harford county, Maryland, on Deer Creek, about 6 miles east of Bel Air.

My grandfather, my father's father, was William Forwood, of New Castle county, State of Delaware. My grandfather on my mother's side was Samuel Forwood, of Harford county, State of Maryland. My grandfather, William Forwood, was born in 1723 and died in 1814, age 91 years. His wife, Sarah Clarke (or Clark) was born in 1731. I have not got the date of her decease. They were buried in a cemetery near where they resided. Of my grandfather, Samuel Forwood, and his wife, I have no date of their decease.

My mother died May 4th, 1829. My father died May 22d, 1835. They were married March 14th, 1785. They had fourteen children, ten of whom were raised to manhood and womanhood, seven of whom were boys, and three girls. Their names were Elizabeth, Wm., Robert, Jacob, Parker, Samuel, Jno., Mary, Julia Ann and Amor Tally, born in the order named. All married and left children except Amor.

I have been twice married. My first wife was Rachel Cooper Stump, daughter of William and Duckett Stump, of Harford county, near Darlington, Maryland. We were married at her father's residence, by the Rev. Wm. Stephenson, a Methodist minister, on April 6th, 1828. She died February 19, 1830, leaving an infant son, about three weeks old, who was raised by a foster mother, Mrs. Lavenia Johnson (daughter of Wm. Michael, wife of John Johnson), until about one year old. Afterwards his grandmother, Duckett Stump, took the charge of him. He is now Dr. William Stump Forwood, of Darlington, Harford county, Maryland.

In the fall of \_\_\_\_\_ the death of my wife, I returned \_\_\_\_\_, where I had previously resided \_\_\_\_\_ to 1828. I remained a widower \_\_\_\_\_ 1834. I was then married to \_\_\_\_\_ Martha Jane Morriss, of Clarke \_\_\_\_\_ April 3, at her mother's resident \_\_\_\_\_ Hamilton.

My wife's father \_\_\_\_\_ a native of North Carolina. Alabama when she was quite young \_\_\_\_\_ other was Elizabeth Armistead Carolina, a daughter of a Revolutionary soldier, who, at the age of 17 years, the battle of Monmouth with Gen. \_\_\_\_\_ gton, and received a pension of \$4. a year up to his decease, in 1842. He was wealthy, owning lands and negroes. He was buried at his late residence, in Clarke county, Ala. (Manuscript Mutilated)

My wife's father was supposed to have been killed by Indians, when passing through the Creek Nation. She had two brothers and one sister. Her sister, Rebecca, married Thomas Boroughs. Both are deceased. They left seven children. Two of their sons are physicians. Her brothers are also dead. Like myself, she is the only living representative of her generation.

I have stated that I had but one child by my first marriage, who is now, I am proud to say, your worthy fellow-citizen, of my old county, Harford, Dr. Wm. Stump Forwood. By my second marriage we have had ten children; only one daughter, the eldest, and she was accidentally killed while playing with her little brother, by a cotton bale falling upon her, when she was nine years old. We now have living four sons, all grown men, i.e., Henry Hays Forwood, born November 8, 1842; Samuel Henderson Forwood, born April 2, 1849. These were named for my two best friends, Col. H. H. B. Hays and William Henderson, late of Ala-

bama, (both natives of Harford Co., Md.) The other two, Walter (born August 29, 1852,) and Franklin Pierce Forwood (born May 9, 1855,) were respectively named for Judge Walter Forwood, of Pittsburg, and President Pierce.

I sent all my children to good local teachers in this county, (Clarke,) and also sent Samuel and Walter to Summerfield Institute, near Selma, in Dallas Co., Ala. I sent Franklin to Howard College at Marion, Perry Co., Ala. Walter also graduated at the Commercial College in New Orleans. He is now Feb. 1888, residing in New Mexico.

In my early life school teachers were of a common order, and were called "old field teachers," (probably from the location of their school houses.) When about six years old I was sent to school. The first teacher was John McLaughlin; the second, Edward Boarman; third, Vincent Hackett; fourth, Benj. McClaskey; fifth, John Fisher; sixth, Simon Gillispie; seventh, Vincent Hackett, again; eighth, Jacob Forwood, (my mother's brother); ninth, Samuel W. Lee, who boarded at my father's. He was the father of Josiah Lee, who was afterwards a successful banker in Baltimore; and lastly, the tenth, Michael McLaughlin, who was a fine penman. Of these numerous teachers, I considered Fisher, Gillispie and Lee the best. The different locations of the schools were at the Union Cross Roads, the Trappe, Boarman's, Forwood's, Pyle's and Wm. Smithson's. Some of the pupils at the Union Cross Roads were the Scarboroughs, McCauslands, Silvers, Nevels, Lindsays, Montgomerys, Days, Coopers, Cavenders, Gailbreaths, Coxs, Barclays and Fosters; at the Trappe, Joseph Davis' children, Thomas Chew's, Joseph Hopkins', Robert Gover's, James Lee's, Bond's and many others that I have not named. At Boarman's were Benjamin Boarman, Robert, Edward, Louisa and Kittie Boarman, John Bennett and Austin Wheeler, Henry Wheeler, Christian Wheeler, Elizabeth Gover and others; at Pyle's, Ralph Pyle, of Wm., several of John and Isaac Pyle's children, Heaps', Ward's, and others; at Smithson's, William Smithson's children, Boarman's, Morgan's, Johnson's, Wheeler's, Green's and others, some thirty in all in each school.

I was raised on a farm in Harford county, Maryland, and during the time I was not at school, worked at the various work incident to farming, at my father's, attending to business for him constantly until the winter of 1824. In that winter George S. Rigdon, a first cousin, and myself concluded to look at what was then called the "far West," and

pay a visit to relatives there, and prospect the country in the State of Ohio. We started on horse-back, in the winter of 1824, as just stated. The weather was very cold. We took what was then called the Pennsylvania turnpike road, via Carlisle and Chambersburg, and crossed the Allegheny Mountains while it was raining on the east and snowing on the west side. We arrived at our aunt's, Mrs. Mary Preston's residence about Christmas. She resided near Pittsburg, in Washington county, Pa. We traveled at the rate of 40 miles per day, and stood the journey finely.

While there we visited Pittsburg, seeing the nail, glass and cotton factories; also visited Allegheny town, where the penitentiary was situated. At that time there was a heavy snow on the ground, and the snow was blackened with the soot from the chimneys of the various factories. I noticed many ladies wearing veils, to keep the black soot from their faces, as I was informed.

We remained at our aunt's several days, and one of their sons, John Preston, joined us when we left for Ohio. We went through some portion of West Virginia, and crossed the Ohio River at Stubenville; thence down the river to Belle Air, and thence by Mt. Pleasant and Barnesville. There we tarried some time with several of our cousins residing there. From there we went to Senacaville, and visited cousin Eli Rigdon, who was living there, and teaching school. Thence we went to Zanesville on the Muskingum river, and to Irville, where Mr. Coulter resided, within six miles of Columbus. His wife was a Preston, and a cousin of ours. We staid there some days. One of my cousins, Samuel F. Preston, was anxious for me to settle on a tract of land near him, but, owing to the condition of the country; no facilities for transportation of crops; wheat selling at 12½ cents and corn at 6¼ cents per bushel, I had no fancy for it. We returned home by way of the U. S. turnpike, (or "National Road,") by Fredericktown and Baltimore; arriving home in February, 1825, and there remaining until the fall of that year.

Wm. S. Hays, who was about my age, and a neighbor and friend of mine, married a lady of Newark, New Jersey, and had made arrangements to move with team, and fifteen or more negroes to Claiborne, Alabama, and proposed to me to accompany him, offering to pay all of my traveling expenses, and to give me at the rate of \$200. a year for attending to his business. I readily agreed to accept the offer, and, in the latter part of October, we started on our long journey. At the same time Goldsmith and Henry G. Davis, with team and negroes also, joined

our company, and a Mr. Downer, also with team and negroes, fell in with us. Mr. Hays sent his wife and a Miss Robinson out by sea, and at Petersburg, Virginia, he left us and proceeded on horse-back.

We arrived safely at Claiborne, Alabama, on the 16th December, 1825, after fifty days travel. We found Mr. Hays, his wife, and Miss Robinson, all there, at the residence of Col. H. H. B. Hays, a brother of Wm. S. Hays, where we were received and treated with the utmost kindness, as were also the Messrs. Davis. After fixing up Wm. S. Hays on a farm, 10 miles north of Claiborne, on the Alabama river, I engaged with Col. Hays as clerk in his store until June, I then took a portion of his goods and set up a store on the west side of Alabama river, at a place called Honey Hill, at which place a postoffice was established, and I was appointed postmaster. I boarded with a very good man, Silas Bryan, and did a very good business up to January 1st, 1828. I then settled up satisfactorily with Col. Hays, and engaged passage at Mobile, on schooner "New York," for Baltimore. I brought with me Charles Hays, a son of Col. Hays, seven years old; also brought a step-son of Wm. Henderson's, Julius A. Wood, both of whom were put to school with Rev. Reuben H. Davis, at the Bel Air Academy. We landed in Baltimore in February, 1828, after a voyage of twelve days rough sailing, and reached Bel Air in a few days after. In the following April, I was married, as previously mentioned. We lived with my father until January 1st, 1829, and then settled on a farm, given me by my father, about half a mile from the old homestead, where I remained until the death of my wife, February, 1830. After the death of my wife, Rachel, I broke up housekeeping and lived with my father. My mother had died in 1829. My youngest sister, Julia, was keeping house for my father.

I remained there until the fall of 1830, when Col. H. H. B. Hays, of Ala., for whom I had formerly done business, while on his way to New York to purchase a stock of goods, stopped at my father's to see me, and proposed to me to go with him and join him in business. I felt desolate after losing my wife, and was ready and anxious to go, and therefore at once accepted his proposition. We went by stage-coach by way of Conowingo, Oxford, and West Chester to Philadelphia; thence by steamboat to Princeton, and railroad to New York. We there made our purchases, shipped them, and took passage on ship "Exito" for Mobile, Alabama. After a pleasant passage of eighteen days, we arrived in Mobile, in November, 1830, and shipped by an Alabama river steamboat to Claiborne. I rented a store house at Suggsville, in Clark Co., from John

Campbell, and boarded with him. The firm name of the Suggsville store was "Forwood & Hays," and the store at Claiborne was in the name of "Hays & Dupree." Our business was very satisfactory. John L. Bryan, son of Silas Bryan, was my clerk, and was popular with my customers.

During the summer I bought the estate of Col. Thomas Wiggins, now known as Gosport Landing, on the Alabama river, five miles below Claiborne, and the firm of Forwood & Hays dissolved by consent, and satisfactorily.

Julius A. Wood had returned to Alabama with me, had become of age, and had received his portion of his father's estate from Col. Hays, the executor of said estate, and at the desire of his step-father, Mr. Wm. Henderson, we became partners and established a store in the name of "Forwood & Wood," at Gosport. A postoffice was also established there at the same time, and I was appointed postmaster, when Wm. T. Barry (?) was the Postmaster-General. At the end year 1832, Wood married and sold his interest out to me, which I carried on until 1839. I then took J. A. Flemming in as a partner, and at the end of the year sold out to him. He managed badly, and I lost largely by him. I took back what goods there were left, and gradually closed up business entirely.

I bought a plantation belonging to the estate of the late Gov. Murphy, on the river, four miles from my residence, and engaged in farming. For a part of the property, 450 acres, I paid \$9,000. Eventually I bought the remainder, two or three thousand acres, at lower figures. Then bought negroes and employed an overseer and went to farming. I was succeeding well in raising corn, cotton, cattle, horses and hogs. At the close of the civil war I had in all about 80 negroes, in the emancipation of which I sustained a loss of about \$80,000. I owned some six or seven thousand acres of land. I sold the Gosport Landing tract to pay a security debt for a Sheriff, whose bond I was on. Col. Creagh and myself had to pay \$10,000. for the Sheriff's default, and I have in other instances sustained considerable losses by security and otherwise, not necessary to mention here. I still had enough left to give each of four of my sons from six to eight hundred acres of land, retaining the homestead for ourselves, and at our decease to go to our youngest and fifth living son. He, Franklin P., now owns the Murphy plantation, having purchased the interests of his three brothers, William, Samuel and Walter. He now has the property well stocked with cattle, horses, mules and hogs. I will also

state that I have just got through paying off all SECURITY DEBTS, some of which have been hanging heavily on me for years, and feel like taking a new start in my old age, should health and strength hold out, but according to nature, that cannot be expected long.

I have never traveled on a pleasure trip, except after my marriage to my present wife. We took a trip to my old home, in Harford Co., Md. We started from Alabama in May, 1835, and had in company with us Sarah Hays, a daughter of Col. Hays. We went up the Alabama river by steamboat to Montgomery, and from there we went partly by stage and partly by railroad to Charleston, South Carolina, and thence by ship to New York, returning by Philadelphia, Baltimore and Bel Air to my old birth-place of Deer Creek, in Harford Co., Md. We spent the summer there, principally with my brothers, John, William, Jacob and Parker, and visited my mother-in-law, Mrs. Duckett Stump, and my little son, whom she was raising, now a large man, Dr. W. Stump Forwood, of Darlington.

During our journey to my old home, on arriving in Baltimore, I received the sad news of the death of my father, which occurred on the 22d day of May, 1835, some weeks before our arrival. Having bought lands, and needing hands to work them, I had prepared myself with means to purchase negroes. I bought eight, and had a girl already there that my father had given me before, and which I had left in his charge. In the fall I bought six horses, a wagon and a general outfit. Also a two-horse barouche for myself and wife to ride in. We left Maryland on our return trip in the latter part of September, and journeyed by the way of Baltimore, and from thence by steamboat to Norfolk, Virginia, taking teams and horses and all of us aboard. John Carr, an excellent teamster, and a young man, a carpenter, named Daniel Miller, accompanied us out to Alabama. We were landed by the steamboat at Norfolk, and ferried across to Portsmouth, and in about thirty days made the trip to our home in Alabama.

Now, I will give you a sketch of my military, civil and political history. I am called here "Col." Forwood, but I never held a grade above Captain, and that was in a company of militia at Dublin, Md. George Forsythe and John Daugherty (the latter highly respected and successful citizen is still living, April, 1888, and is still residing in the village of Dublin,—W.S.F.), were my 1st and 2nd Lieutenants. I succeeded Capt. Albert. John B. Ford had been Capt. Albert's Lieutenant, and was my

opponent for office. I, however, received the unanimous vote of the company, though I had not solicited the office. I resigned in the fall, before leaving for Alabama, and George Forsythe was elected to fill my place. Thus ended my military career. I have been postmaster at Gosport perhaps in all twenty years at different times; have been Justice of the Peace, Township School Superintendent, executor and administrator of several estates, in two of which the bonds given were \$60,000. each, and have in no instance been a defaulter. I have been agent for several wealthy parties, one in New York and one in Nashville, Tennessee. Am now, and have been for many years, the statistical reporter for the United States Agricultural Department at Washington City, also the reporter for the State Department at Auburn, Alabama, for this county (Clarke) for a long time. These reports are made every month.

I have always taken a lively interest in politics. I was brought out by friends as a candidate for Representative in the Legislature in 1839, and with a popular man as my opponent. There were over sixty votes cast at my voting place, and I received all of them. At the voting place of my opponent I got 12 votes, which made a tie at one or two boxes. In the entire county I was elected by a majority of one or two hundred votes. The Capital was then at Tuscaloosa. Col. G. W. Creagh, a warm and ever faithful friend of mine, was at the same time elected Senator in our county, over Dr. Neal Smith, who opposed him for the office. A. P. Bagly, a talented lawyer of Monroe county, was at the same time elected Governor. I was again brought out as a candidate for the Legislature in 1859, and was defeated. In 1865 I was brought out as a Delegate to a Constitutional Convention, after the war, and was elected. The Radical party displaced us, and they held another Convention in 1867, and kept us under Radical rule until 1875. In the latter year I was again elected to a Constitutional Convention, and George Houston, one of the best men in the United States, was elected Governor, and there was the end of the Radical party in Alabama.

In 1876 I was, without opposition, elected Representative in the State Legislature. Judge R. C. Torry, of Claiborne, was elected Senator and Delegate from Monroe county, and we roomed together both sessions, at Montgomery. So ended my political life, that of a life-long Democrat. I still take an active interest for my friends, and our voting box at Gosport keeps up a good Democratic reputation yet. The negroes go with us in our local elections.

I will now return again to Harford county. I have read the RE-

MINISCENCES OF GEORGE W. HENSEL, beginning in 1828. I can go back to 1824. I knew and recollect many of the persons named by Mr. Geo. W. Hansel, but I did not know him. Joseph Worthington, Esq., was a prominent man in my youthful days. He lived near Darlington (on the farm now, 1888, owned and occupied by Dr. John Sappington.—W.S.F.) John Quarles, who lived on the south side of Darlington, was also a prominent man, and was conspicuous as a man of learning. Mrs. Bagly had two sons, George and Orrick, and some half dozen daughters, refined and beautiful girls. Wm. Hays and myself, in our trips to the old Friends' Meeting, have often spent pleasant evenings there. Also at Squire Worthington's before mentioned. He had two clever sons, Charles and James, and a number of pretty daughters. One of the latter, Sally, married Wm. Ely. My first wife and I "waited upon them," in 1825. I have often heard Mrs. Susannah Jewett preach, when the spirit moved her, in the old Friends' Meeting House. Have also heard Nicholas Cooper preach at the same place. There was living near Bald Friar Ferry two or three prominent men by name, John Richey, David Wells and Cooper Boyd, who were frequently engaged in litigation with each other, of the merits of which I know nothing, but they rarely ever missed a court at Bel Air. At that time Stevenson Archer was the Judge; Henry Dorsey was the Clerk for many years; Thomas A. Hays was Judge of the Orphans' Court, and Thomas Bond was the Register. Dr. Dorsey was the physician to the almshouse, and Jason Moore was the Sheriff. The merchants were Thos. A. & N. Hays, and John Robinson; hotel-keepers Wm. McClaskey, Stephen Jones and Wm. Richardson, the latter being the most prominent. John Kean, a most excellent man, was also a Sheriff. There were a number of lawyers practicing in Bel Air. I only recollect the names of Israel Maulsby, Albert Constable, Wm. B. Bond and Otho Scott. The latter became the most prominent of them all. He married Louisa Boarman, a sister of Benj. W. Boarman, a neighbor and a life-long friend of mine. We often visited Mr. Scott, and he was one of my best friends. He gave me some advice that was of great importance to me in after years. The last time I ever saw him was at Aberdeen, Harford county, in 1858, when on my last visit to my native county.

My father and mother, also my first wife, Rachel, and my brother Parker's first wife, Harriet, a daughter of Jason Moore, were all buried at Watter's Meeting House. I had tombstones put up at their graves. I knew Henry G. Watters, a prominent man, and members of that church, the Methodist denomination, at Thomas' Run, and when on a visit to Maryland I contributed some money to have the graves kept in order.

My mother was a Methodist and my father was an Episcopalian. My sisters were all Methodist, also was brother William and his wife and some of their children. I am also a member of the Methodist Church at this place, Gosport, and have been for nearly 50 years. My wife belongs to the Baptist Church at Suggsville. She has been a member for a longer time than I have. We have followed the traditions of our mothers. My mother was a Methodist and her mother was a Baptist.

My father was a prominent politician, and was for many years a Justice of the Peace. For about seventeen years he was a member of the Maryland Legislature, and during a portion of that time was one of the Governor's council. He was the administrator of several estates, and was President of the Conowingo Bridge Co. He was also the guardian of several orphan children, and always had crowds of prominent men visiting him on public business. When I was quite young I remember that he had in keeping a number of fine horses, for Dr. Jas. Archer, for a considerable length of time. Dr. Archer moved to near Vicksburg, Miss., by land. The removal was conducted by Philip Albert.

John Forwood, son of Jacob, a first cousin of my father's, was one of the Representatives in the Legislature at the same time that my father was (and considerable confusion has resulted from two of the same name, from the same county, being members of the Legislature at the same time.—W.S.F.) He lived on Swan Creek, in what was called the "Neck." Dr. Elisha Davis, of the same neighborhood, was the State Senator. And later Dr. Brownlee was also Senator, succeeding Dr. Davis.

My father was President of the Stage Company that ran from Baltimore to West Chester, Pa. There was a stopping place at his house, and a change of horses and drivers there. John Carr and Stephen Rigdon were the stage drivers. Carr was one of the best teamsters that I ever met with. In 1830 he was the stage driver as far as Oxford, when I was on my way to New York, and in 1835, when I was revisiting Harford county, he was still the driver. During that summer I bought four unbroken horses, out of droves, two in Bel Air and two in Baltimore, got him (Carr) to put them to the stage and break them for me. I bought others, already broken, at my father's estate sale, and I engaged him (Carr,) in the fall of that year, 1835, to drive my team out to Alabama. And after thirty days travel my horses were in better condition than when they left Harford county. One pair that I had given \$150. for, sold readily for \$250.

I could name many of the prominent men of Harford of that day, but will mention only a few of them. James Steele was quite a celebrated surveyor, and spent a great deal of his time at my father's. He was once elected to the Legislature. Michael and William Whiteford were frequent visitors, and were from the same neighborhood as Steel. Dr. John Archer, the elder, and father of several popular sons, viz: Drs. James, John and Robert, and Judge Stevenson Archer, who was brother-in-law to my best friend, Col. H. H. B. Hays, of Alabama, were all well-known to us. Then there were Archer Hays, Thos. A. Hays. Nat .S. Hays, James McClaskey, of Herbert's Cross Roads; John Moores, of Bynum's Run, his sons, James and Paca Moores; Samuel Bradford, Benj. and Elisha Guyton, of Bel Air; John Cain, Henry Ruff, Parker Lee, Ralph Clarke, John Henderson, Robert W. Holland, Harry Bussey, Edward Bussey, Jas. Monks.