

## The History of Odenville

Indians were the first people to live where the present village of Odenville is located. Game was plentiful, good springs were numerous, and the land was fertile. All these things attracted the people of the northeast as they migrated westward, so many of them stopped along the way. They formed our present village.

The earliest settlers in the order in which they settled were: Peter Hardin, the father of W. C. Hardin, and grandfather of Mrs. Nell Hardin Hodges, present resident of Odenville. He came in 1821 and settled in the old field southeast of the present site of Odenville, near the Shockley home at the foot of the mountain. In 1824 he moved to a new home where W. J. Hodges now lives. A Mr. Lowell settled where the Ben Vandergrift home is. A Mr. Lovet came to dwell about where the Moore home is today. A Mr. Mize built a beautiful large brick home near what is called now Liberty, northeast of Odenville on the Ashville-Odenville Road. It still stands today, and is supposed to be the oldest in the entire county. A Mr. Harman then settled about where the Coursens now live. Johnnie Vandergrift settled on a farm at the foot of the mountain where Hill's farm is today. Billy Foreman settled on the Branchville-Odenville Road near where the Spark's home now stands. Johnny Mize settled where Garfield Steed now lives.

Odenville was first known as Hardin's Shope, named for Peter Hardin, but later it was changed to the present name at the suggestion of Mr. Brown, a mail carrier of that day.

### Historical Facts

The Cross Roads in Odenville were developed along old Indian and game trails.

The first form of industry was the lower mill on Canoc Creek, over a hundred years ago.

The old brick Mize home in this community is approximately one hundred thirty-eight years old.

Odenville's first Post Office was located in Mr. Bob Newton's home.

He still has the table used for sorting the mail.

Mary Simpson named the new Post Office.

The first freight train come through Odenville in 1905. The rails were laid along in front of the train as it moved slowly along the new track.

The St. Clair County News was edited in Odenville for two years by J. L. Maddox.

The first edition is reported to have been on white silk.

The first public school was taught in a little log building at Walnut Grove.

St. Clair County High located in Odenville, is one of the five oldest in the state of Alabama.

#### Schools In Odenville

The first public school in the Odenville community was Walnut Grove, located at Hardwick, four miles east of Odenville. It had only one teacher, but was considered a very prosperous school for that time.

As the population increased and shifted it was decided that a better location for the school would be at Liberty, one mile east of Odenville, on the Ashville-Leeds road. The little village of Odenville, grew until it had a small school of its own. That was something like 68 years ago, we are told by the old settlers. The school was a small one-room log structure, heated by an open fire place at one end of the room. It stood somewhere about where the home of Mr. Homer Byers now is. So far as we know, only four of its pupils are still living. They are Louis Mize, Emma Mize, Janie Philips, and Isabella Scoggins. Mr. Jim Hardin was one of the first teachers.

As the population of Odenville grew it was decided to unite the school at Liberty and the one at Odenville.

A new building was built on the same piece of ground on which the present school stands, but at a different site. This was built with state aid and became a modern state public school of that day. It was a two story wood structure with several rooms.

Misfortune came upon this building and it was burned to the ground about fifteen years ago. The patrons were not to be outdone in their desire to educate their children. With the aid of the state they soon began the new building to replace the former. It was of field stone and built according to the newest state plan, a one story building with three regular class rooms, two of which could be thrown together to use as an auditorium, and other needed storage and cloak rooms. This one is still in use.

#### High School

In 1907 the state legislature passed a bill providing for the establishment of a county high school in each of the counties of the state. St. Clair County was one of the first five counties to take advantage of this offer. In July 1908 the ground was cleaned off for the erection of the present high school building. Mr. John Inzer was head of the erecting committee, which consisted of:

W. T. Brown	J. L. Maddox
H. H. Letaw	W. T. Hodges
P. A. Glenn	S. M. Mize
W. C. Hardin	S. M. Cummings

The school opened in the fall of 1908 with L. K. Benson as principal and Miss Minnie Woodall assistant. It had an enrollment of twenty-six. Since it was a new school, only one year of high school work was done that year.

In the second year the enrollment had increased to sixty-two, forty in the first year and twenty-two in the second year. These corresponded to the eighth and ninth grades of today, for the state then used what was called the 7--4 plan--seven years in elementary school and four in high school.

Every pupil was required to take either Latin or German in the first year. In addition he took English, mathematics, English history, physical geography, manual training, and geometrical drawing, a total of seven subjects.

In the second year the pupil took Latin, German or Commercial Geography and English, Algebra and Plane Geometry, ancient history, Biology and manual training.

In the third year he took English, mathematics, mediæval and modern history, and two electives chosen from the following subjects: physics, Home Economics, Cicero and Latin prose composition, French, German or Bookkeeping and Commercial Geography.

In the fourth year he took English, Mathematics, U. S. History and Civics, Alabama History and two electives from Chemistry, Practical Agriculture, Virgil and Latin grammar, French, German, Bookkeeping and Commercial Law.

There is quite a difference in this course of study of many subjects taught a few minutes a day on certain days a week and the fewer subjects of today which are taught from forty-five to ninety minutes a day in our present system.

The school had the distinction of being the only high school in the state requiring its students to wear uniforms.

By the third year of the school it was able to publish an announcement of its session beginning September 12, 1910. Several of these may be found among the patrons of the school today.

The Vocational school was built in 1925 providing instructions for boys in vocational agriculture and for girls in vocational home economics. This work has been carried on by Mr. Hughes and Mr. Ellis, Vocational Agriculture teachers, and Misses Williams, Martin, Trammell and Wooley, Home Economics teachers.

In the spring of 1946 some land was purchased from Mrs. Augusta Taylor. The school paid \$100.00 on it and the remainder was paid by the County Board of Education. On this land a lunch room was erected that summer. The patrons of the school, with the aid of the County Board of Education, erected the building. One class room was added to the lunchroom. Before the new building was erected, the lunchroom was

housed in the rooms under the auditorium. When the lunchroom was moved, the 5th and 6th grades were moved into the rooms vacated by the lunchroom. The 4th grade moved into the new room adjoining the lunchroom. At this time the pupils from Branchville were transported to Odenville. The school at Branchville burned the latter part of December, 1944. Until enough room was made for them at Odenville, part of the pupils attended school at Moody.

The Low Gap Elementary School burned February 13, 1946. The teachers finished that year's work in the Low Gap Church. During the summer three additional class rooms were built at Odenville on the high school campus. That fall the 3rd grade at Odenville and all the pupils from Low Gap were transferred to the high school campus. Only the first and second grades remain in the Odenville Elementary Building.

The Friendship School closed at the end of the 1948-49 term. That fall those pupils were transferred to Odenville. All grades from the 3rd through the 12th are now on the high school campus.

The Hare property which adjoins the school campus was purchased by the County Board of Education in 1946 as part of the Odenville school campus.

#### The History of Odenville

By The Commercial Art Class 1932

Miss Mary Edith Spiegel, Teacher

Information for period since 1932

by Miss Nancy Wilson, Principal

8336 Third Avenue South  
Birmingham, Alabama  
October 15, 1932

Miss Elvie Lou Alverson  
Odenville, Alabama

Dear Miss Alverson:

Your letter, asking for historical information regarding the Odenville Presbyterian Church, received. In replying, I wish to state that I am not sure when the church was organized. But I think it was organized about 1885 or 1889 as a Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Liberty. Rev. Thornie Taylor was one of the first, if not the first minister of the church; I rather think he organized the church.

Among the early members of the congregation were members by the names of Stovall, Mize, Hurst, Simpson, Steed, and Ash.

In the Consummation of the Union of the Cumberland Presbyterian and Presbyterian U. S. A. in 1906, a part of the Liberty Congregation declined to go into the United Presbyterian Church and retained the name of Cumberland Presbyterian. But the pastor and session of the church, with a large part of the membership of the Liberty Congregation, abiding the decision of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian (or majority of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church) later became the congregation of the Odenville Presbyterian Church.

In July of 1912 the Session of the Odenville Presbyterian Church appointed a committee consisting of the Pastor, Rev. J. M. Alexander, and elders - J. A. Mize, and S. M. Cunnings - to select a lot for the church building. This committee selected and purchased the lot on which the church stands. The lot was purchased from M. Wat Brown, of the Odenville Land Company, for the consideration of \$125.00; contract for the new church building was let the next year and money raised and the church building erected.

The deed to the property was made to the trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. Messers L. M. Mize, S. G. Hurst, and J. A. Stovall are the trustees of the local congregation and custodians of the property. They are also the present elders of the local church.

The present membership of the Odenville Church is 42. The church has, during the last fifteen years, lost quite a few members through deaths and removals from this community.

Ministers who have served this congregation during the past thirty-five years are: Revs. J. B. Stovall, S. L. Robinson, S. G. McCluney, H. S. Helment, Rl Pl Taylor, and J. M. Alexander, and among the elders of this congregation who served faithfully and worthly, now deceased, were S. M. Cunnings, J. A. Mize, Dr. C. A. Gason, J. W. Jones, and J. W. Stovall.

J. M. Alexander, Pastor  
Odenville Presbyterian Church

October 29, 1932

Miss Frances Marcrum  
Route 2  
Odenville, Alabama

My dear Miss Marcrum:

The only record I can find giving data on St. Clair County High School is a copy of the "Announcement" for the "Third Annual Session, Beginning September 12, 1910, and ending May 26, 1911."

This announcement is in the Department of Archives and History and contains among other things the following:

"Board of Control  
High School Commission

His Excellency, Braxton Bragg Comer, Governor,  
Harry C. Gunnels, Superintendent of Education  
William W. Brandon, State Auditor

County Board of Education

B. F. Hammond, Superintendent of Education  
Napoleon P. Spradley, John W. Moore,  
Elijah T. Turner, William F. Maynor  
Algie H. Smith, Treasurer."

"Faculty"

James Olin Sturdivant, A. M., Principal  
Miss Ada Barnes, First Assistant  
Mrs. Alma Yerarkey Robertson, Second Assistant  
Mrs. C. C. Brown, Music, Expression, Art."

"This school has the distinction of being the only county school in the State wearing uniforms--One society, The W. T. Brown Literary Society, with prospects of others."

"Board"

Board may be obtained at from \$10.00 to \$12.00 per month. Students may rent rooms and do their own cooking, thereby reducing the cost. Some report that board in this way cost from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per month."

Miss Frances Marcrum  
October 29, 1932  
Page 2

"Roster of Pupils

1908-1909 - First Year

Busey, John T.	Hurst, Virgil L.
Busey, Thomas J. Jr.	Jones, Howard V.
Cumming, Sada B.	Jones, Chester A.
Davis, Clarence L.	Mize, Arthur Clarence
Forman, Mae E.	Mize, Bert
Forman, Cary .	Newton, Dovie E.
Fowler, Henry A.	Robertson, George W.
George, Alta	Seoggins, Mary E.
George, Ross	Shockley, Nannie E.
Hagin, James A.	Tucker, Jas. T.
Hodges, Hicks	Wood, Addie L
Hardin, Russell Jr.	Vandergrift, Benj. F.
Hardin, Nellie H.	Jones, Lottie M.

Apparently there was only one year of high school work the first year.

There is a roster for 1909-1910 containing 40 names, "First Year," and 12 names in "Second Year."

The courses of study is set down as four years beginning with the 8th grade. At that time the state had what was called the 7-4 plan; that is, seven years of elementary school and four years of high school.

The course of study is given by years. Every pupil was required to take either Latin or German in the first year and in the second year, English, algebra and plane geometry, ancient history, biology, and manual training.

In the third year the pupil took English, mathematics, medieval and modern history. He might elect two subjects from the composition, Greek, French, German, or bookkeeping and commercial geography.

In the fourth year the pupil took English, mathematics, United States History and civics and Alabama History and two electives from the following: Chemistry, practical agriculture, Virgil 6 books, (Latin) grammar, Xenophon's Ana basis, French, German, bookkeeping and commercial law.



Miss Frances Marcrum  
October 29, 1932  
Page 3.

This "announcement" contains a number of interesting pictures, one showing the building and students line up-boys along the front in military costumes and the girls along the right side (as the building faces) in somewhat military-looking uniforms with caps resembling the caps used with graduating ("caps and gowns") costumes. Another picture shows the students body and faculty on and in front of the front steps of the building. In another picture entitled "Raglands Representatives at St. Clair High School" are shown six young ladies and seven young men, all in the inevitable "uniforms."

Five pages of advertisements are carried on the pages following the announcements about the school. Appealing for patronage for through this medium were: Judson College; Edw. Kerah Agency, Ragland; Birmingham Trust and Saving Company; Hirshberg Art Company, Baltimore; Dr. A. W. Dupey; St. Clair County News; Steed and George; W. C. Watson; J. L. Mize and Son; C. P. Ward; Alabama Polytechnic Institute; St. Clair Motor Car Company; Cook Springs, (Studebaker, Flanders and E. M. F. cars) J. M. Williamson and Son; B. E. Wing; Bank of Odenville; W. L. Steed.

Mr. H. A. Fowler, who was a pupil in the early days, is now principal of Choctaw County High School at Butler, Alabama. Mr. W. F. Mayor, who was on the County Board of Education, is now principal of the Blount County High School at Oneonta. No doubt these gentlemen could give you some facts that would be helpful.

There is here in the Department of Archives and History a copy each of two commencement programs for May, 1916. One is for the Oratorical Contest on May 9th. Some of the titles of the orations and the names of the orators were as follows:

"The American Flag", Tom Riddle; "Behold a Republic," Coy Anderson; "Lincoln, A Man Called of God," Reuben Self; "The Confederate Flag." Vernon Vandergrift; "The Daughter of the Regiment," Gussie Cox.

On Wednesday May 10th a play, "The Mistress of St. Ives" in three acts was presented.

No doubt other materials could be found in the Department of Archives and History if some one could take time to investigate all of the available sources.

You are working on an interesting topic, and I trust you will be able to do a fine job of it. If we can help you in any way, please write to us again.

This is in answer to your request under date of October 16th. I regret that I was unable to give it earlier attention.

Very truly yours,

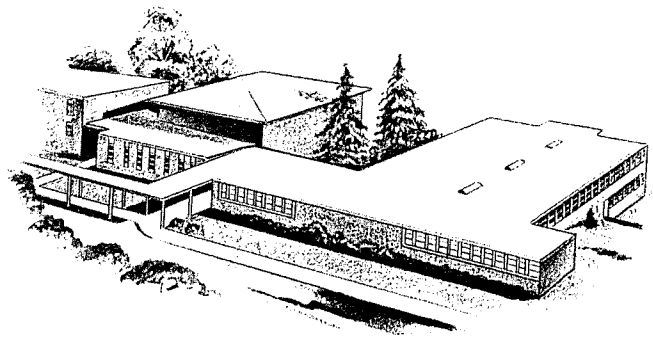
T. W. Smith  
Supervisor of Secondary Education  
Montgomery, Alabama

# SEASONS'S Greetings

"Christmas 1965"



ST. CLAIR COUNTY'S FIRST  
ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL  
Established 1908  
ODENVILLE, ALABAMA



NEW ST. CLAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  
ODENVILLE, ALABAMA  
1962 -

*The John Watson Family*

St Clair News-Appis

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1966

ST.



**ODENVILLE MATH TEAM FIRST** — Admiring the first place trophy for Single-A team competition in last weekend's fourth annual State High School Mathematics Tournament at Samford University, Birmingham, are (from left) Dr. Wil-

liam Peoples, Samford math professor; Mr. Charles Jarrett, sponsor of the St. Clair County High team which won the trophy; and Larry Mize and Johnny Powell, members of the winning Odenville team. More than

800 students from 93 schools in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and Mississippi took part. Odenville also brought back \$100 in prize money for its first place finish in the smaller school division.



### ST. CLAIR HIGH MATH TEAM

Front row: Sandra Jarrett and Charles Gilchrist; second row: Lynn Cox, Dianne Robinson, Bobby Powell; last row: Larry Mize, Larry McDowell, Johnny Powell and Charles Jarrett, sponsor.

## St. Clair High Wins State Math Tourney

St. Clair County High School Odenville, won first place award in the Class A division of Samford University fourth Invitational Mathematics Tournament last Saturday, March 12.

St. Clair High received a cash award of \$100 from the Birmingham News and a plaque for placing first among the Class A schools—those with less than 500 students in the top three grades of high school. Ninety-six schools, from Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Mississippi, competed in individual tests and in team ciphering matches testing mathematical ability and quickness in solving geometry, algebra, trigonometry and advanced mathematics. Although small in size, comparatively, St. Clair County High defeated approximately 60 Schools most much larger, to become Class A champion.

Team members are Larry Mize and Johnny Powell,

seniors; Sandra Jarrett and Bobby Powell, juniors. The alternates who participated in the individual competition are Lynn Cox, Diane Robinson, Charles Gilchrist and Larry McDowell, all sophomores. The team, under the sponsorship of Charles Jarrett, mathematics teacher, have worked diligently and long in preparation for this occasion. St. Clair County High has participated in the tournament each year since its initiation at Samford by Dr. Ruric Wheeler, head of the mathematics department, several years ago. Most of the team members plan on majoring in mathematics in college and three plan on enrolling at Samford University. The Math Team of St. Clair County High certainly gained much from the competition and are very happy to bring the Samford University Mathematics Tournament Class A championship to St. Clair County for 1966.

## EARLY HISTORY OF ODENVILLE

In the beginning a small stream arose in a place that millennia later would be called Hardin's Shop and eventually, in 1874, Odenville. This stream, Beaver Creek, meanders north-easterly until it flows into the Coosa River. The lovely land through which this creek runs is Beaver Valley.

The history of the settling of lower Beaver Valley in the area that would later be called Odenville, begins in September, 1821, when a Methodist minister, Christopher Vandegrift, and his family left Chester County, South Carolina, for Alabama. Christopher and Rebecca Amberson Vandegrift were parents of four boys and three girls: William, John, Jim, Leonard, Ellen, Margaret and Betsey—all adults when the migration to Alabama Began.

Traveling by horse-drawn schooner wagons and making their way steadily westward, the Vandegrifts stopped for a while in Jasper County, Georgia. It was here that Peter Hardin met and fell in love with Ellen Vandegrift. Her parents consented to the wedding, and on November 21, 1821, they were married. Peter cast in his lot with his bride's family and came with them to Alabama.

There was excellent traveling weather that fall, and the company made good progress, approaching the Coosa River in mid-December. They crossed the Coosa into St. Clair County at a place that in 1832 would be called Greensport; a place that in 1968 would be covered by the waters of Neely Henry Lake.

A few days after the crossing, the company arrived at their destination and set their stakes at a place they called Walnut Grove, about a mile east

of present-day Odenville. In the early 1900s, Walnut Grove was called Jones Cut because it was near the entrance to the first cut made along the Seaboard Airline Railroad.

Christopher Vandegrift and his sons wasted no time in clearing land for a home and for crops. Their first house was a one-room dwelling made of logs with a boarded roof and dirt floor. The first summer was perhaps the hardest because there was a shortage of corn and Christopher had to go as far as Guntersville to get corn for planting.

Whatever the hardships, their hard work, perseverance and faith saw them through those months of settling a new place, and this new land truly became home.

Although we do not know the exact date, Peter and Ellen Hardin moved from Walnut Grove and settled in the vicinity of today's Odenville. A pre-1951 note in the file at the Ashville Archives relates that Peter first settled "in the old field southeast of the site of Odenville, near the Shockley home at the foot of the mountain. In 1824 he moved to a new home at the foot of the mountain, where W. J. Hodges now lives." W. J. (Willard Jerusalem) Hodges married Peter's granddaughter Nell Hartte Hardin. W. J. Hodges died in 1951.

Peter Hardin's home in Odenville was of hand-hewn logs. It survived for nearly 150 years. A description of the house was recorded in 1975. Originally the log cabin consisted of three rooms and a detached kitchen in the back. The main 'big room' had a distinctive stone fireplace with a stone hearth and mantel. At the back of this room were two bedrooms, one upstairs and one down." This original building was added to as the years went by:

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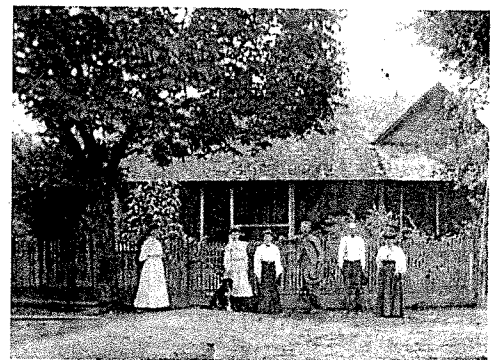
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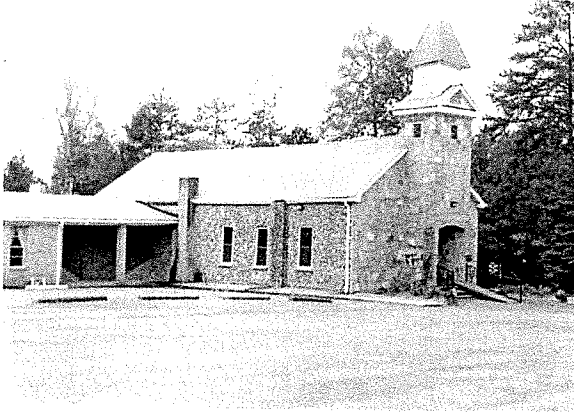
a new fireplace in 1840 (the date carved into the stone mantel), the logs were boarded over, modern porches built across the front, and a front bay window. Across the front were thirteen square pillars, and two swings hung from the porch ceiling. To the rear of the original house, a narrow passage connected a wing that replaced the original log kitchen and dining room.

The last descendent of Peter Hardin to live in the home was his granddaughter, Nell. The rambling old home sat vacant for several years and finally was demolished. The 1840 stone fireplace remained a lonely sentinel until 1990 when it was removed for a new building. The stone mantel was preserved by Mrs. Dean Stepp. On the property today are the Church of God of Prophecy sanctuary and a commercial business.

Peter Hardin established a blacksmith and a cabinet shop, and the location soon became known as Hardin's Shop. In his two businesses, Peter could make and/or repair all the things necessary for a pioneer village.



Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century photo of Hardin House



11. Low Gap United Methodist Church



7. Liberty Community Church, c1850

Odenville, Alabama

Historic

Homes & Buildings

Self-guided Tour

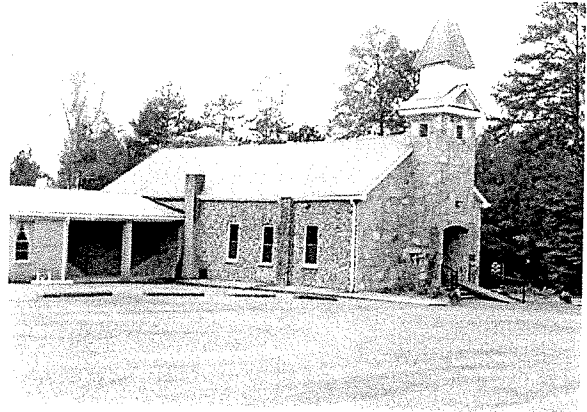
2018

St. Clair County

Bicentennial



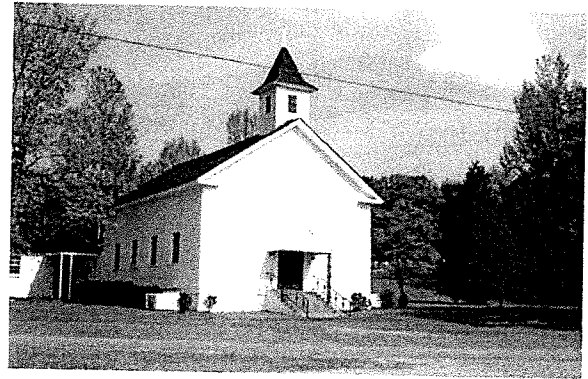
10. Watson-Byer's House, c1911



11. Low Gap United Methodist Church



22. Westbrook-Stone House, c1912



7. Liberty Community Church, c1850

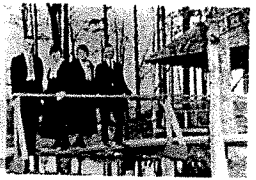




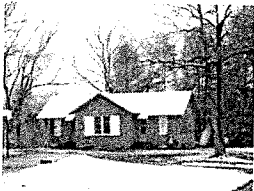
1. Dr. J. G. Wilbanks House, c1920. Ove the years has been owned by Bodiford family and United Methodist Church.



2. Odenville United Methodist Church, 1911



3. Odenville Park has always been at this location. This photo was taken 1909.



4. Friendship School, built in the 1920s. Now owned by Friendship Baptist Church, organized 1858.



5. Steed-Wolfe House, c1911, built by Garfield Steed.



6. McConnell-Honeycutt, c1890, still owned by descendant of the builder.



7. Liberty Church, c1850, Organized as Cumberland Presbyterian, now Community Church.



8. Mize-Hamilton-McLaughlin-Banks House, 1880.



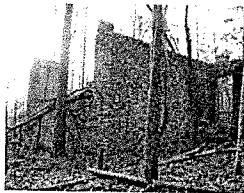
9. Stevenson House, c194-. Glenn Stevenson hauled the rock and built his house.



10. Watson-Byers House, c1911. Still lived in by descendants of original builder.



11. Low Gap United Methodist Church, completed in 1912, but organized in 1875

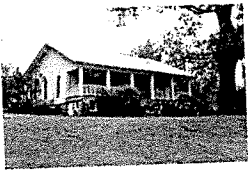


12. Low Gap School ruins in the woods to the left of the Cemetery.



13. Odenville Presbyterian Church, constructed 1913.

Odenville, a good place to call home!



8. Mize-Hamilton-McLaughlin-Banks House, 1880.



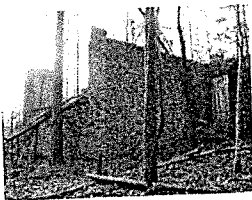
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14. Hardin-Scoggins House. Built in 1903 by J. L. Hardin, and later owned by George Scoggins.



15. Williamson's Rock Store, built in late 1920s or early 1930s.



16. Hodges-Boshell House. Built 1914 by Crowe Hardin.



17. Ward-Steed-Forman House, built c1912 by C. W. Ward (Inaccessible to tour)



18. Coleman House. Built c1900 by Bruce Coleman, owned by Mary Coleman.



19. Mize-Wright House, built by L. M. Mize, c1900.



20. Riddle-Layton House, built 1912 by John Riddle, still in Riddle family.



21. Robison-Smith-Odenville Police, c1905. Today is headquarters for Odenville Police.



22. Westbrook-Stone, c1912, built by J. R. Westbrook. Owned by Jennie Stone.



23. Newton-Davis House, built c1905 by Tom Newton.



24. Glenn-Vandegrift House, c1900. Built by P. A. Glenn



25. Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Branchville. Organized 1882. This building c1947



26. Ebenezer United Methodist Church, organized 1890. Present building 20<sup>th</sup> century in Victorian style.

**Off 411, take Coupland Rd to Simpson Rd and turn right.**



27. Strange House, late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> Century construction.



28. Eaves-Dean-Eaves House, c1930s. Leonard and Eva Eaves Dean lived here. Still in Eaves family.



29. Coupland House, 1904. Built by Francis "Frank" Hamilton Coupland. Stayed in Coupland family until 2000.



30. Blair House, c late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> Century construction.

Go back to Hwy 411. At Hwy 411, when you turn right toward Odenville, on your left will be



31. Preston Dean House. Still in the Dean family. The little building to the left was a lawyer's office in the 1930's.

**In Odenville, Turn right on to Third Avenue.**

Off 411, take Coupland Rd to Simpson Rd and turn right.



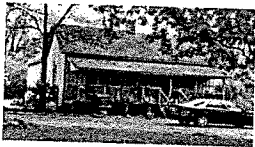
27. Strange House, late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> Century construction.



28. Eaves-Dean-Eaves House, c1930s. Leonard and Eva Eaves Dean lived here. Still in Eaves family.



29. Coupland House, 1904. Built by Francis "Frank" Hamilton Coupland. Stayed in Coupland family until 2000.



30. Blair House, c late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> Century construction.

Go back to Hwy 411. At Hwy 411, when you turn right toward Odenville, on your left will be



31. Preston Dean House. Still in the Dean family. The little building to the left was a lawyer's office in the 1930's.



32. Maddox-Whitten House, c1904. Built by J. L. Maddox, business man and editor of Odenville's newspaper.

\*The original center of Odenville was the Third Ave bridge over Beaver Creek . Watt Brown laid it out in a circle with a radius of one mile from the center of this bridge.



33. This was the Dr. J. G. Wilbanks' doctors office in the 1920s.



34. Odenville Frist Baptist, 1934. This church was organized in 1907.



35. Built by , c190 Located on Ware Ave, but inaccessible to tour



35. Fortson Museum. This 1911 building was Odenville's first bank. Later it was the US Post Office. Today it is filled with artifacts connected with Odenville's history.

In Odenville, Turn right on to Third Avenue.

Stop in and stay a while.

## St. Clair County High—

# School Boasts New Building

BY THELMA YOUNG  
For the Post-Herald

ODENVILLE, Feb. 19 — D. A. Cox, principal of the St. Clair County High School here has served in the top position for the past nine years.

However, prior to moving up, he was a coach in the school, and also at Moody Junior High, an Odenville "feeder" school. At any rate, he has been here long enough to have students in the school now who are children of former students of his.



PRINCIPAL—D. A. Cox, Odenville.

Mr. Cox also served Ashville High School before coming to Odenville and, previous to that position, spent 11 years doing administrative work in Alabama. Cox has an AB degree from Howard College and MA from Peabody. His early college years were spent at Jacksonville State.

The school here has 12 grades, with an enrollment of 580 and with 22 teachers on the faculty. Of the 14 high school teachers, eight are men and more than half have MA degrees.

The school is not crowded now, but could use more classrooms. The high school itself is almost new, having been built in 1963 and used last year for the first time. It consists of 10 classrooms, science labs, library, cafeteria, offices and two conference rooms.

The elementary grades are also in a reasonably new building, having been put into use in 1954. The original building on the campus, a two-story structure, was condemned some time ago and later demolished.

However, after removal of the old building, it was necessary for three years to hold classes in churches of the town and in an old abandoned school building. At the time, a consolidation program was being discussed, which caused delay in starting the new building.

### Building Converted

Another older building on the campus was converted to a room for girls' physical education so that now, with a good combination auditorium-gymnasium, Odenville has a full physical education program going.

St. Clair County High is accredited by the State Department of Education, but there are no immediate plans for working toward possible membership in the Southern Assn.

It is believed there would be some difficulty, probably, in meeting Southern Assn. requirements, but the big problem

likely would be the study which is necessitated before applying. However, it is hoped that such accreditation may some day become a reality.

The faculty, except for a couple of minor deficiencies, would qualify now, and so would the library and science departments.

This school has what is said to be one of the best small libraries in the state. The Parent-Teacher Assn. has helped to make it so and the St. Clair County Board of Education matches dollar for dollar per pupil for the library so that the school is able each year to spend more than is required by the State Dept.

The PTA, with Wesley Johnson as president, also helps with financial aid in any area of the school where there is a need. The school collects fees which are used in paying a portion of the operating expenses and for buying supplies and instructional materials. Each school in the county is responsible for its own utilities.

### City Helps

The City of Odenville also has helped the school, especially in the building program, by making cash contributions. Other contributions came from patrons of the school, too, so that it all added up to a grand total of \$5000 raised locally. The nearby town of Margaret also has come to the assistance of the school.

According to Principal Cox, the dropout rate is entirely too high in this school, although the problem is constantly being worked on. It is believed there is some improvement, now that the curriculum has been enlarged and upgraded and more is being done in the field of guidance.

Since football was started at Odenville this year for the first time, there is now a Quarterback Club, functioning mainly in support of the athletic program. Ray Washington is president.

O. D. Duran is superintendent of St. Clair County schools, and members of the Board of Education are Harold Williams, president; Robert Dickenson, James Cobb, Ralph Windham and Charles Braswell. Local Odenville trustees are Charles Forman, chairman, J. R. Bronson and John Coker.

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517 pupils. These pupils are transported by 8 buses. In addition to the regular instructional program a well equipped library under the supervision of a trained Librarian.

The school has the following clubs to meet the needs and interests of the students: Library Club, Beta Club, F.T.A., F.H.A., F.F.A., Student Council Officers, and Annual Staff.

A Physical Education program is under way to meet the needs of every high school student. Two coaches and a girls Phys. Ed. teacher supervise this program. Each room in elementary school has a supervised play period each day.

In major sports our school has basketball and baseball teams.

If St. Clair County High School is to render the service it should in the future a new high school building, a gym, and a larger lunchroom are a necessity.

D. A. Cox, AB Howard, MA George Peabody. Attended Jacksonville, Howard, Peabody. Member of N.E.A., A.E.A., C.T.A., P.T.A.

Edward L. Bass, B.S. and ME degrees. Attended Jacksonville, Auburn and U. of Alabama. Member of NEA, AEA, CTA and PTA.

Mrs. Fannie B. Cox, A.B. Howard, M.A. George Peabody. Attended Jacksonville, Howard, Peabody. Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA. CTA-Member of Scholarship Committee; PTA-Book and Library Committee Chairman.

Coy B. Smith, BS degree. Attended Jacksonville; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.

Willard D. Smith, BS in Secondary Ed.; Howard, Jacksonville State and Alabama College; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.

Mrs. Joyce G. Johnson, BS in Business Ed.; Attended Jacksonville State; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.

Fitzgerald Yarbough, BS de-

gree; Attended Auburn University, Birmingham Southern; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.; Sr. High Representative Steering Committee, County Teachers Association.

Mrs. Bess G. Barfoot, BS and MA degrees; Attended Jacksonville State and University of Alabama; Member of NEA, AEA, PTA.

Mrs. Jewel Simmons, AB degree; Attended Jacksonville and Howard; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.

Mrs. Saraharte W. Byers, Attended U. of Alabama, Howard, Jacksonville; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.

Mrs. Carolyn C. Gillham; Attended West Georgia College U. of Georgia; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.

Mrs. Velva W. Peters, Attended U. of Virginia, Jacksonville; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.

Mrs. Gealah Stovall, BS Primary Education; Attended Howard and Jacksonville; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.

Mrs. Eva D. Hess, AB Degree; Attended Jacksonville, Howard; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA; Key teacher in our school for CTA; Refreshment Committee Chairman for PTA.

D. J. Bartlett, BS, MS degrees; Attended U. of Mississippi, Mississippi State, Auburn; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.

Mrs. Rebecca L. Yarbough, BS degree; Attended Auburn; Member of NEA, AEA, PTA; Chairman of Lunchroom Group.

Mrs. Frances L. Bartlett, BS degree; Attended Jacksonville State, Florence; Member of NEA, AEA, PTA; Special Class Organization.

Mrs. Sybil S. Jones, AB, MA degrees; Attended University of Alabama; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.

Miss India Barger, BS in Education; Attended University of Alabama; Member of NEA, AEA, PTA.

B. N. Johnson, Attended

Snead, Jacksonville State; Member of NEA, AEA, CTA, PTA.

# First County High School Started In The Year 1908

## ST. CLAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

(This is the 2nd. in a series of news stories dealing with every school in St. Clair County. Read the News-Aegis every week for the history of your school.)

In 1907 the state legislature passed a bill providing for the establishment of a county high school in each of the counties of the state. St. Clair county was one of the first five counties to take advantage of this offer. The present high school opened in the fall of 1908 with K. L. Benson as principal and Miss Minnie Woodall assistant. The enrollment was 26 students who became the first graduation class in 1912.

The course of study offered many subjects for a few minutes a day on certain days of the week where as today a few subjects are offered for 45 to 90 minutes a day. For the

first 7 or 8 years there were only 3 teachers but the faculty had grown to 7 teachers by 1925.

In 1925 the Vocational School was built providing instruction for boys in Vocational Agriculture and girls in Vocational Home Economics. Some later additions to the school have been the Auditorium, Lunchroom, and the modern 7 room Elementary building. The Auditorium will seat 400 and is used as a gym, for Physical Ed. classes, being used 7 periods a day.

St. Clair County High School today has a faculty of 18 teachers and a student body of

# 'Town of Odenville' moves into new house

By KIM CRAFT  
News-Aegis Reporter

ODENVILLE—Last year, the Odenville Town Hall approved construction of a new town hall and civic center.

Mayor James Banks, part-time police officer Raymond Garrison, council members Donald Stagg, Jimmy Bailey and Gloria Henderson along with fire chief Tommy Henderson moved equipment into the new town hall located on the corner of Alabama Street and 3rd and Bartlet Avenue Feb. 28 and 29. Police Chief Bill Brown was also instrumental in the move.

Banks said expenditures for the project were about \$100,000 but he added "there's no way to put a value figure on the man hours put in by volunteers."

A leaking roof coupled with the growth of town hall paved the way for the new building. "You've got to plan for the future," Banks stressed, "and that's what we're trying to do."

Banks said the town had simply outgrown the previous building.

The vacated building was about 2,600 square feet, while the new building houses 6,000 square feet. Banks cited the upgrading of the computer system in the clerk's office as well as upgrading of the telephone system as steps in increasing the efficiency of the department. The old computer was loaned to the city library.

Future plans call for moving the fire hall to the new site, Banks noted. He added that for now it will expand into the vacant town hall.

Banks said the larger town hall and civic center are things of which the community can be proud. Though the council approved the resurfacing of roads and took steps to eliminate the beaver dams in the creek behind town hall in 1991, the building project consumed much of its time.

"When you're running a town everything's got to be your number one priority — the fire department, clerks, police department, buildings, rights of way and employees," Banks explained. "Our citizens are number one."

Banks said it's impossible to focus exclusively on one agenda. "In

my position, you have to look at the overall picture," he said. But he admitted the council spent a large amount of time in acquiring the new building.

"We have not neglected anything, or at least hope we haven't," the mayor said. "If so, we didn't do it intentionally."

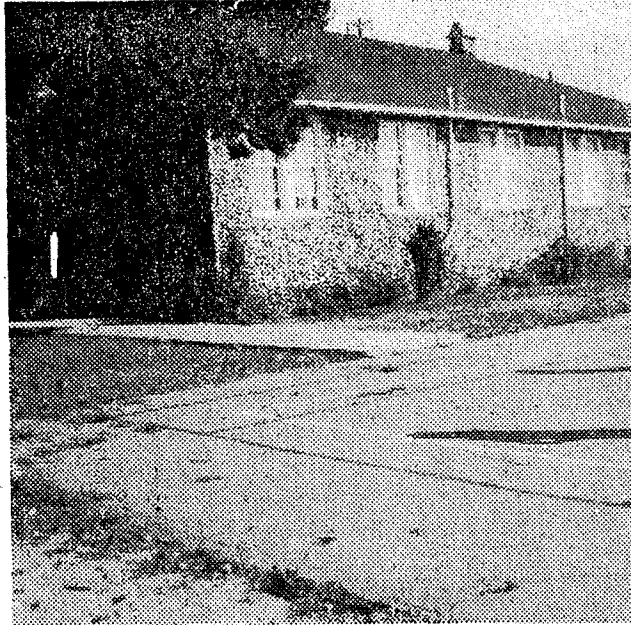
Roads need addressing this year, Banks said. Also included in the 1992 calendar are plans for a walking track around the town park. "We'd love to do 2,000 feet," he said. "But it may not be quite that much."

Banks noted that the town's improvement committee has collected about \$3,200 through fund-raising efforts toward the walking track project.

In the mean time, interior and exterior work continues at the new town hall and civic center. The ribbon cutting and grand opening is tentatively scheduled for April 5 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

"There's still work to be done," Banks stressed adding that landscaping and installation of the new town hall sign were at the top of the list.

Nov. 17, 1966



**OLDEST IN ST. CLAIR**  
**... Housing 1st. Vo-Ag. Department**

Vocational agriculture was placed in the curriculum at St. Clair County High School in 1926. This is the oldest vo-ag department in St. Clair county. Other departments are at Ashville, Pell City and St. Clair County Training School. The courses of vocational agriculture and vocational home-economics were started in the cobblestone building which was completed in 1926 and have been in the building ever since. After 40 years of service the building is still in excellent condition. The vocational agriculture teachers who have taught here, and the other in which they served are: Bode Hughes was the first teacher, followed by R. G. Ellis, D. J. Bartlett, H. G. Franks, W. J. Holland, Fitzgerald Yarbrough and J. P. Eden who is the present vocational agriculture teacher.



THE HISTORY OF ODENVILLE

St. Clair County

Alabama

by

The Commercial Art Class

1932

#3

Miss Mary Edith Spiegel, Teacher

## SCHOOL SONG

You may talk about your splendid highs all over this fair land,  
Old Woodlawn, Phillips, and the rest you'll hear on every hand;  
They well deserve the praise they get and oft we hear the cry,  
But as for us our hearts are fixed on St. Clair County High.

### Chorus

For we are students of this dear old Hi, we never sigh;  
Colors bravely bear the banner of our County Hi,  
St. Clair ! Hah ! Rah ! Rah !  
We shall surely win the fight.

This dear old school we all adore her; she's our chiefest pride;  
She's the gem of St. Clair County viewed from every side;  
So blow your trumps and sound your drums and let the music fly,  
While we give cheer to the welkin rings of St. Clair County Hi.

### Chorus

8336 Third Avenue, South  
Birmingham, Alabama  
October 15, 1932

Miss Elvie Lou Alverson  
Odenville, Alabama

Dear Miss Alverson:

Your letter, asking for historical information regarding the Odenville Presbyterian Church, received. In replying, I wish to state that I am not sure when the church was organized. But I think it was organized about 1885 or 1889 as a Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Liberty. Rev. Thornie Taylor was one of the first, if not the first minister of the church; I rather think he organized the church.

Among the early members of the congregation were members by the names of Stovall, Mize, Hurst, Simeson, Steed, and Ash.

In the Consummation of the Union of the Cumberland Presbyterian and Presbyterian U. S. A. in 1906, a part of the Liberty Congregation declined to go into the United Presbyterian Church and retained the name of Cumberland Presbyterian. But the pastor and session of the church, with a large part of the membership of the Liberty Congregation, abiding with the decision of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian (or majority of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church) later became the congregation of the Odenville Presbyterian Church.

In July of 1912 the Session of the Odenville Presbyterian Church appointed a committee consisting of the Pastor, Rev. J. M. Alexander, and elders - J. A. Mize, and S. M. Cunnings - to select a lot for the church building. This committee selected and purchased the lot on which the church stands. The lot was purchased from Mr. Wat Brown, of the Odenville Land Company, for the consideration of \$125; contract for the new church building was let the next year and money raised and the church building erected.

The deed to the property was made to the trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. Messers L. M. Mize, S. G. Hurst, and J. A. Stovall are the trustees of the local congregation and custodians of the property. They are also the present elders of the local church.

The present membership of the Odenville Church is 42. The church has, during the last fifteen years, lost quite a few members through deaths and removals from this community.

Ministers who have served this congregation during the past thirty-five years are: Revs. J. B. Stovall, S. L. Robinson, S. G. McCluney, H. S. Helment, R. P. Taylor, and J. M. Alexander, and among the elders of this congregation who served faithfully and worthily, now deceased, were S. M. Cunnings, J. A. Mize, Dr. C. A. Cason, J. W. Jones, and J. W. Stovall.

J. M. Alexander

October 29, 1932

Miss Frances Marcum  
Odenville, Alabama  
Route Two

My dear Miss Marcum:

The only record I can find giving data on St. Clair County High School is a copy of the "Announcement" for the "Third Annual Session, beginning September 12, 1910, and ending May 26, 1911."

This announcement is in the Department of Archives and History and contains among other things the following:

"Board of Control  
High School Commission

His Excellency, Braxton Bragg Comer, Governor,  
Harry C. Gunnels, Superintendent of Education  
William W. Brandon, State Auditor

County Board of Education

B. F. Hammond, Superintendent of Education  
Napoleon P. Spradley, John W. Moore,  
Elijah T. Turner, William F. Maynor  
Algie E. Smith, Treasurer."

"Faculty

James Olin Sturdivant, A. M., Principal  
Miss Ada Barnes, First Assistant  
Mrs. Alma Yerkerkey Robertson, Second Assistant  
Mrs. C. C. Brown, Music, Expression, Art."

"This school has the distinction of being the only county school in the State wearing uniforms---One society, The W. T. Brown Literary Society, with prospects of others."

"Board

Board may be obtained at from \$10.00 to \$13.00 per month. Students may rent rooms and do their own cooking, thereby reducing the cost. Some report that board in this way cost from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per month."

Miss Frances Marcrum  
October 29, 1932  
Page Two

### "Roster of Pupils

1908-1909 - First Year

Busey, John T.	Hurst, Virgil L.
Busey, Thomas J. Jr.	Jones, Howard V.
Cunning, Sada B.	Jones, Chester A.
Davis, Clarence L.	Mize, Arthur Clarence
Forman, Mae E.	Mize, Bert
Forman, Cary A.	Newton, Dovie E.
Fowler, Henry A.	Robertson, George W.
George, Alta	Scoggins, Mary E.
George, Ross	Shockley, Nannie E.
Hagia, James A.	Tucker, Jas. T.
Hodges, Hicks	Wood, Addie L.
Hardin, Russell Jr.	Vandergrift, Benj. F.
Hardin, Nellie H.	Jones, Ottie M.

Apparently there was only one year of high school work the first year.

There is a roster for 1909-1910 containing 40 names. "First Year," and 12 names in "Second Year."

The courses of study is set down as four years beginning with the 8th grade. At that time the state had what was called the 7-4 plan; that is, seven years of elementary school and four years of high school.

The course of study is given by years. Every pupil was required to take either Latin or German in the first year and in the second year Latin, German or commercial arithmetic. He took in addition in the first year, English, mathematics, English history, physical geography, manual training, geometrical drawing; in the second year, English, algebra and plane geometry, ancient history, biology, manual training.

In the third year the pupil took English, mathematics, medieval and modern history. He might elect two subjects from the composition, Free, French, German, or bookkeeping and commercial geography.

In the fourth year the pupil took English, mathematics, United States History and civics and Alabama history and two electives from the following: Chemistry, practical agriculture, Virgil 6 books, (Latin) grammar, Xenophon's Ana basis, French, German, bookkeeping and commercial law.

Miss Frances Marcrum  
October 29, 1932  
Page 3.

This "announcement" contains a number of interesting pictures, one showing the building and students lined up- boys along the front in military costumes and the girls along the right side (as the building faces) in somewhat military-looking uniforms with caps resembling the caps used with graduating ("caps and gowns") costumes. Another picture shows the student body and faculty on and in front of the front steps of the building. In another picture entitled "Ragland's Representatives at St. Clair High School" are shown six young ladies and seven young men, all in the inevitable "uniforms."

Five pages of advertisements are carried on the pages following the announcements about the school. Appealing for patronage for through this medium were: Judson Collete: Edw. Kerah Agency, Ragland: Birmingham Trust and Saving Company: Hirshberg Art Company, Baltimore: Dr. A. W. Dupey: St. Clair County News; Steed and George: W. C. Watson; J. L. Mize and Son; C. P. Ward; Alabama Polytechnic Institute; St. Clair Motot Car Company; Cook Springs, (Studebaker, Flanders and E. M. F. cars) J. M. Williamson and Son: B. E. Wing; Bank of Odenville; W. L. Steed.

Mr. H. A. Fowler, who was a pupil in the early days, is now principal of Chaotaw County High School at Butler, Alabama. Mr. W. F. Mayor, who was on the County Board of Education, is now principal of the Blount County High School at Oneonta. No doubt these gentlemen could give you some facts that would be helpful.

There is here in the Department of Archives and History a copy each of two commencement programs for May, 1946. One is for the Oratorical Contest on May 9th. Some of the titles of the orations and the names of the orators were as follows:

"The American Flag", Tom Riddle; "Behold a Republic!" Coy Amberson: "Lincoln, A Man Called of God," Reuben Self; "The Confederate Flag," Vernon Vandergrift: "The Daughter of the Regiment," Gussie Cox.

On Wednesday May 10th a play, "The Mistress of St. Ives" in three acts, was presented.

No doubt other materials could be found in the Department of Archives and History if some one could take time to investigate all of the available sources.

You are working on an interesting topic, and I trust you will be able to do a fine fjob of it. We shall be glad to help you in any way, please write to us again.

This is an answer you request under date of October 16th. I regret that I was unable to give it earlier attention.

Very truly yours,

T. W. Smith  
Supervisor of Secondary Education

## EARLY SETTLERS

Indians were the first people to live where the present village of Odenville is located. Game was plentiful, good springs were numerous, and the land was fertile. All these things attracted the people of the northeast as they migrated westward, so many of them stopped along the way. They formed our present village.

The earliest settlers in the order in which they settled were: Peter Hardin, the father of W. C. Hardin, and grandfather of Mrs. Nell Hardin Hodges, present resident of Odenville. He came in 1821 and settled in the old field southeast of the present site of Odenville, near the Shockley home at the foot of the mountain. In 1824 he moved to a new home where W. J. Hodges now lives. A Mr. Lowell settled where the Ben Vandergrift home is. A Mr. Lovett came to dwell about where the Moore home is today. A Mr. Mize built a beautiful large brick home near what is called now Liberty, northeast of Odenville on the Ashville-Odenville road. It still stands today, and is supposed to be the oldest house still standing in this section of the county and one of the oldest in the entire county. A Mr. Harman then settled about where the Coursens now live. Johnie Vandergrift settled on a farm at the foot of the mountain where Hill's farm is today. Billy Foreman settled on the Branchville-Odenville road near where the Spark's home now stands. Johny Mize settled where Garfield Steed now lives.

Odenville was first known as Hardin's Shoppe, named for Peter Hardin, but later it was changed to the present name at the suggestion of Mr. Brown, a mail carrier of that day.

## HISTORICAL FACTS

The Cross Roads in Odenville were developed along old Indian and game trails.

The first form of industry was the lower mill on Canoe Creek, over a hundred years ago.

The old brick Mize home in this community is approximately one hundred thirty-eight years old.

Odenville's first Post Office was located in Mr. Bob Newton's home. He still has the table used for sorting the mail. Mary Simpson named the new Post Office.

The first freight train came through Odenville in 1905. The rails were laid along in front of the train as it moved slowly along the new track.

St. Clair County News was edited in Odenville for two years by J. L. Maddox. The first edition is reported to have been on white silk.

The first public school was taught in a little log building at Walnut Groave.

St. Clair County High located in Odenville, is one of the five oldest in the state of Alabama.



## THE OLDEST BUILDING STILL STANDING

About one and a half miles northeast of Odenville on the Odenville-Ashville road today may be seen an old brick house, known as the old Mize home. This building is the oldest in St. Clair County, having been built one hundred thirty-eight years ago.

Mr. Mize built this two story home consisting of six rooms on the first floor and three on the second, of brick which were made there on the lot of the building. On one of them may be seen today the track of a deer, possibly made at night when the brick were left uncovered. This shows that plenty of game and wild animals once roamed this section of the state.

The building has been in constant use since it was built in the beginning of the nineteenth century. It has changed owners several times during these many years. Today it is owned by a citizen of Odenville, Mr. J. T. Bradshaw.

## SCHOOLS IN ODENVILLE

The first public school in the Odenville community was Walnut Grove, located at Hardwick, four miles east of Odenville. It had only one teacher, but was considered a very prosperous school for that time.

As the population increased and shifted it was decided that a better location for the school would be at Liberty, one mile east of Odenville, on the Ashville-Leeds road. The little village of Odenville, grew until it had a small school of its own. That was something like 68 years ago, we are told by the old settlers. The school was a small-one-room log structure, heated by an open fire place at one end of the room. It stood somewhere about where the home of Mr. Homer Byers now is. So far as we know, only four of its pupils are still living. They are Louis Mize, Emma Mize, Janie Philips, and Isabella Scoggins. Mr. Jim Hardin was one of the first teachers.

As the population of Odenville grew it was decided to unite the school at Liberty and the one at Odenville. A new building was built on the same piece of ground on which the present school stands, but at a different site. This was built with state aid and became a modern state public school of that day. It was a two story wood structure with several rooms.

Misfortune came upon this building and it was burned to the ground about fifteen years ago. The patrons were not to be outdone in their desire to educate their children. With the aid of the state they soon began the new building to replace the former. It was of field stone and built according to the newest state plan, a one story building with three regular class rooms, two of which could be throw together to use as an auditorium, and other needed storage and cloak rooms. This one is still in use.

## HIGH SCHOOL

In 1907 the state legislature passed a bill providing for the establishment of a county high school in each of the counties of the state. St. Clair County was one of the first five counties to take advantage of this offer. In July 1908 the ground was cleaned off for the erection of the present high school building. Mr. John Inzer was head of the erecting committee, which consisted of:

W. T. Brown	J. L. Meddox
H. H. Letaw	W. T. Hodges
P. A. Glenn	S. M. Mize
W. C. Herdin	S. M. Cummings

The school opened in the fall of 1908 with K. L. Benson as principal and Miss Minnie Woodall assistant. It had an enrollment of twenty-six. Since it was a new school, only one year of high school work was done that year.

In the second year the enrollment had increased to sixty-two, forty in the first year and twenty-two in the second year. These corresponded to the eighth and ninth grades of today, for the state then used what was called the 7--4 plan -- seven years in elementary school and four in high school.

Every pupil was required to take either Latin or German in the first year. In addition he took English, mathematics, English history, physical geography, manual training, and geometrical drawing, a total of seven subject.

In the second year the pupil took Latin, German or Commercial Geography and English, Algebra and Plane Geometry, ancient history, biology and manual training.

In the third year he took English, mathematics, medieval and modern history, and two electives chosen from the following subjects: physics,

home economics, Cicero and Latin prose composition, French, German or Book-keeping and commercial geography.

In the fourth year he took English, mathematics, U. S. History and Civis, Alabama history and two electives from chemistry, practical agriculture, Virgil and Latin grammar, French, German, bookkeeping and commercial law.

There is quite a difference in this course of study of many subjects taught a few minutes a day on certain days a week and the fewer subjects of today which are taught from forty-five to ninety minutes a day in our present system.

The school had the distinction of being the only high school in the state requiring its students to wear uniforms.

By the third year of the school it was able to publish an announcement of its session beginning September 12, 1910. Several of these may be found among the patrons of the school today.

The enrollment of the school from 1921 has been as follows:

1921-22 - - - 64	1928-29 - - - 114
1922-23 - - - 87	1929-30 - - - 145
1923-24 - - - 89	1930-31 - - - 152
1924-25 - - -105	1931-32 - - - 191
1925-26 - - -133	1932-33 - - - 186
1926-27 - - -100	1933-34 - - - 194
1927-28 - - -121	1934-35 - - - 212

The first seven or eight years of the school there was only three teachers. Since 1925 there have been seven teachers. In the twenty-six years of the school there have been only six principals.

The vocational school was built in 1925 providing instructions for boys in vocational agriculture and for girls in vocational home economics.

This work has been carried on by Mr. Hughes and Mr. Ellis, Vocational Agriculture teachers, and Misses Williams, Martin, Trammell and Wooley, Home Economics teachers.

The students from this school who have gone to college have made good records, giving the school a ranking in the upper ten percent of students who have made good in college.

The school now ranks among the best high schools of the state. It has a good rating in both scholarship and equipment. Each year it continues to grow in enrollment and to add new equipment. We shall not take time to enumerate all the improvement that has been made recently, but the greatest thing is the water supply system that has been installed this year. Our students by means of a good library are able to develop a broader knowledge in their different fields of study, and to learn to enjoy and appreciate reading good books and magazines. By the Athletic and Physical Education programs the students all have a chance to take part in the sports of the day; these are such a popular topic with the younger group. Through the various clubs of the school, such as the Science, English, Miss-Fit, History, Future Farmers, Future Homemakers and the Junior and Senior Yancey Literary Societies and the Junior and Senior Tutwiler Societies the students develop leadership and other phases of their character that will help them after they leave school.

All in all parents, I think that you have a school to be proud. But let us not be content with that which we have. Let us keep on climbing by improving our school. The most effective way of doing this is through a strong, wide awake P-T-A.

In the spring of 1946 some land was purchased from Mrs. Augusta Taylor. The school paid \$100.00 on it and the remainder was paid by the County Board of Education. On this land a lunch room was erected that summer. The patrons of the school, with the aid of the County Board of Education, erected the building. One class room was added to the lunch room. Before the new building was erected, the lunch room was housed in the rooms under the

auditorium. When the lunch room was moved, the 5th and 6th grades were moved into the rooms vacated by the lunch room. The 4th grade moved into the new room adjoining the lunch room. At this time the pupils from Branchville were transported to Odenville. Their school at Branchville burned the latter part of December, 1944. Until enough room was made for them at Odenville, part of the pupils attended school at Moody.

The Low Gap Elementary School burned February 13, 1946. The teachers finished that year's work in the Low Gap Church. During the summer three additional class rooms were built at Odenville on the high school campus. That fall the 3rd grade at Odenville and all the pupils from Low Gap were transferred to the high school campus. Only the first and second grades remain in the Odenville Elementary Building.

The Friendship School closed at the end of the 1948-49 term. That fall those pupils were transferred to Odenville. All grades from the 3rd through the 12th are now on the high school campus.

The Hare House which adjoins the school campus was purchased by the County Board of Education in 1946 as part of the Odenville school campus.

TEACHERS OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

1908-09

L. K. Benson--Prin.  
Miss Minnie Woodall

1909-10

L. K. Benson  
Evelyn Green

1910-11

J. D. Sturdivant  
Ada Lucille Barnes

1911-12

J. O. Sturdivant  
Katheleen Witherspoon  
Annie Thornton

1912-13

J. O. Sturdivant  
Ladie Portis  
May McLeod  
Mary Russell--Music

1913-14

J. S. Sturdivant  
Ladie Portis  
May McLeod  
Mary Russell--Music

1914-15

J. O. Sturdivant  
R. C. O'Briant  
Tempie Smith  
Mary Lee Strickland--Music

1915-16

J. O. Sturdivant  
J. W. Campbell  
Bernie Gay  
Mrs. Shires--Music

1917-18

J. O. Sturdivant  
Nell Morris  
J. W. Campbell  
Myra Newman--Music

1918-19

J. O. Sturdivant  
Mary Eloise Prude  
Nell McCall

1919-20

J. O. Sturdivant  
Jimmie Lucille Morton  
Albert Hooten  
Mary Robson  
Mary Louise Wilson--Music

1920-21

William A. McGuff  
Herman B. Roberson  
Mamie Lou Stanford  
Margaret Jane Wilson--Music

1921-22

William A. McGuff  
John B. Robson  
Mrs. Alf Turner

1922-23

H. L. Nisser  
Jean Stanford  
O. R. Grimes  
Lyandall Woodall

1923-24

H. L. Nisser  
R. R. Robertson  
Jane Stanford  
Mary Willard Hall  
Zeila Stevall

1924-25

M. O. Baxter  
R. W. Youngblood  
Sybil Strawbridge  
Ivilyn Ingram

1925-26

W. O. Baxter  
R. W. Youngblood  
Matilda Albreast  
Mrs. S. M. Christian  
Grace Newton  
Blanch Williamson  
Bode Hughes

1926-27

M. O. Baxter  
R. W. Youngblood  
Kathleen McCormick  
Grace Newton  
Blanche Williamson  
Bode Hughes

1927-28

M. O. Baxter  
R. W. Youngblood  
Mabel Patton  
Grace Newton  
Beula Jackson  
Blanche Williamson  
Roy G. Ellis

1928-29

Roy Gibson  
Mabel Richardson  
Fannie Ella Bains  
Mabel Allen  
O. P. Myers  
Evelyne Martin  
Roy G. Ellie

1929-30

Roy Gibson  
Mabel Richardson  
Fannie Ella Bains  
Wilma Rice  
W. H. Harrison  
Evelyne Martin  
Roy G. Ellis

1930-31

Roy Gibson  
Mabel Richardson  
W. H. Harrison  
Nancy Wilson  
Mary Edith Spiegel  
Mary Trammell  
Roy G. Ellis  
Mary Hardwich - - Music

1931-32

Roy Gibson  
Mabel Richardson  
Nancy Wilson  
Mary Edith Spiegel  
James O. Simmons  
Mary Trammell  
Roy G. Ellis  
Mary Hardwich - - Music

1932-33

Roy Gibson  
Mabel Richardson  
Nancy Wilson  
Mary Edith Spiegel  
James O. Simmons  
Mary Trammell  
Roy G. Ellis



# Odenville Wants Industry, But Other Municipal Improvements Come First

Building a town hall, installation of telephone service, and street paving are important municipal improvements made during the administration of Mayor C. B. Riddle in Odenville.

Mayor Riddle and his council have put forth efforts to make the necessary municipal improvements before seeking new industry for the town, which is located about 15 miles from Pell City in St. Clair County.

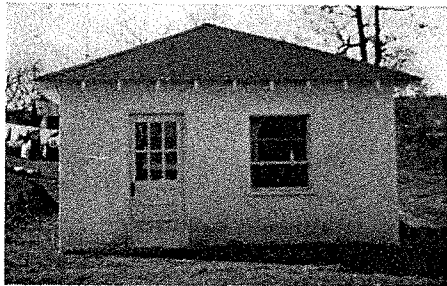
Industry is the No. 1 goal of the council, but the mayor feels that other improvements such as municipal waterworks should be undertaken before concentrating on the drive to obtain industry suitable to the section in which this municipality is located.

## Plan Water System

The mayor and council are at the present time working on the financing of a municipal water system. At the present time individual wells are used by citizens to obtain water.

One of the main projects undertaken during this administration was the construction of a town hall building which houses the offices of the clerk and also serves as a voting place for citizens of the municipality.

This concrete block structure cost approximately \$1,300, according to Town Clerk J. H. Dean.



**ODENVILLE TOWN HALL**—This concrete block structure was built as the first project of Mayor C. B. Riddle's administration to house the office of the clerk and for meetings of the council.

The clerk said the town government was instrumental in obtaining telephone service last year and approximately 200 customers were on the line. Mayor Riddle and the council had worked diligently on the project to obtain this service by the Leeds Telephone Company. The system was opened in February, 1954.

The town paid for the blacktopping of three-fourths of a mile of municipal streets and the unpaved streets in the municipality have been cherted.

The present project in which Mayor Riddle and the council are engaged is the securing of a waterworks system. Bonds will be floated to finance the project if present plans materialize.

Serving his first term, Mayor Riddle is an employe of the maintenance department of the St. Clair County Board of Education. He is married and has two children and was a member of the council before taking office as mayor in October, 1952.

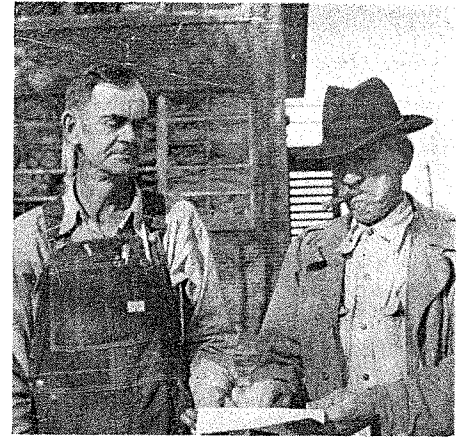
Mr. Dean, the clerk, has been a justice of the peace since 1920, and financial secretary of the Woodmen of the World since 1926. He was employed by the Leeds Telephone Company to acquire the rights of way for the telephone lines when the Odenville system was installed last year. He is serving his third term as clerk.

Members of the council are J. A. Stovall, L. D. Croy, H. H. Watson, A. H. Byars and Mr. Dean.

## Guntersville Utility Sells \$150,000 Bonds

The Guntersville Electric Board recently sold \$150,000 worth of bonds to pay outstanding debts, and to set up a reserve for emergencies in the operation of the electric system.

The bond issue was purchased by the Hugo Marx and Co. of Birmingham and Montgomery at a premium of \$75 with average interest rate of 1.64 per cent.



**ODENVILLE OFFICIALS**—Mayor C. B. Riddle (left) and Clerk J. H. Dean of Odenville check a report on plans for the development of a waterworks system. A blacktopping program, installation of telephone service and construction of a town hall are other projects initiated by the council.

## New Industry Will Start Soon At Selma

The joint efforts of the Industrial Board, the Chamber of Commerce, municipal officials and Miller and Company, a local industry, have resulted in a new industry for Selma—a furniture plant which is expected to employ about 400 workers when operating at full capacity and providing a payroll of around \$500,000.

This new industry will manufacture hardwood tables of all types and is expected to get into production in June.

The new firm will be housed in a 150 foot wide by 500 foot long ARMCO steel building which was sold by the Dixie Division of the Armco Drainage and Metal Products, Inc., an advertiser in the Alabama Municipal Journal.

The city of Selma is being asked to furnish water and sewage facilities to the plant. The new company has purchased a site and will erect and equip its building.

## Enterprise To Let Army Use New City Airport

The new airport now under construction at Enterprise probably will be used as an auxiliary or staging field for nearby Camp Rucker, according to Mayor Maxwell N. (Jug) Brown.

Mayor Brown said 45 acres of the airport location have been turned into runways for the new airport and seven acres will be used for parking.

The Army will negotiate a lease with city officials for use of the airport which is expected to become effective as soon as the field is inspected and given approval by the State Department of Aeronautics.

A valuation of approximately \$70,000 is expected to be placed on the field, Mayor Brown said.

We Specialize in

**MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY SECURITIES**

CALL US FOR ASSISTANCE

**Brodnax & Knight, Inc.**

415 Brown-Marx Building

Birmingham, Alabama

Georgia Railroad. Thousands of tons of coal are mined there daily. Do not know why they named it Margaret. Think if you will write Walker Percy of Birmingham he can and will tell you. The Post Office was located there in opening of the mines.

#### ODENVILLE,

is 14 miles southwest of Ashville in the beautiful Beaver Creek valley on the Seaboard Railroad. Had a Post Office there before the railroad was built. Just why they named it that I am not informed. Write W. C. Hardin of the town and he may tell you. Odenville has an oil mill, heading mill and one bank.

#### PRESCOTT

can give no information of this place.

#### RAGLAND,

is on the Seaboard Railroad 14 miles south of Ashville. The place was named for George R. Ragland, who at one time owned large interests in the coal mines there. George R. Ragland lived and died near Choccoloco Creek, in Talladega county. He was one of Talladega's prominent men. At one time sheriff of this (St. Clair) county. A man of wealth. Has been dead perhaps 15 or 20 years. It is a coal mining town. It has perhaps the largest cement plant in the entire south, costing one million and a quarter dollars. It has a capacity of 3,000 barrels of cement daily. Heading mills, large brick yard. Write Watt T. Brown, of Ragland, he is the main factor in the building up the place. Ragland has one bank.

#### RIVERSIDE,

was so named in about 1883 or 1885 by James R. Coleman who lived there at the time and when the railroad reached the place. It is a station on the west bank of the Coosa river. I suppose was named Riverside because of its location. Write James Coleman a son of James R. Coleman. He lives there. The place may have been named by the railroad people. As to whom I am not sure.

#### ST. CLAIR SPRINGS,

here is to be found one of the finest output of various kinds of mineral waters than anywhere in the State and after the county was created it was known as St. Clair Springs. Was a summer resort of considerable note for near one hundred years. The springs and grounds are beautifully located two miles south of the Alabama Great Southern railroad. The place for mineral water for health is not surpassed by any place in the State.

#### SEDDON,

was named for one of the Confederate States Secretaries of War, by his son Tom Seddon when the Seaboard railroad was built there in 1883. Tom Seddon was connected with the building of the road. He died in Birmingham some years since. Seddon is nicely situated on the west bank of the Coosa river.

#### STEELE,

was called for the man who owned the land when the Alabama Great Southern railroad reached there in 1870. His name was Joshua Tolliver Steele. He died near the station in Steele some 30 years ago. He was an old man at the time of his death and was well respected.

Wednesday, January 12, 1966

# Always time for a greet

BY JACK HOPPER  
News staff writer

ODENVILLE, Jan. 12 — Charles Forman has been delivering mail in rural St. Clair County for 19 years. He knows just about everyone in that territory of the county.

Friends say he is never too busy not to greet people at the mail box, and devotes a lot of his time to promoting his hometown and territory.

He gets results. He, as chairman of the Industrial Development Board of Oden-ville, was instrumental in getting the town's first industry in 1965.

"It is the first one, but not certainly the last," he said, referring to the Beauty Win- dow, Inc. plant which opened last year. "We have pur- chased an industrial park site and are ready for more in- dustry."

Such devotion to community affairs has won him and his family the honor of represent- ing St. Clair County in the annual search for Alabama's Exemplary Family, a contest sponsored jointly by the Au- burn University Extension Service and The Birmingham News.

THE FORMAN family con- sists of Charles, his wife Rita, and their four children: Judy, 19, Jack 17; Charlotte, 15; and Jeff, 8.

The Formans met while they were both serving their country during World War II. Mrs. Forman is a registered nurse.

The Formans have the reputation of being Oden- ville's "Special Medical Team" until a doctor can be summoned.

A family who loves the

outdoors, the Formans have a cabin on the Coosa River and spend as much time there as possible.

The entire family are mem- bers of the Bethel Baptist Church.

CHARLES HAS SERVED as president of the local PTA, is a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Clair County High School, and is in charge of the concession stand at each home football game.

He is past Master of Oden- ville Masonic Lodge No. 705, is a member of the Commu- nity Club, and is in charge of the Odenville Volunteer Fire Department.

Mrs. Forman, a native of Decatur, Ill., quickly accepted Odenville as her home some 20 years ago. She is a PTA member, a member of the Improvement Club, and a

former Demor She nurses

JUD was a St. Clz An em al Life high s leader, FTA a Jack High, FFA, a local Char. student membe Club, Both sl bers of Jeff the fan ville El



EARS  
aratr



FORMAN FAMILY SELECTED TO REPRESENT ST. CLAIR COUNTY ... In front, Jack and Jeff; back, Forman, Judy, Charlotte and Mrs. Forman

ting

FAMILIES the Alabama kind

member of the Home  
ration Club.  
night supervisor of  
t Leeds Hospital.

THE OLDEST child,  
honor graduate from  
County High School.  
ye of Liberty Nation-  
urance Co., while in  
ol she was a cheer  
member of FHA, the  
Glee Club.  
student at St. Clair  
a member of the  
works afternoons at  
ocery.  
e, also a high school  
is a cheerleader,  
f the FHA, Library  
and Glee Club.  
nd Jack are mem-  
Teen Club.  
he outdoorsman of  
He attends Oden-  
ntary School.



FORMAN SPENDS MOST OF TIME IN AUTOMOBILE  
... He has been rural mail carrier for 19 years



**FAMILIES**  *the Alabama kind*

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**FORMAN SPENDS MOST OF TIME IN AUTOMOBILE**  
... He has been rural mail carrier for 19 years

# St. Clair boasts one of best small libraries in state

BY THELMA YOUNG  
News education editor

ODENVILLE, Jan. 12 — The principal of St. Clair High School at Odenville, D. A. Cox, has been in the school long enough to have students whose parents he also taught. He is in his ninth year as principal, but was also a coach in the school before assuming the principalship, as well as Moody Junior High, which is still a "feeder" school.

Cox also spent 11 years in administrative work in Alabama, and then was at Ashville High for two years before coming to Odenville. He has his

A.B. degree from Howard College, and M.A. from Peabody. Before transferring to Howard, he attended Jacksonville State.

The school here has all 12 grades, with an enrollment of 580, and 22 teachers on the faculty. Of the 14 teachers in the high school section, eight of them are men, and more than half have their M.A. degrees.

THE SCHOOL AT PRESENT is not crowded, but could use more classrooms. The high school is almost new, having been constructed in 1963, and used last year for the first time. It consists of ten classrooms, science lab, library, cafeteria, office, and two conference rooms.

The elementary grades are also in a reasonably new building, having been put into use in 1954. The original building, for three years it was two-story affair, was condemned and torn down. However, after demolition of the old



ODENVILLE SCHOOL FIGURES

... Mrs. Lottie Casey and D. A. Cox

building, for three years it necessary to hold classes in churches and an old abandoned schools. At the time a consolidation program was being discussed, thus delaying the start of the new school.

Another older building on the campus was converted in a room for girls' physical education, so that now, with a combination auditorium-gymnasium, Odenville has a full physical education program.

St. Clair County High is accredited by the State Department of Education and there are no immediate plans for working toward possible membership in the Southern Association. It is felt there would be some difficulty in meeting requirements, but the big problem would likely be the necessary study. However, it is hoped that such accreditation may someday become a reality.

The faculty, except for a couple of minor deficiencies, would already qualify, and so would the library and science departments. This school has what is said to be one of the best small libraries in the state. The Parent-Teacher Association has helped to make it so, and the St. Clair County board of education matches dollar for dollar per pupil for the library, so that the school is always able to spend more in this area than is required by the state.

The PTA, with Wesley Johnson as president, also helps with financial aid in any area of the school where there is a need. The school collects fees which are used in helping pay operating expenses of the school and

instructional aids. Each school in the county must pay its own utilities.

THE ODENVILLE town government has helped, especially in the building program, by making outright cash contributions. Other contributions were received from patrons of the school and it all added up to a grand total of \$5,000 raised locally. The nearby town of Margaret has also come to the assistance of Odenville.

St. Clair County High has an improved course of study, with four years of math, biology, chemistry, physics and general science, glee club, home economics, vocational agriculture, and plans are to include Spanish next year.

According to Principal Cox the dropout rate is entirely too high in his school, but is being gradually improved, and now with the curriculum improvement, and more being done in the field of guidance, it is hoped the rate can be considerably lowered in time.

Since the school started football this year for the first time there is now a Quarterback Club, functioning mainly in support of the athletic program. President is Ray Washington.

O. D. Duran is superintendent of St. Clair County schools, and members of the board of education are Harold Williams, president, Robert Dickenson, James Cobb, Ralph Windham, and Charles Braswell.

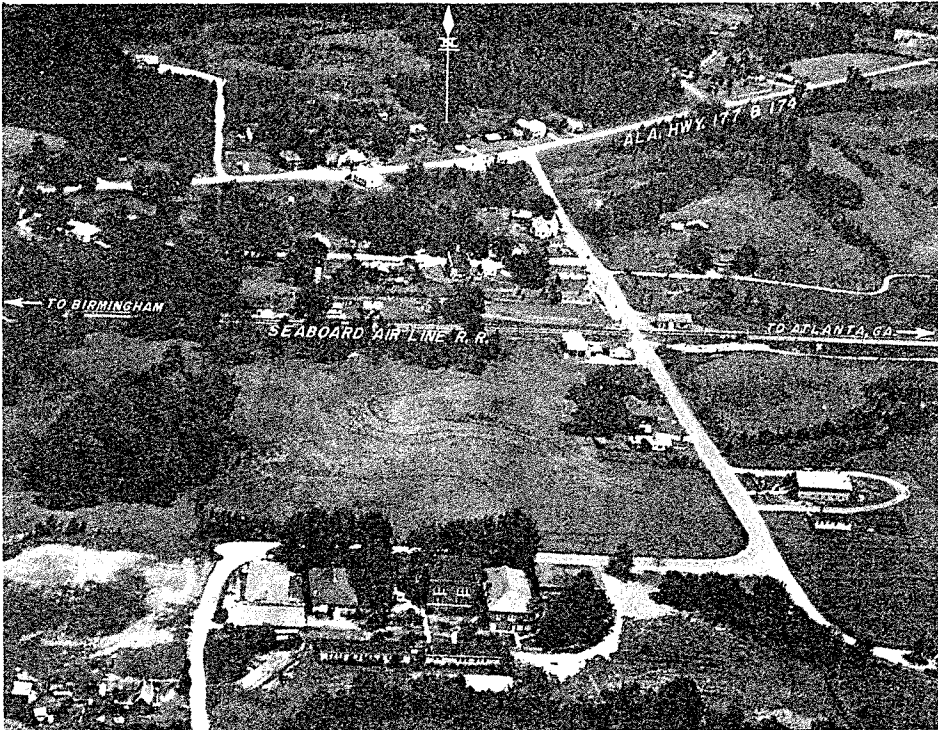
Local Odenville trustees are Charles Forman, chairman, J. R. Bronson and John Coker.

Mrs. Lottie Casey is secretary to the principal at St.

# ODENVILLE,

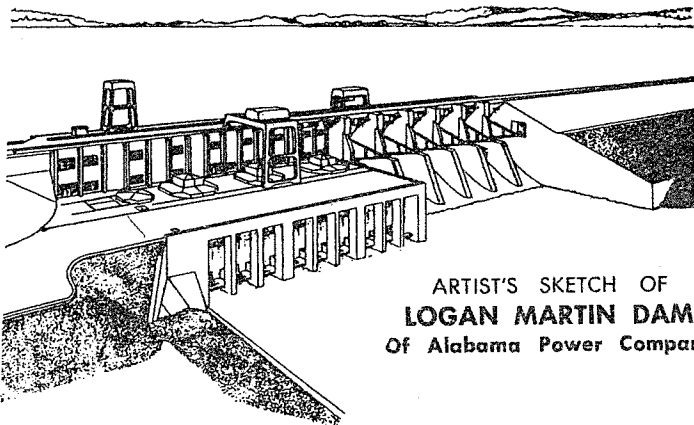
## ALABAMA

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APLS FIELD SERVICES

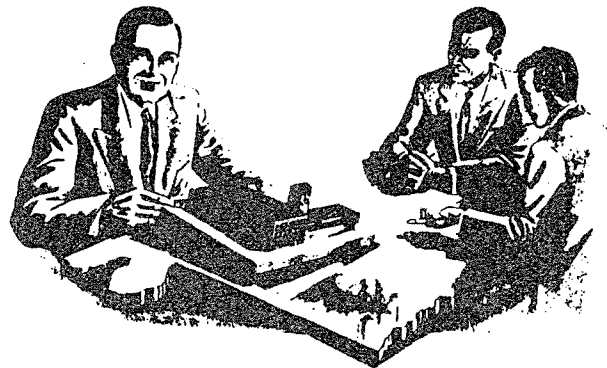


ODENVILLE, ALABAMA

- **GOOD SITES**  
*Unexcelled*
- **CLIMATE**  
*Plenty of*
- **WATER**  
*Dependable*
- **LABOR**
- **RAW MATERIALS**
- **TRANSPORTATION**  
*Favorable Industrial*
- **CLIMATE**  
*The Big Southeast*
- **MARKET**



ARTIST'S SKETCH OF  
**LOGAN MARTIN DAM**  
Of Alabama Power Company



# Plant Site Shopping?

# TRY ODENVILLE

## FACTS FAVOR ODENVILLE

### POPULATION - 1962

The Town 302  
 St. Clair County 25,388

### PRESENT INCOME

Farming, timber, services. St. Clair County has some industrial development with several older industries established more than 20 years.

### THE TOWN

Government.....Mayor and Council  
 Fire Department..12 volunteers, 1 vehicle  
 Insurance Rating.....Class nine

### AD VALOREM TAXES

State of Alabama	6.5 mills
St. Clair County	7.5 mills
School	12.0 mills
City	5.0 mills
Total	<u>31.0 mills</u>

Alabama law permits up to 10-year exemption on State, County and City property taxes for new industry, other than land and school taxes.

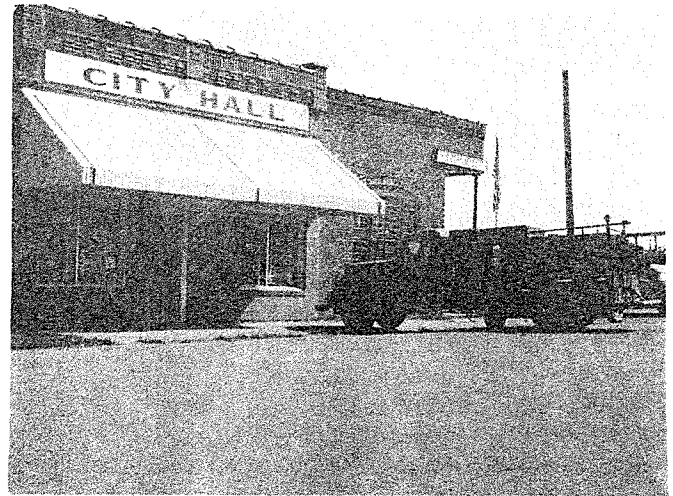
### LABOR

Total labor pool	1,500
Male workers available	75
Female workers available	100

(only 55.3% of the labor force work in the county; 49.5% of these are employed in manufacturing)

### Rates:

Skilled	\$1.50 to \$2.00
Semiskilled	\$1.25 to \$1.50
Unskilled	\$1.00 to \$1.25



CITY HALL AND POST OFFICE

Odenville is ideally situated for industrial plants, large or small. Located slightly northeast of the geographical center of Alabama, Odenville is in the southcentral section of St. Clair County. Birmingham, and its numerous industrial, commercial, transportation, medical and cultural centers and activities, is only 30 miles away.

St. Clair County is in the area chosen by the Alabama Power Company for its great hydroelectric development program. When the program, now well under construction, is complete, the waters of the Coosa-Alabama River Basin will be only 14 miles from Odenville. The entire Coosa-Alabama River System, authorized by Congress, when open for navigation, will provide a nine-foot deep channel from Rome, Georgia, to Mobile, Alabama.

Industries already located in St. Clair County include brick, cast iron pipe, cement, church and school furniture, special machinery, cooperage, cabinets, boats, and lumber manufacturing; textile production; and chicken hatcheries.

Located in the mineral region of Alabama, the area has dolomite, limestone, iron ore, coal, shale, sand and sandstone.

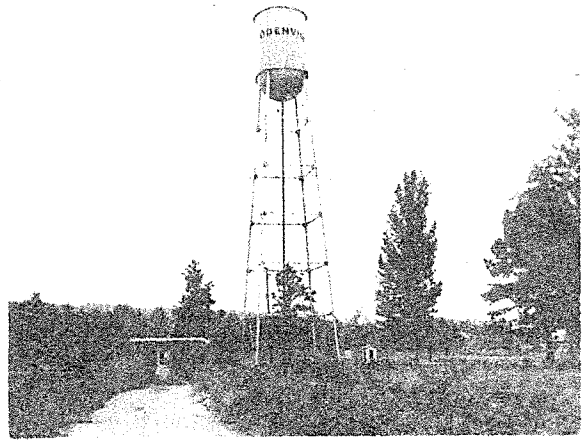
The climate is of the warm-temperate type prevailing throughout the Gulf coastal states.



BUILDING AVAILABLE  
 12,000 square feet



# There Are Many Plant Advantages In This Alabama Community -



## BANKING

Leeds, 11 miles; Pell City, 14 miles;  
Ashville, 14 miles; Springville, 11 miles

## PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Odenville citizens invested in their  
community within the last five years;  
\$161,000 for schools, and \$72,000 for  
new water system.

Fifteen new houses were constructed last  
year. There are four rental houses and  
seven apartments available.

## UTILITIES

Electricity - Alabama Power Company  
Gas - Alabama Gas Company  
Rates on request

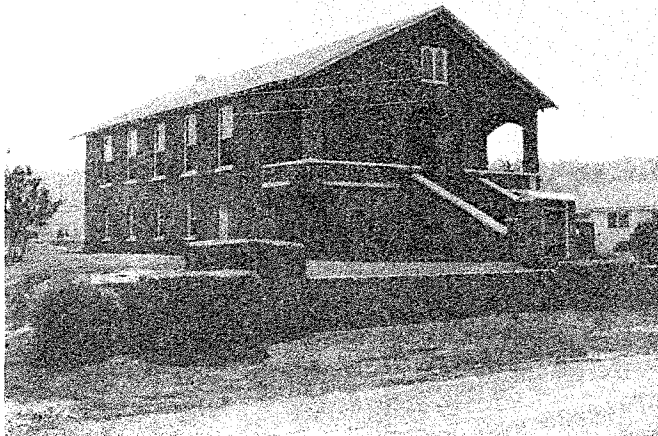
## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Telephone - Leeds Telephone  
Newspapers - Birmingham dailies, St. Clair  
News-Aegis (weekly, circula-  
tion, 4,400)  
Television - reception good, four channels

School - St. Clair County, 570 enrollment  
from elementary through senior  
high

Library - 900 volumes with access to Coosa  
Valley Regional, 3,000 volumes

Medical Service - Hospitals are available  
at Leeds and Pell City, 11 and  
15 miles distances, respectively.  
Birmingham's nationally-known  
medical center is only 30 miles  
away.



BAPTIST CHURCH

## Unsurpassed WATER FOR INDUSTRY-

Source	Well
Storage capacity	10,000 gallons
Daily usage	10,000 gallons
Distance to Main	To property
Size of Main	6" and 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " Cast Iron
Quantity available	
	No. 1 Well - 43 gals. per minute
	No. 2 Well - 50 gals. per minute

## TRANSPORTATION Facilities

Rail - Seaboard Airline - eight trains  
per day - four passengers and four  
freight

Truck - One available connecting with all  
nation-wide lines in Birmingham,  
30 miles away

Air - Birmingham, six airlines, 64  
flights daily

## SUPERHIGHWAYS

Interstates U.S. 59 and 20 are within  
eight miles of Odenville, connecting  
Birmingham with Chattanooga and Atlanta

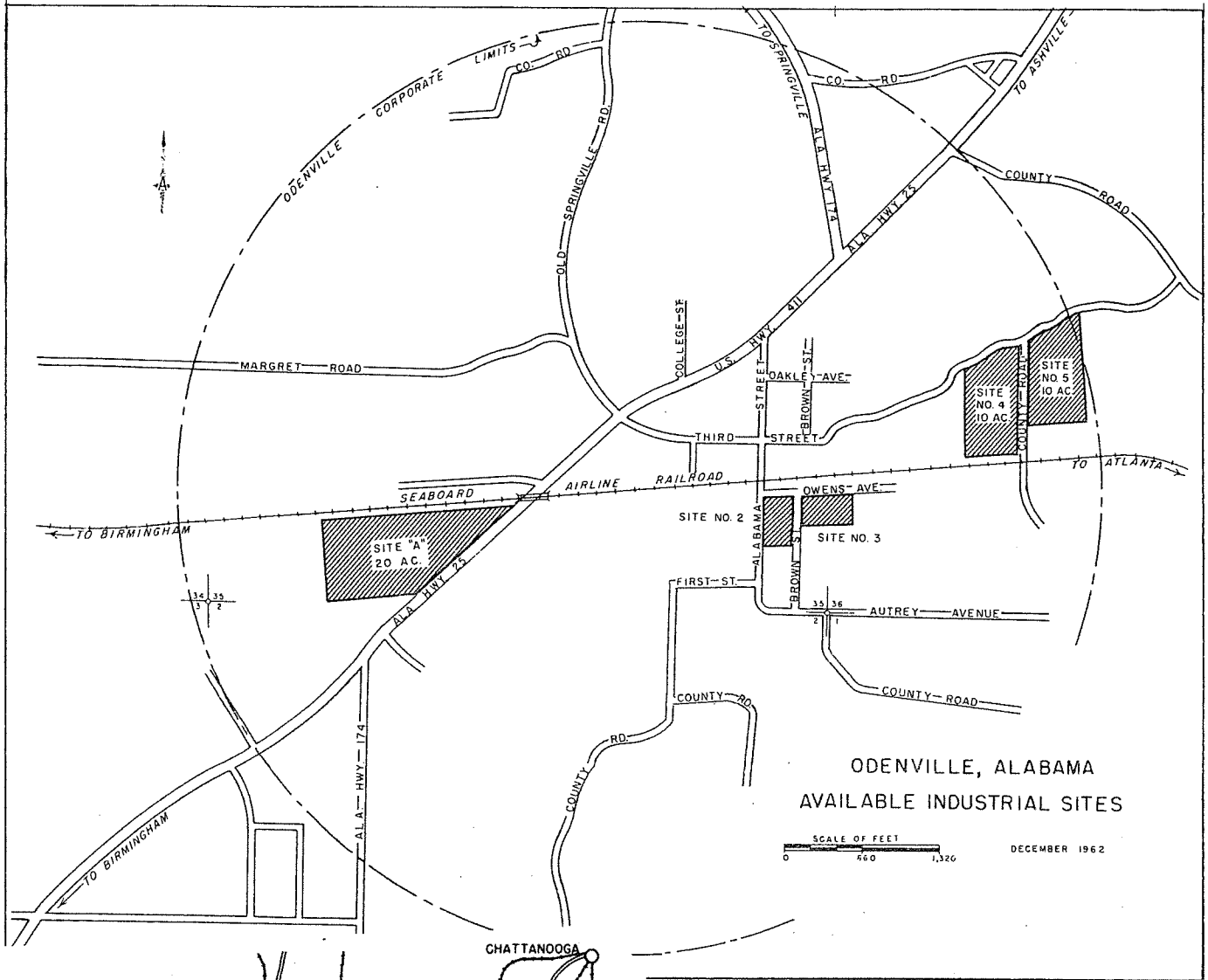
CHURCHES - There are four fine churches  
in Odenville, representing the Baptist,  
Methodist, the Cumberland Presbyterian,  
and the U.S.A. Presbyterian.

Civic Organizations - one

Restaurants - one

## RECREATION

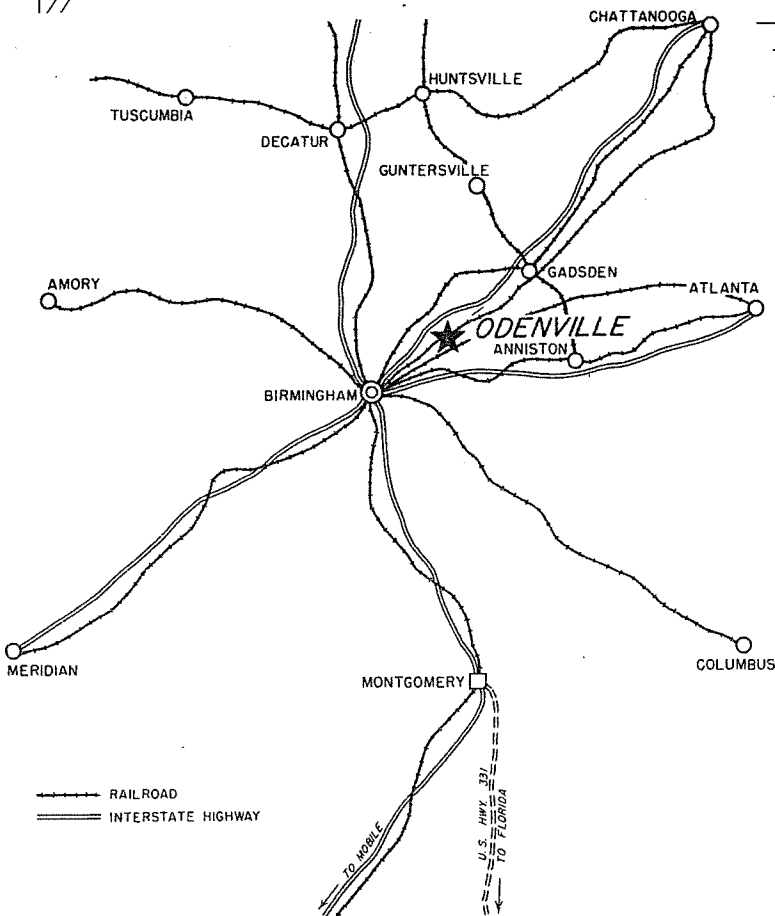
Athletic field in town. Vast outdoor  
recreational wonderland of the Coosa-  
Alabama River Basin at city's outskirts.  
Excellent hunting, fishing, boating, water  
sports, and camping facilities in county.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ON OUR COMMUNITY  
WRITE OR PHONE**

*Mayor R. A. Bodiford  
P. O. Box 485  
Odenville, Alabama*

*Phone 735-3254*



# ERSKINE MEDICINE COMPANY DRUGGISTS

—  
FAMOUS ELIZA JANE MEDICINAL  
SPRINGS

OFFICE OF  
DR. W. F. VANDEGRIFT  
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

BRANCHVILLE, ALA., August 14, 1907.

Mr. Thos. Owen, L. C., Director,  
Montgomery, Alabama.  
Dear Sir:

Branchville, Alabama, takes its name from a small town, now  
called "Old Branchville," which is the head of an old branch of  
Branchville, Ala. located on the public road to Branchville, Ala. and  
and 2 1/2 miles from Branchville, hence this road is called "Old Branchville"  
and "Intervallo" public road, is situated in the N. W. corner of section 10,  
section 2, township 14, range 10 west.

The first settler of Branchville was William Adams, who came here  
then came John and William Vandegrift, James Ash, and others, the  
latter being apprehended by the Legislature in 1807 and  
was shot in 1807.

The first teacher of Branchville was the one who was shot in  
Branchville, this was about 1807.

James Adams was the first teacher, who was shot in Branchville  
until he went to jail in 1807. He was killed there, and was  
teacher until the present time.

Dr. Under was the first physician, year 1807.

John Pickens was the first school teacher, year 1807.

Rev. Deacon Taylor was the first preacher who came to  
Carolina in the early part of Branchville settlement, and was  
Presbyterian.

We have various kinds of medicinal springs, such as  
Cawhill, Plains, etc., and stores of medicines, and  
We have water works of medicinal water, which is  
town.

We have discovered mineral springs and have found the  
Eliza Jane Springs. The springs have been discovered, they  
tested, and proved to be highly medicinal for the cure of  
bladder and stomach troubles.

Yours Very Truly,

*W. F. Vandegrift*