

Winter 2019

The LEGACY

A Publication of Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc.

Golden GIFT GIVER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

A MaizeING A STORY OF SPECIAL SEEDS

AN ADVENTURE Across THE POND

CATCHING UP WITH GOODRUM'S FORMER KEEPER



Contents



4

Campus Notes

Watson-Brown Scholar Updates

10

Alumni Spotlight

by Shannon Friedmann Hatch

12

T.R.R. Cobb House

by Samuel M. Thomas, Jr.

14

Goodrum House

by Barbara Hyde

18

Sticks & Stones

by Michelle Zupan



OUR MISSION

The Watson-Brown Foundation, through creativity, diligence and financial support, labors to improve education in the American South by funding its schools and students, preserving its history, encouraging responsible scholarship and promoting the memory and values of our spiritual founders.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

.....R. Byron Attridge
..... Tad Brown
..... W. Wyche Fowler, Jr.
..... Joab M Lesesne, Jr.
..... John F. Woodham

CAMPUS NOTES



Watson-Brown Scholars in Action



James Clay, Harvard College, Sophomore:

“My first year of college has been one filled with many memories and exciting adventures. Harvard has provided me with a great sense of community, both academically and socially. As a result, I have been able to gain a lot from my experiences thus far.

“One experience that has been most impactful on my academic career has been my Japanese class. The faculty truly made me enthusiastic about learning the language, while creating a positive classroom environment. I met some lifelong friends throughout the year in Japanese.

“Furthermore, this summer I will be doing my first internship in Tokyo with a company called Active Learning. I will be in Tokyo for two months while assisting the company with business operations and special projects. I am looking forward to more adventures this summer!”



ALAHNI BECKS



MICHAELA HANCOCK

Alahni Becks, Tuskegee University, Junior:

“This year was my first year at Tuskegee University (I transferred from Augusta University in the fall). I would say that overall this academic year has been defined by growth and opportunity. I worked hard and was blessed to be able to maintain a 4.0 GPA for the year. As a biology major, I also began to conduct research on prostate cancer under one of my biology professors. During that time, I competed in the institution’s Joint Annual Research Symposium, where I explained what my research was, the results, and future projects. I ended up winning first place in the undergraduate poster presentation portion of the competition and was invited to join Sigma Xi, a research organization, which I did join. I was a part of Biology Club, SGA Pre- Health association, and Women in Science and Health (WISH).

“I only applied to one internship for the summer, the Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program. Thanks to God, I ended up being chosen as a student for the program and will be conducting research on genomics and bioinformatics this summer in Frederick, Maryland. It is a paid internship that begins in June and will last for ten weeks.

“I am surrounded by a very entertaining and uplifting group of fellow transfer students who have really helped me get through my second year as an undergraduate. Because of my accomplishments this year, I will definitely be applying to grad school during the 2019 fall school year for my PhD in Genetics. I am beyond excited for this upcoming academic year and am ready for the challenges and blessings to come.”

Jamie Burke, Georgia State University,

Senior: “This past year has been a bit of a crazy ride. In the fall semester of 2017, I took an internship with a traveling film festival called Campus Movie Fest while also taking a couple of classes online. I got to travel a lot of the US and lived mostly in San Francisco and Los Angeles. I had such an amazing time

and learned so much about life and who I am and want to be. It taught me that I do love traveling and I believe film and marketing are the right fields for me.

“In the spring of 2018, just recently, I took mostly prerequisites for my marketing degree (as I thought I was double majoring); these classes were quite difficult and I struggled a bit to get A’s. I was a bit disappointed to find that I didn’t need them if I decided to just get a minor in marketing, which is what I have decided. However, instead of looking at this past semester as a ‘waste of time’ since they won’t technically count towards anything, I still learned a lot and if I ever wanted to stay in school to finish that marketing degree or go back in finish it, I would still have those credits.

“I’m so thankful for this scholarship because if I didn’t have it, I wouldn’t be able to afford school. I still work full time and pay for my own way, and even that is sometimes hard when in school but this scholarship gives me peace of mind knowing that I can give up shifts here and there if needed for studying. Thank you so much!”

Michaela Hancock, University of Georgia,

Junior: “One of the greatest things about coming to UGA was being able to share my passion for agriculture with other people. My freshman year I joined Sigma Alpha, a professional agricultural sorority, where I was surrounded by powerful, successful young women with the same burning love for the agriculture industry that I have. This year, I found myself wanting to expand my horizons, get a little outside of my comfort zone and welcome a new sister to our sisterhood as well as so many others had welcomed me. In fall of 2017, I accepted a ‘little sister’ in Sigma Alpha. Being able to share our love for agriculture and for our sorority has been the most eye-opening experience for me. My role as a ‘big sister’ was to guide her and teach her the ways of our sisterhood, but she has taught me more than I ever anticipated she would. I’ve learned to value differences, to take chances, and to see beauty in the unknown. I am excited to continue learning at UGA, both about academics and about life.”



JAMIE BURKE



RUTH KISBY

Ruth Kisby, Clemson University, Sophomore: “This school year has exceeded my expectations regarding both classwork quantity and quality. The quantity of schoolwork was much more than I anticipated, but I worked hard to keep my grades high. I entered college with a specific major in mind, but since taking courses in biology, I have been considering many different vocational plans in the biological sciences. The conservation biology course second semester exposed me to the possibility of careers in ecology and zoology. I am planning on using my summers to volunteer or intern at my local zoo, as well as continuing volunteer work at the horse ranch. Besides the horse ranch and doing classwork this year, I helped the equestrian team near the beginning of the year and have gotten involved with an on campus ministry. Overall, the school year has brought many positive surprises, and I have enjoyed discovering where my interest lies in biology.”

Brianna Li, Vanderbilt University, Junior: “I changed my major this semester from chemical engineering to psychology, and realized I don’t want to go to medical school so I also dropped the pre-med track later in the semester. I recently got a position in a neuropharmacology lab, investigating the role of certain receptors in the brain in the mechanisms behind stress and schizophrenia, and I will be continuing in this lab this summer.

“I am now secretary of the K-Pop club, and I’ve been dancing on my own a lot more as well. I’m still fencing, although

not as actively, and have been continuing to take time to study Korean on my own. I believe my more intensive introspection led to better time management and a deeper understanding of my goals in my life, as I have had a better semester academically and mental/physical healthwise which is encouraging.

“Last year, I spent the summer abroad in Korea. I still carry those experiences of living independently and travelling freely alone with me as happy and enriching experiences.”

Makrina Nayfa, Centre College, Junior: “This past spring I began to train for an internship that I will have all summer at Perryville Battlefield. Perryville, Kentucky, is about 20 minutes away from Centre College and is a Civil War battlefield that



BRIANNA LI



MAKRINA NAYFA

served as a location for one of the turning points in the war. It was after this battle that the Union was able to gain control of the Kentucky River and hold a great advantage over the Confederacy as they were able to receive supplies through the river. Over the course of this summer, I will be interning in the museum and be taking inventory of the artifacts and logging them into the museum's PastPerfect software. While I am an art history major, this internship will give me the knowledge and skill set for my future endeavors for a career in a museum setting. My art history professor and advisor at Centre College has been extremely helpful in both supporting me and mentoring me in how to make this internship as meaningful as possible."

Mitchell Petras, Louisiana State University, Senior: "I am thankful to have had another successful year at Louisiana State University. The beginning of junior year signifies the halfway point of college and as my time dwindles down, my interest and excitement in my studies has increased. Just this semester I have begun to do undergraduate research for the Department of Petroleum Engineering, and while it has been difficult to juggle research, school, and athletics, I have truly enjoyed the experience.

"This past summer I had the opportunity to intern with Shell Exploration and Production Company, where I worked as a drilling intern out of New Orleans. While working there, I got the chance to spend a week working offshore in the Gulf of Mexico aboard an oil rig. The experience was invaluable, and I'm looking forward to another exciting summer and a great senior year at LSU. Geaux Tigers!"



ADARIUS SIMPKINS

Adarius Simpkins, University of South Carolina – Columbia, Junior: "The 'sophomore slump' is a very real thing. I've come to know this very well during the past two semesters. It was rough patch for me mentally, physically, emotionally, and academically. I found it very hard to motivate myself to do the things that once came as second nature. Everything seemed to get so much harder and so much more intense. However, in the midst of this year of trial, I learned many valuable life lessons that I'm sure will carry me through the next stage of life and beyond. I learned this year that no man is an island to himself, and that the

community that you surround yourself with determines much of the success that you are able to have. I learned how to say no to things when I already have enough on my plate. I learned that it's not helpful to compare my journey and my life to that of others—we all are following our own pre-determined courses and mine just looks a little different. I've learned to appreciate my strengths and my weaknesses, as they make me who I am while also not letting them define me. As challenging as this year was, and as glad as I am that it's over, I'm truly thankful for the growth that it has brought about for me."



MITCHELL PETRAS

Jasmine Starks, Georgia Southern University, Junior: "This academic year was full of many new experiences for me. First, I stepped out my comfort zone and became the treasurer for the Japanese Club at my school. Normally, I'm used to just being another member that comes every week, but I wanted to try something different. One of the friends I made at college was there with me every step of the way. It was because of this experience that I learned what comes with watching over a club. We had to plan events, how to pay for them, and how we would execute them. At first, I thought this was going to be too much for me, so I thought I would not be able to do my job very well. Fortunately, the other officers, who were kind and hardworking, were always there to help me. I also talked more with the Japanese students this year. I was surprised by that, because usually I like to stay to myself, but I guess being an officer helped me want to reach out to them. I also got my first job at my school and from there I actually made more friends. Along with making new friends, I talked with one of my professors and hopefully I will be doing research with him next year. For the summer I just plan on working, so I can save up enough money to help me pay the rent for my first apartment. One of my roommates will be a friend I made my freshman year."



Kiara Williams, Georgia State University, Sophomore: “Since my first year at Georgia State University has come to an end, I would love to speak on all of the wonderful opportunities and adventures that have been afforded to me throughout my year. It all started in August, where I was fortunate enough to be selected to serve as a mentor for the Goizueta Latino Leadership Initiative Mentorship Program. This program allowed me to guide and educate high school students in Cobb County on the opportunities in pursuing higher education. A strong majority of my mentees would have never known about the college application process or how to go about searching and applying if it was not for me and my other fellow mentors. This leadership position was extremely rewarding in all aspects.

“My next adventure was traveling to Chicago to attend the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Conference, or USHLI for short. This conference was perhaps the most empowering and inspiring three days I have ever experienced. Being surrounded by both current and future Latinx leaders was such a powerful motivational tool.

“My most recent adventure was an absolutely amazing trip to Mexico. During my completely funded study abroad trip, I got to stay with a lovely Mexican host mother, learn while experiencing Mexican culture, and volunteer at a school where I met some of the most caring and loving people. I left Mexico with a family and an incredible learning experience.

“In addition to Mexico, in May 2018, I traveled to the Dominican Republic where I engaged in some more service learning and adventures through Georgia State University! This trip meant a lot to me, as I was back in my family’s homeland for the first time since I was one, experiencing the culture, living the life, and eating the food, of course.

“It has only been one year, and I already feel like I have done so much. I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for me!”

Annabelle Yang, Duke University, Sophomore: “My freshman year has been a wonderful experience—I’ve met so many interesting people and learned and accomplished so much. Academically, I overloaded and still managed to maintain a strong performance. I took physics, without having taken AP Physics in high school and still kept up.

“I had the privilege of volunteering with graduate student researchers interested in the gut microbiome at the Duke Lemur



Center, spending time at a state of the art facility that many Duke students never visit, despite its proximity to campus. Inspired by the gut microbiome research, I will be joining a lab (the Bohorquez Lab) at the Duke Medical School that specializes in exploring the gut-brain connection this summer.

“I met friends from all over, staying up until 6 am and going on adventures with wonderfully warm, funny, intelligent people.

I met people young and old, volunteering at the Durham Nursing and Rehab Center and the Ronald McDonald House—I will continue to help organize such experiences next year, on the executive board of Harmonies for Health.

“Overall, I’ve learned and grown so much, and I can’t wait to see what the next year has in store for me.”

ANN SNYDER



Alumni Spotlight

BY SHANNON FRIEDMANN HATCH

Ann Snyder knows what hunger looks like. As Director of Marketing at the Golden Harvest Food Bank in Augusta, Georgia, she's helped tell the stories of those who know what hunger feels like: emptiness, uncertainty, and, often, shame. It's a vocation with meaning that perfectly matches a desire she had from the earliest age—to serve others through her work.

Here, Ann shares her own story, how following her passions fueled her journey, and how her faith keeps her life full.

***Where do you consider your hometown?
How would you describe it to someone who
has never been there before?***

I am an Augusta native—born and raised! I love Augusta's rich history, hometown feel and small-town friendliness, something it's retained even in the midst of new growth. Augusta is a hidden gem of a city that has the blessing of being small enough to feel neighborly, but big enough to contain a diverse population and afford plenty of entertainment and recreational opportunities. It's been fun to watch the city start to come into its own over the past few years.



Where did you attend college and why did you decide to go there?

I did my undergraduate studies at Belmont Abbey College, a Catholic liberal arts university near Charlotte, North Carolina. I've always had a love for literature, philosophy and art, and wanted to have the benefit of a liberal arts education. I also dreamed of going to college out of state and 'spreading my wings' a bit. I was attracted to the spiritual culture encouraged by the Belmont Abbey Benedictine Monastery, as well as the opportunity to attend college with students who shared my faith.

What did you study and why?

I studied English with a minor in philosophy and theology. Literature and writing have always been my passion. During my undergraduate studies I was especially attracted to critical theory (the philosophy of literature) and medieval literature (which is deeply spiritual)—so minoring in philosophy and theology was a natural fit.

Why did you choose to pursue a graduate degree?

During my undergraduate studies in English, I found so much that I wanted to learn more and write more about. It was the books that remained unopened and the ideas that remained unexplored which inspired me to enter graduate school and continue learning and thinking. I also planned to pursue a PhD and work as a university professor teaching English, so graduate school was the next step.

You currently work in the nonprofit sector in marketing. Does this speak to your early interests (i.e., what you wanted to be when you "grew up")? If not, what path led you here?

Well, I think my kindergarten aspiration for a career was actually to be a country music singer! Luckily, that changed pretty quickly. By the time I reached high school, I was considering a career in teaching. I wanted to do work that helped others in a tangible way. My plan upon entering graduate school was to get a PhD and work as a college professor teaching English. Meanwhile, I was interning during the summers in the marketing department at GIW Industries in Grovetown. At some point, the scales tipped, and I realized that while I enjoyed teaching as a graduate assistant at my university, the creative possibilities of a job in marketing excited me even more. My position as the Director of Marketing at Golden Harvest Food Bank is a nice marriage of my original desire to do work that helps others and that attraction to the creative possibilities the field of marketing has to offer— from graphic design to content creation to social media marketing. It's privilege to get out of bed in the morning and go to work for an organization that is making a difference. I actually remember volunteering with Golden Harvest Food Bank with family members as a child and later on my own as a teen, but never dreamed I would work here one day.

What's your typical day like?

As the Director of Marketing here at Golden Harvest, I head up the marketing team and oversee all aspects of our branding, advertising and public relations. My day-to-day can include anything from strategic planning to interviewing a family in need for a newsletter piece to creating and running an ad campaign. I do a lot of graphic design, and a lot of writing as well—both things I love!

What excites you about your role? What's challenging?

I know I mentioned this before, but one of the things that inspires and excites me about my role at Golden Harvest is being able to work at an organization that is making a difference in our community. When I see the smile on the face of someone in need receiving a warm meal or a box of food, I know I'm in the right place. In my role, I also have lots of opportunities for creativity, both in terms of dreaming up content

as well as creating strategies and thinking creatively. You don't have the financial resources at a local nonprofit that you would in the business world, but that translates into opportunities for finding creative ways to do a lot with a little.

Like any role, this job has its challenges. I just touched on one: working with limited resources to create effective marketing plans and keep all the plates spinning. Another ongoing challenge is educating the community on the services that we provide and raising awareness so that when someone is in need, they know who to reach out to for help. Lastly would be connecting our supporters to the people they help each day to allow them to experience the joy of giving. We do a lot of storytelling and picture taking to try and make that connection.

Can you share a few stats about Golden Harvest Food Bank?

Golden Harvest serves families in need in 30 counties across Georgia and South Carolina, in an area covering about 14,000 square miles. About 204,000 people in that area struggle with hunger, which is 1 in 6 people and 1 in 5 children. Golden Harvest provides upwards of 15 million meals per year to local families, individuals, children and senior citizens. We supply 260 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other charitable organizations with food, and also operate special programs to serve vulnerable populations like children, senior citizens and rural communities. We also operate The Master's Table Soup Kitchen in downtown Augusta, which serves a hot lunchtime meal to about 300 people in need each day.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love to travel—my most recent adventure was a two-week trip across New Zealand with my husband on our honeymoon, and it was amazing! I also enjoy hiking, reading, weight lifting and long talks with my family over the dinner table. I am part of the choir at my parish, the Church of the Most Holy Trinity in downtown Augusta and love singing with others and learning new pieces of music.

What three adjectives would someone who knows you well use to describe you?

Compassionate, determined, and insightful.

When you think of the Watson-Brown Foundation/Scholarship, what comes to mind?

The Watson-Brown Foundation helped me realize my dream of pursuing a liberal arts education at a college I loved—without going into debt. With plans to work as a teacher, I knew I would not make a large salary and did not feel right about taking out loans for my degree. I also knew from the first time I visited Belmont Abbey that it was a perfect fit, and that I would gain so much from an education there. Even though I was awarded a full scholarship to attend, I still needed to find funds for books, food and housing. Because the school was out of state, HOPE and other state scholarships weren't available to me. Though I worked every summer to save money and received help from my parents, it still was not enough. My scholarship from the Watson-Brown Foundation made up the difference, giving me the opportunity to pursue my passion for literature and learning at a school I loved without the financial burden of student loans. It was a huge blessing for me.

Finally, thanks for believing in me! As a high school senior applying for college, you experience a lot of uncertainty. You are trying to figure out your place in the world and making big decisions about your future for the first time. Receiving support from the Watson-Brown Foundation not only helped me financially, it also gave me the confidence of knowing that my merit, education and goals were worth believing in.



TOM COBB CATCHES THE SPIRIT



T.R.R. Cobb House

BY SAMUEL N. THOMAS, JR.

"Mr. Rutherford is much pleased and delighted with the course of Lamar since his conversion and thinks he will make a useful and consistent Christian. He has prayed in public and led in the young men's prayer meeting. There have been about 130 added to the different churches since the revival began, and the meetings shall continue to be well attended, and much interest manifested. Tom has been filled with love & zeal and has been instrumental in doing much good. He leaves with his family on Tuesday night, they will go first to New Orleans and then to the North and I expect you will soon see them."

When Laura Rutherford, older sister of Tom Cobb, wrote that letter to Mary Ann Cobb, wife of Howell, April 23, 1858, she was referring to Mary Ann and Howell's son, Lamar, and referencing Brother Tom's efforts in the religious movement taking hold then in Athens. The revival itself was actually a part of a much larger revival movement, sometimes referred to as the Third Great Awakening, a religious movement that began among all of the Protestant denominations in 1856.

In 1857, The Presbyterian Church in America published a pamphlet, called "Longing for Revivals" appealing to its members: "we cannot but consider as a cheering indication of the noblest life ... Next to a state of actual revival is the sense of its need and the struggle to attain it, at any sacrifice of treasure, toil, or time. We trust that the period is not distant, when this state of actual, general, glorious revival shall be ours."



T.R.R. Cobb was an instrumental motivator in a wide range of religious activities in Athens during the late 1850s.

Although the first two Awakenings were initiated by the ordained clergy, the Third Great Awakening was led by laymen seeking to evangelize the unconverted, or in the case of children, preparing and guiding them in the right direction. This, according to Cobb's biographer, William McCash, "became Cobb's mission in life." So, into this movement jumped Thomas R.R. Cobb, a most willing and able practitioner.

At the same time as this national movement, Tom Cobb, in an effort to help restore his wife's health, took her on a trip to New Orleans in late spring 1858. Tom took the opportunity to attend the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church meeting in the Crescent City and to visit a number of churches to see first-hand other evangelizing activities.

While in the city, he penned several letters to his good friend William L. Mitchell, an Elder in the Athens Presbyterian Church.

*N. Orleans
Sabbath May 9/58*

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

... The thought came into my mind how blest are we in Athens & how much more easily can our Sabbath School children obey the injunction of God to remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. In a little address I made to a school at Dr. Palmer's Church I told them of our own Town & warned them of the danger to which they were exposed from the communions in which they lived.... The School is large numbering from 220 to 250 scholars. They have the boys & girls in separate rooms & an infant class in still a third room. This class numbers 40 & does nothing but sing little songs & repeat verses from scripture. I intend to carry Mrs. Hunter next Sunday to see this class. This afternoon I have seen a great number of little boys flying their kites imitating the older people in violating the holy Sabbath. Oh! how thankful the children of Athens should be that they are not subject to the temptations which surround the children of this & other large cities...

The General Assembly of our Church is a most imposing body of intellectual & venerable men. I have never felt prouder of the Presbyterian Church than since I have met with this Assembly. I have heard Drs. Breckenridge, H____, McKinney, Magill, Junkin & many others. Our young friend Thomas Hoyt made one of the most appropriate & sensible speeches I have heard. In my next I will write more fully about this Assembly.

*Your most humble
Thos. R.R. Cobb*

After a few days in New Orleans, however, Cobb's frame of mind took a bit of a turn in his observations as he reported again to Mitchell, *This afternoon I have seen a great number of little boys flying their kites, imitating the older people in violating the holy Sabbath. Oh, how thankful the children of Athens should be that they are not subject to the temptations which surround the children of this large city ... I have heard often of the desecration of the Sabbath in this city, but I had no adequate conception of it.*

Shortly after, Tom and Marion boarded a steamboat and headed up the Mississippi to Memphis. From onboard Cobb continued his reports to Mitchell: *For three days we have been ascending the mighty Mississippi. We have traversed nearly six Hundred miles & two hundred still remain before we reach Memphis. We have on board a pleasant party of Christians embracing several ministers Delegates to our Assembly. Morning & evening our unisons of praise & prayer ascend together to the throne of God. Scenes altogether unusual upon these Western Waters. All the passengers are invited to join us & a goodly number do so. ... Our party continues well & we often speak of our Sunday School.*

The Sunday Schools began to grab more and more of Tom's attention as he and Marion continued to New York.

*New York
June 20/58*

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Sunday has come again & with its return I miss my usual pleasant occupation at the Sabbath School. When the hour for meetings arrived today Mrs. Langston, Mrs. Hunter & myself each expressed our regret that we were not with our little friends in our own loved school. ... In Philadelphia on last Sunday night, there was a meeting of all the Sabbath School Teachers in the city. ... I got a ticket & attended the meeting. There are in that city Five Thousand Sabbath School Teachers & near Fifty Thousand Scholars. They have an annual meeting of the Teachers, for mutual encouragement & profit. This was that meeting. They assembled in a large Hall. It was said there were only Two Thousand present, but the Hall was crowded & never before did I see so many Sabbath School Teachers. ...

I was struck with the number who reported it as a constant custom of their schools to hold a prayer meeting every Sabbath afternoon especially for the Teachers & Scholars & the good results consequent upon these prayer meetings. Could we not do something of this kind in our School? Well my sheet is filled & I am not half done ...

*Yours truly
Thos. R.R. Cobb*

Just before their return from visiting several resorts in Virginia, Cobb wrote to Mitchell again, expressing how rejuvenated he was. *If I had only known thirty years ago what I feel now, he wrote, it seems to me I could have prayed to God to enable me to dedicate myself to his service like Samuel of old. Now if I could only persuade ... all of the little ones ... to resolve ... to be like Samuel ..., loving and serving God from early youth, I should feel as if I had done a greater work than if I had conquered an army or discovered a new world.*

With their return from Virginia, Tom took to his evangelizing work with new vigor. Leading prayer meetings, exhorting the masses, testifying, and personally trying to convert those unconverted into dedicating or rededicating their hearts and lives to Christ. "Cobb was at the center of the revival activity," according to McCash. So strong and energetic were his efforts that fellow Athens lawyer William G. Delony remarked, *the Presbyterians ought to make an exception to their rule and give Cobb a license to preach, and he will wake up all this country.*

Tom Cobb was most enthusiastic about the Presbyterian Sunday School of which he was a teacher. Not only did the Sunday School look to guide its young people into a more spiritual awakening, but he also looked to others within the community. The Athens Presbyterian Church Session Minutes of August 8, 1858 recorded:

Impressed with the duty & importance of communicating stated religious instruction to the Colored population in Athens, we the undersigned have established a Sabbath School in the Town Hall.

This enterprise was commenced by or with the determination to place the school, as soon as it was profusely organized & its permanent success orchestrated under the guidances & delegation of the Presbyterian Church in Athens. We were left to this determination by many considerations—by a desire to awaken the interest of all the owners of servants in the Presbyterian Church in the salvation of the immortal souls committed to his care & keeping by the convention that the members of the Church would act as instructors in the School at home.

The Awakening of 1857–1858 brought over one million new converts into churches across the country, and Sunday Schools flourished. Little is said today about the revivals, but this short period of religious upheaval made one of the greatest impacts on the religious lives of the American people. And at the forefront, at least in Athens, was Thomas R.R. Cobb, a driving spirit for The Spirit.



Unidentified child, Harry and Rose Clarke, the cottage in Lower Weald, Calverton, Buckinghamshire, c. early 1920s



IT'S ALL RELATIVE



Goodrum House

BY BARBARA HYDE

A journey, after all, neither begins in the instant we set out, nor ends when we have reached our door step once again. It starts much earlier and is really never over, because the film of memory continues running on inside us long after we have come to a physical stand still.

—Ryszard Kapuściński, *Travels with Herodotus*

So often I find myself thinking, “If someone told me five years ago that I would be where I am today, I’d have told them they were crazy.” That was never truer than in July 2018 as I rolled my enormous, overstuffed canary yellow suitcase down the hallway at the railway station in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, England, and into the waiting arms of Sheila and Bert Thomas. Sheila is the niece of Clara Clarke Steele Cody, who was the housekeeper at the May Patterson Goodrum House from 1930 to 1947, and she and her husband Bert had graciously agreed to share their time and memories with me.

My trip would include a quick trip to

Calverton in Buckinghamshire to visit Clara’s birthplace. For two years I had pored over blurry black-and-white photographs of England found in her scrapbooks—photos of the modest, four-room, eighteenth-century thatched-roof cottage she, her brother Tom, and four sisters, Alice, Mary, Laura, and Rose, shared with their mother and father, Annie and Harry. There are also photos of her inner circle: Laura’s 1918 wedding picture, snapshots of her sister Rose growing up over the years, and photographs sent together with letters to Clara from her friend Miss Francklow. I conjured up in my mind’s eye how Wolverton House might have looked when Clara worked there as a

scullery maid from about the age of twelve. In 1924, her adventurous spirit beckoned her to throw caution to the wind and climb aboard a steam ship heading toward Canada with the promise of marriage to a Canadian man, Wilfred Steele, with whom she had corresponded for a number of years.

On this side of the Atlantic, the Clarke family descendants are scattered across the North American continent. Clara’s sister Laura, her husband William Bazell, and their three children, had settled in Vernon, British Columbia. But while Laura made a life for herself in Vernon, Clara’s life in Canada was short-lived. After a brief, unsuccessful marriage, she headed south



Wolverton House, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

to Miami, eventually landing in Atlanta by 1927. She never returned to England.

Fast-forward to Christmas 2017 when one of Laura's grandchildren, Vivian, contacted me in hopes of exchanging some Clarke family history. Vivian had extensive knowledge of her grandmother's other two siblings, Tom and Rose, who had remained in England. Rose was the youngest of the sisters and after her marriage, she stayed close to home in New Bradwell to raise her two children, Gordon and Sheila, and care for her aging father. With Vivian's help, I contacted Sheila. A wizard with her email on her iPad, Sheila patiently answered all of my questions. She remembered her mother receiving letters during World War II from May Goodrum Abreu and Clara accompanied by "hampers" of food, clothing, a glossy magazine with photos of Goodrum House, and a pair of red Mary-Jane shoes—the first time Sheila had seen colorful shoes, and they fit her perfectly! The letters begged Rose to send Sheila

and Gordon to Atlanta, out of harm's way. Rose would use the offer of the sojourn in the US as a threat when Sheila or Gordon got out of line. Rose and May continued corresponding long after Clara's death. Sheila remembered her mother reading letters aloud with news of Consuelo, May's stepdaughter, the girl with an "exotic" name. She donated a letter to our archives dated August 10, 1973, with a photo of May in her apartment in Atlanta. Sheila and I decided to meet, planning a two-day visit. I started counting the days. I was about to come face to face with the first formative twenty-four years of Clara's life.

I will never forget my first sight of Sheila and Bert standing on the other side of the exit kiosk. Unbeknownst to me, you need your ticket to exit the building! As I fumbled with my ridiculously sunny luggage and misplaced ticket, they patiently waited, wondering if this discombobulated woman was their much-anticipated American curator. They were so kindly welcoming



Church of All Saints, Calverton, Buckinghamshire

and a bundle of energy! Within the first few hours, we hopped a cab to their retirement home, hopped a bus to a shopping mall where I made a quick money exchange, and then hopped another bus out to Wolverton House. Situated along a stretch of country road, the Georgian home with twentieth-century additions was once a school during World War II and is now a restaurant complete with al fresco seating, a playground for children, and stable yard scattered with picnic tables. The original fireplaces and kitchen stove were still extant. I could imagine Clara scooping coals from the first-floor fireplace into a bucket, helping clean the kitchen, or feather-dusting the narrow stairway to the second floor, all the while dreaming of a new life in Canada with her beau. Legend had it that she crawled out of one of the windows the night she abandoned her post and ran off. As Sheila and I speculated which window it could've been, Bert looked on dubiously.

Let me say here and now, Bert Thomas is a character. From the tip of his bucket hat to the soles of his shoes, he is full of mischief and mayhem. Anyone who knows me knows I love to laugh, and Bert had me in stitches. Sheila would look on at the two of us conspiratorially giggling and patiently shake her head, but I know she was secretly giggling, too! He had me holding my stomach with laughter over the newly discovered endangered newt found in a pond just outside their apartment which required special fencing to keep the local witches' coven from scooping the little devils up and using them to cast spells. The

endangered newt story is true; the witches' coven was followed by a sly wink of his eye. And at the age of 86 and 91, these two could far outwalk me through the English countryside any day of the week—it was a challenge just to keep up with them!

The next day we were up and off to 29 The Meadow in Lower Weald. The view of the cottage from the meadow made me catch my breath. Here was where Clara and her sisters gathered wildflowers, nuts, and berries; watched as their father slaughtered a hog for the season; posed for photographs along the stone wall; where Sheila was born and lived with her family and grandfather until 1939. But things had definitely changed. For one, it was newly thatched and white-washed—it had become someone's country weekend retreat! The trees rimming the meadow were probably planted well after Clara had left for Canada. Sheila and I peeked around the back of the cottage and she realized a proper kitchen had been built where a dirt-floor lean-to shed with a "cooker" had once stood. The outhouse in the garden had long since been abolished along with the man who would empty the contents twice a week. We recreated a photograph with Sheila and Bert sitting on the wooden fence by the stone wall where many family photos were taken.

Next up? A walk down the road to the Church of All Saints where many of the family's major life events took place. Sadly, the family headstones in the grave yard were removed a few years ago. Sheila and I lingered over the area where she remembered her grandmother and Aunt

Mary were buried. The warm grey stone church still retains its original nineteenth-century interior finishes. I spent a quiet moment in the front pew imagining the Clarke family looking on as their children were baptized at the marble font; their daughters walking down the aisle to their grooms; perhaps a grandchild or two baptized at the same font; the funeral memorial of their beloved sister Mary and mother Annie—family dynamics expanding and contracting all within twenty years' time marked between granite and stained glass.

From the church we took a jaunty walk to the Shoulder of Mutton Pub, Harry's favorite watering hole after a long day working on the railroad. It was the quintessential British pub, complete with my first British gin and tonic with a lemon! (I confess, it's become my drink of choice.) How is it possible that everything so sour mixes up into something so delicious?

My time with Sheila and Bert was all too short. I promised another visit sooner rather than later, and while the visit was about finding Clara's roots, I realized I'd grown a few of my own. I'd fallen in love with Sheila and Bert while listening to their own sixty-five-year journey together. I'd fallen in love with the English countryside—the bleating sheep on the hills, the meadows of wildflowers, the cottage rose gardens, and even those enchanting endangered newts just outside Sheila and Bert's balcony!



Tom, Rose, and Harry Clarke, Calverton, Buckinghamshire, c. late 1920s



A CORNY EXPERIMENT



Sticks & Stones

BY MICHELLE ZUPAN

This episode of “Sticks & Stones” is more aptly titled “Ears & Stalks” and concerns a corny experiment where Dexter Rhodes and I were convinced we had bit off more corn than we could chew.

All corniness aside, in the spring, we were asked by Dr. David Shields of USC-Columbia if we might be interested in trying to grow out some of an heirloom corn variety that he was trying to bring back. In previous issues of *The Legacy*, we have explored various other heirloom varieties from the Tom Watson Watermelon to the Sea Island Red Pea. Seed from those varieties was readily available and plots of same found throughout the South. Dr. Shields’ project was an altogether corn of a different stalk—seed for this variety was rarer than kernels on a cob infested with earworm!

Cocke’s Prolific corn is an early flinty dent corn, more than century old, that was used primarily for silage and corn meal. According to the February 1930 *Louisiana Bulletin*, before it was shared throughout the South, the corn’s origins trace to Virginia before the turn of the twentieth century. It appeared on Louisiana farms in 1915. It dates much further back, as it was named for a contemporary of Thomas Jefferson, General John Hartwell Cocke of Breemo Plantation, Virginia. It was thought to be lost to agriculture in the late twentieth century until seed traced to a farm in Landrum, South Carolina, was located, where the variety was still being cultivated. Cocke’s Prolific was one of

the South’s most commercially significant corn varieties.

Growing out seed for such an important reintroduction is no small task. We had precisely 122 seeds — no margin for error. We also had very little information on its growing habits, water needs, pest issues, and so on. Thankfully, the irrepressible Dexter is in possession of a UGA Ag degree and boundless enthusiasm for growing things. Each seed was sown by hand. Dexter talked to each seed regularly (really, it helps). Several of the seeds received growing companions in the form of purple speckled beans to help strengthen their stalks and shade their roots — a modified Three Sisters approach.

What we did know about the variety was that each stalk could produce up to seven ears. And, according to the *Louisiana Bulletin*, some ears grew up to eighteen inches in length. What we soon discovered was the Cocke’s Prolific lived up to its name—stalks grew to over nine feet in height with multiple ears on every stalk—one stalk bore four ears from a single point of origin. The average count of kernels: 720!

Cocke’s Prolific has recently been inducted into the Slow Food Ark of Taste, a repository of culturally significant food at risk of extinction. Seed from Hickory Hill will help build the supply so that other farms can help reestablish this amazing corn variety. Meanwhile, Dexter and I will be shelling corn!





122 corn stalks on the wall, 122 corn stalks.... Corn is wind pollinated, but the bees on the zinnias didn't seem to mind.



Method archaeology is integral to our work at Watson-Brown!



Cocke's Prolific tassels a lovely red color before turning yellow, then brown.



310 TOM WATSON WAY | THOMSON, GA 30824-0037

watson-brown.org

NON PROFIT
PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
#61
THOMSON, GA



OUR FOUNDER

Walter J. Brown was a journalist and a broadcast pioneer who built and chaired what would become Spartan Communications, Inc., one of the larger privately held TV companies in the country.

Early in his career, Brown had an office in the White House when he served on the staff of Secretary of State James F. Byrnes. Brown's enduring love for politics was eclipsed only by his respect for Jimmy Byrnes. Inspired in part by Byrnes's philanthropy—which in 1948 established the James F. Byrnes Foundation—Brown created his own private Foundation in 1970. Named for Thomas E. Watson and J.J. Brown, the men to whom Brown attributed his success, the Watson-Brown Foundation today continues to ensure that hundreds of deserving students are provided the opportunity to excel at the college of their choice.