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.

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OUR MISSION

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Watson-Brown Scholars in Action

Colton Borresen, Sophomore, Georgia Southern University – Armstrong. “This has been an incredible year for me. First I was able to get scuba certified during the first semester of school. As a marine biologist-to-be, I thought this was an incredible opportunity. I have since been able to dive many times and have taken the advanced diving course. I will get my Master Diver certification, as well. On an academic note, it has been incredible to be so successful both semesters. I am very proud to once again be on the Dean’s List and look forward to that continued success.

“With my academic success and scuba certifications I have been able to secure an internship this summer in Florida, where I will be conducting shark and stingray research. This is my field of interest, and I feel extremely blessed to have this opportunity.

“I want to thank the Watson-Brown Foundation for this incredible opportunity!”

Alberto Carrillo, Sophomore, North Carolina State University – Raleigh. “Volunteering at an NC State engineering outreach event hosting the Jack and Jill Organization has been my favorite organizational involvement so far. The responsibilities for the all-day event involved arriving to the site early for setup and training. There were multiple activity stations set up for a wide variety of students from Pre-K to twelfth grade. After the initial setup and students arrived, my responsibilities shifted to being a supervisor for students of various ages from early middle schoolers to high schoolers. I rotated between stations providing assistance where applicable. At the end of the day, I was tasked with cleaning and packing up the activity stations.

“I choose to volunteer for the event because the work sounded fun and interesting, and I could share my knowledge of engineering and experience with college so far with ambitious students. The activity stations were engaging, and such events were not available to me during high school and much less during middle school. It is important to participate and help push for more engineering outreach events in the future.

“During the event, I was genuinely surprised from the overall enthusiasm the students showed. Initially, I expected only a few students to be truly engaged in the activities, but, in reality, most, if not all, were fully engaged in the activities and actively participating. In particular, the middle schoolers were the most enthused group. Their activity station was a vertical wind tunnel station where the students were tasked with designing and building a device that can hover within the wind tunnel without flying out.

“Furthermore, I enjoyed being a mentor for that activity, because, although I could not provide a direct answer to their questions about design, my indirect answers, or rather rhetorical questions, helped spark an idea. I showed the students that knowing the solution to a problem is not always about knowing direct information, but rather sometimes the solution is about looking at the problem from a different perspective.

“As a result, I would definitely choose to volunteer for another engineering outreach event. I must help provide opportunities for future engineers and help persuade people who might be uncertain if engineering is an appropriate major for them. For instance, I learned minority student retention in STEM fields is significantly low. Events and programs such as the engineering outreach event and Minorities in Engineering Program are available as a measure to assist students struggling through an engineering major. In the future, I plan to attend MIP discussion panels as an upperclassman for freshmen entering the engineering program at NC State.”

Kelsey Cunningham, Junior, University of Georgia. “As a student at the University of Georgia, I have been afforded countless opportunities to pursue my passion of filmmaking. Last summer, I attended the most prominent film festival in the world, the Cannes Film Festival, and watched over thirty films in the span of twelve days.

“Throughout the school year, I managed the university’s theatre by contacting distributors and acquiring the film rights for over seventy films. I ran two drive-in events, networked with the producer of American Pie and Final Destination, and run over ten other film events on campus. I produced a student short film and was the script supervisor for another independent study short film.

“This upcoming summer, I will be interning in Los Angeles with both Buffalo 8 Management and the Producers Guild of America. I will produce one more independent study short film in the fall. I cannot wait to see how these adventures unfold!”

Isabelle Doan, Junior, Duke University. “Huddled around a computer in The Chronicle office, you might find a few weary pre-meds writing a breaking news story. I happen to be one of them.

“This year, I had the pleasure to serve as University News Editor at The Chronicle, Duke University’s independent daily paper. Some people have asked me why I spend so much time writing articles, editing stories, and laying out papers when I could be doing something much more related to my career goals. However, my passion for journalism is so much more than a passion for writing. Journalism is a search for truth. In fact, The Chronicle’s masthead is comprised of many pre-medical students at Duke, all imbued with the same desire to search for the truth and tell it.

“Next year, I’ll be News Editor and run the department. It’ll be a lot of work, but I wouldn’t have it any other way. If there’s one thing I’ve learned from these past two years at college, it’s that you should do what you want, and pursue it passionately. Don’t just do what looks good for your career. Search for the truth, and the rest will come.”

CAMPUS NOTES

Campus Notes

The Legacy, Spring 2019

Campus Notes
Brandon Hernandez, Senior, University of South Carolina: “This year was my first full year at the University of South Carolina—Columbia. At first it was hard because I did not know anyone, but this past semester I was able to get involved and meet lots of people. I joined Pillars for Carolina, an organization that helps first-year students get adjusted to life at the University of South Carolina. My job title in the organization is Extended Mentor (XM), and I am tasked with helping participants throughout their first six weeks at the university. I’m able to help them get around campus, answer any questions, or give them advice as they adjust. This past year has really changed me as an individual for the better. I started taking more journalism classes and have discovered that I want to go to law school after I graduate. I am definitely excited for my final year at USC, and I know it’s going to be great.”

Demonicia Jackson, Kennesaw State University, Junior: “Entering into the fall semester of my sophomore year, I had one major goal: getting an internship or co-op. The highlight of my year was accepting a co-op position for Spring 2018 with Southern Company, working for their subsidiary company, Southern Nuclear.

“There were many challenges, being that I was away from school and completely engaged in a work environment for an entire semester. During my time working at Vogtle Electric Plant Units 3 & 4, I was exposed to many sides of engineering as well as the components and systems of mechanical, electrical, and civil groups per the construction of these new nuclear units.

“Since I am studying to become an electrical engineer, learning these new concepts in the other disciplines was quite challenging. I was given the opportunity to learn and grow professionally in my field and with my peers. I contributed to the progress of the site by developing a material-tracking Microsoft Access database and alleviating backlogs of unused and disposable materials, saving the company time and money. I also had time for fun, aside from the challenges I faced at work, where I participated in career-linked organization, NAYGN, as well as being a liaison co-op between Vogtle and other nuclear sites and programs, such as the Hatch plant in Butler, Georgia, and the Virginia Commonwealth University Nuclear Engineering Program in Richmond, Virginia. Now, going into my Junior year, I will be working in distribution and transmission with Georgia Power, furthering my career by achieving my goals that I continue to set for myself.”

Alexander Kirn, Sophomore, Yale University: “I am sophomore at Yale University studying economics and mathematics. My first year in college was challenging but fun. Learning about the things that you love most does not feel like a burden but is actually pleasant and rewarding. There is great care in the undergraduate experience at Yale. To me, the undergraduate experience is diverse academics, the unique residential college community, high student satisfaction, and devotion to teaching, knowledge, ‘well-roundedness,’ and a classical education. I like that we have to take classes from many disciplines, as it lets us explore and develop as scholars. Besides economics and mathematics courses, I also took organic chemistry, a literature class that compared different cosmologies (universe creation myths) across cultures, and an introductory computer science course in Java. I especially enjoyed proof-based mathematics, since it gave me an idea of what studying math is like. On the other hand, it was cool to read medieval texts in my ‘Birth of Europe’ course from 1000 to 1500, a time period that many do not have the chance to study. Lectures are read by world-leading professors like Dr. Steven Berry in introductory microeconomics, who is on the short list for the Nobel Prize in Economics. It was humbling to jump into this intellectually stimulating environment that is a hot spot of talent and culture.

“On the side, I participate in several student organizations on campus, some career-oriented and others just for fun. Perhaps my most relevant activity is work with the Urban Philanthropic Fund. We are a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization started last year by Yale students (hsphilan.org). We strive to help New Haven nonprofits succeed by providing micro-grants generated from our investment returns. As a member of the Healthcare Investing Team, my teammates and I got to prepare a pitch deck for Heron Therapeutics. Our club is also unique in that our nonprofits and grants branch, of which I am also a member, works closely with New Haven nonprofits to help them develop data-driven metrics that analyze their efficacy. This year, I have completed such a report for Elm City Internationals to position them better to receive large grants. With this club, I have had the chance to take a class at the Yale School of Management with the Tiburon Externship Research Program. I am thrilled to be part of something entirely new that requires us to constantly learn and work well together.

“To relax, I play on the club tennis team. Here, I found my closest group of friends. We play twice a week and have team dinners. We compete in several tournaments throughout the year, and the national championships are the most fun. This year, we traveled to Orlando to compete, and we recorded our best performance, finishing twenty-fourth out of sixty-four qualifying teams in the US. Next year, I am looking forward to helping organize home and away competitions as our team’s tournament director.

“In July, I will continue to broaden my scope of knowledge in history with a summer class in Paris on Gothic cathedrals. This five-week program called the ‘Age of Cathedrals’ will examine how architecture and literature of the Middle Ages influenced society, sparking an intellectual revival known as the Dialectic Movement. I am excited to expand upon what I have learned in my medieval history class last term in one of the most beautiful cities of Europe. One would be surprised to learn how sophisticated and developed the unaptly named ‘Dark Ages’ were.”

Samuel Mathis, Senior, Florida State University: “This past year was a great one. Academically it was by far my best, and socially, I was able to really grow in so many friendships. I am very thankful for the awesome year I had. I had a ton of growth vocally and learned so much about myself in the process. I feel very lucky to be able to study what I love and am passionate about. I was able to meet a few famous opera singers this year which was really cool, and I performed my first solo recital. It was a tough, but extremely rewarding year, and I look forward to getting started on my last year at Florida State. This summer I will be working at a church in Jacksonville, Florida, as an intern for their youth group. I can’t wait to start my job and have a great summer.”
Amanda Yi, Sophomore, Agnes Scott College: “In my first year as a Watson-Brown Scholar and Agnes Scott student, I got the opportunity to study the culture in Petersfield, Westmoreland, Jamaica, and work on the preservation of some historic sites for a week with my global leadership class. I created an action plan for working to decrease the number of Richmond County schools on the Georgia Turnaround Eligibility School List in my leadership class on student activism. I was offered a summer job as the coordinator for a multifaceted internship program at Whole Life Ministries in Augusta, Georgia. Next year, I will serve as a tutor in Agnes Scott’s Center for Writing and Speaking and an IMPACT Peer Leader in the areas of Fine Arts Education and Veterans Affairs.”

Matthew Robison, Sophomore, Rochester Institute of Technology: “Having lived in South Carolina for almost my entire life up to this point, moving up to Rochester where it snows from October to April was comparatively a little crazy. I have a picture from the first big snow: I call it ‘Guess Who Won’t Be Seeing Grass in Months?’

“I became a member of the Honors Program, which allowed me to live in the honors dorm, get out of taking Freshman seminar, and go to Honors Pizza Fridays where we would get weekly free pizza. I was able to live in the honors dorm, get out of taking Freshman seminar, and go to Honors Pizza Fridays where we would get weekly free pizza. I completed twenty hours of ‘complementary learning’ (essentially community service) as part of my honors membership, most of which I spent helping RIT convert to a no-landfill school.

“I joined the pep band as a sousaphone player and got to play for almost every home hockey game. Hockey is quickly becoming one of my favorite sports now because the players can actually get rough with each other. I would come home, watch football games, and laugh when players would get penalties for taunting, since that is an integral part of hockey!

“I love the pep band and I threw myself wholeheartedly into it, and when I ran for vice president I actually won! I would consider being elected vice president to be my biggest accomplishment this year. I would consider being elected vice president to be my biggest accomplishment this year. “Finally, a couple of friends and I started a personal coding project at the end of the first semester. We started out knowing nothing about what we were doing, but by the end of the year we were very comfortable in Java (the language we used) and we were able to present a tech demo at RIT’s annual creativity symposium, ImagineRIT, and we are all immensely proud of what we’ve accomplished. We plan to continue work on the project throughout college.”

Eden Weidman, Senior, Lander University: “I cannot believe next year is my final year of being an undergraduate! Junior year was busy, but I enjoyed my classes throughout the two semesters. I think my favorite classes would have been my poetry class and my political science class. The latter made me decide to minor in political science! This year marked the first time I gave a panel presentation in front of my fellow peers and teachers. My partner and I discussed about the growing music genre: K-Pop, or Korean Pop. It was a huge success! We received numerous insightful reviews about our topic. I made other personal accomplishments alongside that presentation, but the greatest accomplishment would have to be my induction into Alpha Chi. This organization is an honor society that accepts only the top ten percent from all colleges. I am honored to be in this society, and I look forward to what is in store with them next year. As my final year approaches, I want to score an internship and do more activities with my anime club. I am eager to see how next year unfolds as I continue to learn from my peers and my professors.”

Alexis Thompson, Sophomore, Clemson University: “My first year in college was not at all what I expected. Sure, the classes were difficult, but I was expecting to have more free time to do whatever I wanted. It was true that I was the one in charge of myself, but I found myself mostly studying and not having time for fun. That changed when I finally got adjusted to my schedule and started to meet wonderful new people. I also was able to become more independent and learned that it is OK to be alone sometimes. Once I became more comfortable, I did have a lot of fun. The classes were challenging, but it has encouraged me knowing that I was able to get through them and my first-year experience has given me an optimistic outlook on the future.”

Kaitlyn Mills, Sophomore, Agnes Scott College: “In my first year as a Watson-Brown Scholar and Agnes Scott student, I got the opportunity to study the culture in Petersfield, Westmoreland, Jamaica, and work on the preservation of some historic sites for a week with my global leadership class. I created an action plan for working to decrease the number of Richmond County schools on the Georgia Turnaround Eligibility School List in my leadership class on student activism. I was offered a summer job as the coordinator for a multifaceted internship program at Whole Life Ministries in Augusta, Georgia. Next year, I will serve as a tutor in Agnes Scott’s Center for Writing and Speaking and an IMPACT Peer Leader in the areas of Fine Arts Education and Veterans Affairs.”

Amanda Yi, Junior, University of Georgia: “I am proud to say that I am officially an honor society that accepts only the top ten percent from all colleges. I am honored to be in this society, and I look forward to what is in store with them next year. As my final year approaches, I want to score an internship and do more activities with my anime club. I am eager to see how next year unfolds as I continue to learn from my peers and my professors.”

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When Cindy Culpepper walks into Paws and Claws Animal Medical Center, the veterinary clinic she opened last September in Dunedin, Florida, she never knows what to expect. “Nothing is ever the same,” she said, “even a dog with fleas.”

Many kids say they want to be an “animal doctor” when they grow up—Cindy did it. But it wasn’t without determination and hard work, every step of the way.

A Florida native, she grew up surrounded by pelicans and egrets, opossums, armadillos, and an ocean full of fish. But it was the spacecraft that flew from Cape Canaveral in their arch out of the atmosphere that inspired her first career aspirations. “In elementary school, I wanted to be an astronaut,” she recalled.

However, on a cold, windy day in 1986, she looked up from her schoolyard at the January sky and saw the Challenger explode—a tragedy that stunned a nation and changed the trajectory of young Cindy’s life, too. “I’m blessed to have had people who believed in me.”

Tragedy struck again when she lost her father in middle school and her grades began to slip. “It wasn’t until tenth grade that I got serious about school,” she said, even piling on summer and college classes. It was around this time, age 15, that she got her first job at a veterinary office. Cindy said, “I worked reception and kennel work, starting from the ground up.” She took the job seriously, working weekends, and, “I even reported for kennel duty the day after prom!” she said.

Her interest in animals was present from a young age. Cindy and her brother had a menagerie of pets growing up, some willing—a black bunny, guinea pig, and hamsters—some less so—the lizards they chased in the backyard and rely polys they plucked from the dirt. For better or worse, her mother encouraged her: “She did find me dissecting my fish on a cutting board at age 10,” Cindy remembered.

All this experimenting eventually led her to vet tech school in Florida, a bachelor’s degree from the University of South Carolina–Aiken in 2002, and then a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from Mississippi State in 2006. She worked in Ocean Springs and then moved back to her home state in 2010, working for a private practice in Clearwater for eight years. Then, she decided, “It was time to do it myself.” She knew she made the right decision when she talked to one of her first bosses, who said she remembered when she made the same move thirty years before. “The cycle starts again,” Cindy said, recalling their conversation.

That was the first step. Then came finding the right property, retrofitting it to her needs, and hiring staff. “Nothing goes as planned, and there’s never enough money,” Cindy said. “It was scary at times, a totally different stress. My mom and husband were my biggest supporters.”

They weren’t the only ones. Several of the staff members from Cindy’s previous job followed her. “My team believed in me,” she said. “Without them, there isn’t a vet office.”

Now, several months in, they all are finding their groove. “I never look at the schedule because I know it’s going to change,” she said. Six days a week, Cindy examines animals, does surgery, vaccinates, and eases the pain of the patients who are too sick to treat. Her clients trust her because she trusts them. “I tell them, ‘You are your pets’ advocate. Trust your gut. You might not know what’s wrong, but you know that they’re not acting right. You drove here. There are no stupid questions.’”

Cindy never knows what she might learn from what a client is Googling. “CBD is said to possibly help dogs with pain,” she said of an increasingly common topic she’s hearing. “I learn from my patients, take classes, attend conferences, and call specialists when a case is out of my area of expertise. I believe that if you stop learning, you might as well just quit. Animals are constantly teaching us—all we have to do is listen and watch.”
The demise of the printed newspaper has been lamented for several years, and, I must admit, I’ve contributed to its present state. I haven’t subscribed to a newspaper in at least fifteen years! Gone are the days of reading the morning paper over a cup of coffee and the evening news with a tumbler of Scotch as my father once did. And yet, historic newspapers are one of my first “go-to” resources for research. Amongst its pages one can find the answers to a myriad of questions: How much did a man’s suit cost in 1934? When did Aunt Ruth die? What types of jobs were offered up in the classifieds in 1932? As I trolled through The Atlanta Journal-Constitution archives searching for any mention of May Patterson Goodrum Abreu, one writer’s name continually popped up—Sally Forth, Society Columnist. It set me wondering who was this Ms. Sally Forth and when did Society Columns become so popular?

It should come as no surprise that the first society reports came out in the New York Herald in 1835. They were meant to be a satire on the comings and goings of the “rich and famous” in New York City; by 1885 it became so popular that everyone was voraciously reading about the glamorous Gilded Age world of the Vanderbilts and Astors. Around the same time in the South, Pearl Rivers began writing the Society Bee as a column in the New Orleans newspaper, reporting on the town’s local society and gossip. By the early twentieth century, newspaper editors recognized an untapped market in their readership, namely women. An entire cottage industry was born on the Women’s Page of newspapers across the country with articles written for women by women. Everything from marital and childrearing advice to local gossip, fashion to interior decoration, and culinary instruction to flower arranging could be found in the Women’s Section, and that’s exactly where I found Sally Forth, a pseudonym with a wonderful play on words.
First stop, the obituaries! Surely someone who had been Atlanta’s society editor for over thirty years would be commemorated for it. And sure enough, there she was in The Atlanta Constitution on Friday, January 11, 1957. “Miss Cabaniss Dies at 85. Society Writer Here 25 Yrs.” Her first name was Mildred, and she was the daughter of Henry H. and Sarah Royston Cabaniss. She had lived at the Biltmore Hotel since 1935; graduated from the Lucy Cobb Institute and spent two years studying at the Henrietta Egleston Hospital for Children. She grew up in and socialized with the very settings of the major events in the lives of Atlanta’s prominent citizens. She announced who was traveling where and when; who was out of town and enjoying the beach at their Sea Island home; who was entertaining a prominent writer, artist, or politician, whose daughter was entertaining a prominent writer, artist, or politician; whose daughter was expecting a new grandchild. In truth, while she may have written quite a few of the articles, she more than likely had a team of ladies following up on the myriad of tips. She helped define Atlanta society, for not only might you see your own name in print, but also you might see which parties and socials you were not invited to. Unprinted names were almost as conspicuous as those that were.

And so, it was through Mildred’s writings that I learned May Goodrum was a cherished member of the Mimosa Garden Club, consistently opening her garden every year to raise money for a variety of philanthropic causes such as the Henrietta Egleston Hospital for Children. She was a member of the Current Events Class, a lecture series which focused on contemporary world-wide events, and she hosted tea in honor of Mrs. Charles H. Sabin of the Women’s Organization for National Prohibition Reform, where presumably only tea was served. Old Grand-Dad whiskey, May’s favorite drink of choice, was still illegal in 1932. Reports of her social calendar give me a framework for her travels to Europe, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, and Florida with family and friends.

While it’s a far cry from the visual stimulation of Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat, I’m grateful Mildred Cabaniss was a cherished member of the Mimosa Garden Club, consistently opening her garden every year to raise money for a variety of philanthropic causes such as the Henrietta Egleston Hospital for Children. She was a member of the Current Events Class, a lecture series which focused on contemporary world-wide events, and she hosted tea in honor of Mrs. Charles H. Sabin of the Women’s Organization for National Prohibition Reform, where presumably only tea was served. Old Grand-Dad whiskey, May’s favorite drink of choice, was still illegal in 1932. Reports of her social calendar give me a framework for her travels to Europe, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, and Florida with family and friends.

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The Legacy, Spring 2019

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amage to the human body, the Minié ball could not bring down a horse during the war by both sides. Although extremely efficient in producing 

of one of three different causes: killed in battle, worn out and broken 

especially in regions of near continuous conflict. 

became a casualty during the war, nearly five horses met a similar fate. 

More horses were lost during the war than men. For every soldier who 

upon which everything depends.”

he instructed his troops in the value of the army’s horses: “Every 

supplies. Horses were used in both command and supply during the 

waging an effective war. We tend to take that for granted these days 

war, the largest source of non-human labor, the horse, was critical to 

backbone for both sides during the Civil War. During the 

being used for work or in fighting, the horse was the 

William Shakespeare, “My kingdom for a horse.” Whether 

wont at some point during the war to express the words of 

T.R.R. Cobb House

BY SAMUEL M. THOMAS, JR.

Scene from a Civil War camp. Horses were a valuable, and often scarce, commodity. 

Railroad in Fairfax County, Stuart directed one of his men to 

with a single shot. To kill a horse, it had to be hit on average by five or six 

Since the artillery needed horses to haul the guns back and forth, they were often targeted first at the beginning of any fight. When 

attacking an enemy’s gun, the horses were taken out first so that the gun 
could not be removed from the field of battle and prone to capture. In 

July 1861, T.R.R. Cobb wrote to Marion after receiving reports of the 

battle of Bull Run, “The scene after the rout as described to me by eye 

testimony must have been true — waggons turned over, heaps of dead 

horses with necks broken.”

The Confederate government agreed to reimburse any man for the 

loss of his horse in battle. William Delony, lieutenant-colonel of Cobb’s 

Legion, had his horse shot out from under him at Jack’s Shop, Virginia, in 

September 1863. Delony’s widow, Rosa, was later reimbursed $800 

for the loss of the horse. Confederate General Joseph Shelby had 

twenty-four horses shot from under him, while Confederate General 

Nathan B. Forrest lost thirty-nine in battle. 

With the constant campaigning and movements across the 

landscape, horses were quickly reduced to mere shells of their former 

selves. Poor nutrition, starvation, disease, and lack of general body and 

hoof care quickly wore out the army’s supply of good quality horses. 

Many no longer even had the strength to carry their riders and were 

simply ridden to death. Other mounts had worn their shoes out and 
could barely stand. Porter Alexander (General Longstreet’s artillery 

chief) stated at one point the condition of the army’s horses had 
gotten so bad that the artillerymen were forced to strip the nails and 
horseshoes from the hooves of both Confederate and Union dead 

mules; those you have furnished recently are very inferior.”

The horse was worn out.” Just a month later he reported, “Tell Johnny 

I am offered $250 for his black horse who looks badly and I am inclined 
to sell him.” The following year, some were having trouble purchasing 

horses for $800 to $1,000. 

This helped propel the Confederacy into another solution to 

alleviate the shortages. The Confederacy had no legislation providing 

for veterinary care until October 1863, when the War Department 
established a system of four-horse infirmaries, including one in 

Georgia, under the control of the Quartermaster General. This move 
to centralize collecting and distributing horses, resulted in some 

improvement in animal care. The disabled and diseased horses were 

examined and distributed to different hospital pastures where they 
could be more closely cared for by individuals more accustomed to this 
work. The Georgia horse infirmary in Johnson County claimed it cured 
thirty cases of glanders and 85 percent of their disabled and diseased 
charges were healed.

Even with the increased emphasis the Confederacy placed on the 
care and attention to the country’s horses, it was simply a matter of 
too little, too late. Following the summer of 1863, the efficiency and 

strength of the Confederate cavalry began decreasing while the Union 
cavalry’s abilities increased. At the same time the Confederate artillery 

found itself having to rely more and more on the use of mules in hauling 

their guns. In both cases, it was the horse, or lack thereof, that deeply 

impacted the ability of these two branches to continue keeping up with 
their adversaries in the field.

MY KINGDOM FOR A HORSE

T.R.R. Cobb House

during the Civil War many horsemen were probably often 

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Legion, had his horse shot out from under him at Jack’s Shop, Virginia, in 

September 1863. Delony’s widow, Rosa, was later reimbursed $800 

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twenty-four horses shot from under him, while Confederate General 

Nathan B. Forrest lost thirty-nine in battle. 

With the constant campaigning and movements across the 

landscape, horses were quickly reduced to mere shells of their former 

selves. Poor nutrition, starvation, disease, and lack of general body and 

hoof care quickly wore out the army’s supply of good quality horses. 

Many no longer even had the strength to carry their riders and were 

simply ridden to death. Other mounts had worn their shoes out and 
could barely stand. Porter Alexander (General Longstreet’s artillery 

chief) stated at one point the condition of the army’s horses had 
gotten so bad that the artillerymen were forced to strip the nails and 
horseshoes from the hooves of both Confederate and Union dead 
mules; those you have furnished recently are very inferior.”

The horse was worn out.” Just a month later he reported, “Tell Johnny 

I am offered $250 for his black horse who looks badly and I am inclined 
to sell him.” The following year, some were having trouble purchasing 

horses for $800 to $1,000. 

This helped propel the Confederacy into another solution to 

alleviate the shortages. The Confederacy had no legislation providing 

for veterinary care until October 1863, when the War Department 
established a system of four-horse infirmaries, including one in 

Georgia, under the control of the Quartermaster General. This move 
to centralize collecting and distributing horses, resulted in some 

improvement in animal care. The disabled and diseased horses were 

examined and distributed to different hospital pastures where they 
could be more closely cared for by individuals more accustomed to this 
work. The Georgia horse infirmary in Johnson County claimed it cured 
thirty cases of glanders and 85 percent of their disabled and diseased 
charges were healed.

Even with the increased emphasis the Confederacy placed on the 
care and attention to the country’s horses, it was simply a matter of 
too little, too late. Following the summer of 1863, the efficiency and 

strength of the Confederate cavalry began decreasing while the Union 
cavalry’s abilities increased. At the same time the Confederate artillery 

found itself having to rely more and more on the use of mules in hauling 

their guns. In both cases, it was the horse, or lack thereof, that deeply 

impacted the ability of these two branches to continue keeping up with 
their adversaries in the field.

During the war to express the words of 

William Shakespeare, “My kingdom for a horse.” Whether 

were often targeted first at the beginning of any fight. When 

attacking an enemy’s gun, the horses were taken out first so that the gun 
could not be removed from the field of battle and prone to capture. In 

July 1861, T.R.R. Cobb wrote to Marion after receiving reports of the 

battle of Bull Run, “The scene after the rout as described to me by eye 

testimony must have been true — waggons turned over, heaps of dead 

horses with necks broken.”

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FINDING ALICE

Sticks & Stones

BY MICHELLE ZUPAN

Mysteries are one of the perks of being a museum curator. When someone hands a curator a puzzling tidbit to research, it’s like a catnip toy to a languorous feline on a hot summer day — watch the curator brighten and begin to dismantle it inch by inch. The mystery at Hickory Hill is that of Alice Louise Lytle.

In 1908, Tom Watson bid a not-so-fond adieu to William Randolph Hearst and decamped with Watson’s Magazine to Atlanta. Simultaneously, he was making his second bid for the U.S. presidency, so he needed someone who could handle the day-to-day publishing operations of a national magazine. It must have caused no small amount of consternation when Watson hired a woman news reporter for the job, not only that, she was divorced and a single parent! (Gasp!) Not so long before, women working the news desk published under male monikers, so hiring Alice Louise Lytle for such a prominent position was equally scandalous and highly progressive.

When Watson moved the publishing operation to Hickory Hill in 1910, Alice and her son, Stanley, moved too. They occupied a small cottage at the north end of the Hickory Hill driveway, an easy walking commute across the cotton field to work. She often published articles under the byline “A.L.L.” In addition to her tasks at the Jeffersonian Publishing Company, Alice assisted with various projects and trips undertaken by the Watsons, including traveling to Florida and Washington, D.C. For a period, she and John Durham Watson were the owner and publisher of record for a short-lived Watson newspaper, The Thomson Guard.

Following the passing of the Watsons, Alice stayed on at Hickory Hill for several months publishing Watson’s final newspaper The Columbia Sentinel. What became of Alice after the shuttering of the Sentinel is a mystery, no correspondence or family lore remained to indicate her whereabouts. Despite having more than 500 photographs related to the family, no photos were identified as Alice Lytle. What had happened to Alice?

Searching Ancestry.com turned up a remarkable number of Alice Lytles in the U.S. Census! Google searches produced similar results. Alice spent much of her adult life working at newspapers, so the hunt for Alice took a new turn through the virtual pages of old newspapers. Many sites, including the Library of Congress and the Digital Library of Georgia, are digitizing historic newspapers. Jackpot! Alice was a busy woman! Articles ranged from her “motoring to Augusta” with Mrs. Georgia Watson to her own writings carried by newspapers across the nation. In Brunswick, Georgia, Alice taught Sunday school. One of her pupils, William Coney, became a military aviator, but tragically died in a plane crash. In 1921, Alice was affiliated with the National Women’s Party, despite having penned an anti-Suffrage article ten years prior! A curious mention of her appeared in the March 17, 1923, Atlanta Constitution indicating that Mrs. Lytle was chosen as a member of the National Geographic Society for her writing on Tutankhamen’s tomb. That article has not been located to date. Following the deaths of Tom and Georgia Watson, Alice made her way to Washington, D.C., and then to Baltimore. She worked variously as a teacher for the electric utility and a supervisor for the gas utility.

Sadly, Alice disappears from the records after 1940 but may have passed away in the Monkton section of Baltimore in 1953 at age 82. Research continues with sincere hopes that one day, again, we will find Alice.

Lytle’s writings earned her notoriety.
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.