

The LEGACY

A Publication of Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc.

Setting
— THE —
BAR
HIGH

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH SERVICE

Tongue-Tied
THOMAS R.R.
COBB

PENCIL

Pal

ARTIFACT SHEDS LIGHT ON AN ERA

WATSON  BROWN
FOUNDATION



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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.

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CAMPUS NOTES



Watson-Brown Scholars in Action

ADRIANA STAMILE

SENIOR, CONVERSE COLLEGE

“It is hard to believe I am so near to being done with college, as I am now a senior. Life is always busy as a double performance major, and junior year was certainly both full and memorable. I gave my first degree recitals for both of my instruments (violin and voice). I learned a role in an opera but ultimately ended up playing for it instead. The apprenticeship program with my local philharmonic orchestra was also revived, so the other violin/viola performance majors and I got to play Mahler Symphony No. 1 with it!”

“There is an amazing program called Violins of Hope, which finds and refurbishes instruments that survived the Holocaust. The South Carolina chapter came to Converse, and I had the honor of playing one of these violins in a concert. It was one of the most moving concerts I have been to or played in. In the first half, between pieces, the history of these violins and others were given, along with the mission of the organization. In the second half, there was a Zoom call with my violin professor’s surrogate grandfather, who recounted his own experiences with the Holocaust and answered questions from the audience. That evening was surreal, and I am honored to have been a part of it. Here is a picture of me holding the violin I played. It was owned by a Jewish woman named Fanny Hecht who fled from Germany to the Netherlands. (Coincidentally, this is where my grandmother is from.) There, she befriended her neighbor and they enjoyed playing together. However, soon the Netherlands



Adriana Stamile

too became unsafe. Before she was taken to a concentration camp, Fanny asked the neighbor to please save her violin and keep it safe for her. The neighbor did save it, although sadly, Fanny and her family did not survive. However, through her instrument, her story is told and her memory is honored."



JACOB LEVESQUE

JUNIOR, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

"This school year was far more difficult than my freshman year was. This was the first year that my school had gone back to fully in-person instruction, so it was a far different experience than freshman year which was almost entirely online. Additionally, this year I switched from general engineering to electrical engineering and diving wholly into this content was overwhelming. I also went through my share of personal struggles this year. A month before the Fall 2021 semester started, my grandfather passed away. He was the first loved one that I have had pass away, so dealing with that grief at the beginning of the semester was very difficult. The challenges continued in the spring, when my grandmother died only a few weeks before final exams. Even through these struggles, I persevered and did well in my classes. Dealing with two family members passing within nine months of each other while also studying electrical engineering has been the most difficult experience of my life, but it has shown me how resilient I truly am."



SONTEE IRVIN

JUNIOR, LANDER UNIVERSITY

"My sophomore year was an amazing year. The last year has built a self-confidence that I have never had before. I was able to maintain a high GPA while making friends and learning important skills required in my field. This confidence and technical skill arsenal have led to me receiving opportunities I never believed possible. I am able to attend an undergraduate research program this summer, and I was awarded a grant to begin a very (personally) important research project at Lander University. I have been encouraged by my professors, the donors that have made this scholarship available, and those in my close social circle."

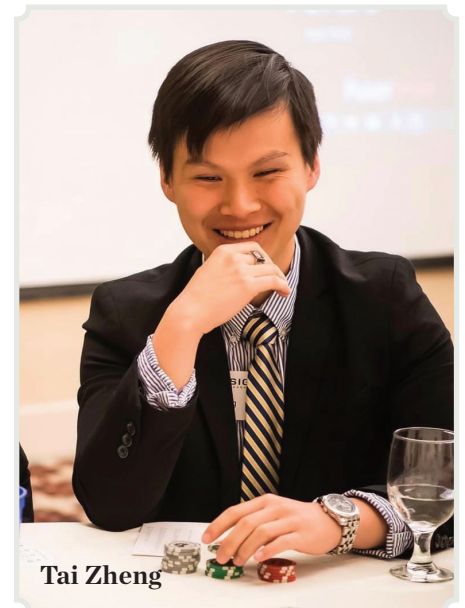
TAI ZHENG

SENIOR, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

"During the fall semester of my junior year, MIT was coming out of almost three semesters of virtual classes, and I was nervous about navigating an in-person semester again. I was a junior, but I didn't feel nearly as wise and put together as the upperclassmen I looked up to my freshman year. In addition, I had some difficult aerospace engineering classes coming up, and I had to adjust to living at my fraternity which was much further away from campus."

"Despite my concerns, this past year has become my favorite year at MIT. Classes

were brutal as always, but I realized how much I had missed the full college experience outside of classes. Social events were back in full swing, trips with friends were once again a possibility, and there were new clubs and activities to discover. I honed my skills after making it on the badminton club team; I spent a semester trying out dance and sailing for the first time; and I started writing for the school newspaper to explore the diverse offerings of food and drinks in Boston. I became the president of my fraternity, and I got to explore Europe with my friends during spring break."



Tai Zheng

"Poker tournaments, formals, and watching performances aside, I gained a lot of experience with work this year. Last summer, I interned at Lockheed Martin from the comfort of my home. During the January term, I enjoyed the innovative, yet fun, fast-paced work of a startup in Colorado and discovered how thrilling skiing can be. This summer, I'm looking forward to developing my engineering skillset even more at Northrop Grumman Mission Systems. I've grown a lot in many ways this year, and I'm looking forward to more of these experiences during my last year!"

CORT MILES

SENIOR, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA COLUMBIA

"This past year was amazing, in particular, the spring semester. Our women's basketball team won the National Championship, I officially turned 21, and

I was fortunate enough to secure a great internship for this summer. I will be working at a company called Century 3 Inc, a construction company that does work in automotive, food and beverage, chemical, high-tech, pharmaceutical, and a bunch more. At the moment in my life, I am not sure exactly what I want to do with my degree. I do enjoy computer science, but it's not always the best. Rather, it's more of my passion for problem solving and working with



Cort Miles

people that I enjoy and want to do. My job this summer is focusing on marketing analytics and how the company can better structure itself for the future, while also creating new/updating old marketing materials which ranges from graphics, photo editing in Photoshop or gimp, updating website layout, and other tasks. So far, I've enjoyed getting to work with all the different employees within the company and I'm excited to see what all I will learn this summer."

SHAAN CHHABRA

SOPHOMORE, WOFFORD COLLEGE

"My first year at Wofford (both fall 2021 and spring 2022) were amazing. At first, I was having a hard time keeping up with work, but by my spring semester, I feel that I had gotten the hang of it. My spring semester was much better than my previous semester. I did have



Shaan Chhabra

more classes than my fall semester, but I think I handled them well. I took a photography class this spring which was a lot of fun. I also declared my major in biology and I plan on adding on a neuroscience concentration next year. I did not do much outside of the classroom this semester because I was focusing on academics mostly. I think my greatest accomplishment this year was ending with all A's this semester. Nothing about Wofford surprised me. This summer, I am doing internships with Medex academy."

ALEA SYPHO ATKINSON

JUNIOR, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN

"My greatest accomplishment this year was simply getting through the semester. It was a difficult semester, not only academically but personally. I learned not only so much about myself but about the world itself. The world is not only seeing the pandemic restrictions lessening and we are beginning to return to a 'new normal' but we are also living through a war between Ukraine and Russia, as well as a war over human rights in America. What has surprised me the most about college is that everyone comes from a different background and has differing viewpoints, and it has expanded my way of thinking and my views on certain things. College is also a great learning experience to learn how to be independent, this was my first year of living by myself while

in college and not only was it difficult but it was rewarding. I learned so much about how the world works and gained a sense of independence that I will forever



Alea Sypho Atkinson

cherish. My plans for the summer include catching up on sleep as well as with friends and going on a few trips to further my knowledge of the world."

HOLLY LEONARD

SENIOR, LEE UNIVERSITY

"My junior year was busy, as always, but decent. I started the school year having just gotten married and moved in to an apartment close to campus. As a junior nursing student at Lee, this is the year I began clinical rotations. They certainly haven't been easy, but a good learning experience. The most interesting things to me have been watching a Cesarean-section birth and visiting a group hospice home for the homeless/unsupported who are terminally ill. On the side, I also got my certification as a Wilderness First Responder!"

"During the spring semester, I completed my mandatory cultural immersion experience in Jewish culture. This involved hearing from lots of Jewish speakers, doing lots of independent research and reflection, and visiting several Jewish historical/cultural sites in Georgia. I loved the experience and definitely have a new



Holly Leonard

outlook on the plight of the Jewish people across time and history.”

CAROLINE TAYLOR

SENIOR, COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

“I ended up in Asheville, NC for the summer to complete a sales and marketing internship at The Blood Connection. I have been loving my internship and anticipate working with the company in Charleston when I return in August to complete my senior year. I have a new, more positive outlook on life that involves mindfulness, gratitude, taking life day by day, and making choices that are in my best interest. I am excited to see what my internship and senior year bring to me.”



Caroline Taylor

LAWRENCE ALMETER

JUNIOR, GEORGIA
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

“My past year as a sophomore at Augusta University as a physics major was spectacular. I have been renting a house with four good friends of mine, and they helped to make my year much less monotonous by doing dinners, parties, and games together throughout the year. As a commuter student, I don’t spend much time on



Lawrence Almeter

campus outside of classes, so having good friends always around kept my year fresh. I enjoyed taking my classes this past spring semester as they slowly start to home in on my major, and I have made new friends in the classes we take together. Some of our study sessions together were invaluable before exams. I was also offered an internship at Georgia Iron Works this summer as an engineering co-op, and I have been learning a lot in my time there. This upcoming fall I am transferring to Georgia Southern to major in mechanical engineering, and I can’t wait to meet up with some more high school friends of mine down there. This is an exciting and slightly terrifying transition period for me as I leave my hometown and put distance

between the friendships that I have been building for the past two years. Still, I am highly optimistic about what the future holds for me.”

SHELTON SWINT

SENIOR, AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

“This year at AU was the best. I was a part of the Student Government Association as a Justice, I found my interest, and I met a lot of new people I consider friends. Being a part of the SGA allows me to help the entire student body, which is a gratifying feeling. I took genetics back in the fall and really enjoyed it. This summer I am getting started on some research in genetic toxicology (geno-toxicology). I will collect samples of microorganisms from local waterways and test the waters for potential toxins. The purpose of this research will be to analyze the effect of toxins on the organisms’ genome. I am really looking forward to this research, and to make it even better, I’m working on this with some friends. We plan to carry this out through the next academic year and hopefully, this experience will help me with applying to graduate programs.”



Shelton Swint

THE SPICER OF LIFE



Alumni Spotlight

BY SHANNON FRIEDMANN HATCH

Sixty-eight teeth. That's (give or take) the total number of pearly whites belonging to Charlie and Quynh Spicer's four kids. Their three older children—ages 6, 8, and 11—have about 20 apiece, while the baby accounts for the remaining chompers.

Sixty-eight teeth ... and not one cavity.

That's a hygiene report that would cause any parent to smile, but the Drs. Spicer take dental health to heart. The pair are dentists, after all.

The Legacy originally featured them in an Alumni Spotlight in 2011, as Charlie was on the cusp of enrolling at the Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University. (Quynh, pregnant with their first daughter at the time of the article, started her studies two years later.) From building successful practices to weathering a pandemic, here's what the Spicers have been up to for the past decade.





Looking to the future all those years ago, Charlie and Quynh hoped to finish school and one day own a family practice in rural Georgia. Their hard work paid off in 2017 when they bought Thomson Family Dental. As they grew their new practice, their family grew too. Charlie said that the field offers them a work-life balance that allows for valuable time with their family, whether it's running the kids to cheerleading or football practice or having a meal with their in-laws. In contrast he said, "I have friends who are physicians who work 80 to 100 hours a week with no end in sight."

That said, the Spicers have plenty to keep them busy. Charlie stated that when it comes to owning a practice, "dental is the easy part." Like any business owner, the Spicers had to learn the ins and outs of insurance, human resources, and more. "I think we took maybe two business classes in school," he remembered. "It was hardly a focus." While it wasn't exactly like pulling teeth, the duo navigated the learning curve and now are astute enough to have tackled opening a second practice in 2019 in Harlem. "The town is going through a growth spurt, and we are growing

fast too," Charlie said. "Before we opened, there was no other dentist in the area."

With this success comes doing more of what they love. While Quynh has always been interested in dentistry due to her tactile, artistic talent, Charlie, son of a mechanic, was drawn to the problem-solving, hands-on work. "As a dentist, you're faced with different issues every day. It's always a different mouth, different teeth," he said.

Little did he know, though, that the pandemic would bring an entirely unique set of unknowns. "At the start of the pandemic, dentistry was the most at-risk profession," Charlie stated. They ended up closing for two months, navigating supply shortages and figuring out how to best protect their staff and patients. "It was rough, but in the end we now have better approaches to care," he said.

We first left the Spicers at the edge of their education, and now we leave them in the midst of their successful careers and parenting. Their family may not have any cavities, but the life they share sure is sweet.



SETTING THE BAR HIGH



Goodrum House

BY BARBARA HYDE

On December 13, 1932, four women gathered at the home of Mrs. Edward Inman on Andrews Avenue in Atlanta. Over tea, the discussion turned to the state of the country. Wracked by the Great Depression, the South's state of economic devastation and what it meant to their community was at the top of the list. *The Atlanta Constitution* had just published a list of the "Ten Neediest Families" on the front page, and the women decided to change the Christmas fortunes of one such family: a mother and her six children, referred to in the newspaper article as "Opportunity No. 4." A week later, Emily MacDougald Inman, Mary Nicholson Goddard, Cornelia Bucknell and Frances Foy Hill enlisted the help of their friends, Emily English Robinson, Douglass Gay Paine, May Patterson Goodrum, Ellen Finley Kiser, Marion Peel Calhoun, and Anne Mays Conklin. But it wasn't just Christmas the ladies were supporting. They decided to support this family until they were back on their feet, regardless of how long that would take. They named the organization the "Relief Service Group."

Through the Family Welfare Society and the Child Welfare Association, the women identified two more needy families as well as four orphaned children who needed help. After Christmas of 1932, seventeen women called a meeting at the Piedmont Driving Club to formally organize their efforts. They set their

*"Never doubt that a small
group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can
change the world. Indeed, it is
the only thing that ever has."*

MARGARET MEAD



Heads U. S. Portias



DAPHNE ROBERT has been elected president of the National Association of Women Lawyers at a meeting of that organization in Chicago. In addition to practicing law in Georgia, she writes for the newspapers and radio. (*International*)

An amazing example of the impact of the Service Group.

budget, identified committees and set their dues — \$1 per month. Invitations went out for their fellow matrons to join their cause, which quickly grew to over 180 strong. The orphaned children's foster parents and care were paid for out of the group's funds—summer camps, Boy Scout dues, doctors' visits, school clothing, food, and daily care were covered. The families were typically single mothers and their young children who needed help with rent, utilities, and food. Oftentimes schooling through The Opportunity School in the form of sewing classes or a learning a trade was paid for to help the mother provide additional income to the family.

But it soon became clear that the need was greater than their dues could provide, so they organized a rummage sale, two bridge parties, a Hollywood movie costume ball, and a "Bundle Tea." The first "Bundle Tea" was by invitation to Elizabeth Ewing Glenn's home, Glenridge Hall for several hundred supporters. The entry fee was a bundle of two or three items to be donated for the pleasure of tea in her beautiful garden whilst listening to a musical program. They also sponsored a series of twenty-one lectures given by Mrs. Emma Garrett Morris at Egleston Hall with twenty percent of the proceeds going back to the "Service Group," their new name adopted in 1935.

In 1934, May Patterson Goodrum came up with the idea of the "Omnibus Shop." She assumed all operating expenses for the first six months, but she did not just provide her money. The women championed her for her "distinguished business career" and looked to her to organize the shop, including becoming its bookkeeper and treasurer. Anne Conklin provided a rent-free store front at 440 Peachtree Street and each day, six days a week, 9 am—5 pm, the ladies organized their free salesforce labor from the pool of members. They ransacked their trunks, closets, and attics for clothing and shoes, paintings, old and antique furniture, carpets, silverware, linens, china and glassware, donating their items outright to the cause. The shop also took larger items on consignment for the commission fee of twenty percent to augment their efforts.

The activities of the women were not only chronicled in the local Atlanta newspapers, but in a scrapbook as well. Housed at the Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center, the scrapbook holds the history of the group since its inception in 1932. Along with the yearly financials, newspaper clippings, and invitations are all the correspondence from the various agencies the Service Group supported, photos and drawings from the foster children, and thank you notes from the families.

One note caught my eye — undated, but for a clue. A young woman named Mrs. Roy Robert wrote, "Perhaps you read where I was fortunate enough to pass the bar examination this opening the way for me to make a better future for myself. Words seem quite empty, but I can truthfully state that 'the Group' made it possible for me to live and study, and it is with the sincerest of hearts that I say you have been my Godsend through a period of trials in my life." A young woman supported by the Service Group had passed the bar examination in 1937, not an easy feat even in the most prosperous of times. But Mrs. Roy Robert had done it in the middle of an economic Depression through the support of this group of Buckhead matrons.

Who was Mrs. Roy Robert? She was Daphne Hammond Robert Leeds. Educated at the University of Illinois in Urbana, she and

her husband, Roy, an Atlanta radio reporter for the *Atlanta Constitution* had fallen on hard times. Roy was quite ill, unable to work, and Daphne was malnourished and struggling to make ends meet. The Service Group provided funds for their monthly living expenses and a ration of milk for Daphne who was painfully thin. She passed the bar examination in June 1937 with the highest score in the state of Georgia that year. A few months later she was hired by Coca-Cola as a trademark lawyer. In November 1937, she became the youngest woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court of the United States. She held the post of President for the National Association of Women Lawyers (1943-1944), and in 1953, President Eisenhower appointed her the Assistant Commissioner of Patents in Washington, D.C., the first woman to hold the position in the 151-year history of the patent office. She wrote seminal texts on trademarks (The New Trade-Mark Manual) and authored and edited articles for column "Notes from Other Nations" in the Trade-Mark Reporter. Robert passed away in 1941, and she married Robert West Leeds in 1947, whose family owned Haddon Hall, the famous casino-hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. After retiring in 1960, she went on to give lectures and speak at college graduations. She and her husband finally settled in Grenada where she passed away in 1982.

While all these women must have known who Daphne Robert Leeds was throughout the years, perhaps joyful in knowing they contributed to her success in some small way, they quietly continued their work. Many of the families were able to get back on their feet, and as the Depression subsided, the women decided to expand their efforts, purchasing a new oxygen tent and to annually fund two beds and care for children who might not otherwise receive medical attention at Egleston Hospital for Children.

The last entry in the scrapbook is dated 1957, and, based on newspaper articles, it would appear that by 1967 the Service Group was absorbed into Egleston's Women's Auxiliary Group, joining the hospital's own fundraising efforts. But that didn't diminish the women's pride in what they had started over twenty-eight years prior. Many of the matron's obituaries proudly listed their work with the Service Group and their dedication to rebuilding and strengthening the families in Atlanta.

Service Group Moves the Omnibus To New Site on Peachtree Street



The above picture shows Mrs. Andrew Nicolson and Mrs. Sims Bray examining the collection of articles at The Omnibus at 254 Peachtree street, where the new shop is located. Funds derived from the sale of articles accepted on consignment are applied to the support of worthy families sponsored by the Service Group. Photo by J. H. Slayton, staff photographer.

The Service Group found many ways to fund its philanthropy.



A TONGUE-TIED THOMAS R.R. COBB?



T.R.R. Cobb House

BY SAMUEL N. THOMAS, JR.

Someone once said that to be in love “you partly become a poet, a composer and the corniest person in the room.” Recently we acquired a few items from a T.R.R. Cobb descendant, including two rather eye-opening letters. The author of the first of the two letters is T.R.R. Cobb. This letter, included here, is to his hoped-to-be future father-in-law, Joseph Henry Lumpkin. Reading it, you quickly seize upon the nervousness of the man, and, if you have kept up with Tom Cobb’s character over the years in these pages, you will immediately recognize how completely out of character this letter is. In the thousands of letters that Tom Cobb wrote over his young career, and he was a very prolific letter-writer, at no time does Cobb appear to be at a loss of what to say and how to say it. That is, at least not until now.

Now, every young man remembers with great clarity the day he asked the love of his life’s father for her hand in marriage. I still remember the day I slowly lowered myself down that loooong flight of eight steps to ask my future father-in-law for his oldest daughter’s hand, stretched out on the sofa in his boxer shorts, watching his hero John Wayne single-handedly win the West. I slowly sat myself down in a chair across the room from him. Finally, after swallowing what little moisture was still in my throat, I got up enough gumption to ask the former WWII Marine for his daughter’s hand. “Jim,” I said, “I’d like to ask you something.” He sloooowly lowered his legs to the ground and sloooowly sat upright, looking me straight in the eye without

saying a word. I then took in a deep, deep breath and expelled in one quick rolling monotone sentence, “I – I – I would like to ask you for Lynn’s hand in marriage.” Without batting an eye, he looked at me for what seemed like a couple of hours, and replied emotionless, “Well. I think that would be fine.” Then he put his legs back up on the sofa, laid back down, and didn’t miss a beat as The Duke dispatched a shot just in the nick of time.

It seems that in terms of love and marriage, and future sons-in-law and fathers-in-law, some things haven’t changed even after 140 years. In April 1841, Tom Cobb turned eighteen years old. The Cobbs and Lumpkins were already quite acquainted with each other before young Cobb met Lumpkin’s oldest daughter, Marion, who was a year and two months older. We don’t know how long of a courtship the two had. Young Cobb had ambitions, and even at an early age those around him recognized his intellect and drive. Cobb was already a graduate of Franklin College, having finished his studies just a few months prior, first in his class.

When it came to love and marriage, however, Thomas R.R. Cobb was like a fish out of water. His letter to Joseph Henry Lumpkin in January 1842 displays just how much Tom was a fish on dry land when it came to Marion McHenry Lumpkin. In the letter to his future father-in-law, Tom is clearly nervous in his request, something that is definitely not noticeable in any of the thousands of letters he wrote over the course of his twenty-year career. »

subject whether it be as advice, as warning, or in short
whatsoever it shall be your pleasure to write it shall be my plea-
sure to read - Remember me most affectionately to Mrs
Lumpkin in Mrs Mott's Gardine. Miss Bally & the boys &
believe me as ever your devoted friend, Thos W Cobb

Albany Jan. 5th 1842

My dear Sir

It is with no little agitation that I address you on a subject which is I know so near & so dear to every parent's heart. I was I am well acquainted with the liberal feelings which have hitherto characterized your course through life. I know not that I could now have commenced courage sufficient to have requested of you a boon, of which I feel myself so utterly unworthy. He must have the most exalted opinion of his own merits who can deem himself deserving of your daughter's hand. But even as the most degraded may aspire to the realms of endless bliss, so may the most unworthy strive for the attainment of that which he is conscious he can never deserve.

It would be useless for me to enter into any detail in order to set forth any claims to Miss Marion's hand. I have none. My situation in life is too well known to you to require of me to repeat it in so many painful details. I have neither wealth nor reputation - I am but a cold heart & an uneducated man -

Tom Cobb's letter to Joseph Lumpkin, asking for his daughter's hand in marriage.

My character too - like all others is a matter of public knowledge. I sufficient to say that it is entirely negative. Though I flatter myself but little can be said against me, yet little on the other hand can be said in my favour. The great ordeal is yet to be passed. The trial is yet to undergo. And I am confident that nothing sustains me better in the struggle for a name than the reflection that each success is a blessing in answer to a prayer from him whom I esteem so highly.

My prospects for the future alone I deem it necessary to mention particularly. There too are such as you might have expected. I have an offer of partnership from several lawyers of some standing at the bar. (I deem it my duty to be explicit with you) The chief one of these I mention - is to your daughter who has doubtless acquainted you with the fact. My present opinion however does not incline towards any of these offers. Upon certain contingencies I may have a pretty business thrown into my hands immediately upon my admission in this circuit. At any rate I shall be admitted in the Spring & shall immediately settle myself permanently at whatever place may appear the most inviting. By close application to my profession I trust if I do not receive the confidence of the public, when I can see ahead of me a sure & unflinching support, then and till then should I desire her to become

my companion for woe or woe - The sharer of my toils the partner of my pleasure - my comforter, my all - in all -

That the contrast is unequal, that there is no quid pro quo I must confess. On the one hand is the poor the friendless & uneducated, on the other the admired the beloved the educated. But I consider myself peer to any other suitor save in those matters where fate alone decrees.

I understood from Miss Marion that your only obstacle was the delay until I was settled in life. If I am right in understanding her I am both too happy - for I should shrink from the responsibility of taking her tender a being until I had proved to myself that I could protect her from the harsh & of an unforgiving world. I did myself no want of every sense of duty and the ever bright of her future welfare in the pursuit of present happiness.

I have just read over the foregoing part of this epistle & find it is incumbent that I fear you cannot understand half what I mean to say. The other half I leave for sending you a more a communication for which I am not now fast midnight. I would endeavor to trace my nervous letter for a second effort to communicate fully with you. Come heart I am confident will suggest sufficient excuses for my inefficiency. If you will write to me freely I shall be bound to hear on any

Cobb appears uncharacteristically nervous, as he asks for Marion's hand.

Athens, Georgia

January 5th, 1842

My Dear Sir,

It is with no little agitation that I address you on a subject which is I know so near & dear to every parents heart. & were I not well acquainted with the liberal feelings which have hitherto characterized your course through life. I know not that I could now have summoned courage sufficient to have requested of you a boon of which I feel myself so utterly unworthy. He must have a most exalted opinion of his own merits who considers himself deserving of your daughters hand but even as the most degraded may aspire to the realms of endless bliss, so may the most unworthy strive for the attainment of that which he is conscious he can never deserve.

It would be useless for me to enter into any detail in order to set forth any claim to Miss Marion's hand — I have none. My situation in life is too well known to you to require of me to repeat it in its many painful details. I have neither wealth nor reputation, nought [sic] but a bold heart & an unsullied name. My character too, like all others is a matter of public knowledge. Suffice it to say that it is entirely negative. Though I flatter myself but little can be said against me, yet little on the other hand can be said in my favour. The great ordeal is yet to be past. The trial is yet to undergo. And I am confident that nothing can sustain me better in the struggle for a name than the reflection that each success is a blessing, in answer to a prayer from her whom I esteem so highly.

My prospects for the future alone, I deem it necessary to mention particularly. These too are such as you might have expected. I have an offer of partnership from several lawyers of some standing at the bar. (I deem it my duty to be explicit with you.) The chief one of these I mentioned to your daughter who has doubtless acquainted you with the fact. My present opinion however does not incline towards any of these offers. Upon certain contingencies I may have a pretty business thrown into my hands immediately upon my admission into this circuit. At

any rates I shall be admitted in the spring & shall immediately settle myself permanently, at whatever place may appear the most inviting by close application to my profession. I have determined to merit if I do not receive the confidence of the public. When I can see ahead of me a sure & unfailing support, then & not till then should I desire her to become my companion for weal or woe — the shares of my toils, the partner of my pleasure, my comforter, my all in all.

That the contract is unequal, that there is no quid pro quo, I must confess. On the one hand is the poor the friendless & neglected, on the other the admired, the beloved, the courted. Yet I consider myself peer to any other suitor, save in those matters where Fate alone decrees.

I understand from Miss Marion that your only obstacle was the delay until I was settled in life. If I am right in so understanding her, I am but too happy, for I should shrink from the responsibility of taking so tender a being until I had proved to myself that I could protect her from the blasts of an unfeeling world, & I should [con]sider myself recreant to every sense of duty were I to lose sight of her future welfare in the pursuit of present happiness.

I have just read over the foregoing part of this epistle & find it is so incoherent that I fear you cannot understand half & will misinterpret the other half. Excuse me for sending you such a communication for were it not now past midnight, I would endeavor to brace my nerves better for a second effort to communicate freely with you. Your heart, I, am confident will suggest sufficient excuses, for my inefficiency. If you will write to me freely I should be rejoiced to hear on any subject whether it be as advice, as warning, or in short whatever it shall be your pleasure to write it shall be my pleasure to read.

Remember me most affectionately to Mrs. Lumpkin, Mr. & Mrs. Gerardine, Miss Cally & the boys & Believe me as ever Your devoted friend,

Thos RR Cobb

(Story continues on next page)



Portrait of Joseph Henry Lumpkin

(Story continued from page 13)



For probably the first, and last, time in his life the great orator and writer was at a loss for what to say when it came time to put pen to paper. Thomas R.R. Cobb was tongue-tied. Despite his sudden loss of articulacy and lucidity, Cobb obtained Joseph Henry Lumpkin's acquiescence to the couple's marriage. After an engagement of two years, Marion McHenry Lumpkin became Mrs. Thomas R.R. Cobb on January 9, 1844.

The second letter, penned by Marion's mother, to an absent guest gives us a bit of an insight into the character of Tom's new mother-in-law. But for that you'll need to stay tuned.



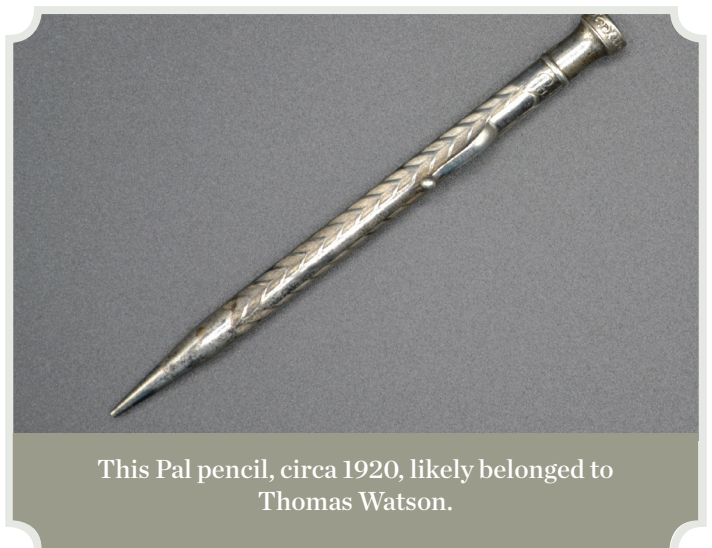
PENCIL “PAL”



Sticks & Stones

BY FRANKE SMITH


Tucked in an oft-overlooked corner of Hickory Hill, there is a small, well worn, and rather unassuming piece of furniture that recently revealed a new bit of information about the Watson family. Lovingly referred to as the lemonade stand, the piece is a small wooden cabinet which was probably meant to function as a work or wash stand. When Hickory Hill was restored, Cuzzy, Watson's granddaughter Georgia Watson Craven who lived in the house with her grandparents for a period, provided a great deal of information about the home, its furnishings, and daily workings. She fondly remembered the small stand and summer afternoons spent drinking lemonade with family on the screen porch. In deference to Cuzzy's memories, the stand is currently located in the alcove between the formal parlor and Mrs. Watson's bedroom, directly across from the entrance to the screen porch.



This Pal pencil, circa 1920, likely belonged to Thomas Watson.



This “lemonade stand” recently served up an unexpected surprise.



Recently, I opened the top drawer of the stand to see if anything inside needed to be secured before the piece was moved and heard a sound no museum worker ever wants to hear, a metallic clunk and thud. Praying I had not inadvertently broken some inner working of the piece, I opened the cabinet doors below to survey the damage and noticed a dull, dark rod laying on some papers on the left side. To my surprise and great relief, the metal rod turned out to be a mechanical pencil! A pencil that had probably been jammed in between the drawer and the side of the stand for decades.

Further research revealed that the pencil dates to Thomas E. Watson's lifetime. Pal pencils were first distributed in 1921 by Hoge Manufacturing Company in Manhattan. The advertising and sales campaign for the Pal pencil was ingenious. The manufacturer sent 1,000 records of their sales pitch all over the country, set to arrive at each jewelry store, stationary shop, or department store a few days before a salesman visited in person. They also shipped participating stores the components for window displays, paid for them to place advertisements in local newspapers, and held a contest with cash prizes for the stores that developed the best window displays. Augusta Jewelers

White and Kleiner made such a stir with their display that their entry in the contest warranted a write up in the *Augusta Herald*. J. B. White and Company also got in on the Pal action and ran ads marketing the pencil in 1921 and as a part of a special Christmas sale in 1922.

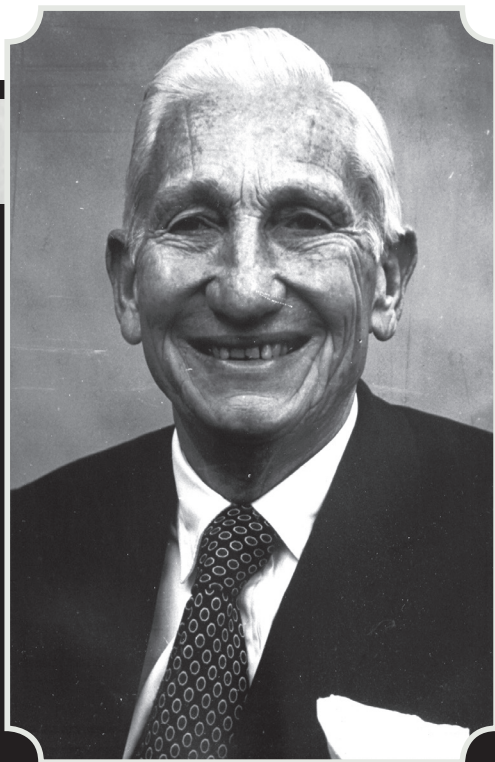
The first incarnation of the Pal pencil was silver plated and only came in two styles, a longer pencil with a clip and a shorter version with a ring on the end. Both styles sold for one dollar. The clipped pen was often marketed to men and the daintier ringed version to women. By late 1922, the manufacturers had reassessed the market and released an extended line of Pal pencils that were made with nickel and goldline (brass) which sold for ten to fifteen cents. The pencil found in the lemonade stand is silver plated with a clip, and while we cannot know for sure, one can surmise that it probably belonged to Thomas E. Watson, as he would have been the only male living in the house during that time period. Regardless of who owned the pencil, it is well worn and was definitely of use to someone in the family. After all these years, Cuzzy's "sweet" lemonade stand revealed another tidbit about the Watsons and life in the 1920s, even if only through a trendy mechanical pencil.



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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.