JOSEPH DANIEL ROBINSON

Joseph Daniel was the eighth and youngest child of David Shannon and Nancy Carolina (Fountain) Robinson. He was born on March 29, 1869 at Cat Creek, near Valdosta, Berrien County, Georgia. He lived there until 1877. At the age of 8, he moved with his family to their new farm and homestead at the crossroads of Oakey Grove in Berrien County, Georgia (See Exhibit 5-47 for photograph).

Joseph Daniel (known as "Joe") grew up working on the farm and helping out his family with their businesses. He worked the crossroads' general merchandise store and as the ginner the cotton gin. The gin was powered by a steam boiler and a mule under the gin that went around and around to pull the screwdriver that packed the cotton. It was at this gin in about 1885 that Joe had an accident that resulted in him getting the tip of his nose and the finger tips on his left hand cut off, as well as severely cutting his arm and lip. In later life, he wore a mustache to cover the scar on his upper lip (For more information, see p. 53 of this book).

In the early 1890's, Joe moved from his parent's home job teaching school in a neighboring community, ο£ Eldorado, Georgia. There he taught two terms of school. He replaced a lady teacher that was forced to quit because of the students' rowdiness. One of his former students, Jim Buck Whiddon, told Joe's son, William Penn, that Joe immediately established control by paddling all the boys and girls, sending them home to clean up, and telling them to return to school the next day, promptly. Jim said he had received a rather blistering paddling. He promptly went home and showed his father. father said he had gotten what he deserved and that he had better be at school the next day. Jim said this corrected the discipline problem.

Joseph Daniel Robinson



Exhibit 5-47

Around 1892 or 1893, Joe made Lenox his new home. According William Penn and Joseph Leonard Robinson, their father, Joe, made this move because the Georgia Southern and Florida Railroad had come to Lenox in 1888. The railroad put a depot because James D. Kinard, a resident of Lenox, donated fifty acres of land to the railroad company, of which he would retain half In return, Georgia Southern and Florida interest in ownership. Railroad established Lenox's first railroad station, telegraph, and express office, all contained within a box car. In 1891, the land in the Lenox community was surveyed and sectioned into business and residential lots and offered for Joe felt all this progress in Lenox created by the sale. railroad would provide a better future for business activity than at the crossroads of Oakey Grove.

In 1893, Lenox acquired a post office. Prior to that, it was an unnamed settlement surrounded by a forest of virgin pine timber for many years in the northern part of Cook County, Georgia. The story has been told that Lenox acquired its name as a farmer drove his ox cart through the settlement and one citizen was heard to remark "That man is sure driving a mighty lean ox." Someone suggested "Lean-ox" as the name for the community. "Lean-ox" was altered to "Lenox" and the name was adopted (Remembered Places, Leftover Pieces p. 38). Another story gives credit to James D. Kinard for being the citizen that saw the lean ox and suggested the name of Lenox (History of Cook County, Minnie Shaw, p. 80).

Joe and James D. Kinard moved to Lenox and established their homes there. Not only did they live there longer than any other families, but they became the pillars of the community for both the economy and government. Joe's first venture into politics was being elected one of the first three councilmen for the Lenox government.

It is not known for sure what type of work Joe did in Lenox for the two or three years before he opened his store. Joseph Leonard recalled his father telling about handling land sale transactions for Sim Harrell when he first moved to Lenox. In later years Joe handled the sale of several lots of land from James D. Kinard to his father David Shannon (Joseph Leonard Robinson's home sets on one of these lots). Joe had encouraged his father to buy the land because it was a good investment and he had high hopes that his parents would move to Lenox. This would allow him to be close to his parents and help take care of them if needed. Since he was the last child to leave home, he felt obligated to do this.

In approximately 1895, David Shannon gave Joe the inventory from his general store at the crossroads, which was worth about \$150 and almost filled up a one horse wagon. Joe operated a grocery store in Lenox, started by this inventory.

In 1895, Joe conducted a mercantile business on the site now occupied by Mrs. W. C. Malone. Later, R. J. Griffin purchased this property, and he sold it to Ben Sirmans. The building and stock were consumed by fire. Joe then purchased another wooden building and mercantile business owned by J.L. Mathews who was the first Mayor of Lenox. The date of this purchase transaction is unknown (<u>History of Cook County</u>, Minnie Shaw, p. 80-82).

Joe married two times. His first marriage was to Mary Blake James on May 21, 1898 (See Exhibit 5-48 for Marriage License). Mary Blake James was born in Dodge County, Georgia to John James and Elizabeth Daughtery of Dodge County.

On May 27, 1898, in <u>The Tifton Gazette</u>, an article of congratulations appeared about the marriage of Joe to Mary James. They were married in Lenox on a Sunday (May 22, 1898) and Justice J. R. Kinard officiated. It says "Mr. Robinson is a young merchant of Lenox, energetic, thrifty and progressive." It described Mary as the sister of the section master at a school (See referenced article in Exhibit 5-49).

Joe and Mary had two children, both born in Lenox (See Exhibit 5-50 for Family Group Record #11). After Joe separated from Mary, Joe and his children lived with his brother, James Hiram, and James' wife, Eliza, in Lenox (just north of the Bank

STATE OF CEORGIA, BERRIEN COUNTY.

To any Judge, Justice of the Peace or Minister of the Gospel:
You are hereby authorized to join Roleman and mary a sure in the Holy State of Matrimony, according to the Consti-
tution and Laws of this State, and for so doing this shall be your License. And you are hereby re-
quired to return this License to me, with your Certificate hereon of the fact and date of the Marriage.
Given under my hand and seal this 2/ day of May 1896
Ordinary.
CERTIFICATE.
STATE OF CEORCIA, BERRIEN COUNTY,
I certify that Malerson and Mary Of James were
joined in matrimony by me this 2 day of John Eighteen
Hundred and Ninety with Recorded The 30 1898
Ondingny

d. Dellvered any-Address & pental

DOL. fton, Ga.

R. M. D. Surgeon,

es & Co's., cor. Love igiven to diseases of terries and Surgery. ment when Indi-1.00 to 6.00 p. m., I sonts unable to pay any services free. My filton and surround-is.



NAGEL. St., Cincinnati, Ohio.



Taste Good, Do Gripe, 10c, 25c, 50c. TIPATION. Montreal, New York, S15

uaranteed by all drug-JRE Tobacco Habit.

CURE

t is what it was safe, sure, quick Pleasant to take. nd adults like it. heir children. Witt & Co., makers of Bisers, the famous

scriptions

ith, Apothecary, , where they will he Doctor writes rugs and at Reas-

he rug Busmess issue. The Property of the State of th

pacted, still the sad intelligence was received with profound sorrow by all ANY lengin. who knew her. Mrs. Pope was identified with the Baptist church at an early age, was of that noble type of womanhood, who, next to the cause of the Master, was devoted to her home, so to know ber in her true aphere was to know her at home, and, while her friends deeply mourn her untimely end, still none can so keenly realize the sad event as the bereaved husband and children. Yet, while they bewail their irreparable losswhich being members of the great human family they will naturally do-it will be with a full consciousness that she has entered into the Christian's reward.

We commend the bereayed family to God, who directs all things after the counsel of his will.

H. T. Dowling. Tifton, May 25, 1898.

Teacher's Examination.

The annual examination of applicants for license to teach will be held at Nashville on Friday, June 17th, next. Some of the questions of the examination will be based upon the Manual of Methods fo Georgia Teachers, and upon Page'
"Theory and Practice of Teaching" and upon Halleck's "Psychology." The examination will begin at 8 a m, and close at 4:30 p. m. T. E. WILLIAMS, C. S. C. Sparks, Ga., May 23rd, 1898. 3t.

Married at Lenox.

Mr. J. D. Robinson and Miss Mary James were united in marriage at Lenox Sunday last, Justice J. R. Kinard officiating.

Mr. Robinson is a young merchant of Lenox, energetic, thrifty and progressive, and his bride the charming sister of the section master at that place. The Gazette congratulates.

Notice to Voters.

· Milltown, Ga., May 23, 1898. To the voters of Berrien county. I hereby declare that I am not a candidate for representative.

Many thanks to those who advocated my name. W. C. PATTEN.

The war revenue bill, as passed by the house, proposes the issue of bonds, a tax of 4 per cent. on proprietary medicines; of \$1 per barrel on beer, and a heavy additional tax on tobacco. The senate will not agree to this, but will propose to issue \$150,-000,000 in treasury notes, coin the silver seignorage, and otherwise raise the necessary funds without a bond

with cancer for the last year or more, to Cavite by the foreign meniofswar her death was not altogether mex- in the haroor. Againaldi, the rebel commander-in-chief, who was brought here from Hong Kong on the Me-Culloch, is organizing a force of native cavalry, and may render assistance that will be valuable.

"DEWEY."

Mr. Frank Passmore has been elected sheriff of Lowndes county.

and wife should know about the preparation that for half a century has been helping expectant mothers bring little ones into the world without danger and the hundred and one discomforts and distractions incident to child-birth. It is applied externally, which is the only way to get relief.

> Medicines taken internally will not help and may result in harm.

Mother's Friend

fits and prepares every organ, muscle and part of the body for the critical hour. It robs child-birth of its tortures and pains. Baby's coming is made quick and easy. Its action is doubly bene-

ficial if used during the whole period of pregnancy.

\$1 per bottle at all drug stores, or sent by mail on receipt of price.

BOOKS FREE, containing valuable information to all women, will be sent to any address upon application by

The Bradfield Regulator Co., Atlanta, Ga.

J. E. COCHRAN,

Reliable Watchmaker and Jeweler, At Smith's Drug Store,

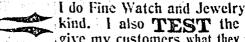
TIFTON, GEORGIA.

REPAIRING NEATLY DONE. ALL WORK GUARANTEED.

See How it Sell in Springfield.

Messrs. Lappman Bros., Savannah, Ga.
Gentlemen:—I was a little reluctant about taking hold of P. P. P. when your Mr. Parsons was here about a year ago, from the fact that mast the leader in Blood Remedies, but your judicious method of advertising has, reversed the situation, and I now sell five bottles of P. P. P. to one of——. I have just given Mr. Parsons another order for 15 dozen. Please give it your prompt attention.

Bell, The Druggist.



kind. I also TEST the give my customers what they i

I am selling a good 8-day Striking Cl and buy one, ask prices on other vinced that my store is the

Jewelry, Watches, Silverware, Etc., Etc

e. a. russei

WAR, WAR

is n

And many thousands of Uncle Sam's brave soldler boys will ish in battle, in honor of their country. There will be we now on, and from now on -||- -||- -||-

Will wage HIGH PRICES. Keep your eyes this store for-

We have on the way, too many good we are aware of the fact that it takes Lomencing next week you can expect great thing.

Date Store. Goods are arriving every day, we for like of space, but a visit will convince you that the

 ${
m Yours}$,

WILLIAM

Wilson & E

-DEALERS

estern and Ge

Pork, Sausages, Etc. **600**

Full line of—

Staple and _ Fangy Grossries_

Fish, Oysters, Fruits and Vegetables IN SEASON.

Highest Market Price paid fá

TELEPHONE ALL ORDERS

10-8-197-tf.

of Lenox's old location). Eliza filled in as a mother for the children, David Ralph and Ernest Eldridge Robinson, until Joe married again. (Mary Blake [James] Robinson remarried. Her second husband was John H. Williams and they lived in Sparks. She is buried at Bethlehem cemetery near Lenox).

second marriage was to Virginia Ann Henderson on December 9, 1906 (See Exhibit 5-51A and 5-51B for Family Group Virginia (known as "Miss Jennie") was born on Record #12). in Huntington, Florida to James Alexander January 10, 1878 Henderson, who was born on September 28, 1845 in Troy, Alabama, and Emma Louise Myers, who was born on December 25, 1858 Valdosta, Georgia. Virginia and her parents moved from Florida to Adel, Georgia, when she was 14 years old. When Joe and Virginia met, she was teaching school at Lenox and living with her parents in Adel, Georgia. She taught at the one teacher school house which was located behind the present Bank of Lenox. Joe met Virginia at the school when he was getting his oldest son, Ernest, enrolled. William Penn Robinson recalls the school house resembling an old style corn crib. Virginia taught all the students, which ranged from the first through the seventh She taught for two or three terms.

Joe and Virginia were married by Reverend Patrick in Adel at her home (the old Henderson house that was located where the Farmer's Bank now stands). David Ralph Robinson remembers the bride and groom coming up from Adel on the train and him hiding behind the door and his Uncle James Hiram asking him how he liked his new mother. They had supper prepared on the back porch. Joe, Virginia, David Ralph, and Ernest lived with James Hiram and his wife, Eliza, at their house, until Joe's new house was completed in 1907.

An article in the <u>Nashville Herald</u>, on August 25, 1905, tells of a fight between Joe and Bud Clanton. The article refers to Joe as a prominent business man of Lenox and Bud Clanton as a young farmer. In the past, there had been a conflict between the two men. When they approached each other on the street,

FAMILY GROUP RECORD-12 Page 1 of 2 ______ Husband: JOSEPH DANIEL ROBINSON 8*-10 Place: CAT CREEK, NEAR VALDOSTA, BERRIEN CO, GEORGIA Chr.: Place: Marr: 9 DEC 1906 Place: REV. PATRICK, ADEL, COOK CO, GEORGIA Died: 15 JAN 1941 Place: TIFTON HOSPITAL, TIFTON, TIFT CO, GEORGIA
Bur.: Place: OAKEY GROVE, TIFT-NASH HWY, BERRIEN CO, GEORGIA Parents' MRIN: 1 Father: DAVID SHANNON ROBINSON 0*-1 Mother: NANCY CAROLINA FOUNTAIN 6*-2 Other wives: MARY JAMES-84 Wife: VIRGINIA ANN HENDERSON 8*-95 Place: HUNTINGTON, FLORIDA Born: 10 JAN 1878 Chr.: Place: Died: 26 SEP 1963 Place: ADEL NEW HOSP, ADEL, COOK CO, GEORGIA Place: OAKEY GROVE, TIFT-NASH HWY, BERRIEN CO, GEORGIA Parents' MRIN: 732 Father: JAMES ALEXANDER HENDERSON 8*-1905 Nother: ENNA LOUISE MYBRS 8*-2976 Sex Children Spouse: MATTIE LOU LANE 8-3*-1411 1. Name: JOSEPH LEONARD ROBINSON 8-3*-87 MRIN: 476 ---- Born: 23 SEP 1907 Place: LENOX, COOK CO, GEORGIA N Chr.: Place: Place: HOME OF JD LANE, MONTICELLO, JASPER CO, GEORGIA Place: Marr: 21 SEP 1930 Died: 2. Name: DANIEL ALVIN ROBINSON 8-4*-88 Spouse: DOROTHY BELLE STUTTS 8-4*-1415 MRIN: 477 ---- Born: 19 FBB 1909 Place: LENOX, COOK CO, GEORGIA M Chr.: Place: Marr: 9 AUG 1930 Place: LENOX, COOK CO, GEORGIA
Died: 9 FEB 1948 Place: LENOX, COOK CO, GEORGIA 3. Name: BMMA ALICE ROBINSON 8-5*-89 Spouse: JOSEPH G. (JACK) AUSTIN 8-5*-1429 MRIN: 483 ---- Born: 23 OCT 1911 Place: LBNOX, COOK CO, GEORGIA P Chr.: Chr.:
Marr: 31 OCT 1946 Place: CHICAGO, COOK CO, ILLINOIS
Died: 9 NAR 1986 Place: HER HOME, LENOX, COOK CO, GEORGIA Place: 4. Name: ROBY HENDERSON ROBINSON 8-6*-98 Spouse: BLANCH WELCH 8-6*-1430 MRIN: 484 ---- Born: 23 OCT 1911 Place: LENOX, COOK CO, GEORGIA Place: M Chr.: Marr: 27 DEC 1936 Place: BLANCH'S HOUSE, MILLEDGEVILLE, BALDWIN CO, GEORGIA Died: 24 OCT 1972 Place: TIFTON HOSPITAL, TIFTON, TIFT CO, GEORGIA 5. Name: ANNIE MARIE ROBINSON 8-7*-91 Spouse: LAWRENCE E CRAWFORD, SR.-1434 MRIN: 485 ---- Born: 12 JAN 1913 Place: LENOX, COOK CO, GEORGIA F Chr.: Place: Marr: 5 JUL 1936 Place: METHODIST CHURCH, LENOX, COOK CO, GEORGIA Place:

> Name and address of submitter: JOHN SNYDER ROBINSON

3531 KBYSTONE ROAD TARPON SPRINGS,FL

34689-9498

Exhibit 5-51A

Phone: 813-937-2719

FAMILY GROUP RECORD-12

12 MA	R 1994	Page 2 of 2
Husba Wife:	nd:JOSEPH DANIEL ROBINSON 8*-10 VIRGINIA ANN HENDERSON 8*-95	Yr of Birth 1869 Yr of Birth 1878
Sex	Children (continued)	
6. 	Name: WILLIAM PENN ROBINSON 8-8*-92 Born: 12 OCT 1914 Place: LENOX, COOK CO, GEORGIA Chc.: Place: Marr: 7 MAY 1943 Place: PRETERIAN, PARSONAGE, CORDE	Spouse: MARGUERITE CASSELS 8-8*-1440 MRIN: 487 BLL,GEORGIA
7. 	Died: 20 FEB 1993 Place: LENOX,COOK CO,GEORGIA Name: JAMES BUFORD ROBINSON 8-9*-93 Born: 23 AUG 1916 Place: LENOX,COOK CO,GEORGIA Chr.: Place: Marr: 1 MAR 1941 Place: HAHIRA,LOWNDES CO,GEORGIA	Spouse: OMAREE FARGASON 8-9*-1442 MRIN: 488
	Died: ABT 1992 Place:	
8. N	Name: EZEKIEL GALLAWAY ROBINSON 8-10*-94 Born: 1 JAN 1918 Place: LBNOX,COOK CO,GEORGIA Chr.: Place: Marr: Place: Died: 23 JAN 1919 Place:	Spouse:

something was said or done to provoke disagreement. Joe struck Bud Clanton several times with a broom handle and Bud Clanton cut Joe with a pocket knife in five places. Two of the wounds were on the arm and three were on his body. Dr. Clements dressed the wounds of Joe; the wounds were "not considered necessarily fatal." Bud Clanton was arrested and gave a \$400 bond for his appearance at the next term of Superior Court (See referenced article in Exhibit 5-52). Joe's daughter, Emma Alice, remembers hearing her father talk about this fight.

In 1906, Joe took the leadership role for the Baptist Church of Lenox to be built, along with the help of C.B. Daughtrey and M.J.L. Griner. It was built by public donations. (<u>History of Cook County</u>, Minnie Shaw, p. 100).

Also during 1906, Joe had purchased land from his father, David Shannon, for his new home. The land was Block C and D of lot #103 in Lenox, District 9. This land had previously been purchased by David Shannon on February 16, 1898 from E. Kinard. Joseph Leonard Robinson, remembers his father, Joe paying \$6,000 to Mr. Parrish of Adel to build his new home Joe and his family moved in sometime between January and Joe and Virginia had eight children, all of which were born in this house. This property is on the corner opposite from the present Bank of Lenox. The original home became the home of Joe's daughter, Emma Alice (Robinson) Austin, until her death. On the south side of this property, Joe constructed a log The cabin was never lived in by Joe or his family. built it strictly for pleasure, possibly reminding him of the log The cabin still stands cabin he was born in at Cat Creek. this property today.

The following exhibits contain photographs of Joseph Daniel and Virginia in their young and later years, their children, the town of Lenox, the Bank of Lenox, and their home (See Exhibits 5-53A through 5-53G).

The need for banking facilities became urgent as the town of Lenox grew and business increased. As a result, the Bank of

Mashville Herald Augent 25, 1905

one day last week and broke his left arm below the the elbow.

- Ja * " " -Look for the list of the City Court jurors in today's paper. they will not be published again atil the week before court.

Luda Saunders, a negro woman ing near Nashville, was adled insane Monday and com-'ted to jail to await the pleasof the asylum authorities.

The state of is said that dandidates for ty offices are plentiful up at n. W. W. Banks seems to the lead for Representative. Peeples will be a candifor Clerk of the Superior

> че Goodman's school, near Bridge church, closed yesafternoon, with appropricises. A sumptuous dinspread on the ground by ons of the school. the largest schools in ly. The enrollment was of one hundred.

> > AL OFFER.—From September 1 we will Nashville Herald and a Thrice-a-Week Confor \$1.50 a year. price of the two pa-This is the best clubhave ever been able it only holds good

> > > sent the Herald a le last meeting of inging Convention, slaid until too late The next meeting Poplar Springs on lay in September. spread on the general public is ·.1.

> > > > Nature's Nerve

of the hands. We presume that the County Commissions will see to it that all such superintendents will do better after the first inspection.

At a special meeting of the locol lodge Knights of Pythias held Tuesday night the following Josie, returned with her. officers were installed:

C. A. Christian, Chancellor Commander.

J. H. Gaskins, Vice Chancellor. A. C. Sweat, Master of Finance and Keeper of Records and Seal. John Griffin, Prelate.

A. J. Connell, Master-at-Arms. W. R. Smith, Master of Work.

Anderson & Lovett have sold their old drug store to Mr. A. S. Knight of Atlanta. The deal was closed yesterday afternoon. Mr. Knight will be here Monday morning to begin taking stock. The Herald is pleased to welcome Mr. Knight and family to Nashville. He is a brother of Mrs. J. W. E. Powell. He was reared at Rays Mill, in this county, but has been living in Atlanta for some time.

Mesdames Powell & Lovett have sold their millinery business to Mrs. T. B. Henderson of Brookfield. She is an experienced milliner and will move to Nushville at once.

Protracted services will begin at the Baptist church Sunday. Rev. A. J. Reamy of Fort Valley will assist the pastor. Everybody is invited to attend the services.

W. P. Title, who has been on the sick list for several days, is improving, and is able to knock around a little.

Why not let me sell you that piano or organ, and keep the money at home? We need it and can sell you as good an instrument as anyone. S. T. Tygart.

in the campmeeting at Gaskin Springs last Sunday.

Mrs. A. V. Shealey and Mr. A. F Shealey have returned to White Springs for a few days.

Miss Minnie Overstreet spent the first part of the week in Douglas, retutning yesterday giorning.

Miss Lena Ricks has returned from Valdosta where she has been spending her summer vacation. Her sister, Miss

L. C. McKinney, who has been in charge of the Farmers Bank for several weeks, returned to his home in Atlanta' Saturday. He is a pleasant young man and made a host of friends here, who regret to lose him.

4

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♦

Cutting Affray at Lenox.

J. D. Robinson, a prominent business man of Lenox, was seriously cut by Bud Clanton, a young farmer, at that place one day last

It seems there had been bad feeling between the men for some time, and when Clanton started to tess Robinson a difficulty arose between them. Robinson struck Clanton several blows with a broom handle and Clauton cut him with a pocket knife in five places, two of the wounds being on the arm and three on the body.

Clanton was arrested and gave a \$400 bond for his appearance at the next term of Superior Court. Dr. Clements dressed Robinson's wounds, which are not considered necessarliy fatal.

Mr. Editor:—Do you know Dr. Kendall, of Atlanta, Ga.? He's a Methodist preacher. They say he's a good one; anyhow he had night sweats. Think he had malaria before and was sort o' run down-that's the cause. Don't ever let your "system" run down! O OR KINGS ROTAL If he had taken

he would't have had either, but

he bought it in time to cure the sweats. The druggists sell it. "LITTLE BILL

ermetuer,

٥

Money to Loan.—I can loan money on Nashville real estate at A car load of Nashvillians took 6 per cent. interest, torms and time to suit. Call on or address W. G. Harrison, Nashville, Ga.

Exhibit 5-52

Joseph Daniel and Virginia Ann Robinson





Exhibit 5-53A





Joseph Daniel with sons, David Ralph (left) and Ernest Eldridge (right) - approx. 1905

1-Virginia, 2-Joseph, 3-Alvin, 4-Alice, 5-Roby, 6-Marie, 7-William, 8-Buford; Lenox, Georgia in approx. 1922.

David Ralph Robinson, son of Joseph Daniel, at age 19. He was a station lineman for Western Union. Taken in Birmingham, Alabama in 1919.



Lenox High School, 10th. Grade, 1930.

Left to right:

Back row: Professor Hodges, Marie Robinson, Julia Collier,

Alice Robinson

Middle row: Felder Swift, Felton Allen,

Roby Robinson, Russell Ruedeger,

Lester Golden, W.H. Outlaw

| Other Grape 1930 - Lengt Ga

Exhibit 5-53C



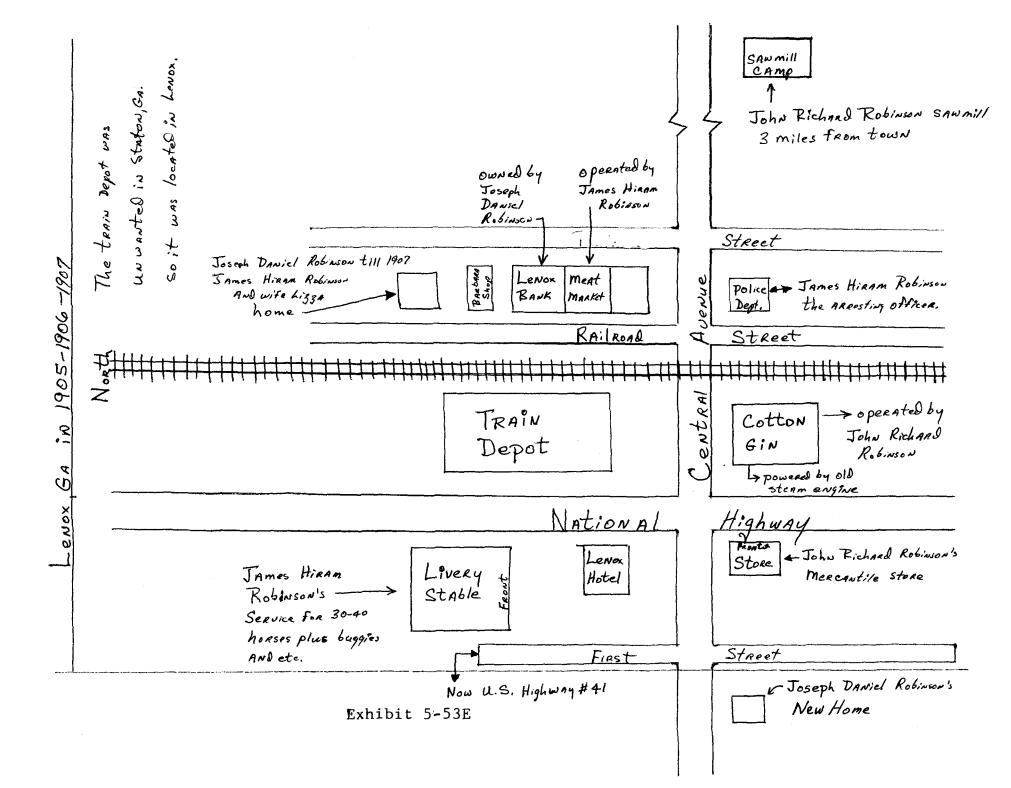




Exhibit 5-53F



LENOX BANK

The first bank in Cook County was at Lenox. Established in 1906, the bank was housed in the former office of Dr. Hendricks. In 1907, the bank moved into a new brick building. The old wooden building still stands behind the brick building in Lenox.

(Remembered Places Leftover Pieces...,p. 38)



Joseph Daniel Robinson & _____

Bank of Lenox Approximately 1910 Lenox, was organized and opened as a private bank on January 2, 1906 under the management of Joe. The bank was housed in a wooden structure that was the former office of Dr. Hendricks. On January 20, 1907, it was incorporated as a state bank. In 1907, the bank moved into a new brick building next to Gray's Hardware Store (Remembered Places, Leftover Pieces p. 38). The wooden structure sat behind the brick building and in later years moved to its present position, which is behind the R.G. Lindsey Store.

Roby Henderson Robinson assumed the position of president upon his father's death. In 1962, under the direction of Roby, a new brick building for the Bank of Lenox was constructed on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and U.S. Highway 41 (Robinson Street); this is the present location of the bank. Roby remained active in the Bank of Lenox's activities until his death on October 24, 1972. Today, the bank is run by Roby's sons, Roby (Bobby) and Warren. Warren currently serves as the bank's president. The bank has expanded by opening another bank, the Bank of Lenox in Adel.

Through the years, it has prospered, due to the able leadership of its officials. Joe was very influential in helping to obtain from the state of Georgia, a charter for forming the Bank of Lenox. He was connected with the bank in an official capacity since its organization. For a number of years he was head cashier, and served ably as its first president. The growth and strength of the bank was due largely to his steadfastness and his being keen in business (History of Cook County, Minnie Shaw, It was this strong foundation, created by Joseph Daniel, that gave the bank the strength to survive during and after the Great Depression. The Bank of Lenox and the Bank of Alapaha were the only two banks in the area that did not go broke in the Great The Bank of Lenox was the first to be chartered and is the oldest banking institution in continuous operation in Cook County.

As recalled by Joseph Leonard Robinson, his father, Joe, and Sim Harrell, of Staunton, Georgia were the two largest investors

of the \$30,000 capital investment made for organizing the bank (William Penn and Marie recall this as being a \$25,000 capital investment). Joe and Sim Harrell each received the same amount of stock, although it was agreed that Sim Harrell would provide the largest amount of cash and Joe would provide his time by working as head cashier. Also, the other four partners involved in this venture were E. P. Bowan of Tifton, Alvin Adcock of Eldorado, T. E. Phillips of Tifton, and L. O. Benton of Monticello. David Shannon purchased five shares for \$100.00 each. The bank received its State Charter in 1907.

Joseph Leonard Robinson recalls about his father's general merchandising business expanding. This was because at this time, his brother, James Hiram, had decided to no longer run the livery stable in Lenox and another brother, John Richard, disposed of his general merchandising store. Joe's general merchandising business now sold buggies, hardware, wagons, and undertaker supplies such as cloth, ornaments, wood, and other items needed for building coffins.

In 1908, Joe's wooden store that he had purchased from J.L. Mathews and the stock of goods burned. In addition J.R. Kinard and J. Nobles stores burned. The stores were located on the site of the old Lenox Theater. In 1910, M.J.L. Griner built a modern two-story brick building on the Robinson lot and conducted a mercantile business there (<u>History of Cook County</u>, Minnie Shaw, p. 82).

Joe certainly made a significant impact on the growth of Lenox and the surrounding farming community. However, this did not come without comments from his critics. Obviously, due to dealings with some of his customers at the bank, Joe was described as being "close with his money." He was known in the community to be "as tight as bark on a tree" where money was concerned. One of his customers experienced Joe's philosophy first hand when he asked him to borrow \$100. Joseph Daniel responded in a loud voice, "You want to borrow HOW MUCH?" The customer replied, "I need \$200." Then Joe responded, "I heard

you the first time" and then loaned the customer \$100, not \$200. Despite this trait, he had liberal credit policies which helped many businessman and farmers overcome financial hardship.

In the 1910's and 1920's, Joe owned the property and building which housed the local livery stable. There he housed mules and horses which were for sale and Mr. Roberts was the salesman for him. Joe went to Atlanta each year where he purchased both mules and horses. He would transport them back to Lenox on the train. When they arrived in Lenox, he would always take a lead horse and lead the animals from the train cars to the livery stable. All of Joe's sons helped with the chores at the stable.

Marie recalls that often times her brothers would bring a gentle horse to the house and let her and her sister, Alice, ride it.

Joe purchased his first farm in 19_____; this land is currently occupied by his daughter-in-law, Blanch (the wife of the late Roby Henderson Robinson). The farm was approximately 100 acres and had a 16 acre pecan grove, with about 200 trees. An article appeared on November 13, 1925 in the Adel News, telling of Joe's farm. The article stated: "There is quite a lot of interest being shown in dairying in this community which is proving to be quite profitable. Mr. J.D. Robinson has a nice little herd of Jersey cattle grazing on his farm just outside of town and informed the writer he has made shipments and sales of more than four hundred dollars worth of milk products beginning April 1st to October 1st, besides supplying his home needs and raising thirty head of pigs."

Joe always had a garden on his farm. He had a love for gardening and this ability of his showed in the output of the garden. He provided his family with various types of vegetables and there was always an abundance of them.

Besides gardening, he loved his flowers. He had flower beds all around his house.

Joe was actively involved in the community of Lenox. He served on the school board, the Town Council, and also served several terms as mayor of the town.

His son, David Ralph Robinson, recalled the opportunity to drive his father's new Maxwell car to Adel. His father was going to sell a buggy there. Ralph was a new young driver and the opportunity to drive a car was a rarity in those days and it took no urging to get Ralph to drive. He was so excited about driving the car that he wasn't monitoring his speed as they went down the three path dirt road (two ruts were created by the wagon wheels and the third was from the feet of the horses pulling the wagons). Joe got angry at Ralph for driving too fast and hollered at Ralph, "Woo! Woo! Stop this thing, you damn little fool! Do you realize that you had this car all the way up to 15 miles an hour?" Ralph slowed the car down and they continued on their Journey to Adel.

Another time, Ralph recalled a story about his father which involved a car trip to Valdosta, Georgia. Joe was riding with Max Williams, a cashier at the Bank of Lenox and Joe was dressed up in a nice new suit of clothes. They were travelling on a red clay road, which was very slippery because of the rain. The car skidded and threw Joe from the car. Max stopped the vehicle and with much concern in his voice, hollered to Joe if he was hurt. Joe replied, "No. I was just damn ni [near] killed!"

Both of these exciting car trips involved driving on unpaved roads. Joe must have been pleased when his third child, Joseph Leonard, was one of the workers helping to pave Cook County's first paved road (test road). It was paved in 19____ and it was one mile long and located on U.S. Highway 41 in Sparks, Georgia.

Marie (Robinson) Crawford remembers that her Aunt Martha would come to stay with her family and it was often about two weeks at a time. Usually, Martha's sister, Sarah, would visit with the family at the same time. All three siblings, Joseph Daniel, Martha, and Sarah, loved to sit out on the front porch of Joe's house and rock in the rocking chairs. Marie remembers

listening to them one day while they were on the front porch. Her Aunt Martha asked her father, Joe, how far it was to Valdosta. Joe said, "It's 35 miles." Martha said, "No, Joseph, it's 34 miles." Joe said, "No, Martha, it's 35 miles." Martha said, "Joseph, I said it was 34 miles." Joe then replied with a somewhat raised tone to his voice, "Damn it, it's 35 miles." This remark ended the discussion on the distance to Valdosta and they started talking about something else. Their other favorite gathering place was underneath the shade of the china berry tree near the back porch of Joe's house.

Marie reminisces about her mother, Virginia, being a very hard worker and having to care for about ten milk cows. Marie often times helped her mother milk five or six of these cows before she left for school in the mornings. Virginia had a small business at home, which generated extra money for the family; she sold milk, butter, cream, and eggs. Marie's husband, Lawrence Crawford, says that Virginia was the only person he knew who could churn the cream for making butter and read the newspaper at the same time. Virginia really enjoyed reading the newspaper and she read it in its entirety. Marie says her mother was a very good housekeeper. Every Monday, without fail, Virginia would strip the linens from all of the beds, wash the linens, and sun the pillows.

Virginia was interviewed about the history of Adel by <u>The Atlanta Journal and Constitution</u> and the article appeared in November of 1959. At the age of 81, she said she could well remember how Adel got it's name:

"Uncle Jack Parrish, a pioneer, had a small shop and a crowd gathered around to talk each day. At that time it was know as 'Puddleville' and a very fitting name I must say. On this particular day wise Uncle Jack decided to change the name. Everyone disliked it, and with a new railroad we needed a new name. The name 'Philadelphia' was spotted on a burlap bag, so he took the word, marked out the first four letters and the last four leaving the word 'Adel' in the center. The name was approved, thereby changing from Puddleville to the present name of Adel. At that time, the county was known as Berrien."

This article also said that Virginia was a retired schoolteacher and that she loved the profession. She stated that she "has had a very beautiful life, and enjoys the good Christian life which is her guidance."

Marie recalls that her father was very supportive of obtaining higher education and he encouraged all of his children to attend college. His commitment was to pay the costs of attending college, as long as the child had a commitment to study. His daughters, Marie and Alice, accepted this challenge and both of them graduated from the University of Georgia.

Joe continued his position of president at the Bank of Lenox and remained active in the organization throughout his life. In his later years, he began to transfer the leadership role at the bank to his son, Roby Henderson Robinson.

An article in <u>The Adel News-Tribune</u> (date unknown) referred to Joe D. Robinson as Lenox's community leader. It stated, "The Robinson family name and the Town of Lenox are almost synonymous. For nearly as long as there has been a town called Lenox in the northern part of what is now called Cook County, the Robinson family has been a major factor in its development." Joe even has a street in Lenox named in his honor, "Robinson Street" (See Exhibit 5-54 for photograph).

Robinson Street, Lenox, Georgia

Named in honor of Joseph Daniel Robinson



Joe died on January 15, 1941 at the Tifton Hospital in Tift County, Georgia. He is buried at Oakey Grove Cemetery, near his mother and father.

Virginia continued living at their home in Lenox, located on the southwest corner of U.S. Highway 41 (Robinson Street) and Central Avenue. She died on September 26, 1963 at the Adel Memorial Hospital in Cook County, Georgia.