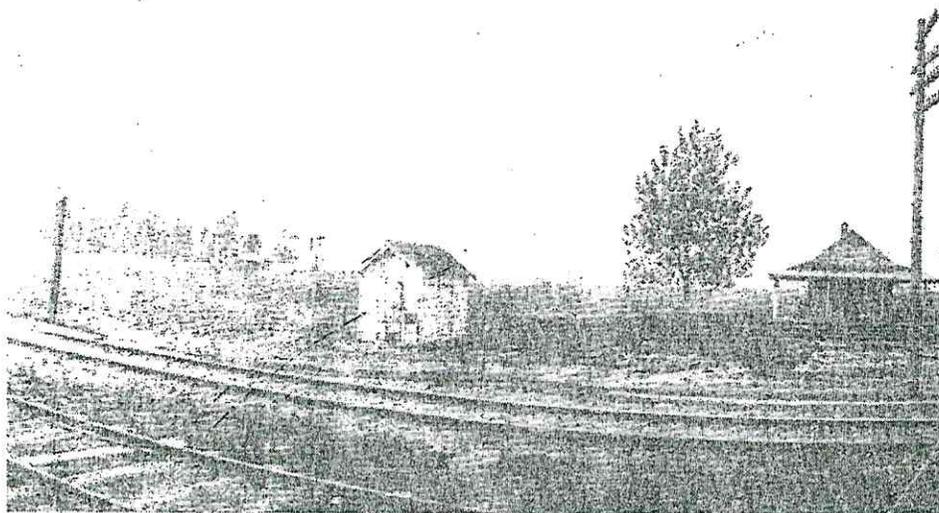


In 1834 also, Alex Kerr Boyce, who owned Tallahatchie County property and extensive adjoining Coahoma County property, moved with his wife into their new home on the Sunflower River about five miles below today's Clarksdale near what is now CLAREMONT.

HOPSON

In 1838, according to the late Mrs. Margaret Weathers, George P. Hopson and Robert McCutcheon bought lands near those of Howel R. Hopson, in Twn. 25, R 3 W. It was Joseph J. Hopson, however, who became owner of the first land to be opened up south of Clarksdale in Sec. 25, Twn. 27, R 4 W. These Hopson lands have been continuously farmed by family members ever since.

All traces of the original Hopson Homestead cabin, built on homestead lands near the Sunflower River, are gone. And destroyed by fire in the Thirties was the handsome 2-story domicile on the River, built and occupied by Dr. Howel Hopson and his family. Dr. Hopson was the son of Joseph Hopson. The fire was thought to have been set by vandals as the house at that time had long been empty, the Hopson family having moved to a new large home in Clarksdale next door to the city schools on Second Street. This property was purchased many years later by the School Board and dismantled.



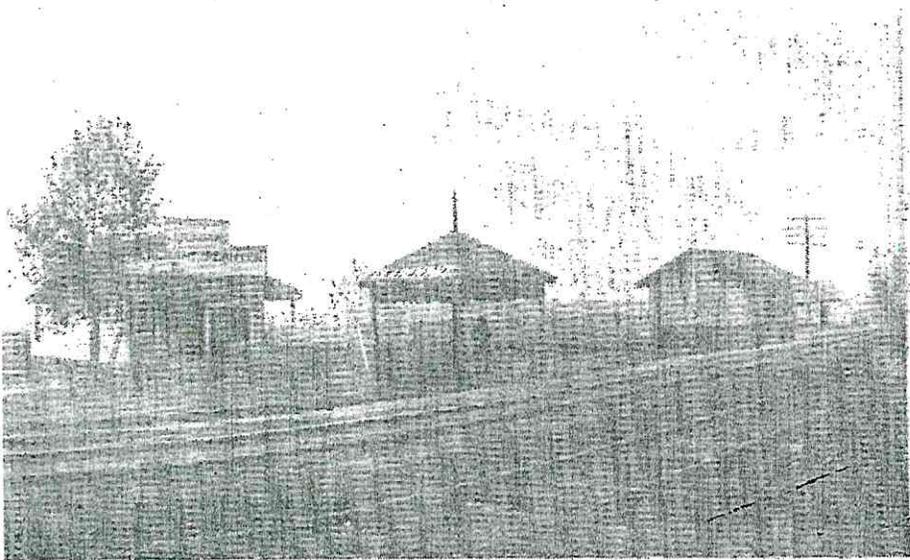
CLAREMONT on the Y&MVRR as it was in earlier days.

A touching family story exists of how Dr. Hopson, during his courtship of Elizabeth Mallory, who became his second wife, built a foot bridge across the Sunflower River to reduce the needless trip up to Clarksdale, across the bridge there and down the other side.

In the Fall of 1927 the first of several experimental cotton pickers was demonstrated on the Hopson Plantation. By 1935 the 3,263 acres had become a working laboratory for such new ideas as skiprow planting of cotton, use of flame in weed prevention and other Hopson inventions and developments such as multi-row equipment including cultivator, cotton planter and middle buster. Technicians and executives from International Harvester in Chicago came each Fall, accompanied by new technical equipment to put to practical test. (See **Here's Clarksdale** Nov - Dec 1972). H. H. Hopson, Jr. and Richard W. Hopson, great grandsons of Joseph, were ten years ahead of the mechanization revolution and they developed one of the most efficient farming operations in the Delta. Howel Hopson's inventive mind developed a water furrow attachment for tractors, and the use of chemical defoliation by plane was also instituted on the plantation.

CLAREMONT

Alex K. Boyce and his wife, Harriette (Hetty) Evelyn Boyce, were childless. In 1873 a niece of Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Catherine



Note the J. R. Adams Merchant & Planter sign on the commissary.



Mrs. Joel Randolph Adams, Sr., of Claremont. Mrs. Adams was the former Evie Lowrey, daughter of Dr. Henry Jackson Lowrey of Lyon. She died in 1955.

photo Courtesy C. D. Harlow

(Kate) Henderson Adams, came from South Carolina to live with them. She was a young widow with seven children ranging in age from six to fifteen years. The Civil War had taken her husband and her property. She brought with her the two youngest daughters and the youngest son, who died before reaching manhood. The other children were left with relatives in South Carolina but within ten years the family was reunited here.

When the Boyce's died, Mrs. Adams inherited the Boyce properties as a holding for life. Then it was divided equally among the three of her children who were unmarried - Jennie,

Will and Lucia. Will and Lucia preceded Jennie in death. When she died in 1928 the property was then divided between her brother, Joel R. Adams and her nephew Luther Adams Harrison. The land is still in possession of family heirs and the original Boyce home still stands, facing the Sunflower River.

When Joel Randolph Adams came to Mississippi from South Carolina he bought a large tract of land before he inherited the Boyce property. He and his wife, Evie Lowrey Adams, had five children, Jennie, Boyce, Lucia, Joel and Rivers. Lucia, (Mrs. C. D. Harlow), the only surviving child, lives in Clarksdale.

Prominent in the development of Coahoma County, Mr. and Mrs. Adams were also noted for their genial hospitality in their spacious country home. The home, now owned by Mrs. James H. Grass (one of the Adams' granddaughters), still stands near the highway at Claremont.

Each February and March the lawns and sides of the long driveway become a blanket of color as thousands of daffodils and hyacinths burst into bloom. . . a reminder that much remains of the beauty and quality of life that is our delta heritage.



The Joel Randolph Adams, Sr., home at Claremont which can be seen from Highway 49. photo Courtesy Mrs. C. D. Harlow

BOONE and DURHAM

These are merely railroad crossings now between HOPSON and CLAREMONT. They were named respectively for land-owners in the area. In early days trains stopped for passengers and there were postoffice services. At Boone there once was a gin.



photo Courtesy Mrs. Graydon Flowers

Snapshot of children of Mattson families. Listed by name they are: Ruth Hodges, Virginia Hodges, Martha and Vivian Keltner, Lloyd and Billy King, Gillespie Montgomery. In the background is the first building of the Mattson Methodist Church.

MATTSON

There is no MATTSON shown on a very old Y&MVRR map which delineates railroad land for sale in the Delta. Certain acreage was given railroads by the state as an inducement to build and more or less bring Mississippi out of the mud. The railroads in turn advertised the land all over the United States. Some went for as little as .25 per acre and some for \$1.50. Again it is well to recall what the pioneer life was like in the swampy, humid, malarial infested Delta. . . .