

# THE DUNN DISPATCH

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## GROWTH OF DUNN IS RAPID

### GREENWOOD WAS FIRST SCHOOL OF THE COMMUNITY

One Room Building Of Crude Structure Stood In Old Field Now Cemetery

### HANNIBAL L. GODWIN WAS TAUGHT THERE

Former Representative In Congress Becomes Reminiscence And Tells Something Of Life In This Section Before Dunn Was Founded — Country Boys Had Few Advantages.

It wasn't much of a school—just a one room shack of unpainted boards thrown together by amateur carpenters and lighted by two windows in one end and a door at the other; and its term was two months—really just forty school days.

Still, that school was the fountain to which the early-day youth of the settlement which was to become Dunn went for knowledge. It was Greenwood school, standing in an old field which since has become Greenwood Cemetery, Dunn's "Silent City of the Dead."

Hannibal L. Godwin, who was to become Dunn's leading lawyer and a representative in the National Congress for seven successive terms, and Frank, his older brother, had their first taste of education there. So had Claude Pope, son of Henry, who now is one of the leading citizens of Taylorville, Illinois; so had the sons and daughters of the old families that populated this part of the country before the railroad came in the mid-1850s.

Early Families Few Families living here then were the Godwins, Wades, Surles, Popes, Taylors—Isaac and Zach, Hodges and Phillips. The only school the State offered them at that time was Greenwood, which at its term of forty days, when Hannibal L. Godwin was a pupil in this school, Troy Adams, now pastor of Divine Street Methodist Church, was a teacher. Mr. Godwin languidly told of the hardships he had to undergo in mastering the "three R's"—reading, "riting and rithmetic."

"The school," said Mr. Godwin, "was a building of a building which had been constructed of green pine timbers. These had been leaving cracks about half an inch wide in the top, and the water would leak in and out of the cracks. I went there with a little bundle of books and a few papers, and I was most scared by death when it was announced that I must leave to write."

The school had a twenty-minute session of writing lessons right after recess. A shelf, about eighteen inches wide, had been constructed around the walls of the room. This was known as the writing shelf and it was the nearest thing to a desk that we had.

Pen Staffs of Juniper Pen staffs for the pupils were juniper limbs gathered from the swamp. The pupils had to gather these as they were needed.

Miss Mollie Lang, now Mrs. J. C. Goodwin, was teacher in this school after Mr. Adams time. She was, Mr. Godwin thinks, the last teacher at Greenwood.

Greenwood school also served the community as a meeting place for the Baptist and Primitive Baptist congregations. The Reverend William Harris, of the Free Will Baptist church, gave the school its name. He used to preach there one Sunday in each month and was much interested in the community, though at times he despaired of its ever amounting to anything spiritually.

"Once," Mr. Godwin said, "he stated that he thought it useless for him to continue coming; that the people did not seem to heed his preaching and that unless they did show by their behavior that they wanted him, he would cease his visits." They must have behaved better from that time on, because Mr. Harris continued his work for some time after that.

A Rev. Mr. Johnson, of Cedar Creek, Cumberland County, preached for the Baptists. He, too, came once a month and a regular congregation was organized there. This congregation eventually was merged into the

### DUNN HAS

- Artesian Water Piped to Every Home.
- A Complete Sanitary Sewerage System.
- Storm Sewerage.
- Unlimited Hydro-Electric Power.
- Five Miles Asphalt Paving.
- All Streets Graded and Improved.
- Seven White Churches.
- Six Negro Churches.
- Three Fire-Proof Public School Buildings.
- A Modern Hospital.
- A Motion Picture Show.
- A Modern Theatre.
- A Public Library.
- Children's Play Ground.
- Two Public Park Sites.
- Two Bathing Pavilions.
- Three Strong Banks.
- A Building and Loan Association.
- A Modern Chamber of Commerce.
- A \$60,000 Agricultural Fair Plant.
- 12 Passenger Trains Daily.
- Two Railroads.
- Postal and Western Union Telegraph.
- Bell Telephone System.
- A 30-Piece Concert Band.
- The Best Orchestra in North Carolina.

### THE FOREST AND STREAMS SURROUNDING DUNN ABOUND IN WILD GAME AND FISH

Abundant in 1880 Greenwood School was founded about 1880 and when the town Dunn was plighted, the site was as a cemetery. However, Godwin, father of Hannibal L. Godwin, died about the time the first school was founded. His son, Jonas Godwin, was the second teacher. Godwin's ministry serves him

At that time the settlement had a justice which was known as Pope's. Julius J. Wade was the postmaster and kept the office in his store, which then was located between the present sites of Mr. J. Young's home and the Primitive Baptist church. This small store brought in a cart from

"It is hard to recall the summer congregation at Dunn is so young. It seems that Sunday thirty brothers and I were chasing rabbits through fields and woods where the town now stands. We never dreamed that such a town would be here. Fayetteville was our closest town and it was seldom that we were allowed to go there—it was so far away."

An Out-of-the-Way Spot "We were in a far corner, an out-of-the-way spot, and as children we were content to fish and hunt and work. We knew little of the outside world except the things we read in books; and the outside world knew little of us. Churches were few and far away—schools were fewer. Those of us whose parents could afford to send their sons and daughters away to private schools banked heavily on that and looked forward to the day when we would go out into the world and make our way. But some had not even this hope."

Mr. Godwin was doing practically nothing for us in an educational way,

and the various State agencies through which we are being taught how to farm; through which we are getting good roads; through which the health of ourselves and our farm stock is being safeguarded—all of these things through which the State touches our lives in nearly every phase of our being—these had not been dreamed of.

"People of the rural sections in any part of the State had few opportunities in that day that they did not make themselves. The State—the government, merely was an agency whose sole object was to protect man in his honorable pursuit of a livelihood and in his life and property rights. Gradually, during the last twenty years the State has reached out and was available only to men of large wealth. A few years ago, however, the State has a great responsibility. It must that school. The State, against all crop enticements, it protects farm stock and farm life. It builds good roads and works against them. It strives in every way to make the country more profitable and more profitable to the country dweller."

"We of this township forty and forty years ago had none of these advantages. The State now stands upon its country citizens. We have plenty of land and plenty of things that grew upon the land, and were left alone by those who lived elsewhere."

"With the coming of the Atlantic Coast Line Railway which built its Wilson Short Cut southward from Contentment Junction in the 80s, new settlers came in with new ideas. Until then our largest income was from the turpentine industry. Between 1840, when John Williams, who was employed by Blackman Lee, came to this part of the country to produce turpentine from the pine forests, and 1890, the production of tar, pitch and turpentine, was the principal industry of what is now the Dunn District."



Broad Street looking west from the D. H. Hood Residence. The picture shows the Hood home, First Baptist Church, the front of N. A. Townsend's home and the trees in Mrs. M. T. Young's yard.

"When the railroad opened up the country, Dunn was laid off as a town. It was named for a civil engineer who surveyed the route of the road. John Robert Godwin was asked to name the new town. He did, but the name he gave it did not stick. 'Squire John Robert' had just been reading in history of the Indian mutiny at Lucknow, India. He was impressed by what he read of the way the British had, in reprisal for the British massacre, tied the mutineers to the mouths of cannon and shot them into eternity."

Squire Names It Lucknow "For some reason he thought Lucknow an appropriate name for the new town, and he recommended just that. All that remained of his suggestion was the name of his son, Squire John Robert Godwin. Dunn began to grow. The first frame building, their 'cotton store,' was built on the new town. The little store, which contained of no value, was the first business prospect to the town. Gradually land was cleared and turpentine-bearing trees were planted. Sugar Mill Farming operations were at first, were not profitable, because no real effort had been made to produce them on a large scale. There was no market except for the baby-back hogs that fed in the stumps."

New Churches and Schools "But farmers began to try. Dunn provided a lot for a variety of things. The new farmers were growing. The lands produced cotton and tobacco in abundance and the promoters of the local market encouraged the growth of these crops to the limit. The farmers prospered and the town grew. In no time new churches sprang up in town. By 1890 there were four or five churches and several private schools."

John Williams was the oldest brother of Martin B. Williams' father. He came to this section about 1840 and built the first dwelling on what subsequently was to become the site of Dunn. This dwelling stood in a grove about where the Ransom Postoffice now stands. It was built and occupied by the elder Henry Pope, whose home it was until Dunn became a town.

These early churches and schools were modest affairs, though a great improvement over old Greenwood. They, however, paved the way for the imposing edifices and the magnificent school buildings which today dot the city.

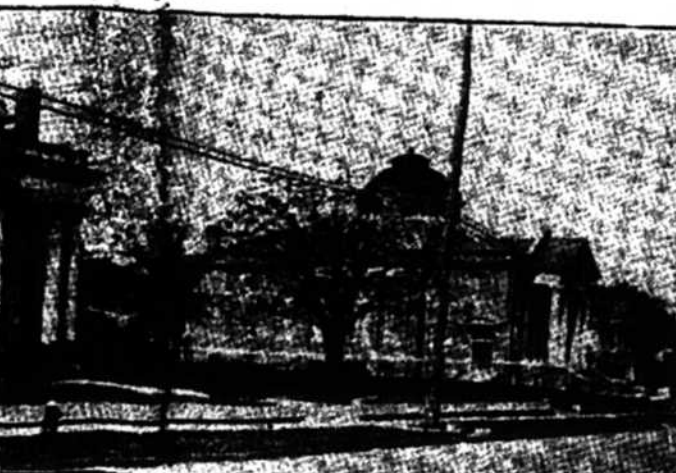
"But, here I am talking like some tottering old man; and I am yet a youngster. To review the achievement of the community, one would be led to believe that ages had been required to accomplish so much. Really, though, this record of accomplishment covers less than three decades: the greater part of it has come in two."

"I am proud to be a citizen of Dunn. I am proud that I have seen the growth of the town from a village infant; I have seen it grow to a great city. I have known every man who had a part in its building and have watched its progress with pride; many times I have seen it stagger before adversities placed in its pathway by the disciplining hand of fate, its 'head bloody but unbowed,' and I am proud to have been an associate of men whose courage has piloted it through these adversities."

"Dunn has achieved large—but her best days have not been seen."

From Municipal Building looking north, showing Chamber of Commerce rooms, Pearce's Bakery and First National Bank, with Butler Brothers store in distance.

### WHERE THE PRETTY HOME DISTRICT BEGINS



Broad Street looking west from the D. H. Hood Residence. The picture shows the Hood home, First Baptist Church, the front of N. A. Townsend's home and the trees in Mrs. M. T. Young's yard.

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### DUNN HAS

- One Farm Implement Factory.
- One Furniture Factory.
- Two Tremendous Lumber Mills.
- One Hosiery Mill.
- One Cotton Seed Oil Mill.
- One 12,000-Bale Cotton Warehouse.
- Two Machine Shops.
- One Railroad Repair Shop.
- Three Monument Plants.
- One Cornice Factory.
- Two Metal Working Plants.
- One Ice Factory.
- One Bakery.
- Two Ice Cream Factories.
- One Newspaper.
- One Printing Plant.
- One House Finishing Factory.
- Seven Garages.
- Two Automobile Paint and Trimming Shops.
- Three Wholesale Gasoline and Motor Oil Distributors.
- Two Plumbing Concerns.
- Two Electrical Contractors.
- One Steam Laundry.
- One Hand Laundry.
- Two Beverage Bottling Plants.
- Five Farm Stock Dealers.
- Fourteen Dry Goods and Clothing Stores.
- Two Wholesale Grocers.
- Thirty-Seven Retail Grocers.
- Four Hardware and Implement Dealers.

### CONSIDER THE ICE MAN; HOW HE DOTHS GIVE YOU COMFORT

Provides The Important Essential For Combatting Heat With Cooling Drink

"IS IT HOTTERNUFF?" "IS IT COLDERNUFF?" Lives Of Innumerable Intergenerations Saved By The Coming Of Artificial Ice — Their Crimes Would Have Been Made Capital Offense—Remember Old George.

"New! 's hot, ain't it?" How often during the present summer and every other summer have you pestered your friends with such an inquiry? and how often have you hot-footed to the ice box or to the soda fountain to get the wherewith to cool your scorching gullet?

The most potentest of all poisons is the gay who forever is reminding a suffering humanity of its suffering. "S hotternuff fer yur?" "S coldernuff fer yur?" These are the refrain of pests who change only with the seasons. When Louis Wilson puts an extra weight on the safety valve of the old thermometer at the Wilson and Lee corner to keep old man Mercury from escaping his prison, the pest is in his glory. While some folk come sweet from every pore, these ants with their idiotic grin ply their trade of making folk miserable. They are not to be trusted.

Do you have a strong local organization of farmers—in a cooperative marketing organization or otherwise—and have you a good organization of farm women?

Do you have a reading people? Do the farm homes have good books and papers, the school a library, and are you using the traveling library service most states are now offering?

Do your people love beauty? Are your homes and public buildings being made beautiful as fast as should be expected by paint on the outside, worthy pictures on the inside, and flowers and shrubs and trees for the grounds?

Is there a proper appreciation of music by the community and by individual homes in the community?

Are you doing anything to encourage a study and knowledge of local history?—The Progressive Farmer.

(Continued on page 2.)

### DUNN OFFERS MANUFACTURES

THESE

- Adequate Hydro-Electric Power.
- Excellent Fire Protection.
- Low Insurance Rates.
- Perfect Transportation Facilities.
- Moderate Taxation.
- RAW MATERIALS FOR: Cotton, Cotton Seed Oil, Tobacco, Furniture, Wood Working, Lumber, Brick, Vegetable Canning and a Multitude of other Factors.

EXPERIENCED LABOR FOR: Textile, Furniture and Wood-Working Plants. Ideal Sites Next to Railways. Healthful Surroundings. Best of Living Conditions. Contented, Intelligent Labor of Native Stock. Every City Convenience, Surrounded by Country Coolness.

ALL IN A MODERN COMMUNITY, WHOSE MORAL TONE IS HIGH AND WHOSE PEOPLE ARE AMERICAN

### WHAT DOES YOUR COMMUNITY SCORE?

In The Progressive Farmer recently we emphasized ten important ways of enriching life in your community. How many of these ten progressive lines is your neighborhood following? Suppose you credit your neighborhood with ten points for each of these ten questions that you can answer affirmatively and then see how it scores. See whether you are living in a community that is 50 per cent progressive, 70 per cent, or 100 per cent. In most school examinations, we believe, 70 per cent is regarded as necessary to "pass." 80 is good, and 90 excellent. See whether your community "passes" if judged by this question score card, or makes a still better grade.

It will be interesting to discuss this matter with your family and neighbors and see whether you agree on your answers to these ten questions



The oldest block of business houses, showing first brick buildings erected in Dunn. The building in the foreground was erected by E. F. Young in the 90's.

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