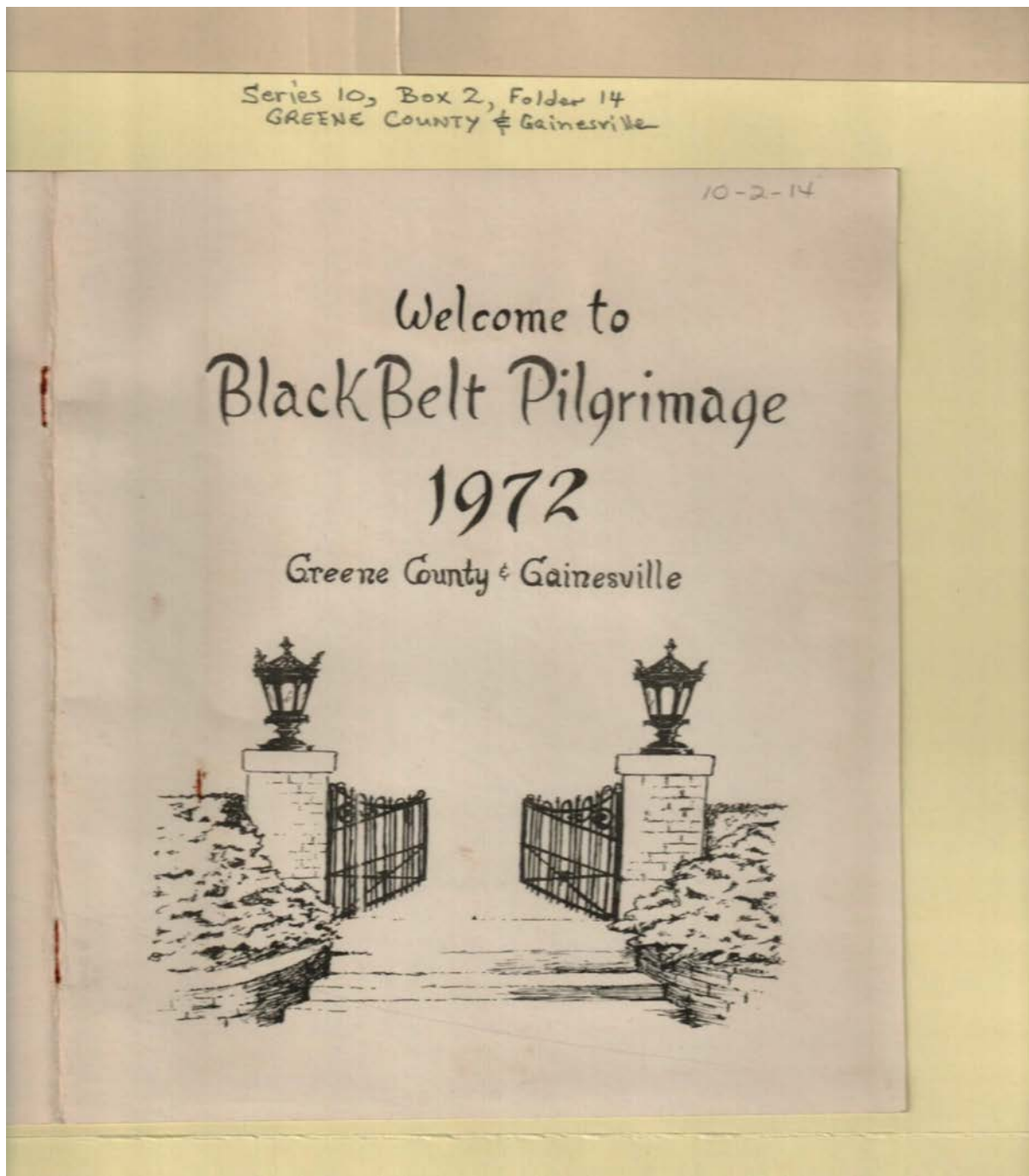


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 14

"Black Belt Pilgrimage," Greene County, 1972

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Names:

Black Belt Pilgrimage

Places:

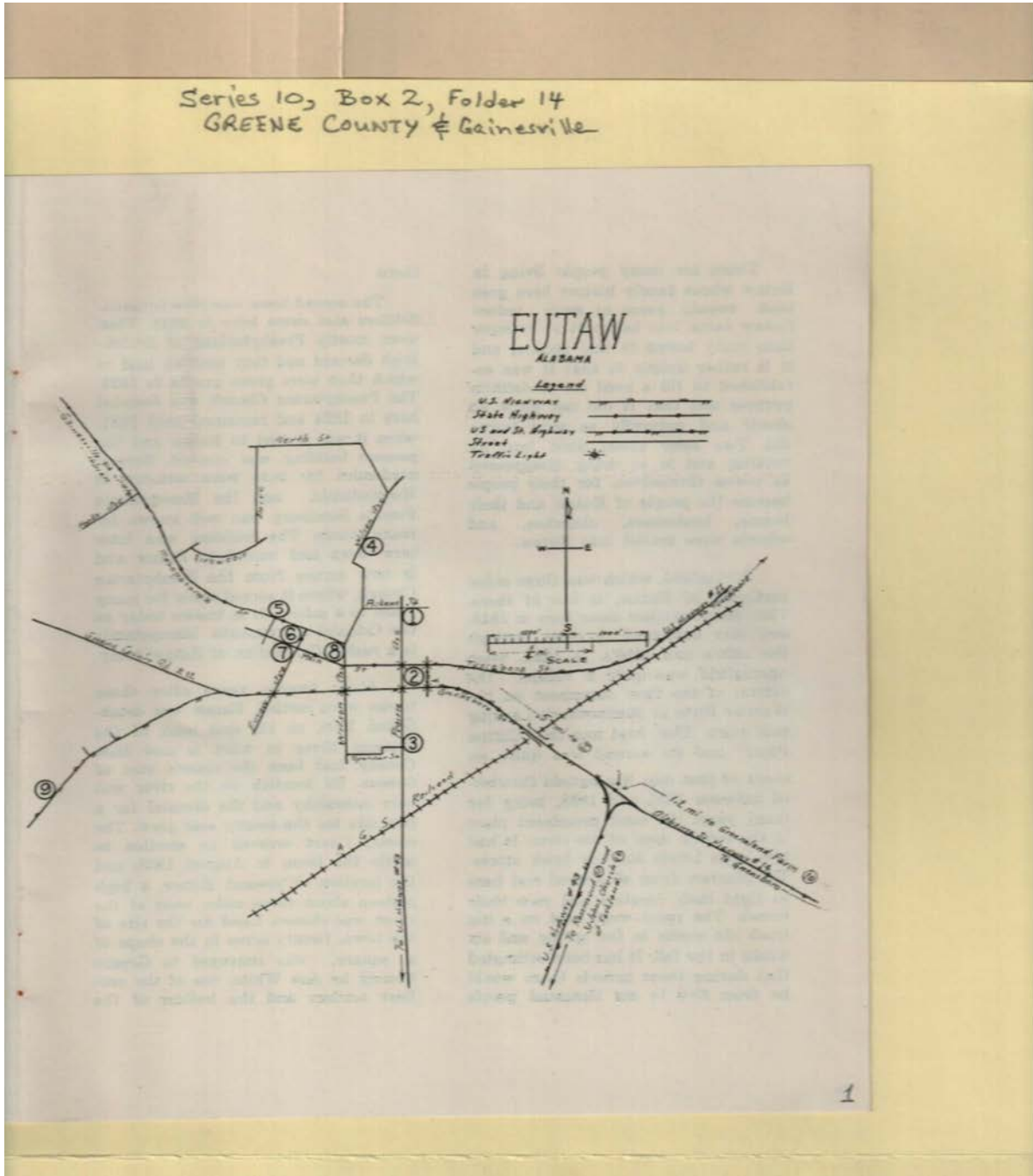
Greene Co., AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

1972



Names:

Eutaw, Alabama Map

Places:

Eutaw, AL

Types:

map

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 14
GREENE COUNTY \neq Gainesville

There are many people living in Eutaw whose family history here goes back twenty years or more before Eutaw came into being. It is younger than many towns in this section, and it is rather unique in that it was established to fill a need for a definite purpose and that it did not grow up slowly and naturally as most towns did. Two older towns went into its making, and in so doing disappeared as towns themselves, for their people became the people of Eutaw and their homes, businesses, churches, and schools were moved into Eutaw.

Springfield, which was three miles northeast of Eutaw, is one of them. The earliest settlers came here in 1818, and they continued to come through the 1820's and 1830's. In 1821, when Springfield was quite a village, the arrival of the first steamboat on the Warrior River at Meriwether's Landing took place. That boat was the "Cotton Plant" and its arrival was quite an event of that day. Springfield flourished between 1825 and 1838, being for many years the most prominent place in the county west of the river. It had two large hotels and big brick stores. The planters from all around met here to fight their roosters and race their horses. The races were held on a big track six weeks in the spring and six weeks in the fall. It has been estimated that during these periods there would be from five to six thousand people

there.

The second town was Mesopotamia. Settlers also came here in 1818. They were mostly Presbyterians of Scotch-Irish descent and they took up land to which they were given grants in 1823. The Presbyterian Church was founded here in 1824 and remained until 1851, when it was moved to Eutaw and the present building was erected. Several academies for boys were situated in Mesopotamia, and the Mesopotamia Female Seminary was well known for many years. The building was later torn down and moved to Eutaw and is now across from the Presbyterian Church, where it served again for many years as a school. It is known today as the Colonial Apartments. Mesopotamia is a residential section of Eutaw today.

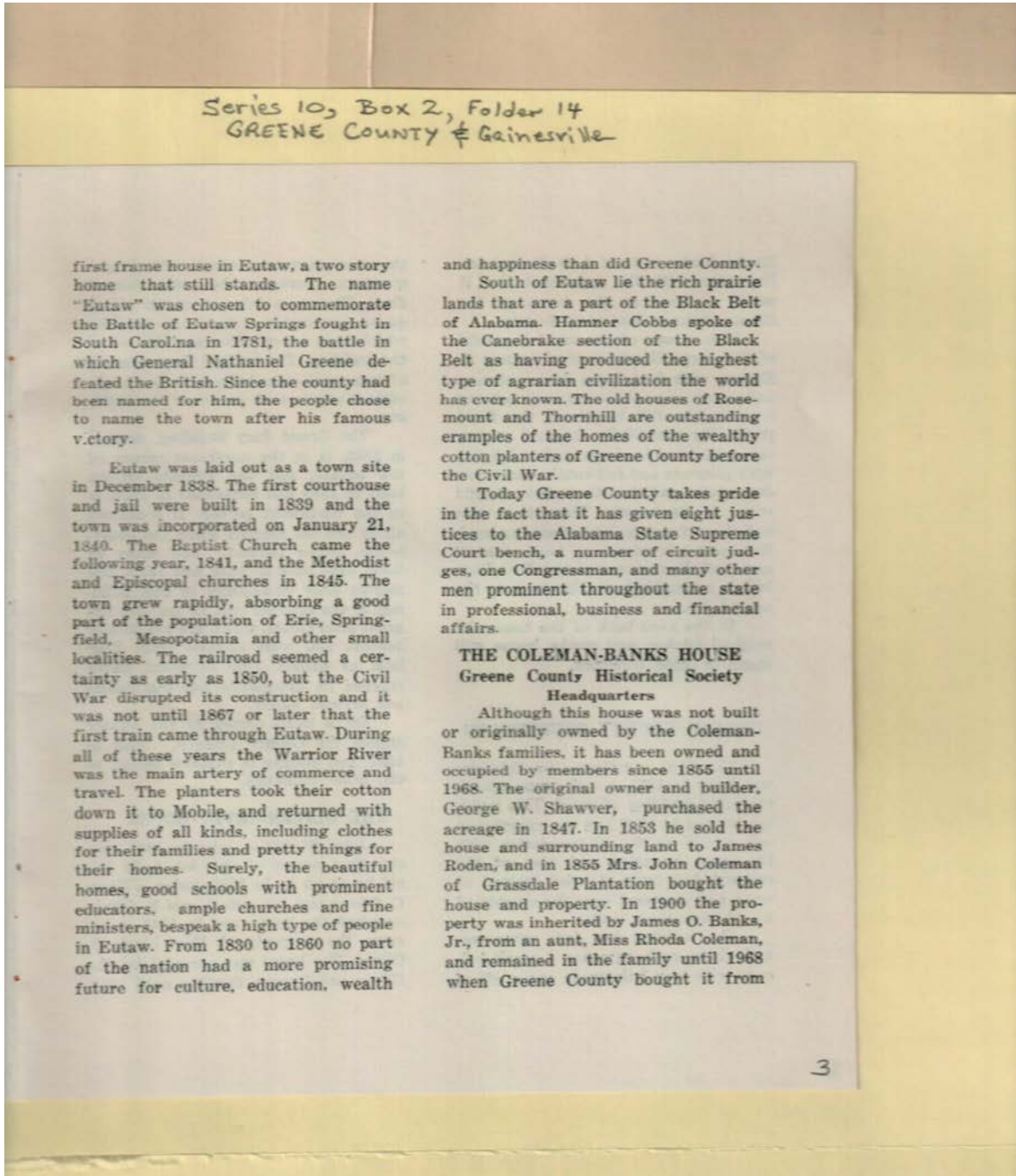
About twenty years after these towns were settled, Eutaw was established. Erie, on the east bank of the Warrior River in what is now Hale County, had been the county seat of Greene. Its location on the river was very unhealthy and the demand for a new site for the county seat grew. The county Court ordered an election to settle the issue in August 1838, and the location of present Eutaw, a high plateau about three miles west of the river, was chosen. Land for the site of the town, twenty acres in the shape of a square, was conveyed to Greene County by Asa White, one of the earliest settlers and the builder of the

Names:

White, Asa

Types:

essay



Names:

Banks, James O., Jr.
Cobbs, Hamner
Coleman, John, Mrs.

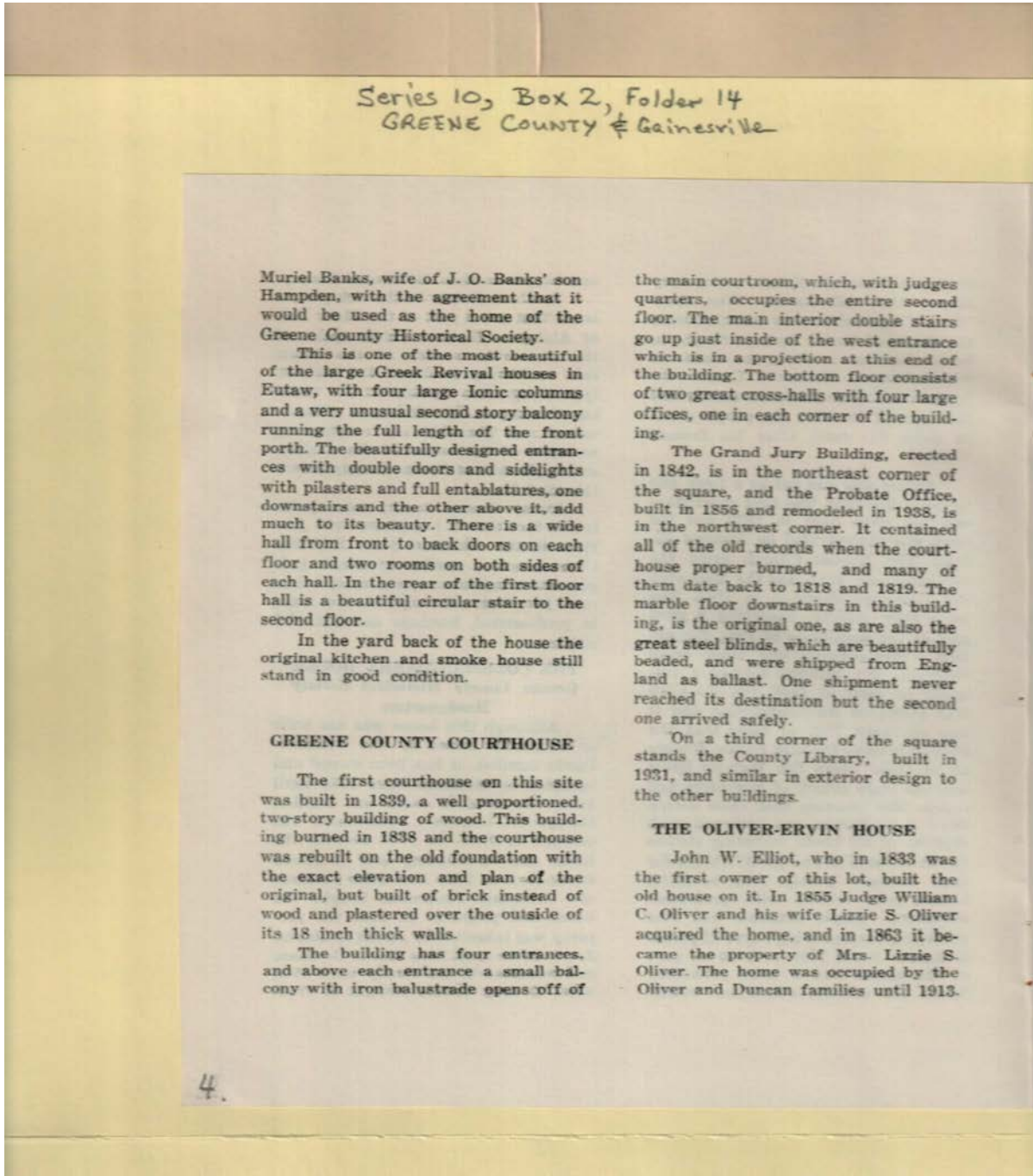
Coleman, Rhoda,
Miss

Greene, Nathaniel,
General
Roden, James

Shawver, George W.

Types:

essay



Names:

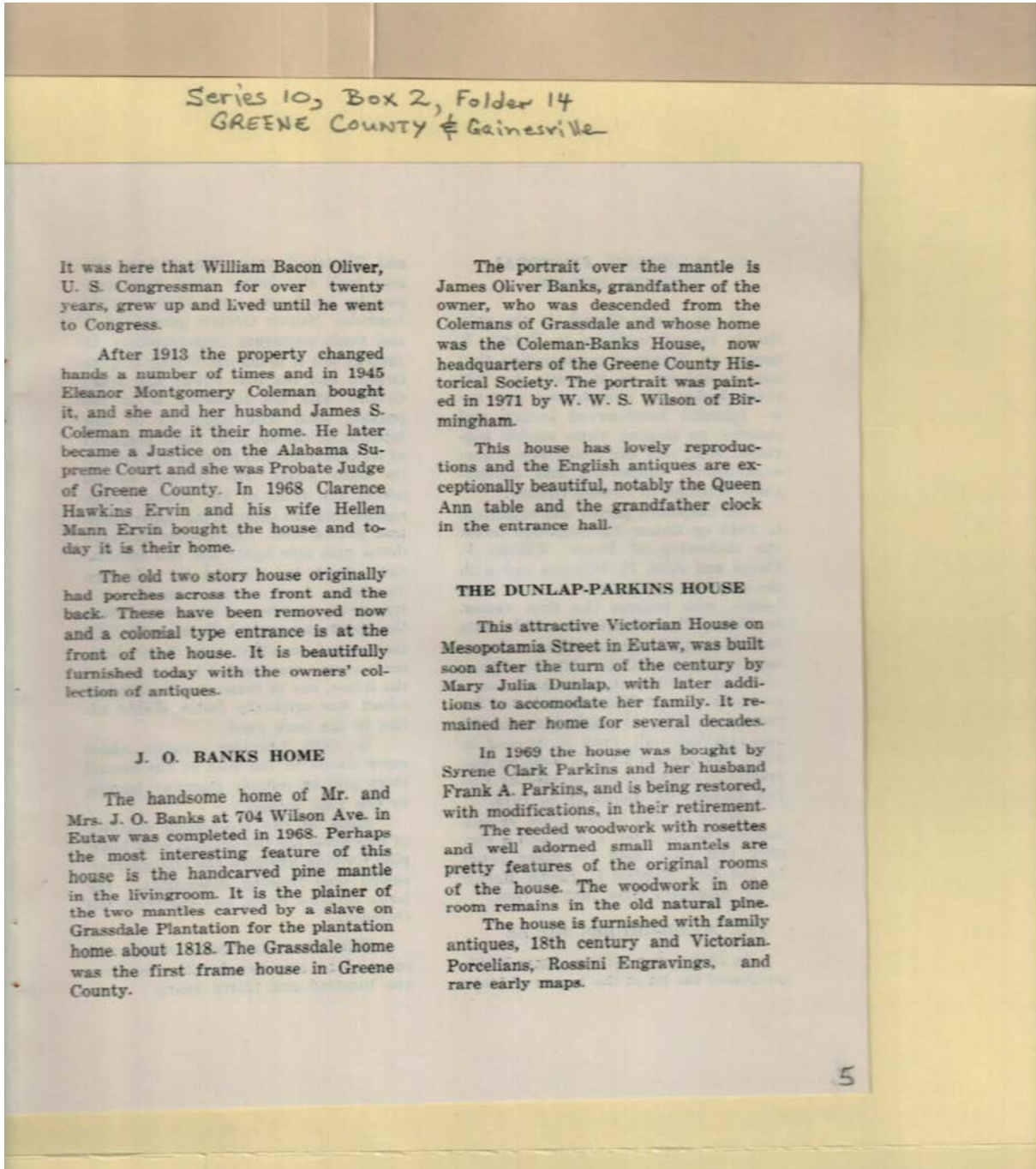
Banks, Hampden
Banks, J. O.
Banks, Muriel

Duncan,
Elliot, John W.
Ervin,

Oliver,
Oliver, Lizzie S.,
Mrs.

Types:

essay



Names:

Banks, James Oliver,
Mr. & Mrs.
Coleman, Eleanor
Montgomery

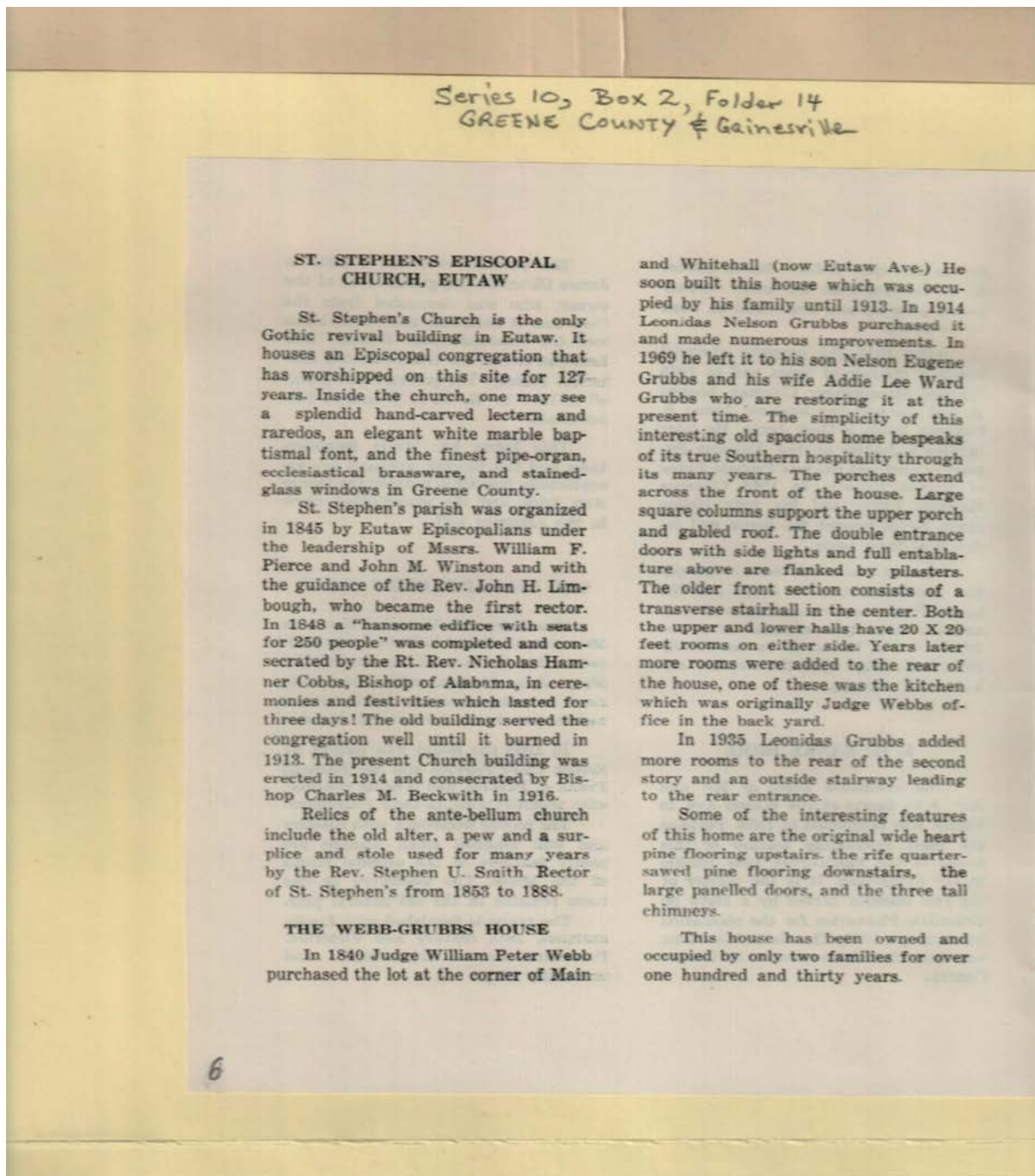
Coleman, James S.
Dunlap, Mary Julia
Ervin, Clarence
Hawkins

Ervin, Hellen Mann
Oliver, William
Bacon
Parkins, Frank A.

Parkins, Syrene Clark
Wilson, W. W. S.

Types:

essay



Names:

Beckwith, Charles M.
Cobbs, Nicholas
Hamner, Rev.
Grubbs, Addie Lee
Ward

Grubbs, Leonidas
Nelson
Grubbs, Nelson
Eugene

Limbough, John H.,
Rev.
Pierce, William F.
Smith, Stephen U.,
Rev.

Webb, William Peter,
Judge
Winston, John M.

Types:

essay

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 14
GREENE COUNTY Gainesville

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The church was organized in 1824 under the name of Mesopotamia Presbyterian Church, and it was moved into Eutaw proper in 1851 and the present building was erected. It is a charming white frame building, three-bayed at the ends and five-bayed along the flanks, with tall flat pilasters defining each bay. These pilasters are simply capped and tied in with the heavy mouldings of the cornice. The end gables are pedimented, and there is no ornament in the entablature. A square bell tower, with coupled pilasters at the corners, set on a high base and surmounted by an octagonal spire, rises above the roof at the front. Broad steps ascent to the lovely entrance door, which is vertically paneled.

Neither the exterior nor the sanctuary, which is on the upper floor, has been changed to any extent. The large Sunday School room on the first floor has been converted into class rooms, and the entire building, exterior and interior, has been repaired, painted and redecorated. A double set of stairs in the vestibule go up to the sanctuary on the second floor. This is a beautiful interior, with tall shuttered windows on both sides and great restraint in the decor. The original whale oil pulpit lamps and the old chandeliers have been wired for electricity. A slave gallery is in the rear of the sanctuary.

In 1959 an adjoining Educational

Building, in keeping with the architecture of the church, was erected. A picture and history of the church appear in "Look To The Rock," a book published by the John Knox Press in 1961, featuring one hundred ante-bellum Presbyterian Churches of the South.

THE RALPH BANKS HOME

The Ralph Banks home at 850 Boligee Road was completed in 1942 although the north and east wings were not added until 1954.

Most of the furnishings are heirlooms and reproductions. The hall table is one half of the old Coleman dining table and the grandfather clock in the hall once stood on the stair landing in the Coleman-Banks home which is now Greene County Historical Societies Headquarters. The large mirror in the livingroom also came from the Coleman-Banks house. Some well meaning former mistress painted over the aging goldleaf with gilt. The table beneath this mirror is the other half of the Coleman dining table. The portrait over the living room mantle is William Proctor Gould who lived at Hill of Howth near Boligee and the one over the gardenroom mantle is his wife, Eliza Chotard Gould, great great grandparents of the owner. These are copies of the originals painted in 1836 by James Lambdin. The copies were paint-

Names:

Banks, Ralph
Coleman,

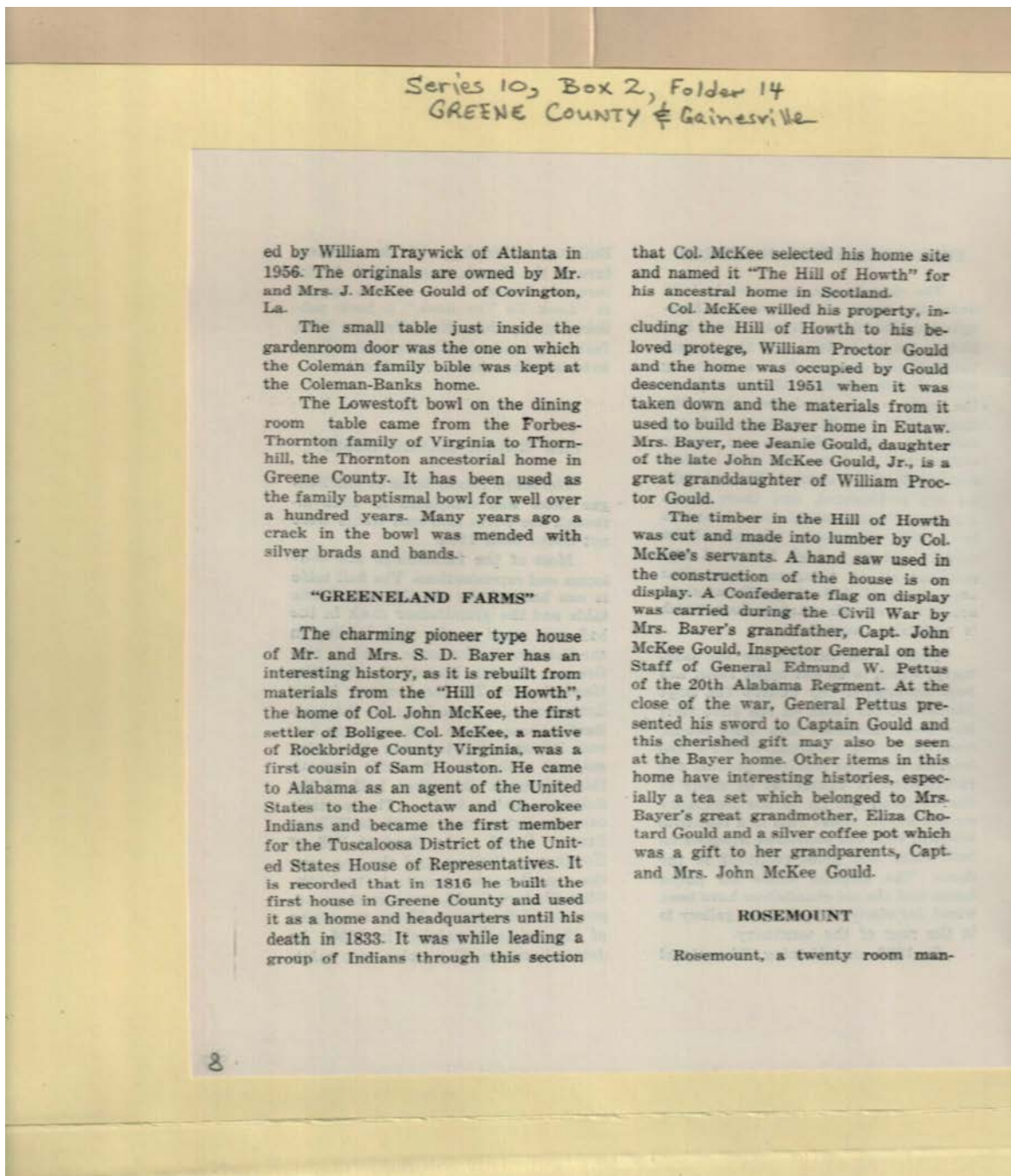
Gould, Eliza Chotard

Gould, William
Proctor

Lambdin, James

Types:

essay



Names:

Banks,
Bayer, Mrs.
Bayer, S. D., Mr. &
Mrs.
Coleman,
Forbes,

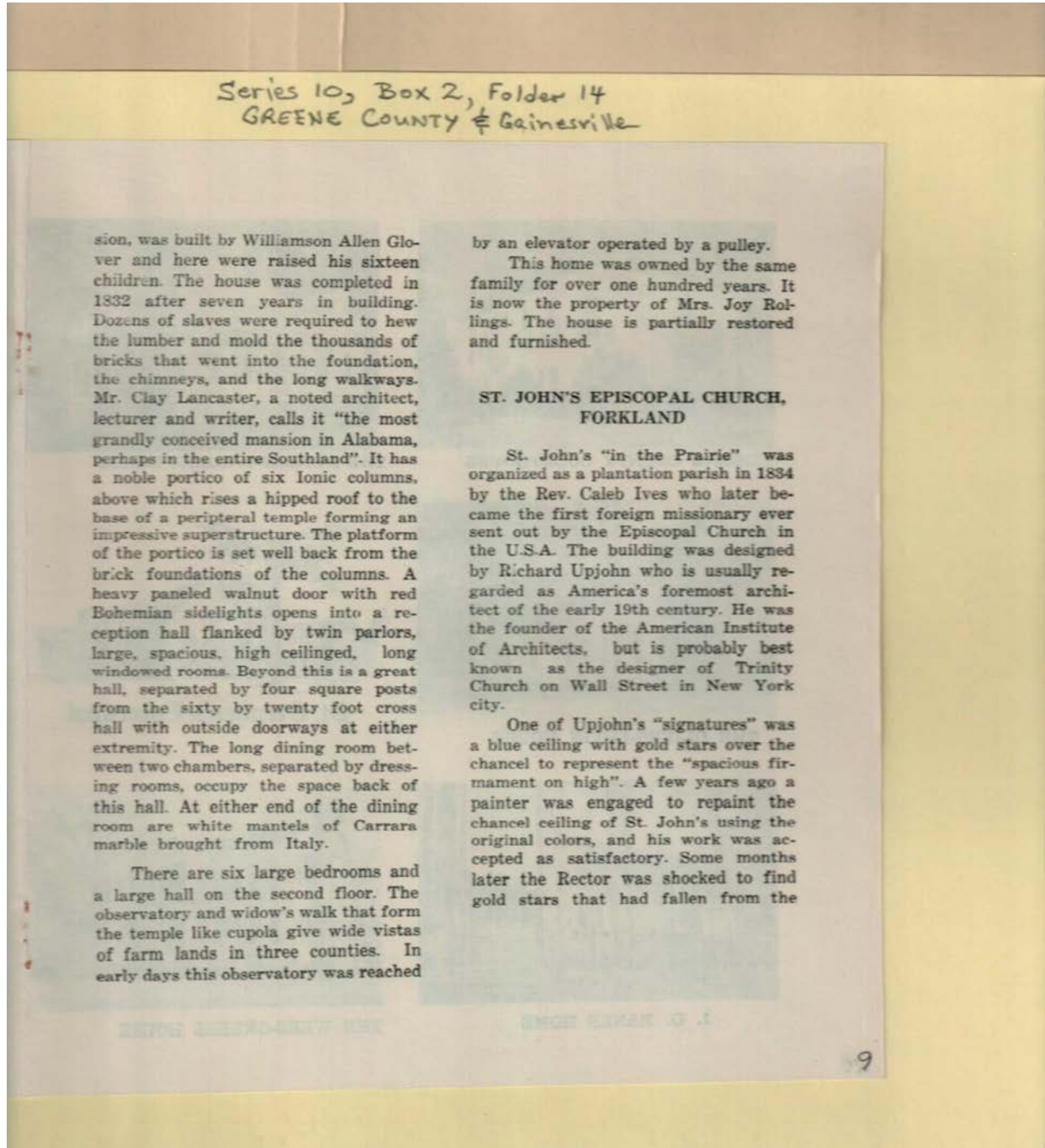
Gould, Eliza Chotard
Gould, J. McKee, Mr.
& Mrs.
Gould, Jeanie
Gould, John McKee,
Captain & Mrs.

Gould, John McKee,
Jr.
Gould, William
Proctor
Houston, Sam

McKee, John,
Colonel
Pettus, Edmund W.,
General
Thornton
Traywick, William

Types:

essay



Names:

Glover, Williamson
Allen

Ives, Caleb, Rev.
Lancaster, Clay

Rollings, Joy, Mrs.
Upjohn, Richard

Types:

essay



Names:

Dunlap-Parkins
House
First Presbyterian
Church

Greene County
Courthouse
Greenland Farms
J. O. Banks Home

Mt Hebron Christian
Church
Oliver-Ervin House
Ralph Banks Home
Rosemont

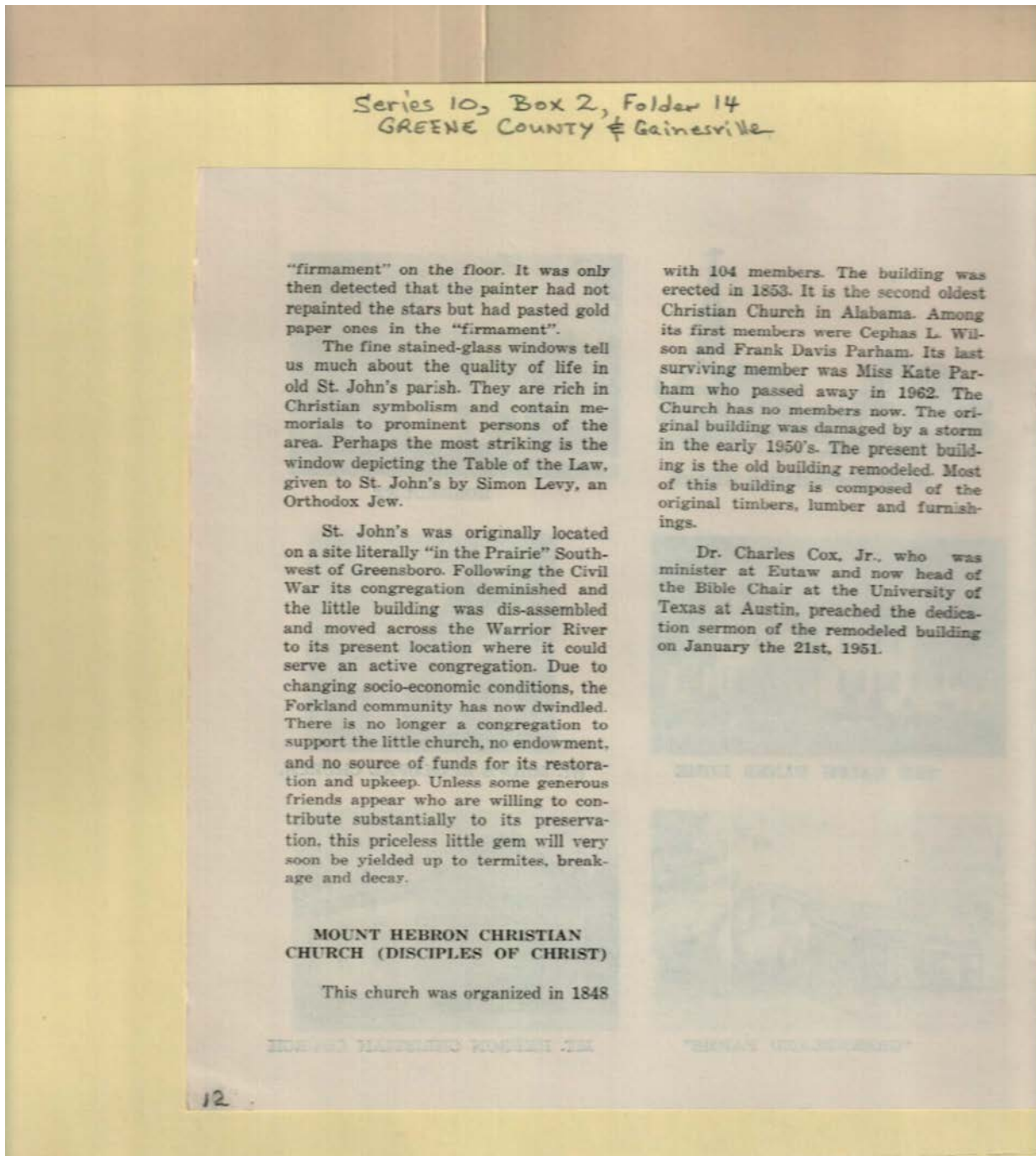
St. John's Episcopal
Church
St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Webb-Grubbs Home

Places:

Greene Co., AL

Types:

photograph



Names:

Cox, Charles, Jr., Dr.

Levy, Simon

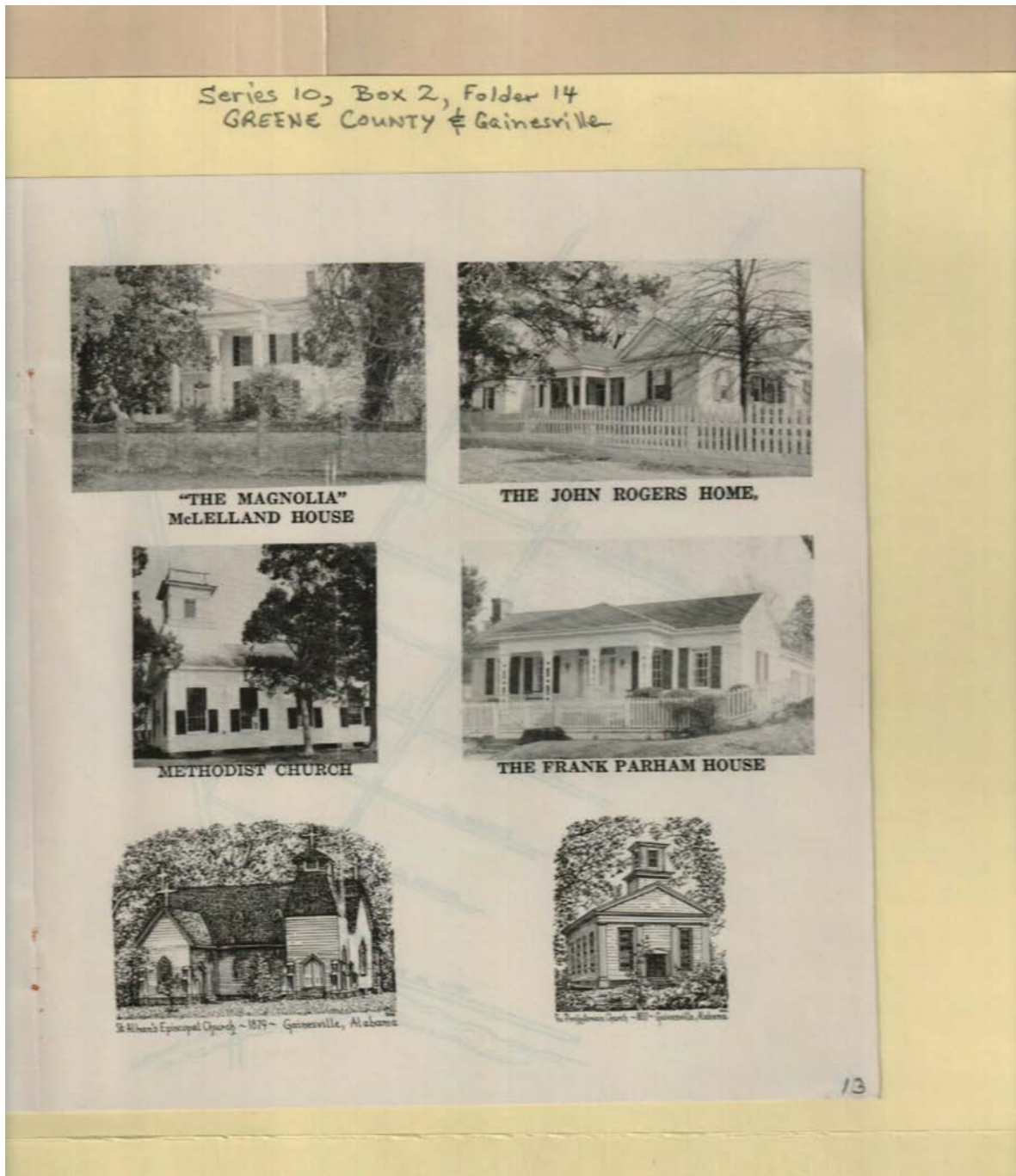
Parham, Frank Davis

Parham, Kate, Miss

Wilson, Cephas L.

Types:

essay



Names:

Frank Parham House
John Rogers Home

Magnolia-McLelland
House

Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church

St. Alban's Episcopal
Church

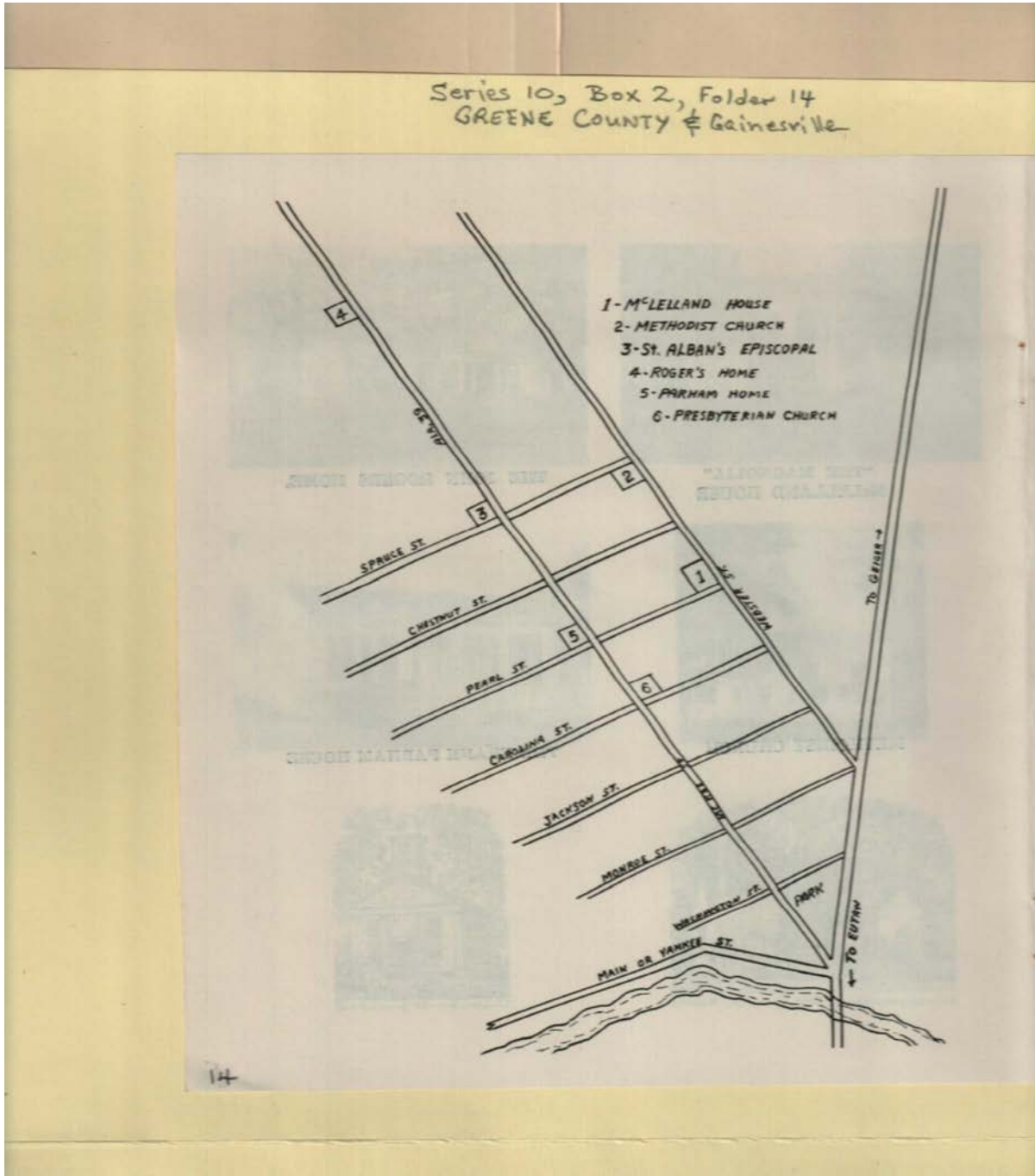
Types:

photograph

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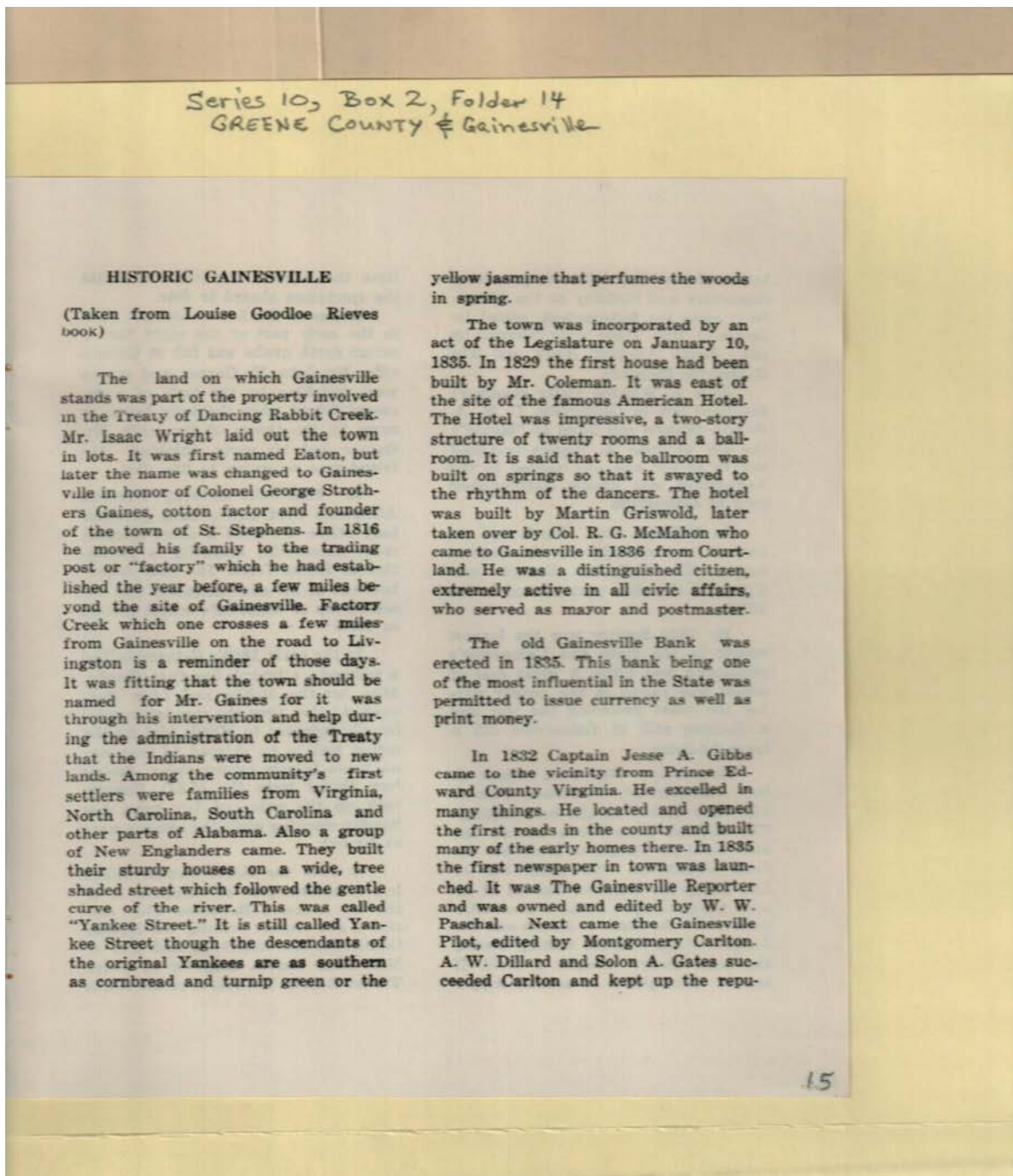


Names:

Gainesville, AL

Types:

map



Names:

Coleman,
Dillard, A. W.
Gaines, George
Strothers, Colonel

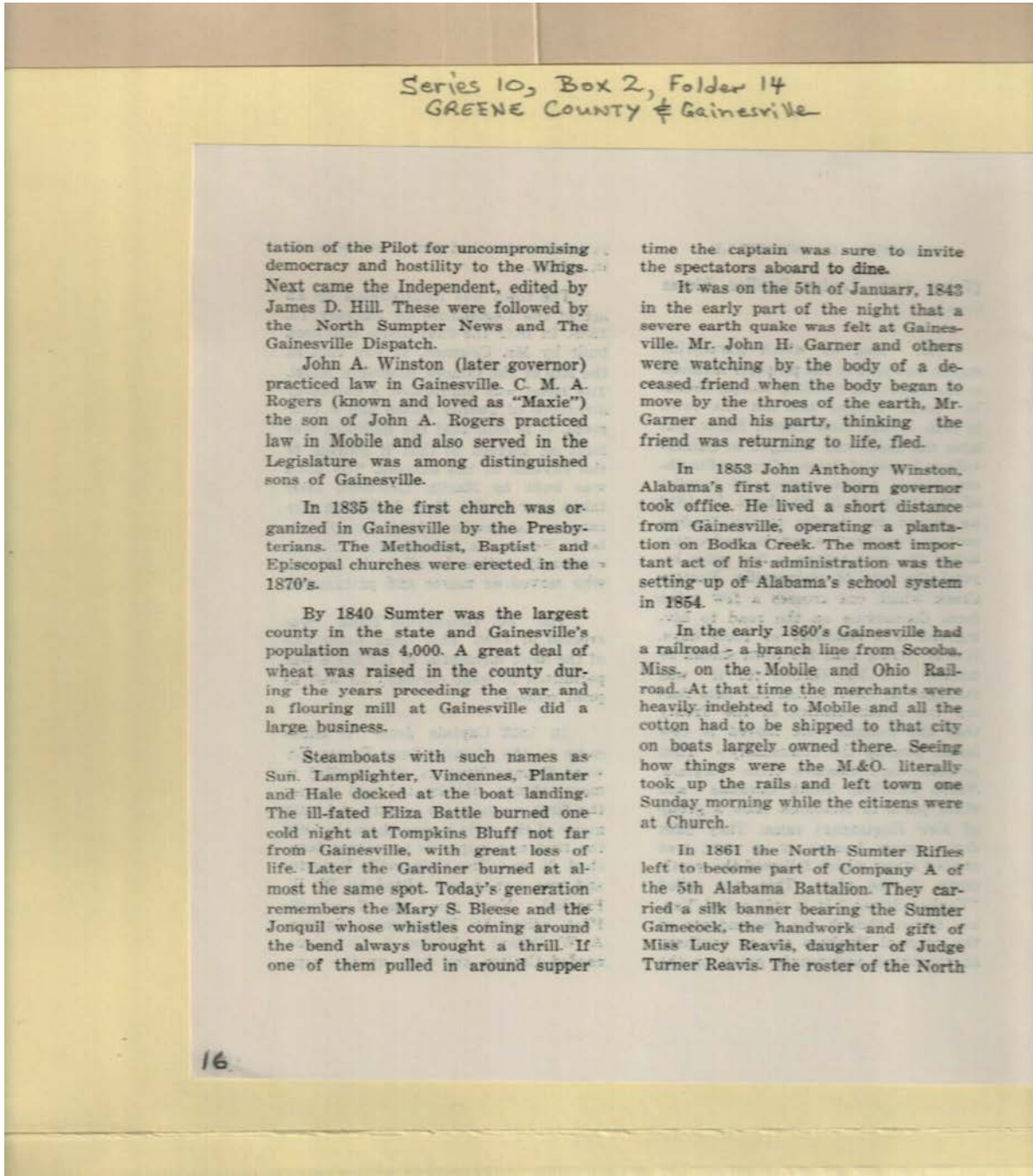
Gates, Solon A.
Gibbs, Jesse A.,
Captain
Griswold, Martin

McMahon, R. G.,
Colonel
Paschal, W. W.

Rieves, Louise
Goodloe
Wright, Isaac
Historic Gainesville

Types:

essay



Names:

Eliza Battle (Steamer)
Gardiner (Steamer)
Garner, John H.
Hale (Steamer)
Hill, James D.
Jonquil (Steamer)

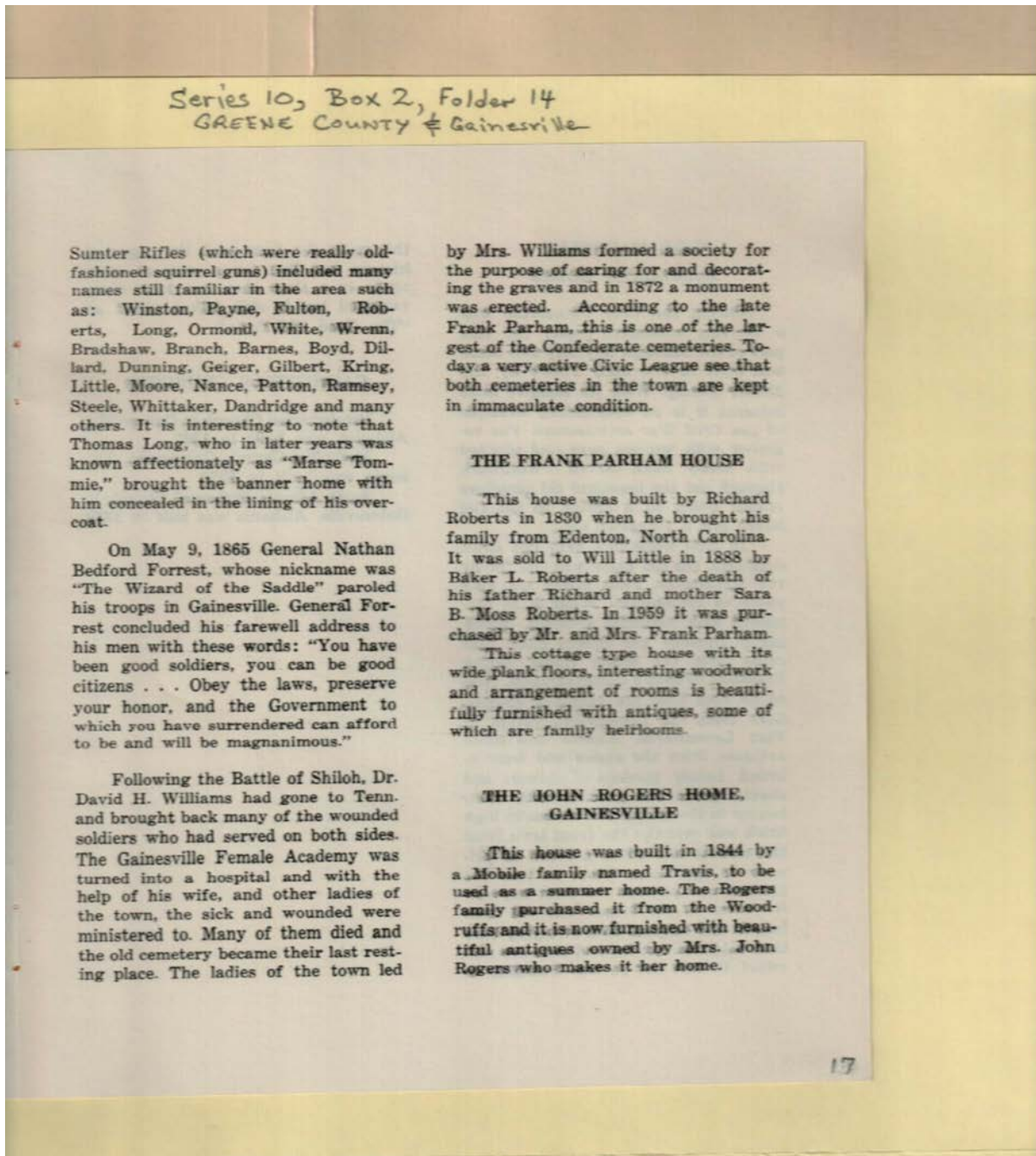
Lamplighter
(Steamer)
Mary S. Bleese
(Steamer)
Planter (Steamer)
Reavis, Lucy, Miss

Reavis, Turner, Judge
Rogers, C. M. A.
Maxie
Rogers, John A.
Sun (Steamer)
Vincennes (Steamer)

Winston, John A.
Winston, John
Anthony

Types:

essay



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GREENE COUNTY Gainesville

Sumter Rifles (which were really old-fashioned squirrel guns) included many names still familiar in the area such as: Winston, Payne, Fulton, Roberts, Long, Ormond, White, Wrenn, Bradshaw, Branch, Barnes, Boyd, Dillard, Dunning, Geiger, Gilbert, Kring, Little, Moore, Nance, Patton, Ramsey, Steele, Whittaker, Dandridge and many others. It is interesting to note that Thomas Long, who in later years was known affectionately as "Marse Tommie," brought the banner home with him concealed in the lining of his overcoat.

On May 9, 1865 General Nathan Bedford Forrest, whose nickname was "The Wizard of the Saddle" paroled his troops in Gainesville. General Forrest concluded his farewell address to his men with these words: "You have been good soldiers, you can be good citizens . . . Obey the laws, preserve your honor, and the Government to which you have surrendered can afford to be and will be magnanimous."

Following the Battle of Shiloh, Dr. David H. Williams had gone to Tenn. and brought back many of the wounded soldiers who had served on both sides. The Gainesville Female Academy was turned into a hospital and with the help of his wife, and other ladies of the town, the sick and wounded were ministered to. Many of them died and the old cemetery became their last resting place. The ladies of the town led

by Mrs. Williams formed a society for the purpose of caring for and decorating the graves and in 1872 a monument was erected. According to the late Frank Parham, this is one of the largest of the Confederate cemeteries. Today a very active Civic League see that both cemeteries in the town are kept in immaculate condition.

THE FRANK PARHAM HOUSE

This house was built by Richard Roberts in 1830 when he brought his family from Edenton, North Carolina. It was sold to Will Little in 1888 by Baker L. Roberts after the death of his father Richard and mother Sara B. Moss Roberts. In 1959 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Parham.

This cottage type house with its wide plank floors, interesting woodwork and arrangement of rooms is beautifully furnished with antiques, some of which are family heirlooms.

THE JOHN ROGERS HOME, GAINESVILLE

This house was built in 1844 by a Mobile family named Travis, to be used as a summer home. The Rogers family purchased it from the Woodruffs and it is now furnished with beautiful antiques owned by Mrs. John Rogers who makes it her home.

Names:

Barnes,
Boyd,
Bradshaw,
Branch,
Dandridge
Dillard,
Dunning,
Forrest, Nathan
Bedford, General
Fulton,
Geiger,

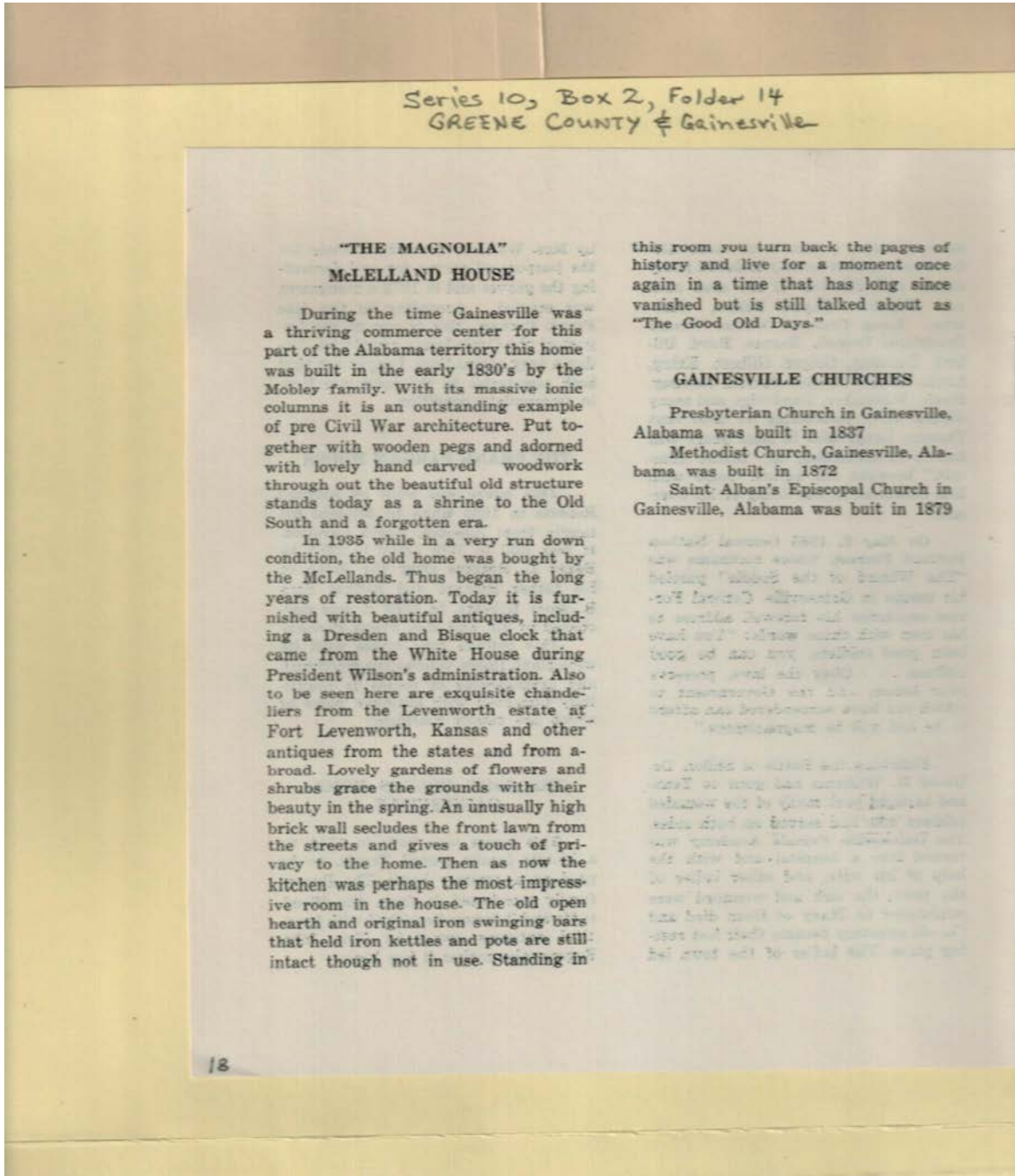
Gilbert,
Kring,
Little,
Little, Will
Long,
Long, Thomas
Moore,
Nance,
Ormond,
Parham, Frank, Mr. &
Mrs.

Patton,
Payne,
Ramsey,
Roberts,
Roberts, Baker L.
Roberts, Richard
Roberts, Sara B.
Moss
Rogers, John
Rogers, John, Mrs.
Steele,

Travis,
White,
Whittaker,
Williams, David H.,
Dr.
Williams, Mrs.
Winston,
Woodruff,
Wrenn,

Types:

essay



Names:

McLelland,

Wilson, President

Types:

essay

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GREENE COUNTY Gainesville

PILGRIMAGE HOURS

Saturday, April 8 . 9:30 A.M. - 12 Noon
1:00 P.M. - 5 P.M.
Sunday, April 9 1 P.M. - 5 P.M.

The houses and churches to be open for the Pilgrimage in Eutaw are as follows:

- (1) The Coleman-Banks House
(Greene County Historical Headquarters)
- (2) Court House - Probate Office, on Square
- (3) Oliver-Ervin House
- (4) J. O. Banks House
- (5) Dunlap-Parkins
- (6) St. Stephens Episcopal Church
- (7) The Webb-Grubbs House
- (8) The First Presbyterian Church of Eutaw
- (9) The Ralph Banks House
- (10) Greeneland Farms (Spencer Bayer House)
- (11) Rosemount
- (12) St. Johns Episcopal Church at Forkland
- (13) Mount Hebron Christian Church

IN GAINESVILLE

- (1) The Frank Parham Home
 - (2) The John Rogers Home
 - (3) "The Magnolia"
(McLelland Home)
- The Churches open: Baptist, St. Alban's Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian.

This brochure was published by the Greene County Historical Society, whose officers are: Mr. Edwin A. Tuck, President; Mrs. J. D. Herndon, Vice-President; Mrs. Taylor Byrd, Secretary; Mr. Frank A. Parkins, Treasurer; Rev. Frank Moseley, Historian.

Material for the publication was prepared by: Mrs. Ralph R. Banks and Mrs. John E. Taylor, Co-Chairman of the Pilgrimage

Mrs. Cecil R. Glass
Miss Ezrene Bouchelle
Owners of Tour Homes
Mr. Richard Martin Photographs and Gainesville Map
Mr. C. H. (Judge) Ervin Greene County Map
Mrs. Collen Browder Brochure Cover
Sandwich lunch will be available at Greene County Headquarters
Tickets will be sold at each home for \$1.00 with the exception of "The Magnolia" - \$2.00. Churches free.

ANTIQUES DISPLAY AND SALE BY

THRA-JANE'S ANTIQUES at Historical Headquarters, Eutaw, Alabama

19

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Banks, Ralph
Banks, Ralph R.,
Mrs.
Bouchelle, Ezrene,
Miss

Browder, Collen,
Mrs.
Byrd, Taylor, Mrs.
Coleman,
Ervin,
Ervin, C. H., Judge

Glass, Cecil R., Mrs.
Grubbs,
Herndon, J. D., Mrs.
Martin, Richard
Moseley, Frank, Rev.
Oliver,

Parham, Frank
Parkins, Frank A.
Rogers, John
Taylor, John E., Mrs.
Tuck, Edwin A.
Webb,

Types:

program

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"Black Belt Pilgrimage," Greene County, 1972

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THE COLEMAN-BANKS HOUSE Greene County Historical Society Headquarters

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Coleman-Banks
House

Places:

Greene Co., AL

Types:

photograph

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[Image 7](#) (r10_02-14-000-0026)

[Image 8](#) (r10_02-14-000-0027)

[Image 9](#) (r10_02-14-000-0028)

[Image 10](#) (r10_02-14-000-0029)

[Image 11](#) (r10_02-14-000-0030)

[Image 12](#) (r10_02-14-000-0031)

[Image 13](#) (r10_02-14-000-0032)

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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Provenance: Gift of Johanna Shields on October 28, 2006.



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