

FREDERIC F. MELLEN, GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES  
1202 STANDARD LIFE BUILDING  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201



Mrs. Louis~~a~~ W. G. Williams,  
312 Williams Avenue,  
Huntsville, Alabama 35807

Alabama Sesquicentennial - Huntsville

August 2, 1969

Attendance by: Frederic F. Mellen and Arthur Rice Mellen II

INTRODUCTION: On July 1, 1969 Mrs. E. R. Lloyd (Mary Clay), 106 N. Jefferson St., Starkville, Mississippi wrote: "Dear Frederic, In the current issue of The Demopolis Times (Ala.) is a notice of a meeting at Huntsville, Ala. on August 2 honoring direct descendants of the signers of the first Alabama Constitution in 1819. Descendants are requested to write: Direct Descendants, P. O. Box 1512, Huntsville, Ala. 35807. You are eligible through Judge Arthur Hopkins, a member of the special committees. I have phoned your Aunt Harriet here. Genealogical data on descendants is requested."

On July 10 Aunt Harriet, Mrs. Horace H. Harned, Sr. (Harriet McFarland Rice), Box 265, State College, Mississippi 39762, wrote me giving additional details. On July 13 I wrote to Direct Descendants giving names and addresses of myself, my brother, my sisters, my two sons, my two daughters and of my six (6) grandchildren, as well as the line of descent, i. e.:



Judge Arthur Francis Hopkins,  
Augusta Hopkins (Rice),  
Arthur Hopkins Rice, M. D.,  
Frances McFarland Rice (Mellen),  
Frederic Francis Mellen,  
u.s.w.

On July 19, I received the special printed invitation with the enclosed card reading: "You will be honored as a descendant of Arthur F. Hopkins, a signer of the Alabama 1819 Constitution."

THE TRIP: At 4:00 A.M. Saturday, August 2, 1969, my elder son, Arthur Rice Mellen and I left Jackson, Mississippi for Huntsville, Alabama in my 1968 Toyota "Corona." Gasoline was added in Tupelo where we ate breakfast. We arrived in Huntsville about 9:45. After driving about town and looking in at the New Madison County Court House, buying and addressing a few Alabama commemorative covers and stamps and stamping and mailing them, we decided we would not have time to attend the initial ceremonies at the stadium; so we proceeded to the Carriage Inn, filling the car's gastank with gasoline, meanwhile.

At the \$7.00 Luncheon (jellied consomme, turkey with chestnut dressing, glazed yams, minted peas, mixed green salad, beaten biscuits, raspberry fool and coffee) Arthur and I were seated with four (4) other descendants, ladies, of Huntsville, among whom were:

Margaret (Newman) Hutchens  
609 Adams Street;  
Eleanor (Newman) Hutchens,  
300 Williams Ave., SE.;  
Louisa W. G. Williams, ✓  
312 Williams Ave.

The two Newman women are widows of brothers Hutchens; I told them I knew their father, W. W. Newman, very well about 1939-42 when he was drilling wells for oil in the New Hope area of Madison County, Alabama; and that I had visited him in their home - the Bibb Mansion, built by Thomas Bibb for his daughter Adeline. After losing the property in 1844, it came back into the Bibb family in 1927 when it was purchased by the W. W. Newmans - Mrs. Newman a great-great-granddaughter of Thomas Bibb (see Ralph Hammond's Ante-bellum Mansions of Alabama, Bonanza Books, N.Y., 1951, pp.59-62.)

In looking about the dining hall we spotted Aunt Harriet and Frances Rice Bartran (Windham) who had driven up together from Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. They were sitting at a nearby table with Alice Walker Conley and her son Bill of Frederick, Md. Later in the day we met Dr. John Walker (veterinarian of Huntsville and brother of Alice) and his daughter, Alice. Mrs. Conley and John Walker, D.V.M., are children of Richard Wilde Walker, U.S.A., who was the only child of my grandfather's only sister, Nannie Herndon Rice (Walker), whom we knew as "Gran-Nan", and for whom "Aunt Nannie" was named.

At the luncheon Mr. Frederick Martin presided. Invocation was by Rev. Roger Miller, pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Mr. Kenneth E. Johnson, welcome was extended by Mr. James R. Record, Chairman, Madison County Board of Commissioners, a talk (one of three (3) by him during the day) by Post Master General Winton M. Blount, and response and appreciation by Mayor of Huntsville, Joe W. Davis. Among those introduced were Senator John Sparkman, former Governor Jim Folsom, and Richard Walker Bolling, U. S. Representative from the 5th District of Missouri, formerly of Huntsville.

The main event of the day was in the large new Madison County Courthouse in the square above Huntsville Spring. The program follows:

### *Commemorative Program*

150th Anniversary, Signing of Alabama's 1819 Constitution

*Honoring Descendants of the Signers*

2:00 P. M. - 2 August, 1969

Madison County Courthouse

Huntsville, Alabama

*2:00 PM*

Organist .....	Malcolm Tate
Master of Ceremonies .....	Dr. William M. McKissack
	Vice-President, Huntsville Historical Society
Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance .....	Boy Scouts
Invocation .....	The Rev. W. Nelson Guthrie, Jr.
	Lakewood United Methodist Church
Welcome to the County .....	James Record
	Chairman, Board of Commissioners of Madison County
Welcome to the City .....	Joe Davis
	Mayor, City of Huntsville
Choral Selections .....	The Voices, First Baptist Church
	Director, John E. Jennings; Accompanist, Mrs. John E. Jennings
Introduction of Speaker .....	Senator John J. Sparkman
Commemoration Address .....	Richard Walker Bolling
	United States Representative, 5th District, Missouri
Preservation of the Constitution .....	Milo B. Howard
	Director, State of Alabama Department of Archives and History
Search for Signers' Descendants .....	Mrs. V. William Hamner, Jr.
	Chairman for Location of Descendants
Presentation, Scrols of Signers .....	Mrs. Richard H. Gilliam, Jr.
	President, Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society
Recognition of Descendants .....	Senator John J. Sparkman
In Appreciation .....	Mrs. Burke S. Fisk
	President, Huntsville Historical Society

*2:00 PM*



Arthur Rice Harned and Agnes Beatrice Harnd were scheduled to arrive in Huntsville by bus from New York early in the afternoon. Unfortunately, the bus arrived about 6:30 P.M. much to the annoyance and inconvenience of themselves and their mother and Frances (Windham). This party of four went on to Oktibbeha County that evening. Arthur Mellen and I returned to Jackson by the route we had come: US-72-Alt Huntsville to Decatur, Ala-24 Decatur via Moulton and Russellville to Red Bay, Miss-23 Red Bay to Tremont, US-78 Tremont to Tupelo and Natchez Trace on into Jackson. We ate and "gassed-up" at Tupelo and arrived in Jackson just before 12:00 P.M., having had a 20-hour day and driven nearly 700 miles.

SUMMARY: I was pleased to visit Huntsville again after an absence of perhaps 15 years. The Community has greatly changed. It was an opportunity to be with Arthur for a day and to see much country-side already familiar to me, but new in part to Arthur. The event permitted us to be with Aunt Harriet and Frances and with them to get acquainted with a few of our Walker relatives who, besides being descended from Judge Hopkins, are also directly descended from John William Walker, President of the Alabama Constitutional Convention.

I left an autographed copy of Nannie Herndon Rice - A Memorial Anthology with the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 1512, Huntsville, Alabama 35807. It is pleasing to see and realize how Huntsville has grown, and that that now it is a vast educational and scientific research and development center.

Aunt Harriet was approached (after introductions of direct descendants, those of Judge Hopkins') by a lady from Birmingham who had prepared a paper (a copy of which Aunt Harriet is sending to me) on him for the D. A. R.(?). This lady and her husband have bought an old home at Greeneville, Alabama which they are restoring.

In conversation with Dr. Frances C. Roberts, a member of the University of Alabama-Huntsville History Faculty, she stated that she was surprised (in view of his importance to Alabama history) that no scholarly book had been published on life and works of Judge Hopkins. I told her that Aunt Nannie had prepared much of the old letters and documents and had presented these to the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa Library. Dr. Roberts is interested in the possibility of one of her graduate students undertake this work as a dissertation, and I gave her Aunt Harriet's name and address.

I feel sure that much will have been gained by many people through attendance at the Alabama Sesquicentennial Celebration in Huntsville, Alabama, August 2, 1969.

*Frederic F. Mellen*

Frederic F. Mellen  
1202 Standard Life Building  
Jackson, Mississippi 39212

You will be honored  
as a descendant of

*Arthur F. Hopkins*

A Signer of the  
Alabama 1819 Constitution

