

# THE KENIMER-TELFORD HOUSE

## PRELIMINARY INFORMATION



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DATE: OCTOBER 99

# CITY OF CLEVELAND GEORGIA

MAP CL1D

**DISCLAIMER**

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TAX MAP  
CLIC



117 PINE HILL  
 000000030052 WHITE CO GA

SCH SCHB  
 JARRARD STREET  
 10350 DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND

ID NO: C07 017  
 CARD NO. 1 OF 1  
 .00AC 1.000LT SRC=4INS  
 TW-1 C-0 EX- AT- LAST ACTION 19970807

CONSTRUCTION DETAIL				MARKET VALUE				DEPRECIATION				CORRELATION OF VALUE		
QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	VALUE	USE MOD	EFF. AREA	QUAL	BASE RATE	REPL. COST NEW	EYB	AYB	NORM	ECO FUN	PCT. COND	CREDENCE TO MARKET
3	CONT FOOTING	*	100101	3	440	92	36.80	130,592	1950	1870	4900	0000	5100	DEPR. BUILDING VALUE 66,600
5	WOOD	*												TOTAL DEPR. OB/XF VALUE 780
4	SIDG NO SHTG	*												TOTAL LAND VALUE - MARKET 13,200
3	GABLE	*												TOTAL MARKET VALUE - CARD 80,580
1	CORR/SHT MET	*												
5	DRYWALL	*												
14	CARPET	*												
8	SHEET VINYL	*												
3	GAS	*												
3	AIR-NOT DUCT	*												
1	NONE	*												
19	BAS-6FUS-OLL-0	*												
19	BAS-2FUS-OLL-0	*												
93	DESIGN*QUAL*SIZE	*												
99	1.04 1.00 95	*												
92	TOTAL QUALITY INDEX	*												

TYP	GS AREA	PCT	RPL	CS
BAS	1,866	100	68	888
FEP	228	070	5	107
FOP	940	035	12	107
FUS	1,206	090	39	928

PRIOR PERMIT INFO  
 13,200  
 70,140  
 83,340

SALES DATA						
OFF. RECORD	DATE	TYPE	QTY	INDICATED		
BOOK	PAGE	MO	YR	FIN.	U	I
00453	0506	03	96	WD	XI	
00453	0507	03	96	WD	XI	
00453	0508	03	96	WD	XI	8,500
00453	0510	03	96	WD	XI	
00369	0058	04	93	WD	XI	

FIREPL 5 2 OR MORE \$4000  
 4,240 130,592

CODE	DESCRIPTION	LTH	WTH	UNITS	UNIT PRICE	ORIG PCT COND	AYB	EYB	ANNO DEPR RTER	PCT. COND	OB/XF DEPR. VALUE
25	BARN	24	18	432.00	4.50	100	1940	1976	03	0.31	603
01	STORAGE	14	10	140.00	4.15	100	1960	1976	03	0.31	180

HTD AREA 3300

BUILDING DIMENSIONS  
 BAS-W15S44W21FEP-E21N18W6FOP-E6N26W6S26SS10W1  
 5S8SS18W8S31E18N31E26FOP-W26S31E8N23E18N8\$N62  
 \$PTR-E20FUS-S31E18N31E26FOP-W26S31E8N23E18N8\$  
 N18W36S18W8\$W20\$.

TOTAL OB/XF VALUE 783										LAND UNIT PRICE	TOTAL LAND UNITS	JNT TYP	TOTAL ADJST	ADJUSTED UNIT PRICE	LAND VALUE	LAND NOTES
HIGHEST AND BEST USE	USE CODE	LOCAL ZONING	FRONTAGE	DEPTH	DEPTH / SIZE	LND MOD	COND FACT	OTHER ADJUST AND NOTES								
SFR	0100	SFR			10000	00	LI	LOC			12,000.00	1000	LI	1100	13,200.00	13,200

TOTAL LAND DATA  
 MELISSA.TAXDEPT TUE, MAY 16, 2000, 11:28 AM

13200





# The State of Georgia,

White COUNTY.

This Indenture, Made this Fifth day of

June in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight

Hundred and Eighty eight between Sarah S. Ash

of the County of White of the one part, and Riley J. Reimer

of the County of White, of the other part; WITNESSETH, That the said

Sarah S. Ash for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty five

Dollars, in hand paid, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the

receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold and conveyed; and, by these presents, do th grant,

bargain, sell and convey unto the said Riley J. Reimer

his heirs and assigns, all that Tract or Parcel of Land situated, lying and being in the North West plot of the Town of Cleveland in said County and being distinguished in the plan of said Town as lot, Nos 83, 84, 85, 88, 89, 90, 91, 95, 96, 106, 107, 108, 111 & 112 containing one fourth of an acre and lying west of R. J. Reimers Carriage House and South of the property heretofore by me deeded to the said Reimer just across the street and the said lots sold in my deed fully describe in a deed made by Sarah S. Ash and Wm. Ash Administrators of John S. Ash dec'd W. W. Hood County dated April 4 1882

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD THE SAID Town lots with all and singular

rights, members and appurtenances thereof, to the same being and belonging, or in any wise appertaining, to the only proper

use, benefit and behoof of him the said Riley J. Reimer

his heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, IN FEE SIMPLE; and

be said Sarah S. Ash her heirs, Executors and Administrators, the said Town lots

unto the said Riley J. Reimer his heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, against the said Sarah S. Ash

her heirs, Executors and Administrators, and all

and every other person or persons, shall and will warrant and forever defend, by virtue of these presents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said Sarah S. Ash has hereto set her hand and affixed her

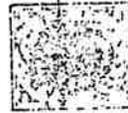
seal the day and year first above written.

SIGNED, SEALED, AND DELIVERED, IN THE PRESENCE OF  
John H. Pitchford

Sarah S. Ash (L. S.)  
(L. S.)

Warranty Title Deed

State of Georgia, ~~White~~ <sup>Hall</sup> County.



THIS INDENTURE, made this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-one (1921) between Mrs. James Sullivan and Mrs. Mary Brown of the County Hall of the first part, and R. T. Kenimer of the County White of the second part.

Witnesseth: That the said part 1<sup>st</sup> of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Eight Hundred Dollars in hand paid and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, he granted, bargained, sold and conveyed and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the part 1<sup>st</sup> of the second part, his heirs and assigns, all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the

town of Cleveland County of White State of Georgia bounded by following lines; commencing at a corner of Maple tree on the line of W. R. Cook's property, then running a little West of North a conditional line, along a fence, belonging to the property, and in direction with said fence, to the middle of the branch fence down the center of Branch to a ditch, which runs a little East of South there along ditch a conditional line to corner of property of Joe Cleveland deceased, thence a little north of East a conditional line between this property and Joe's property, and thence to beginning corner, containing about 1 acre, more or less.

To HAVE AND TO HOLD the said bargained premises, together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, to the said being, belonging or in anywise appertaining, to the only and lawful benefit and behoof of R. T. Kenimer the said part 1<sup>st</sup> of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, IN FREE SIMPLE.

AND THE SAID part 1<sup>st</sup> of the first part, for their heirs, executors or administrators, will warrant and forever defend the right and title to the above described property to the said part 1<sup>st</sup> of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said part 1<sup>st</sup> of the first part, by their hands and seals, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 1921.

WARRANTY DEED

State of Georgia White County

THIS INDENTURE, made and entered into this 7<sup>th</sup> day of Oct

in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty two (1922)

between R. T. Kenimer of the County of White of the first part, and Mrs. J. H. Guilford of the County of White of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That the said part y. of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of

Five thousand five hundred DOLLARS

in hand paid and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, had granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do lv. grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said part y. of the second part, his heirs and assigns, all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in

town of Cleveland White County, Ga and being the R. T. Kenimer home place and bounded as follows: Commencing at a point or corner between this property and the property of J. B. Barnett Street and running North along said street one hundred ten yards more or less to a corner between this property and an early property thence West one hundred seventy (170) yards more or less to a perpendicular line, thence in a northerly direction one hundred eighty five (185) yards to the branch (center of branch) thence down said center of branch westward two hundred thirty five (235) yards more or less to a point where the little branch crosses into this branch thence in a southerly direction in center of little branch two hundred forty (240) yards more or less to the Cleveland Messer line thence East with Cleveland Messer's line about eighty yards to a point near a small cedar tree thence in a southerly direction ninety five (95) yards more or less to a ditch thence up said ditch in a southeasterly direction seventy yards (70) more or less to the Cleveland & Dahlonega Road thence East with said Road one hundred seventy (170) yards more or less to the line between this property & property of J. B. Barnett thence North about forty (40) yards to a fence corner, thence East with fence fifty (50) yards more or less to the beginning point. Said land being all the R. T. Kenimer home place and the tract bought from Mortimer & Quillion and Mary Logan Brown and being sixteen acres more or less

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said bargained premises, together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, to the same being, belonging or in anywise appertaining thereto, to the proper use, benefit and behoof of Mrs. J. H. Guilford the said part y. of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever IN SEE SIMPLE.

AND THE SAID part y. of the first part, for himself his heirs, executors and administrators, will warrant and forever defend the right and title to the above described property unto the said part y. of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said party of the first part had his hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal, the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of  
J. B. Jackson [SEAL]  
J. G. Manning [SEAL]  
J. H. Brown [SEAL]  
R. T. Kenimer [SEAL]

2326 DB 369/58

WARRANTY DEED  
(DEED OF GIFT)

GEORGIA, COUNTY OF WHITE

THIS INDENTURE, made this 19th day of April in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-three between GORDON M. TELFORD of the State of Georgia and County of Franklin (hereinafter called "GRANTOR"), and BETTY T. HIGHSMITH and CAREY HIGHSMITH of the State of Georgia and County of White (hereinafter called "GRANTEE"),

WITNESSETH: That the said GRANTOR, for and in consideration of the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ DOLLARS, DEED OF GIFT, in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents does grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said GRANTEE the following described property, to-wit:

My undivided one-sixth interest in and to the Telford Homeplace in Cleveland, White County, Georgia, described as follows: BEGINNING at the intersection of the north side of the right of way of Jarrard Street with the west side of the right of way of Bell Street; thence westerly along Jarrard Street 105 feet, more or less, to Young property; thence northerly along line of Young property 200 feet, more or less, to Library property; thence easterly along line of Library property 105 feet, more or less, to Bell Street; thence southerly along right of way of Bell Street 200 feet, more or less, to the beginning corner.

CO7-017

*the 1/6 interest  
deed to Betty as DB  
453/506-510*

1865(?) &  
RT Kenner d. 1728

J.H. Telford

1967 (decd)  
Nell K. Telford

(1974 decd)  
Joe Jim, Janie, Geoff,  
Bobby & Betty

453/506-510  
as 265-57  
Betty

93 APR 26 AM 9:28  
369  
58  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
WHITE COUNTY, GA.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract or parcel of land, with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, to the same being, belonging, or in anywise appertaining, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said GRANTEE, forever, in FEE SIMPLE.

AND THE SAID GRANTOR will warrant and forever defend the right and title to the above described property, unto the said GRANTEE against the claims of all persons whomsoever.

WHEREVER there is a reference herein to the GRANTOR or the GRANTEE, the singular includes the plural and the masculine includes the feminine and the neuter, and said terms include and bind the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of the parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said GRANTOR has hereunto set his hand and seal, the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of:

Cathy W Hardran  
Unofficial Witness

Gordon M. Telford (SEAL)

Gloria F. Stancil  
Notary Public, Stephens County, GA

My Commission Expires: 11-5-95  
Date signed by Notary: April 19, 1993

NOTARY PUBLIC

(SEAL) GLORIA F. STANCIL  
Notary Public, Stephens County, Georgia  
My Commission Expires Nov. 5, 1995

White County, Georgia  
Rec'd Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: April 19, 1993  
Clerk of Superior Court

THE R. T. KENIMER HOUSE AT CLEVELAND, GEORGIA  
By Joe Telford

A history of the R. T. Kenimer house must include a brief biography of its builder.

R. T. Kenimer was born on *December 11* 1842 at *York* South Carolina. He moved to White County, Georgia, about 18 . He was wounded three times in the War Between the States. A brief account of his war service is attached as an appendix to this history.

Deed Books B and C have been missing from White County Deed Records for over fifty years and the writer has not been able to find when or from whom R. T. Kenimer acquired the property on which he built his home. The records do show that R. T. Kenimer acquired property in White County as early as 1884 .  
(Deed Book = , Page 261 ) and 225 and 204 E page 300 .

The house was built in two sections. First, the small one story section that is now the rear of the house. That must have been prior to 1872 for according to Montgomery Kenimer, his father Dr. Herschel Kenimer (R. T. Kenimer's fourth child), was born at the house on August 21, 1872.

According to Barnett Kenimer, who now lives in the house and who is the youngest son of R. T. Kenimer, the larger two story front part of the house was built in 1893 or 1894 when he was two or three years old. One of his fingers was cut off when he played too near the construction.

Gordon Kenimer confirms this time and believes that R. T. Kenimer lived in no other house in Cleveland after his first marriage in 1865. He remembers stray hogs under the house scaring him at night when he was a child.

According to Cliff Kimsey, a grandson of R. T. Kenimer, his mother Nora Kimsey (R. T. Kenimer's second oldest daughter) was not born at the house but was born in Florida. Mrs. Kimsey explained that R. T. Kenimer left Cleveland for a while because

he was too familiar with what the Ku Klux Klan had been doing and who was doing it. He lived a while in Florida and a while in Texas but returned to White County where he was a livestock dealer, a wagon builder, a merchant and a banker. He believed in quality and said that he would never build, buy or sell "shoddy merchandise". He loved horses in spite of the fact that he lost an eye when one kicked him and had a leg badly mangled by another. Later he enjoyed good automobiles but was badly injured in a collision at Clermont while riding in an automobile driven by the writer, then about 16 years old. He never blamed the writer.

of his children were born in the house. He died in 19 at the age of

This house is important to me. My mother was born in it in 18 and lived there until her death in 1974. I was born in the house in 1912.

The house was yellow with brown trim when I was old enough to observe. It was painted white by Rev. H. H. Humphries about 1932. The front room was used as a parlor and had a black settee and chairs and a black piano. The next room was a bedroom used by Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Kenimer. Both of those rooms were entered from the porch and neither were ever locked. On the right side of the entrance hall was a living room and back of it a sewing room. Next was a large dining room and last was the kitchen. On the left side of the hall was a bedroom and next to it the bathroom. Upstairs were four bedrooms. Just west of the house was a large barn adjoining a pasture and apple orchard in which there was one pear tree which bore fruit plentifully every other year. The barn was torn down about 1930. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Young is on the barn site. Across the street south of the barn was a "carriage house" which had been converted into a two car garage. Granddad Kenimer kept Studebaker automobiles because Studebaker had made good wagons. He tried to drive once and ran the car into the White County Bank and then onto the porch of the house. His cars that I remember were:

- 1913 Studebaker
- 1917 Studebaker Big Six
- 1923 Studebaker Special Six (owned jointly with J. H. Telford)
- 1927 Nash (which I wrecked while driving for him)
- 1929 Nash

Wind blew the carriage house down and onto my Dad's new 1935 Ford automobile.

The house had carriage type lights on the posts on the front porch. About 1920 electric lights (a Delco system) and running water were installed in the house. A special "fresh water line" ran direct from the well to the back porch where there was a switch to start the pump to pump fresh water to the house. Before this Granddad (R. T. Kenimer) had a bathtub with a tank in the room above it. The tank was filled each day so that he could have his morning shower.

The cookstove in the kitchen at the rear of the house used wood and had a copper reservoir to heat water and later a tank at the rear which really only warmed the water.

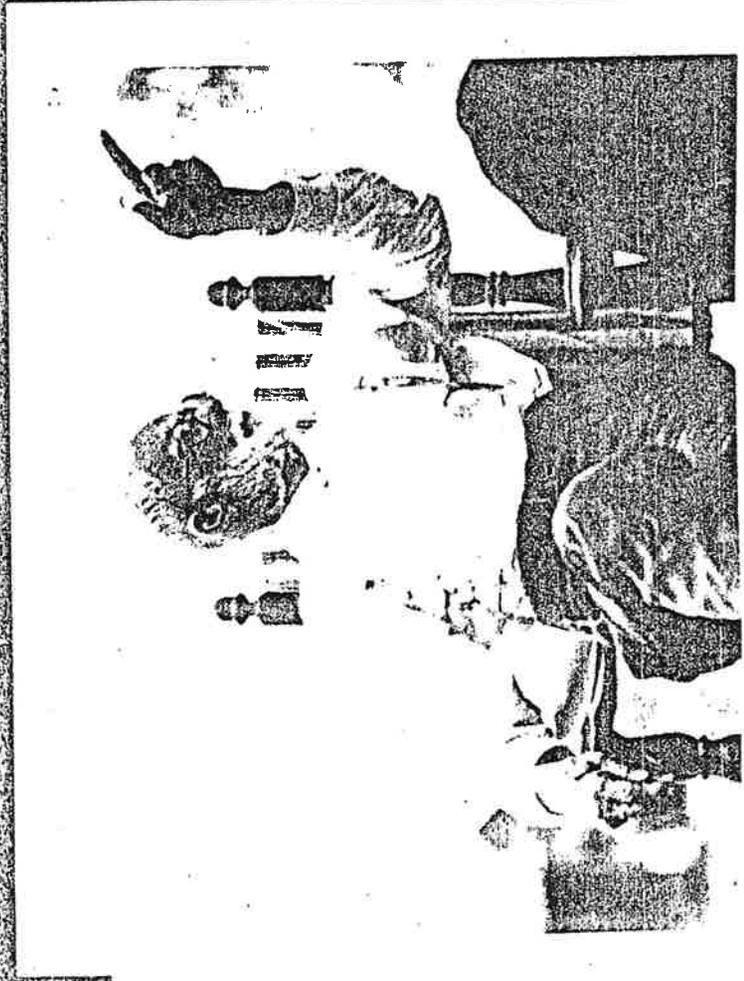
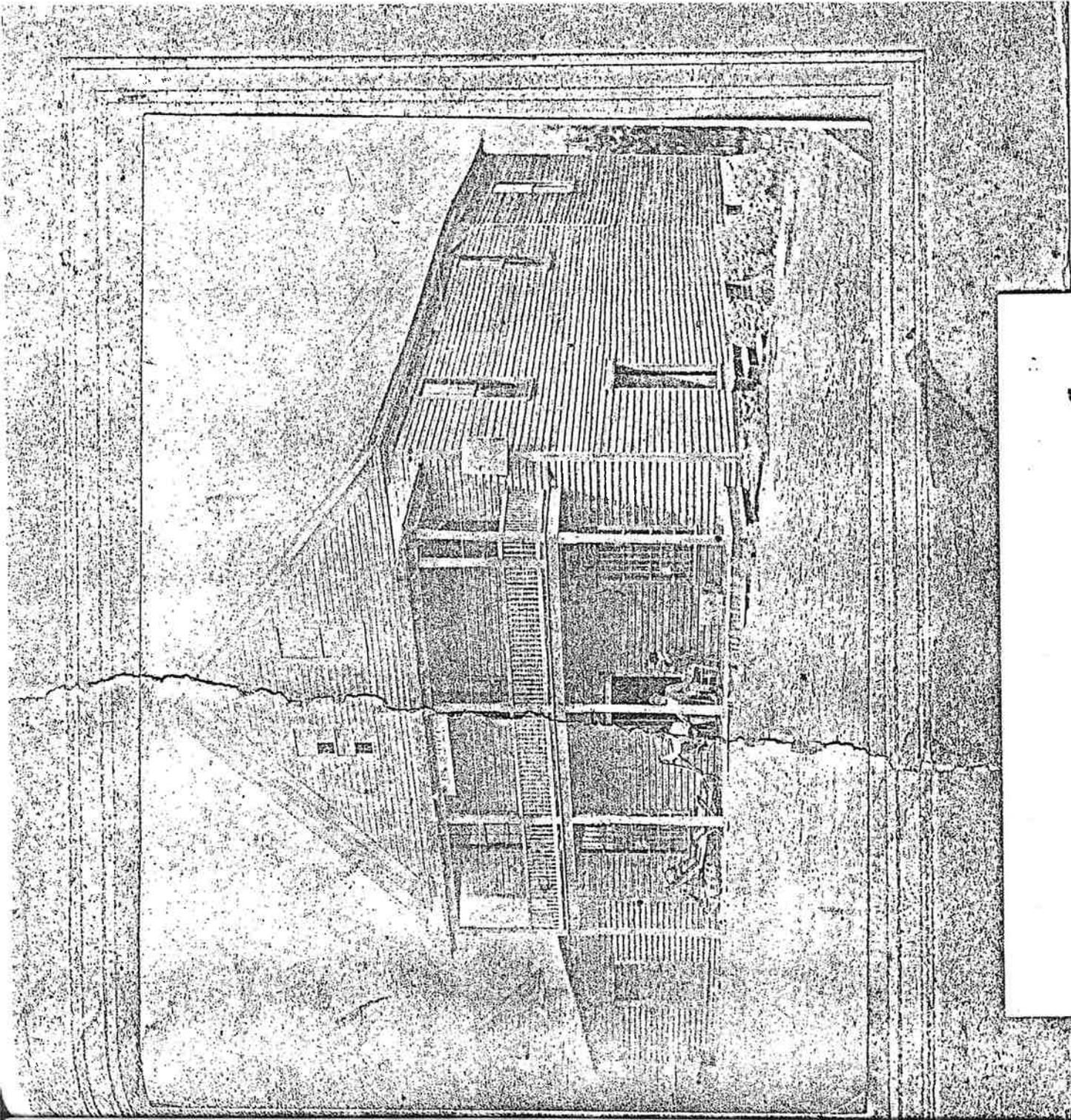
Dad had TB and slept on the upstairs front porch most of the time. This was thought to be "healthy". The steps had a rail which young children used for sliding.

The woodshed had an unfloored attic which was frequently used as a child's workshop or playhouse and as a place for gymnastics (hanging by feet, etc.).

Green wooden shutters with adjustable slats were removed from the windows about 1920 and used as kindling for starting fires in the stoves and fireplaces.

I am sure that the children of R. T. Kenimer and his other grandchildren who lived in this house have just as fond memories of it as I do and that his other grandchildren pleasantly remember visiting it.

Attached is a brief history of White County and a fine tribute to my mother written by Mrs. C. C. Blalock, her niece who meant much to her. Also a photograph of R. T. Kenimer as I knew him and a photograph of his store.



There are many reasons why I am writing these memoirs. First, it is because my children want me to. Second, there has been such a change of "life-style" since I was a little girl, and it needs to be recorded. Third, I think my siblings might like to know the things that I remember, and maybe they will record similar remembrances. Fourth, I feel this urge to do this because I think it is important for family continuity. Too, I wish I had some memoirs of my Mother's and Daddy's young years.

I was born March 16, 1915 in a big rambling house in the small town of Cleveland, Georgia. I think the population around that time was 3-4 hundred. Our household was made up of Mother, Daddy, Grandma and Grandpa Kenimer, and my brother, Joe. A Dr. Cantrell and his wife lived next door, and he helped deliver me. Soon afterwards, the Cantrells moved to Dahlonga.

**The House:** Mother had been born in the house and had never moved (lived there all of her 86 years.) My Grandfather built the house (I'm sure, with help) and Mother told me that it had been added-on-to three different times. His first wife was Mary Smith, and that union had 6 children: Oscar, Hershel, Mollie, Nora, Frank and Fannie (twins). She died soon after the twins were born. I always heard that Mary had a premonition of her death.

I surmise that Grandpa heard (or knew) of an eligible young lady who lived in the Gillsville, Georgia area (some 35-40 miles away) and he "went courting". My Grandmother was Susanna Jane Meaders, and she was brave to take-on a husband and six children. They had seven more children: Charlie, Bob, Gordon, Nell (my Mother) Addie, Lura Mae and Barnett.

(What I wouldn't give to have an account of their day-to-day activities, etc.) The house was big and rambling. The original part of the house (I think) was "L" shaped (1 story) with two rooms across the front separated by a hall and three rooms protruding back of one front room. Later, two upstairs rooms were added across the front of the house - then later four more bedrooms (2 down and 2 up) were added. All bedrooms had fireplaces (only two closets in the whole house). I have no remembrance of when a bathroom was added, but it was there as long as I can remember.

How did we become a family? Daddy came to Cleveland to be Cashier of the White County Bank - which, I think, was majority owned by my Grandfather. He and Mother fell in love and were married there at the house. They continued to live with my Grandparents. Soon after I was born, Mother and Dad felt the need to own a home, and they bought the house and the furnishings from my Grandparents, and they (Grandma and Grandpa) continued to live with us. I have no idea what

they paid for the house and furnishings. I do remember that after my Grandparents' death that Mother gave each of her sisters one item of furniture from the house (or tried to). The house was heated by fireplaces, a huge coal heater (Majestic) in the sitting room; a kerosene heater (at times) in the bathroom and the big wood stove in the kitchen. The fireplaces were seldom used. Most of the bedrooms were huge, and there were two double-beds, plus a dresser or chest of drawers in each room. I don't remember ever sleeping downstairs, but I'm sure I did as a child. I was the only girl (with four brothers) until I was 16 years old. Therefore, I always had a room of my own. I do not remember lamps for lighting. We had a "Delco system" for electricity, and the wires to the center of each room were exposed (still are?)

In the winter the center of our family activities were in the sitting room, dining room and the kitchen. In the summer time the front porch was where we sat to rest and entertain visitors. The back porch was used for many things: foot-washing (we all went barefoot except for dress-up occasions). We prepared vegetables and fruit for cooking there - also there was a screened-in shelf for milk vessels (away from flies). There was also a shelf for some tools.

Let me stop here and tell you my earliest remembrances of my family:

**Grandpa Kenimer:** He was a very handsome man and a very smart man in many ways. He was very erect, and he had a neatly trimmed beard. He loved horses and had a beautiful one when I was very small. I was told that at middle age he rode horseback every morning (and afterward took a cold bath). I remember two things he always did for exercise. He would walk down to the pasture on pretty days and on rainy days he walked back and forth on the front porch. He called it the "veranda". As a businessman he was very successful. He "owned" the White County Bank - also opened the Kenimer Store along with Uncle Bob and Uncle Frank. (More about the store later.) He also was a wagon-maker, landowner in Banks County, and I think I remember that he went West and bought horses to trade. He wore beautiful suits from Muse Brothers in Atlanta. He was one of the most respected businessmen in that area. (Bucky Highsmith wrote a wonderful story about him that was published in the North Georgia Journal. I bought copies for each of my children.) Grandpa was an only son born in South Carolina. His Father died when he was very young, and his Mother moved back to White County to be near her family. I have heard that he did have a sister and that, at a young adult age, she disappeared, and it was thought that she joined a caravan of people going West. He was a very strict disciplinarian and believed in hard work. I have heard my Uncle tell of "hauling rocks from the pasture and then having to haul them back to the pasture just to keep them busy."



Riley T. Kenimer (1842 - 1928)

# Riley Terrell Kenimer

## WHITE COUNTY PIONEER

### J.C. Highsmith Jr.

Riley Terrell Kenimer was born December 11, 1842 in Pickens County, South Carolina, the son of Riley Benson Kenimer and Frances Algood Kenimer. While one source indicates that Riley's father died in 1843, the more reliable sources place the date of death in 1849, when Riley was a mere 7 year old boy. Riley's mother moved with her

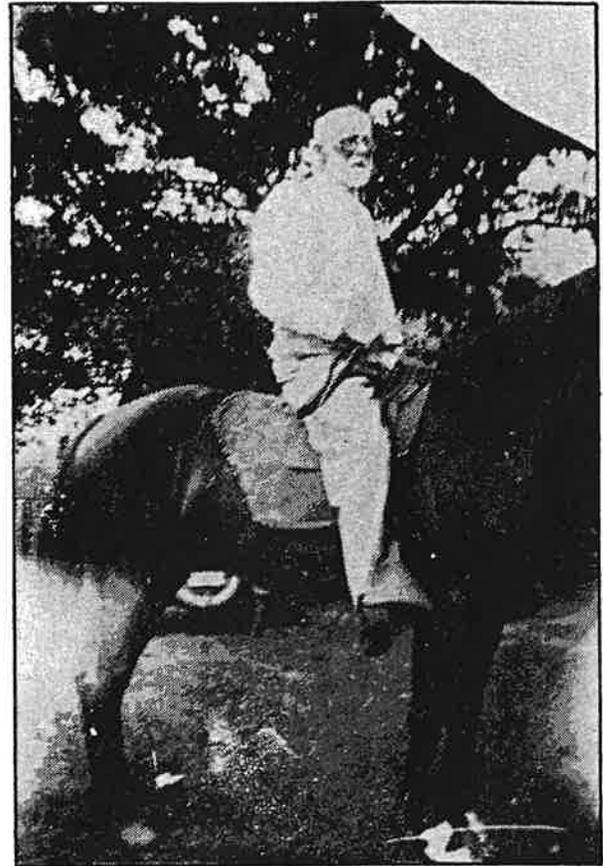
children to White County sometime in 1850 or shortly thereafter, possibly in order to raise her young family in a county inhabited by one of her deceased husband's relatives, Michael Kenimer, a prominent White Countian. At the tender age of 14, Riley was "thrown on his own resources". While the cause of this family tragedy is unknown,

it is not unlikely that his mother became severely ill and unable to care for her children. At the age of 14, for whatever reason, Riley moved back to Pickens County, South Carolina and lived with his mother's parents. Perhaps because of his unsettled life, Riley was not well educated; the 1860 Pickens County census lists his occupation as "mechanic." In 1860 or early 1861, Riley apparently decided to strike out on his own and returned to White County, perhaps in order to rekindle teenage friendships and live with his father's relatives.

In late July 1861, 18-year old Riley Terrell Kenimer met with ninety other men and boys at Denton's Spring, just north of the present intersection of Georgia Highway 75 North and Asbestos Road in White County, and helped form a group of novice, volunteer soldiers known as the "White County Marksmen." Officers were William Sumpter, Captain, Dr. E.F. Starr, First Lieutenant, and M.B. O'Dell, Second Lieutenant. The White County Marksmen apparently was the first company of soldiers raised in White County. In August 1861, the county's governing body ordered that the group was to "have the use of any part of the courthouse in Cleveland that they may choose for the establishment of a military camp for the purpose of drill."

On the third Monday in August of 1861, within weeks of their formation, the White County Marksmen met at the Mossy Creek Campground and marched off to war. The Marksmen's last view of White County is cause for thoughtful speculation. Although the entire south had suffered several years of economic problems caused, in the opinion of many experts, by unfair northern trade practices, White County in 1860 was a fairly prosperous and beautiful community. The county seat boasted a beautiful new courthouse. A post office and several business establishments were already in place around the town square. Official county records show very clearly that the Marksmen would be fighting for a cause which had the full support of the White County citizenry. Area newspapers expressed unashamed optimism that the war would soon be over, with the South victorious.

The White County Marksmen marched from Mossy Creek to Atlanta and there reported to the state military authorities. The White Countians were placed in the 24th Regiment, Cobb's Brigade, of the Army of Northern Virginia. The group



was thereafter known as Company C of the 24th Regiment. At that time, the 24th Regiment was comprised of some 1,200 men. Robert McMillian of Clarkesville was Colonel of the 24th Regiment and C.C. Sanders was Lieutenant-Colonel. After hearing an address by Georgia Governor Joseph E. Brown, the 24th Regiment boarded railroad cars and traveled by rail to Knoxville, Tennessee and from there to Lynchburg, Virginia.

In late fall of 1861, the Regiment marched to Washington, North Carolina, where it camped for the winter.

In the early spring of 1862, the 24th Regiment was ordered to march to Yorktown, Virginia, where the group saw their first Yankees.

Mr. Kenimer's recollections of the seige of Yorktown suggests that he was not the kind of man to exaggerate: he described the campaign as involving "no real fighting." Official reports of the battle tell a completely different story however.

Soon after the Yorktown fighting, Mr. Kenimer was hospitalized for 16 days in Richmond's Chimborazo Hospital for a "continuing fever." This fever was likely caused by the sufferings and deprivations during the seige. Mr. Kenimer was released from the hospital May 29, 1862, and rejoined his command.

The Confederate authorities ordered a general assault against the Union Army on May 31. The 24th Georgia Regiment was involved in this assault, later to be known as the Battle of Seven Pines, which resulted in a minor Confederate victory.

On June 25, 1862 the battle later known as the "Seven Days' Campaign" began. After six days of heavy fighting, McClellan's troops occupied a small mountain called Malvern Hill. After several piecemeal assaults against the federals on Malvern Hill had failed at a bloody cost to the Southerners; however, Lee cancelled his assault and withdrew to Richmond. Mr. Kenimer's 24th Regiment had been one of the groups sent up Malvern Hill in the futile attempt to dislodge the Union Army.

After the Seven Days' Campaign had ended, the 24th Regiment camped in Richmond until late August of 1862, when Lee ordered the Confederate invasion of western Maryland.

One of those Maryland battles was fought September 14, 1862, at a place known as Crampton's Gap. In that battle, Mr. Kenimer was shot through the right shoulder blade, the ball going entirely through the shoulder. The wounded Mr. Kenimer was taken to nearby Harper's Ferry and from there to Charleston, Virginia, where he lay in the hospital for four weeks. When the Yankee army advanced on Charleston, Virginia, Mr. Kenimer was carried to a Richmond hospital where he spent

another five days before being granted a 30-day furlough home to recover from his injury.

Travelling home on his 30-day furlough, Mr. Kenimer's train stopped at Weldon, North Carolina. As he stepped off the railroad car, the injured Mr. Kenimer stumbled and fell, broke the main artery under his wounded right shoulder blade, and came very close to bleeding to death. Mr. Kenimer was rushed to a hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina, where doctors surgically removed a clot of blood from the broken artery. Many years later Mr. Kenimer recalled that the "good women of Raleigh" were "very attentive" to him while he recovered from his wounds!

When he was well enough to travel, Mr. Kenimer came home to White County by way of Wallahalla, South Carolina. Probably because of the serious nature of his wound, Mr. Kenimer stayed home for 2 or 3 months during the winter of 1862-63.

Although he was excused from active duty, Mr. Kenimer rejoined his company sometime in the spring of 1863.

Still excused from duty, Mr. Kenimer was placed in charge of the Regiment's sick and wounded during the Battle of Spotsylvania, which began on May 8, 1864. Apparently, he could no longer stand to be out of action. He reported to Brigadier-General Woffard who assigned him to look-out duty on top of the Confederate breastworks. As Mr. Kenimer peered over the breastworks, he was hit in the side, just above the left hip, with a federal cannonball. Mr. Kenimer lay in the camp hospital at Spotsylvania for a long time while, in his words, he was "very sick." While still in the camp hospital at Spotsylvania he was granted a 30-day furlough. He was later carried from the camp hospital to the now-familiar Richmond hospital for recovery. From Richmond Mr. Kenimer made his way back home to Cleveland.

White County records show that, while he was home recovering from his "cannonball" wound, Mr. Kenimer helped bring a distribution of salt into the county from Athens.

Sometime in late summer or early fall of 1864 Mr. Kenimer was transferred out of the 24th Regiment and became a part of Company G, 12th Regiment, Georgia Militia Calvary, under the command of a Major Johnson. After making his way back to the battlelines, and while serving in that company, Mr. Kenimer participated in skirmishes in and around Morganton, Ducktown, Hot House, and Athens, Tennessee.

Writers, poets, musicians, painters, photographers, sculptors, craftpersons, handcrafters, etc. The deadline for listing in our 1985-86 Directory is September 15. For registration forms send SASE and \$3.00 check or M.O. to:  
"THE NORTH GEORGIA ARTIST'S REGISTRY"  
P.O. Box 94, Dawsonville, Ga. 30534



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Mr. & Mrs. Kenimer certainly enjoyed the company of their grandchildren.

On October 1, 1864, he was given a battlefield promotion to Captain of Company G. His formal commission from Governor Brown was signed December 20, 1864.

Mr. Kenimer's Company G of the 12th Regiment, Georgia Militia Cavalry, surrendered at Kingston, Georgia on May 12, 1865.

After the war, Mr. Kenimer returned to Cleveland as a war-weary veteran of age twenty-two. Mr. Kenimer had married Mary Hannah Smith, daughter of Tolliver and Harriett Smith, on February 1, 1865, just before the close of the war. With a wife and small children to support, he returned to the wagon-making, blacksmithing and mechanic work he had learned as a teenager. Setting up shop on a lot behind what is now Stovall's Five & Dime in Cleveland, Mr. Kenimer managed to feed his young family during the harsh reconstruction years. Before her death in 1877, Mary Smith Kenimer gave birth to Mr. Kenimer's first seven children. After struggling nearly two years as the only parent of seven small children. After struggling nearly two years as the only parent of seven small children, Mr. Kenimer in April, 1879 married Susannah Jane Meaders, daughter of James Jackson Meaders and Mary Meaders of Gillsville, Georgia. Between 1880 and 1893, Susannah Meaders bore Mr. Kenimer an additional seven children.

At some point in his post-war life, apparently sometime during the mid-1860's, Mr. Kenimer moved first to Florida and then to Texas for a short while. It is possible that, while in Texas, Mr. Kenimer

lived with M.B. O'Dell, a fellow White Countian who had served with Mr. Kenimer in the White County Marksmen during the war and who has also moved to Texas. While no one is quite sure of the reason behind Mr. Kenimer's short stay in Florida and Texas, the story has often been circulated that he was forced to flee White County, for safety reasons, because he "knew too much about the Ku Klux Klan." Since the Ku Klux Klan was not so named until the 1880's and since that organization had it's roots in post-war anti-Union activities, it is possible that Mr. Kenimer was forced to flee persecution by the Federal troops occupying the area immediately following the war.

Perhaps as early as 1865, Mr. Kenimer purchased a tract of land atop a small hill overlooking the town of Cleveland and built a small one-story frame house on that land. As his business activities prospered, and as his family grew, Mr. Kenimer in 1893 or 1894 added a two-story section to this small house, creating what is now known as the Kenimer-Telford House on Jarrard Street in Cleveland, a local landmark. The house was one of the first in the county to be equipped with electricity. This was accomplished around 1920. The house was at one time surrounded by twelve acres of pasture, orchard, and woods owned by Mr. Kenimer, stretching from the Dahlonga Highway on the south to Quinn's Branch on the north, and from Bell Street on the east to what is now the Southern Bell Telephone lot on the west. Mr. Kenimer cultivated pear and apple trees in his orchard and



Telford and Kenimer Store

A landmark for nearly a hundred years in White County was the three story wooden country store that stood on the north side of the square. Part of the building was moved to that location when the county was formed and a courthouse built. The building was enlarged and changed, porches added and taken away, finally standing three stories over a basement that had in early days housed a bar.

kept or raised hogs, mules and cattle. In addition to this livestock, Mr. Kenimer kept a stable of fine horses. His great love for his horses endured throughout his life despite the fact that he lost the use of one eye and received other serious injuries in horse-related accidents.

As the local economy gradually improved, and within a few years after the close of the war, Mr. Kenimer realized the need for a quality merchantile establishment in the growing town of Cleveland. Joining forces first with John P. Cooley, and later with John H. Pitchford, he estab-

lished a business concern which became a fixture in White County. Known later as "R.T. Kenimer & Son," "Kenimer Bros." and as "Kenimer & Telford," that merchantile business was located, until its dissolution in 1956, in the northwestern corner of the intersection of Jarrard Street and North Main Street. Although he sold his interest in the store to his sons in 1908, Mr. Kenimer always enjoyed noting that the inventory of the business included cradles, caskets, and every item needed during human life between those two extremes. Indeed, the store became known as "the Sears Roebuck of the mountain area." Contemporary newspaper accounts noted that, in his business dealings, Mr. Kenimer "never let selfishness overcome his determination to be just, fair, honest, truthful and above all else, charitable to his patrons, bearing with them in all their trials and disappointments and sickness, helping them in every way that lay in his power."

As the years went by, Mr. Kenimer became active in the loan business, making numerous small loans to citizens in White



The Kenimer-Telford House on Jarrard Street in Cleveland.

County and in nearby Jackson County. Many of those loans were secured by small farms and other real estate lying in those counties. Mr. Kenimer also provided large loans to two of the largest Atlanta hardware stores. At one time, Mr. Kenimer held mortgages on over half a dozen large farms in Jackson County but, for one reason or another, was unable to fully collect the loans secured by those farms. Mr. Kenimer was very successful, however, in buying, selling and swapping various tracts of land in and around White County.

In his later years, Mr. Kenimer became involved in local banking activities. At one time he owned the bank in Demorest, Georgia and was in charge of closing that bank in 1893. In addition, Mr. Kenimer served as president of The White County Bank in Cleveland from its inception in 1907 to 1908 until its closing in 1933 or 1934.

Always mindful of his civic duties,

Mr. Kenimer served several terms on the White County Board of Commissioners, and was a strong proponent of soil conservation. At one time he served on the Board of Trustees of Piedmont College. In the 1920's, he was instrumental in the purchase of bonds issued to build an addition to the Cleveland school building. A newspaper article in 1928 noted that Mr. Kenimer was "always a figure in the forefront of progress and development."

Mr. Kenimer was widely known and respected for his demeanor and outlook on life. Known to some as a "stern old gentleman," Mr. Kenimer loved his family dearly and worked hard to see that his children received a quality education, with most of his children earning college degrees.

By the time of his death in 1928, Mr. Kenimer was recognized by friends and family not only as head of the house, but also as head of his community.

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State of Texas, Comanche County:

Personally came before me the undersigned *D. M. Smith, Notary Public*  
in and for said county M.B. Odell, of said county, A citizen  
well known to me and whose statements are entitled to full faith,  
belief and credit, and after being duly sworn makes this affidavit  
in support of the pension claim of Riley T. Kenimer, of White County  
State of Georgia.

Deponent says that he was well acquainted With said Kenimer, before  
during and after the civil war. That he enlisted in the 24th, Ga.  
Regt. Co. "C" at Cleveland, White Co. Ga. on the 24th, day of Aug.  
1861 and served with said Co. and Regt. Up to the 12th, day of  
Sept. 1862, when he was wounded at Crampton Gap as follows:

He was shot through the right shoulder ( the ball going through  
the right shoulder blade) when he was granted a wounded furlough  
( After he partially recoverd) and on his way home he stumbled,  
in getting off of the cars, at Weldon, N.C. and broke the main  
artery under right shoulder blade, the wound not being healed,  
and that the artery continued to bleed until it tore the flesh  
lose from the ribs and that this was all filled with blood and  
that said Kenimer was carried in this condition to a hospital at  
Raleigh, N.C. where he came very near bleeding to death. and that

7 or 8 years after the war a bone or shiver of bone from the shoulde  
r blade had to be taken out low down in the side.  
After said Kenimer recoverd in part from this wound he returned to  
his command and served with it to the battle of Spotsylvania,  
where he was wounded with a cannon ball, and was granted another sic  
k Furlough and he went home and never returned to his command  
Baid Kenimer, made a good soldier up to the time he was last wounded.  
These was two bad wounds. I was an eye witness to these wounds  
I was not personally present when he fell and broke the artery;  
but saw him afterwards and know this to be true.  
I was a member of the same Co. and Regt. and was Lietenant of the  
same, Was present and saw what I testify to. I understand that he  
joined some other branch of the Army after he kindly recoverd  
from the last wound.

----- *M. B. Odell* -----  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this the *22* day of *Oct.*  
1910.

Put  
seal  
here

*D. M. Smith, Notary  
Public in and for  
Comanche County  
Texas*

Photocopy By Georgia Dept. of Archives & History  
in fulfillment of "Complisad Services"

*Kinney, R. J.  
# 6 24 Va.*

MEMORANDUM

52000-6  
52022177  
51873643

(CONFEDERATE.)

*No. 24 Va.  
R. J. Kinney  
Private Co 24 Regt Geo.*

Appears on a Register of

Chimborazo Hospital, No. 1,  
Richmond, Virginia.

Disease	<i>typh fever</i>
Admitted	<i>May 13</i> , 1862
Returned to duty	<i>May 29</i> , 1862
Deserted	....., 186
Furloughed	....., 186
Died	....., 186

Remarks:

Confed. Arch., Chap. 6, File No. 78, page 68

*O. S. J. Taylor*

(635)

2462

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6/12/22-79

### APPLICATION FOR PENSION BY A WIDOW

Whose Deceased Husband Was on the Pension Roll of Georgia.

STATE OF GEORGIA,

White COUNTY.

Personally before me comes Mrs. Sue Madus Kemmer of said County, who, after having been duly sworn, says that she is the widow of R. P. Kemmer to whom, in the County of Pauls State of Ga she was married on the 22d day of April 1879, and that she remained his wife, and resided with him to the date of his death in Dec 27 1928 and that she has not since his death remarried; at the time of his death he was a resident of White County, in said State of Georgia, and he was on the Pension Roll of the State and paid a pension of \$ 200.00 in White County for 1928, on account of being a soldier in Company C 24th Ga Regiment 24th Ga (Volunteers or State Militia).

That she is now a bona fide resident citizen of said State of Ga and she has, continuously, resided there since 22d day of April 1879 1928.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the

28 day of January, 1929.

A. L. Dorsey, Ordinary  
of White County.

Mrs. Sue Madus Kemmer  
(Applicant)

(SEAL OF THE ORDINARY.)

### Affidavit of Witness to Prove Marriage and Date of Death of Husband.

STATE OF GEORGIA,

White COUNTY.

Personally before me comes H. A. Garrard known to be a responsible and truthful person, residing in said County, who after having been duly sworn, says that of deponent's own personal knowledge, Mrs. Sue Madus Kemmer who made the foregoing affidavit, is the lawful widow of R. P. Kemmer who died in White County in said State of Ga on the 27th day of Dec, 1928, and that she has not since remarried; that she became the wife of R. P. Kemmer on the 22d day of April, 1879; that she and he had resided together as husband and wife, continuously, since 22d day of April 1879, and that he was the same man who was on the pension roll of said State of Ga from White County when he died.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the

28 day of January, 1929.

A. L. Dorsey, Ordinary  
of White County.

H. A. Garrard

(SEAL OF ORDINARY)

TESTIMONY

TAKEN BY

THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

TO INQUIRE INTO

THE CONDITION OF AFFAIRS

IN

THE LATE INSURRECTIONARY STATES.

GEORGIA.

VOLUME II.

WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1872.

R. T. KENIMER sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. What is your age, where were you born, where do you now live, and what is your occupation?

Answer. I am twenty-eight years old; I was born in Habersham County, and I now live in White County. I am a mechanic—a wheelwright—though sometimes I work at the carpenter trade, and sometimes I farm it a little.

Question. Do you know anything about a class of people in your country that is called Ku-Klux?

Answer. Well, no, sir; I do not know anything about them, really. A couple of them came to my house, one night, and called me up, and proposed to get some money for me that a boy I had hired had stolen, as I had supposed: I did not know that they asked them how they would get it. They said they could scare it out of him; I told them it was merely a suspicion of mine; that I did not know for certain that the boy had stolen the money; it was merely circumstantial evidence that I had against him. I said I had prosecuted him, and wanted the law to take its course. I then asked them, "Who are you?" They said, "If you will come with us next Saturday night we will tell you who we are." The next Saturday night they went out some enough, and whipped some negroes that you-uns had in here about two weeks ago. That is what rumor says; and that is about the only outrage that has been committed in the county since I have been there. I moved there in November last, having been out of the county then for some three years.

Question. Who were those two men?

Answer. I did not know them.

Question. Were they disguised?

Answer. Yes, sir.

Question. Did they come to your house at night?

Answer. Yes, sir; just after I had laid down; about 9 o'clock, I suppose.

Question. Were they riding or walking?

Answer. They were riding.

Question. Did they come into the house?

Answer. No, sir; they stood at the gate, and I was in the house.

Question. How were they disguised?

Answer. I cannot tell; I was not close to them, and I was a little excited anyway. There seemed to be something dark on them. I could not describe it better than to say it was like a blanket, or something of that kind, over them.

Question. When was that?

Answer. About the last of April or the first of May, I think.

Question. And a week after that time—

Answer. The next Saturday night was the time they whipped those negroes.

Question. What negroes?

Answer. I think their names were Brown. They were down here with me when I was down here before.

Question. Was that where they whipped a man and a woman, and then made the other women lie down and expose themselves?

Answer. I have never heard the particulars about it.

Question. What is Brown's full name?

Answer. Joe Brown.

Question. Have you heard of other cases of their going through the country there?

Answer. Well, no, sir, not since I have been there. I have heard of a case that occurred before I went there. It is said that they went around there and notified some witnesses that were to appear here against Mr. Oakes, who was prosecuted for dealing in whisky, or maybe it was the Henderson boys, Mr. Oakes's sous-in-law, who had been accused of distilling. They were arrested and Oakes came down here. The Henderson boy got away, and he gave bonds for his appearance. I understood that the Ku-Klux went around and notified the witnesses not to appear.

Question. Do you know a man by the name of Green B. Holcombe?

Answer. Yes, sir; I know him well.

Question. Do you know of any injury that he received?

Answer. Yes, sir.

Question. What was the injury?

Answer. He was shot through the calf of his leg, and had a horse killed under him that was worth \$250. I rode with him the evening before he was shot, from Cleveland down to my house, about four miles.

Question. Mr. Holcombe was a witness before us, and on his examination he used the language:

"A man by the name of Kenimer, who went into the Klau one night, said that Brock understood that I had said that I knew who shot me, and that he had called on the

band and was told that it would not do to attack me, as I was well fitted up with shooting-irons, and had neighbors there, and it might cost the lives of a dozen men.

He (Kenimer) said that it was a matter of confidence with him. (I believe that was his language;) that he was in it, but did not want to be called on, but that whenever there was no other chance he would tell. He said he was afraid to testify to what he let on to me, and did not want to have to. He told his step-brother that Brock went to the band, or called upon them after they met disguised, for assistance to go and take me out and kill me; that I knew who had shot me, and would kill him as soon as I got well."

Answer. I understand that Mr. Holcombe tried to pick me at this place by saying to me, "Did you not tell Mr. Burke that you had a conversation with the captain of the Ku-Klux?" I told him that I did not. He said, "It seems to me like Bark told me that you had a conversation with the captain, and you asked them the intention of the meeting, and that the captain told you the intention of the meeting was to kill me that night, and you told him that he need not undertake it; that Burke (he was one of Holcombe's friends) would suffer the last man he had to be killed before Holcombe should be bothered." "Now," said I, "Mr. Holcombe, Mr. Burke did not tell you any such thing as that; Burke is a man that don't lie, and he did not tell you any such thing." Said he, "It has been a great while ago, but that is what I thought." He quit me at that. There have been a great many rumors up there.

Question. Where was that conversation?

Answer. Right here in this building—in the entry here.

Question. Is that the only conversation you ever had with him?

Answer. It is the only one I ever had with Mr. Holcombe upon that subject.

Question. Did you ever talk with him before about his being shot?

Answer. Yes, sir.

Question. How near do you live to him?

Answer. About three miles from his place.

Question. Do you know this man Brock?

Answer. I have seen him twice.

Question. When did you see him?

Answer. At the last spring court.

Question. At what place?

Answer. At Cleveland; and then I saw him again at Smith's Mills one evening, right close to my house.

Question. What is his character?

Answer. Well, it is a bad character. He is supposed to be a bad man. I suspect he is the man who shot Green Holcombe; that is my opinion; there is no doubt of it: I have expressed myself freely that way; but as to knowing anything about it, I do not know it.

Question. Have you ever expressed yourself in that way when talking with Mr. Holcombe?

Answer. I believe I have: I am not certain that I have to Mr. Holcombe, but I have to some of his friends; I know I have to Mr. Burke.

Question. What have you heard about Brock's trying to get a band to go with him and "finish up" Holcombe, either by putting him to death, or driving him out of the country?

Answer. I have never heard anything about that.

Question. How long before Holcombe was shot was it that these two men came to your house?

Answer. That was after Mr. Holcombe was shot.

Question. You say you do not know who they were?

Answer. No, sir.

Question. Was not one of them Brock?

Answer. I have thought since it was, but I do not know. I have said so, but I just merely thought so from this, that I knew nearly every man in the county, and I would know the voice of every man there, and I did not know that man's voice. That was my reason for thinking that it was Brock.

Question. What is the feeling of the people there in regard to these disguised bands that go about: are they afraid of them?

Answer. I think there are some people who are afraid of them. There have been some people notified in the country there to leave the country; some of them are afraid and others are not. They notified my step-father, an old gentleman, to leave. They notified Mr. Burke and Mr. Taylor's boys, as good citizens as there are in the county, to leave. But they thought that it was a Mr. Satterfield who notified them, signing the paper "Ku-Klux." My step-father went to him and told him that he believed he did it. He denied it, of course, but he left the country directly afterward; that is, he went off some thirty miles from there to teach school.

Question. Was he a school-teacher?

Answer. Yes, sir.

Question. Did he stand high with the people there?

Answer. I cannot say he stands high.

Question. Is he a man who made a great deal of pretension, or, as the current phrase goes, "put on a great deal of style?"

Answer. No, sir; I do not think he does: he is a very sorry man anyway; there is very little dependence to be put in him anyway.

Question. Have you a step-brother?

Answer. I have not.

Question. Has Holcombe a step-brother?

Answer. I do not think he has; I am acquainted with nearly all of his connections, and I do not think he has a step-brother.

Question. When they told you that if you would go with them the next Saturday night they would show you who they were, what did you understand by that?

Answer. It was not to get my money, but it was a recruiting plan.

Question. They wanted you to join them?

Answer. That was my opinion about it.

Question. And you did not agree to that?

Answer. No, sir. I went to Burke, who is as good a friend as I have in the world, and I told him that they told me that they would be out the next Saturday night, and that if I would go with them the next Saturday night they would show me who they were. I told him to keep it still, but it did him right smart of good, and he went and told Jack Teasly and his boys, who are associates of his, and they then began to spread it about, and rumored it about; and they have told a great many rumors. They thought I had told Mr. Burke that I knew some of the Ku-Klux. They went to him and tried to pick him, and told him that I had said that I knew three of the Ku-Klux, and that I was going to make capital of it; that I had told them a great deal; that I was as good a friend as they had in the world, which I am, for we have always got along well. Their idea was to tell him that I had told them something, and then Burke knew anything that I had told, he would turn in and tell them. I have said there were no other outrages; there was another, but there was but very little talk about it. They made a raid on Mr. Teasly one night and shot into his gate-post, and went to Oakes's and fired at his shop, and went to Hicks's and fired over the roof of his house. I believe; some of the balls went into it, maybe; that is merely rumor, though.

Question. Was that on the same night?

Answer. No, sir; I do not know exactly the time, though I think it has been since the whipping of the negroes. Teasly said it was the Ku-Klux that did it; he told my step-father so. My step-father understood the thing; he was a good friend of theirs, and stuck to that side, and he said, "Teasly, I don't want to hear any such thing—despise all such play-off as that." Since that, a couple of my cousins who were along with them that night said that it was the Teaslys themselves who shot at the gate; that is only rumor.

Question. Those cases were pretended Ku-Klux cases?

Answer. Yes, sir; that is what they said.

By Mr. BAYARD:

Question. For the purpose of getting up a rumor of Ku-Klux?

Answer. Yes, sir. I believe that Oakes—I do not know anything about it. Oakes is a friend of mine; I believe it must have been a plan of Oakes to prevent the witnesses from coming down here. I think some of his friends did it to keep the witnesses from appearing against Oakes in the United States court.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. He was charged before the United States courts?

Answer. Yes, sir. That raised a little prejudice between Holcombe and Oakes, and they have been at outs ever since. Mr. Alley and Mr. Oakes are of one party, and Mr. Holcombe and Mr. McCullum are of the other party. They have been shooting a little at one another, and I believe Oakes was shot.

Question. Was he shot by disguised men?

Answer. No, sir, he was shot from a blind in the wood. I have never heard of any men up there being shot by disguised men.

Question. You have heard of disguised men doing nothing more serious than whipping?

Answer. Whipping those negroes; that is all, and going around and notifying witnesses not to appear here. They did that, so I was told, before I went up to the county. I do not think they have been out since they whipped those negroes in our county; if they have I have not heard of it.

Question. Has anybody been punished for anything done by these disguised bands?

Answer. No, sir, not to my knowledge.

Question. Nobody has been indicted or brought to trial?

Answer. No, sir, not in that county.

Question. You say that these cases of whipping black people, Joe Brown, Mary Brown, Mary Neal, Caroline Benson, Rachel Arnold, —

Answer. I have never heard any names except those of Joe Brown and Mary Brown.

Question. These are the same lot of people?

Answer. Yes, sir.

Question. They were here before the United States court?

Answer. Yes, sir; and I came with them.

Question. You were not examined?

Answer. No, sir.

Question. Did you go before the district attorney, Judge Pope?

Answer. Yes, sir; he interrogated me.

Question. And found that you had no personal knowledge of these transactions?

Answer. He would not carry me before the grand jury.

Question. You never, in your life, saw any of these disguised bands?

Answer. There were those two men in disguise who came to my house.

Question. Was that the only occasion when you saw men in disguise?

Answer. Yes, sir.

Question. And the case of Brown, &c., is the only case you know of whipping by disguised men?

Answer. Yes, sir; in Arkansas, where I lived, we never heard of such things.

Question. When did you go to White County?

Answer. The latter part of March.

Question. You say that you know all the people in your county?

Answer. I do not know everybody in the county, but I know everybody in the section of the county where I live.

Question. You spoke of knowing the voices of all the men there?

Answer. Yes, sir.

Question. Do the decent people of your county approve of such things as the whipping of those people, &c.?

Answer. No, sir; I think they are greatly opposed to it.

Question. Is that the universal sentiment of respectable men in your county, without regard to their political opinions?

Answer. Yes, sir; I have heard a great deal of talk about it in the county.

Question. You have heard your people disapprove it?

Answer. Yes, sir; it was a horrible thing, I suppose.

Question. It is disapproved by men, without regard to political party: that is, democrats joined with republicans in denouncing this outrage upon these black people?

Answer. Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. You say the people disapproved it: what steps did they take to punish it?

Answer. They have never taken any steps that I know of; I have merely heard them speak against it.

Question. But they have never done anything about it?

Answer. No, sir.

By Mr. BAYARD:

Question. Except to go before the grand jury?

Answer. Yes, sir. I did hear of another case in Habersham County. They whipped an old gentleman up there. I don't recollect his name, but it was over in Nacoochee Valley. I think it was for stealing a hog; and he jerked off the face of one man and knew him, and went before the grand jury and swore to him, and got a bill against him. It was at the last spring court that he swore to the man.

Question. Has the man been tried yet?

Answer. No, sir. I forget that man's name; he is a new-comer there since I left the country.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. Do you mean the man who was whipped?

Answer. Yes, sir.

By Mr. BAYARD:

Question. Had there been a feud, an old quarrel between Holcombe and the Alleys and Mr. Oakes?

Answer. Yes, sir. I was raised in South Carolina. My understanding is, that before I came to that country Alley and Holcombe lived close to each other. They used to be very thick together. They were tolerably bad men after women, and they fell out about a woman. After that Mr. Alley's barn was burned, and it was supposed, and I believe, proved, that Holcombe had it done—did not do it himself, but had it done.

Last spring Alley received \$505 and costs from Mr. Holcombe to stop some trial that was going on about the burning of his barn. They have been having little lawsuits about things being stolen, &c. Alley has had his mules' ears cut off in the mountains and it has all been laid to Holcombe, and they have had several little lawsuits about that.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Question. What had Oakes do with that ?

Answer. He had nothing to do with that difficulty at all. He had been a good friend to Holcombe all the time, until this case came up in court here ; that raised a difficulty between Holcombe and Oakes. I was not in the country then.

Question. Is Mr. Oakes understood to be at the head of the Ku-Klux organization there ?

Answer. That has been the supposition. Mr. George Oakes, Mr. Isaac Oakes's brother, and also Mr. Joel Butts, and several other men. They pitch upon a fellow, and say that they know all about it ; that they know who is the captain, and they will have that way for a while, and then they will change it. Burke is as nice a man as there is in the country.

Question. You have said that the democrats are opposed to this Ku-Kluxing ; are the men accused of being leaders of the Ku-Klux themselves democrats ?

Answer. Yes, sir. Mr. Oakes is a democrat, and so is Mr. Alley, I think.

By Mr. BAYARD :

Question. Mr. Holcombe, also ?

Answer. Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Question. May it not be possible that they change their leaders from time to time—that one man is captain for a while, and then they have another ?

Answer. I do not know ; that has been the rumor. I supposed it was just guessed at.

Question. Who is Brock ?

Answer. He is a stranger. He came in there about a month before court, I suppose, and taught a writing-school, and maybe worked a little in the shop. He then went down to Mr. Alley's and laid around there drunk.

By Mr. BAYARD :

Question. Why should Mr. Holcombe charge that Mr. Duke Palmer, of Cleveland, is understood to be the head of the order ?

Answer. I do not know why. I reckon he has no reason, unless it is because Mr. Palmer abuses him a little in his little law scrapes.

Question. He has some feeling against Palmer ?

Answer. Yes, sir ; there is a great deal of prejudice against Palmer.

Question. Were you aware that he had charged Mr. Duke Palmer with being the head of the order ?

Answer. I never heard of that before.

Question. Is Duke Palmer a respectable man ?

Answer. Yes, sir. I know nothing against him. He is a lawyer there—a right blow fellow, and sometimes makes himself a little unpopular by it.

Question. You never heard of such a charge against him as that ?

Answer. No, sir ; I never heard of his being accused of that before.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Question. You never heard him accused or suspected of belonging to the Ku-Klux ?

Answer. Yes, sir. He has been employed against Holcombe all the time, and he abused him a great deal, and, I think, abused Holcombe's wife about burning the barn. She was supposed to be the one that applied the torch to Mr. Alley's barn.

Question. Does he abuse those black people that were whipped ?

Answer. I never heard of that.

Question. You never heard of their going to him to get counsel, and being repelled ?

Answer. No, sir ; I never have heard of it.

By Mr. SCOFIELD :

Question. Was Holcombe fired at more than once ?

Answer. Yes, sir ; that is my understanding, and I suppose it is so. After he was shot, or just about the time he was shot, there were several papers dropped about in the country. Mr. Burke thinks it was done by Mr. Satterfield and some of that party. Mr. Burke and Mr. Henderson and Mr. Satterfield had some little difficulty in the church there.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Question. Where did Satterfield come from ?

Answer. He was raised right there. Mr. Burke told me that he believed it was Satterfield who did it. He said he knew it ; that he was satisfied of it.

Question. Brock was a writing-master ?

Answer. Yes, sir.

Question. You are satisfied that he belongs to the Ku-Klux order ?

Answer. I suppose so.

Question. Is it not likely that he fixed up these papers ?

Answer. He might have done it, but it is not thought that he did. Mr. Burke does not believe that Mr. Satterfield wrote those papers himself, but he thinks he had it done. I saw the papers, and I do not think they are in Mr. Satterfield's handwriting. Mr. Burke says he does not believe it was the Ku-Klux at all.

Question. Were they in the name of the Ku-Klux ?

Answer. Yes, sir ; I have seen two of them, and they were in the name of the Ku-Klux ; cursed those parties that they notified to leave.

Question. What did they charge against the persons they notified to leave ?

Answer. I do not think any charge was made against them. There is a great deal of strife in the country there. Mr. Alley has received two or three papers to leave ; he was the starter.

Question. Mr. Alley was the starter of the Ku-Klux ?

Answer. No, sir ; Mr. Oakes was accused of it.

Question. Did Mr. Alley's papers profess to be from the Ku-Klux ?

Answer. No, sir ; I forget how they were signed. I heard, but I have forgotten. One of them was mailed away over on the Georgia railroad.

Question. Do you know whether there has been a disposition among any of the people to combine against the Ku-Klux and fight them ?

Answer. I do not know—yes, there has been, too ; that is, I have heard of it.

Question. Fight them with their own weapons ?

Answer. Yes, sir.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, November 1, 1871.

JOHN W. SHROPSHIRE sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Question. State your age, where you were born, where you now live, and what is your present occupation.

Answer. I am fifty-three years old ; I was born in Oglethorpe County, and I now live in Floyd County ; I am a farmer, and for the last two years I have been selling goods.

Question. How long have you been living in Floyd County ?

Answer. It will be two years next December.

Question. How far do you live from Rome ?

Answer. I live right in Rome now ; my family is in Rome.

Question. Have you, in Floyd County, any people that are called Ku-Klux ?

Answer. Well, sir, there have been some depredations committed in the county there.

Question. In one part or in different parts of the county ?

Answer. There was a black man shot in Rome ; that was said to be done by the Ku-Klux ; I do not know by whom it was done, but it was done one night after dark. Then two or three have been shot out of the town, two or three miles from town, down the river, in a westerly direction from Rome.

Question. Have there been any persons whipped ?

Answer. Yes, sir ; some.

Question. How many cases of whipping do you suppose have occurred ?

Answer. I think three are all that I know of. I saw two of them myself, when they came into town after they had been whipped.

Question. Did they bear marks of having been severely whipped ?

Answer. One of them did ; I did not examine them particularly. One was cut about the head and around about the face.

Question. What were their names ?

Answer. I do not know that I could tell you but one name ; one was named Jourdan Ware ; I do not remember the name of the other one.

Question. Was the other whipped at the same time ?

Answer. I suppose it was the same night, or about the same time.

Question. You say that there was a third one you knew about, but that you did not see him ?

