

played. Every member had jobs including peanut and popcorn patches. Pa and Ma encouraged wholesome association with group parties such as candy pullings, but no dancing or card playing. Their teacher at Lone Poplar, Miles Ward, stressed drama, memorization, elocution. John provided a log cabin across the creek for sons who could not afford a home.

The Embrys were faithful members of the Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church traveling by wagon and buggy approximately 8 miles. John was on the building committee in 1899.

Only three of the children remained in Coosa all their lives. John married Carrie Moseley, named first son Enoch, then Bonnie and Joyce.

Bob married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Woodfin. They had four children, Bernard, Hewell, Marie and Olivia. Their grandson, John Harris lives in Rockford.

Maude married George Patterson and had sons Raymond and Rudolph.

Ben, the oldest grandson, remained in Coosa as did his son, Thomas Cullen. Other children were Doan, Elaine and Steve.

In latter years, John and Mary bought a home in Rockford now known as the Warren house. With declining health, they moved with daughter Maude. John died February 24, 1928 and Mary on June 7, 1938. They are buried in the Liberty Hill cemetery.

The legacy John and Mary Embry and their ancestors passed to their descendants was not material possessions but love of God, family, country and fellowman, strong work ethics and genuine character. *Submitted by: Olivia Embry Byrd, Daphne, AL*
Sources: Family, church and census records.

Henry Thomas Emfingher and Amanda Pike

Do Re Me Fa Sol La Te Do

When you read the title of this article did the musical scale go through your mind? It probably did for some "older" readers and might have jogged up some good memories of the old fashioned singing school where Do Re Me was taught and sang. I was raised on it. I guess it was only natural for me to learn to play the piano and become a church musician since both my parents were musicians and could play.

They were both born in Coosa County. My Daddy, Henry Thomas Emfingher (25 Aug 1892 - 21 May 1979) was born near Rockford and my Mother, Amanda Lee Pike Emfingher (11 May 1896 - 26 Sep 1971) was born in Socapatoy. They learned music at an early age and my Daddy taught singing schools most of his early life in Coosa County, Mt Olive and Fish Pond were two of the churches.



Fish Pond Singing School around 1912 Henry T. Emfingher, Professor (In suit seated)

Daddy was a coal miner but during the depression he moved his family to a farm in Autauga County, Alabama, where I was born in 1935 during hard times. With no money in hand to pay the doctor for my delivery, the doctor asked my Daddy for the family pump organ. It was given to the doctor for me, the beginning of my musical talents. When I was in the third grade in Montevallo, Alabama, Daddy encouraged me to take piano lessons. He promised that someday he would buy me a piano if I did. I forgot that promise until 1965 when my wife, Rosa Mae Green Emfingher (5 Feb 40)

both parents who loved good music and who passed along to me their talents. They not only taught me the good rudiments of music but the rudiments of a good life. *Submitted by: Henry A. Emfingher, 137 Highway 203, Montevallo, AL 35115*

Eppes Family

Captain Francis Eppes, (various spelling Eppes, Epse, Epps) Ashford, Kent, England, was granted crown (Indian) lands by King Charles I in gratitude for his naval prowess and service to the crown. He sailed to Bermuda Hundred, Va. taking three months each crossing and returning Secret crown naval missions delayed his return and settlement until 1635; construction had begun on his home "Appomattox Manor," Hopewell, Va. It is now owned and operated by the U.S. Parks Department and open to the public. It became headquarters for General Grant, 1864-65. Mrs. Grant was provided a cabin home in the garden adjacent to the General's Manor office. The British had destroyed this garden during the Revolution and it was again decimated during the Civil War. President Lincoln visited here via gunboat, anchoring off the Appomattox River and Manor wharfs. It has the distinction of being the longest retained family-home in the country — over 300 years.

The Captain's seventh generation grandson, Littlebury Royal Eppes, born March 16, 1798, Charles City, Virginia, died July 16, 1883 and buried in Lucy Graveyard, Marengo County, Al., (today a cow pasture). He, due to the economics of the times, was reduced to the lowly role of plantation overseer. The family had been successful farmers and wool merchants for centuries in England. As with other entrepreneurs of the period, Captain Eppes held hope for tobacco profits in Virginia as had Captain John



Lou Annie McCord Eppes 1883-1965

Smith earlier. By the 1830's the virgin soil was depleted with over-planting resulting in crop failure. In desperation cotton planting projected some economic salvation. Along with other families and arduous trek to Greene County, Alabama began, requiring three months of travel. Families banded together fearful of Indian attacks and looters. One can imagine the rigors this removal required of women and children along with their domestic animals.

His son, John Henry (eighth generation) born October 3, 1833, Marengo County, died May 4, 1904, buried Taylor's Chapel, Chalkville (now Birmingham). The obelisk gravestone resembles that of Thomas Jefferson's at Monticello. The Eppes' family's connection to Jefferson is through (Senator) John Wayles Eppes of "Eppington" who was a nephew and son-in-law of Jefferson.

John Henry married Margaret Rebecca Holcroft from a nearby village of that name. They had immigrated a few years earlier to Alabama. The two had corresponded through the Civil War, he, an officer in the Quartermaster Corps, she operating her family's plantation supervising seventy-five slaves. By necessity she became a respected physician, including surgery and midwifery. This unique correspondence was consumed in a fire which destroyed their Chalkville home during World War II. Also lost

were original furniture, silver, glass, china and jewelry that they had brought from Virginia to Alabama. He resorted to his avocation of watchmaking and repair, she, her medical practice which provided a modest livelihood.

Ninth Generation: The pair reared a large family. An older son, Marvin, after earning a degree at Howard College (now Sanford University) came to Goodwater as Principal of its school. This was considered an esteemed position as Goodwater had become a thriving railway center. Our mother composed an essay in high school on the town's history and its hopeful future. It is deposited in the McCord-Eppes Collection, The Archives, Auburn University.

Marvin's brother, Talmadge DeWitt, our father, was born at Chalkville August 10, 1880, died Lawrenceville, TN, December 23, 1929. On visits to Goodwater, he met and courted our mother, Lou Annie McCord, born The House, Goodwater, September 29, 1883, died July 1965. They are buried side by side near the McCord plot, Symrna Cemetery along with father's twin DeWitt Talmadge. They had married at the foot of the impressive Edwardian stairway in her father's home, The House, December 24, 1906. (A few of the McCord Company furniture pieces are exhibited at Brownsfield House, Opelika. Famed

artist, Warree LeBron painted a portrait of The House, 1963. Her second copy of it is on display at Brownsfield. J.S. Eppes' collection of her works have been donated to Auburn Archives).

Zackriah Davis McCord (married Minerva Vaughn, a remarkable woman who returned as a gentle ghost, 1935, is documented and verified) and his brother, Elisha (see McCord entry this publication) were innately intelligent and enterprising men. Beginning buggy and wagon repair the firm expanded into lumber, cotton ginning and warehouses. Its most productive time, after their death, had



Talmadge DeWitt Eppes 1880-1929

been World War II when planed lumber was shipped to England via rail to Savannah for U.S. Air Force construction in England.

The McCord home, Jonesboro, GA, had survived the Battle of Atlanta, 1864. The home "Stately Oaks," was the prototype of "Twelve Oaks," Ashley Wilkes' home in GWTW. It is now open to the public. Railroads offered the brothers hope for their future and families.

Mother, age 15, had been head bookkeeper for the firm, while attending high school. She and her two sisters, Mary Lewis and Velma Elizabeth, were diligent students, all longing to attend Radcliffe College (Harvard). However, their strong-willed father, Z.D. demanded they attend Alabama institutions, Mary and mother at Montevallo and Velma to Central College, Tuscaloosa. Their time was near wasted taking ephemeral courses such as needlework, etc. Women were not then accepted as "Scholars." "Miss Mary" was delegated by Z.D. to take over the direction of the McCord Company prior to his death, 1923. She suffered mightily as a lone businesswoman — disdainfully treated, particularly by Benjamin Russell of nearby Alexander City (textiles). Velma and mother continued to assist in the business.

The McCord-Eppes family made distinct and creative impacts on the town and state areas. Talmadge, unfortunately, due to the post-Civil War economics, was denied a college education. He became a self-educated gentleman, formal demeanor, a brilliant mathematician and a skilled sportsman. He was instrumental in establishing one of the state's first municipal electrical systems. Turbines and dam construction at Hatchett Creek remain in evidence today. Mica mining provided panes for automobile shades and cookstove doors. He also advised on road

construction. Later he retained offices in Birmingham in the then Comer Building, now the John Hand Building as a cotton broker and subsequently in Tennessee.

"Miss Annie" spent a lifetime on "good works", as she referred to her civic, cultural and educational efforts. She held no racial or religious prejudices, often assisting her beloved Afro-American friend, Winnie Hill, with her nursing and midwifery. Mother had been an advocate for women's voting rights and a supporter of Public Radio and Television. Criticism abounded. She strode on and was fulfilled when Civil Rights were enacted in 1964. She often disagreed with President Johnson, but praised him for Civil Rights enactment. Over the years she had corresponded and received replies from such notables as Eleanor Roosevelt, Adlai Stevenson, President Truman and others. All of these letters disappeared from her desks at The House.

As a fine amateur actress she had the audiences in tears during her "soap opera" plays for charitable benefits. How touched she would have been at "her audience" and crowds who attended her open grave burial at Symrna — hundreds, many in trees. Few heard the burial rites from "The Book of Common Prayer." It was not read by an Episcopal priest, as, oddly none were available that hot and humid day in July. The beautiful prose was moving and she would have been highly amused. Loving friend and neighbor Mrs. Steve (Dot) Gilliland was with us at Symrna and afterward.

Tenth generation: There were three children from the marriage of Talmadge and Lou Annie. First, John Stinson, married Helen Thompson, teacher, 1942, deceased, buried Green Acres Cemetery, Goodwater. He began a career at age nine being commandeered by his grandfather, Z.C. McCord to drive one of the first Mack trucks in the area. This truck replaced oxen who had toiled with the Company cotton and lumber wagons. These quiet beasts were regulated to "retirement" in the beautiful pastures and park at the rear of the House. Z.D. had purchased them in Kansas City guiding and returning south, camping aside them. Stinson briefly attended Howard College (Sanford). Born 12/19/07 - died 4/23/99.

Ann, born February 12, 1912, died, Lake Martin, April 15, 1992. Her ashes, as requested, were scattered over the lake where she had tended and fed hundreds of waterfowl and cared for abandoned animals. Her gravestone is in the Eppes' plot at Westover Church, Charles City, Virginia. A great-grandfather, Colonel Littlebury Royal Eppes, was a member of The House of Burgess under George III and was a vestryman at Westover Church. We three established a library in The Rectory in his honor. She had married Wallace Howard Cook (deceased). Ann had graduated from Judson College with honors. She became an instructor in home economics, one of the youngest ever to be selected by this respected women's college. Later she attended the graduate schools of the Universities of Tennessee and California at San Francisco. She became a spokesperson for the International Harvester Company and was known as "The Betty Furness of the West" who had represented Westinghouse products. Ann was a liberal philanthropist in Alabama, California and Virginia, especially animal welfare causes.

William David Eppes holds degrees from William and Mary, (the Eppes' family has attended the College since 1756), Vanderbilt University and New York University. See listings in "Who's Who in the World," "Who's Who in the U.S." and "Who's Who in Business and Finance." This chronicle is dedicated to the valiant women of our families, Jefferson-Randolph-Eppes-McCords, bless them! Submitted by: William D. Eppes, Peterborough, NH, April, 1999 Copyright

Sources: Virginia Historical Society, Richmond; Birmingham Public Library Archives; Auburn Archives. Eva Turner Clark's "Frances Epes, His Ancestors and Descendants" is the definitive genealogy published by Richard Smith, New York, N.Y. 1942

Marvin McCoy Eppes

A.B.-A.M.

Mr. Eppes was born in Jefferson county on May 19, 1878 to John Henry and Maggie Rebecca (Holdcroft) Eppes, natives of Demopolis (Marengo County) and Green County. Seven sons and three daughters made up the family which included Marvin, who was educated in the common schools of the county followed by a course at the Pinson High School and was graduated from Howard College in 1898 with a bachelor of arts. In 1899 he took a Master of Arts from Howard and pursued the Masters from Chicago University.