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Some Southern instances

When I arrived in the South from Germany having been called ~~out~~ out of Germany because of World War #1. Pres Chas. A. Ballis of the Southern States mission was looking for a School teacher to teach an elementary school school. He in discussing my schooling and experiences he felt that I would do. However I was not to go to Buchanan Ga immediately. Pres. Jos + Smith, Chas + Purse, Geo Albert Smith and others were about to leave the South and a big conference was to be held in Atlanta. The press was giving it much publicity. He suggested that a wait until they had been to Atlanta and very likely saints would be in from Buchanan ^{70s} Ga.

In the meantime and 18 year old boy in Augusta, Ga had jumped off a high river bridge had killed himself. Mission headquarters were in Chattanooga, Tenn. but I was waiting in Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Atlanta was a former Elder. Lionel ^{from Robertson, Miss} ~~had~~ had married an Augusta girl. He was about 35 years old living with the family in Puwerton, Utah.

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In day his wife took the horse & buggy to town. The horse ran away, tipped over the buggy and kill his wife. Her younger sister came out to help him. In time they considered marriage. They were in the South to see if it were agreeable with her parents.

Their home was 18 miles in a small town 18 miles from Augusta. It was suggested that Elder Myers hold the funeral in Augusta and that I go with him while waiting for Pres. Smith's visit.

We arrived in Augusta found a family of members where we stayed. That night we practiced songs we could sing. Next day we held the funeral in the two story family residence. We had a crowd, filled the large living ~~to~~ room, the stairway and opened doors and windows so the crowd on the long porch could hear. I conducted, we sang and ~~the~~ Elder Myers, preached a most powerful sermon.

The place of burial was a family plot out in the country. It was raining when we got there. A burly negro was finishing the ~~grave~~ ^{single} grave, plowing it with

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brick. Each time he would finish, put the
dirt wet ~~at~~ dirt behind the brick it would
save it. He sat in the horse drawn carriage
and waited and waited. Finally I suggested
the the brick be placed against the walls of the
grave and a double wall on the other side,
it ~~worked~~, ^{they put on the cover} we finished our service and we
went home.

School teaching + activities

After the conference at Atlanta I meet some of the people from Buchanan Ga. District Pres. Harold Hobbs and I took the train 60 miles West to Buchanan, arriving just after dark. The settlement where the Saints (about 21 families) lived was some 4 miles from the railroad station. We walked out staying the the home of W. C. F. Brannon.

The nonmembers were unfriendly and had expelled the Saints children from the District school. Some three or four years before someone had put a torch to their small church building. Pres. Callis sent them an Elder familiar with cement and they erected one with walls of concrete which in 1974 is still standing with cultural hall and class rooms.

~~I started teaching~~

In the church building they put some school benches and in the rear half of the hall seats for adults. A stove stood in the middle of the room. On the walls were kerosine lamps. A platform and pulpit in the front. They had an organ for music, a table and equipment

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for the sacrament and the standard works of the church. The chapel being about 20' x ~~35~~ 40 feet. There were 4 elders and other ^{members in the branch.} thought

The first held a priesthood meeting to see how the branch should be run; when to hold meetings, how conducted, etc. on railroad for sun time.

The central of Georgia run thru the area they guessed time thereby.

It was agreed that I'd teach the school, they would furnish the wood for fuel. They set aside a day when all but a few of the men and boys would go into the woods and chop wood for the season. Those who could not go that day would bring wood when notified. Twice we run out of wood. When the wood was gone I dismissed school, sent the children of the family who had been notified to go home and ~~the~~ tell their father that school was out ~~until~~ until we got wood. School was out each time only a half day. I wasn't going to chop wood, I was told

(6) that the Elder who taught the year before me had to or they let him.

I had seven grades. I took the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and fourth in the morning - the 4th, 5th, 6th + 7th in the afternoon. There were 50 pupils.

I was able to help them with their music, singing their religious services. I was familiar and started a M. S. A. I had hold cottage meetings in the community. I could cut grass them, cut jump them out base had them out play them at checkers, cut play them on the organ in the cottage meetings or church. I knew of the war experiences, speak and sing some German. and in church give some good gospel talks. Usually one of the members says, (my age) who knew the trails thru the woods and the people went with me. He were well received.

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Southern frolics

What was known as Frolics were frequent. A home was selected where one was to be held. News spread like wild fire. The younger people gathered far miles around. On the evening they gathered, ~~emptied~~ carried all the furniture from the large room of the house. The room became a dance hall. One who could strum a banjo sat in a corner and how he would play. I had dance the Virginia reel but turkey in the straw and such drills they'd go thru surprised me. They took turn inside and outside. Outside there was usually some corn liquor, sometimes fights. - All of which lasted well into the night. I feared ^{had} bloodshed - as there was knifing some times.

On one occasion I'm told ~~of~~ while they saints were building the cement church, they got word that the concrete may not burn but it will blow up. The church members placed an armed guard of two each night at the church. One night after one of these frolics had let out the people come racing ~~down~~ and following down the road

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Elder Brannon (the colonizer of the group and large land owner) was on guard with Elder Brodley. After the group went by there come a lone rig. Just outside the church it stopped, Brannon stepped to the ~~open~~ double door opening the occupant of the rig fired a shot at Brannon. It struck the concrete six inches in line with Brannon's head splattering lime with concrete. Instinctive he threw up his gun and fired back striking the horse in the buttock. The horse jumped, threw the occupant down as it too away. The end of the affair at the church at night that Brannon was taken to court, had to pay for the horse and expenses which he told me cost him \$100 in order to get out of the scrape.

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Braggs

One night after church

Like Jacob Crane of old I took turns staying with the various families three or four days at a time. One Sunday evening after the sacrament meeting I chose to go home with the Singly family about a quarter mile south of the church. We were comfortably seated, enjoying the ourselves before the large open fireplace when a Mrs B — and her adolescent son and daughter arrived. She explained that her husband was on a ~~spree~~ rebellion at home. Had back them out of the house and would not let them in. That if I would go with them he would let them in. He had done this before but that he always respected the Elders and would obey their request.

There wasn't much to do but go with them. She and the daughter ~~went~~ rode in the buggy and the boy Jim and I walked in the road behind about 1 1/2 miles north across a small river to a fork in the road. This turned south about at a 75° angle which road we follow at least a mile to the foot

of the big mountain to their home. The horse and buggy was left ~~at~~ the barn on the right of the road. We then crossed to the left side where the house was. It was a one story home a door in the middle leading to a hall, down the center and a ^{two} large rooms in front - one on either side of the hall. ~~Across the front was a low~~ a window ~~from each~~ ^{from each} ~~side~~ ^{side} across the front was a long porch with a double window facing onto the porch from each room. No blinds.

The woman stepped onto the porch - went to the window at the left - looked in and called to a ^{red} skinned man in side that the Elders were here. I stepped to the window what a sight. A large room - a bed in each corner to the right. A fireplace ~~on~~ the wall to the right. The man in the center - a shot gun on each bed to his side - a double edge ax on the floor at his feet. I wasn't sure I wanted in. She repeated her call over & over again. Finally he stirred, got up, slowly he went out into the hall & unloded the door and let us in.

Once in the woman placed the guns and the ~~ax~~ ^{ax} in ~~the~~ ^{the} corner by the

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wood pile. I sat facing the fireplace near the whiskeyed 45 or 50 year old man. Believe me - it was a dull quiet evening - Bedtime the woman and daughter took one bed in that room PROB - took the other. The ~~forteen~~ age boy, two others, youngie, Eber & Marty who had been sent from the mission office to keep me company of the Christmas Holiday and I in the other ~~bed~~ bed room. I was scared to go asleep - but I did.

He stayed there all that day. It passed quietly. That night the scheduled an O'possum hunt for us but I stayed behind at the home. They took their axes, ropes, lanterns and dogs and departed.

They were hardly on the ~~the~~ gojins trip than the man got loose. Verbally he ~~seemed~~ determined to ~~kill~~ ~~his~~ wife, tell something that would ~~kill~~ his wife. She was equally determined to stop him I want none of it, couldn't stop it but was in the middle. Not knowing what else to do I ~~at~~ sat still and kept still while the battle raged on and on. The old man starting eyes and oow again and she screaming at him. He finally got his story out - she quieted down and I made not comment. Sitting with neither one now the other. It was all quite when the party come back and dumped 2 Opossum in the corner by the wood pile.

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I guess that I must of handled ~~things~~
this and subsequent events all right for
both He and she became ^{my} very close
friends.

He leaves home.

Next morning the old appearing
man packed up his belongings and he was
leaving home. He went ~~to~~ into the yard,
hitched a horse to the single buggy which
the rest of the family ~~had~~ watched thru
the windows wondering how long he'd be
gone. His wife said this would be
different. I was the only one to go into
the yard and talk with him and say
goodbye as he drove away.

He returns

Some ten or twelve days later I was
at the Brannon home ~~some~~ about 300
yards from the church when a Mrs.
Bennett entered. She said I have been
down the road; "you can't guess
who I saw down at the forks of
the road!" It turned out to be M-B—
on the other side of the valley ^{2 miles away} headed

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headed toward his home. For some reason there was bad blood between Mr B. and an elder son George at about 23 years of age. George had left home and got to Atlanta to work. He had come to Buchanan to see his family and stay with friends. His father had threatened to kill him. I knew that George was ^{at home with} his mother. I also knew that the road dropped down from the edge of the big hill to the road or blind side of the house and the Mr B. and that George would need ~~various~~ warning time to get away. I did not know how long Mr B. would stop at the cross roads and talk or how much time there was before he would be home. It was about a mile thru the woods and across cotton field from where I was to ~~the~~ ^{see} George. I understood it along the trail on the jog hoping I would not lose my way.

I arrived ~~at~~ ^{at} home ahead of time. Having told George and his mother what I had learned we looked out

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the kitchen and saw the father coming down the road about 100 yards away.

Hurriedly George left the house, went down the hill to the Railroad tracks and along the tracks out of gun shot when he stopped to look back.

His father had left the buggy and stood by the house viewing his son along the track where they stood for a considerable time watching each other.

When B. came in the house little was said and things went on as usual though nothing had happened.

Snow

One day in 1914 it snowed about 2 inches. I taught them how to roll snow balls, how to stack them and make snow men. We made 2 forts and had snow ball fights. It was great sport. It only last a couple of hours when all that was left of the snow was the snowmen and the forts. Few could remember when they saw snow before.