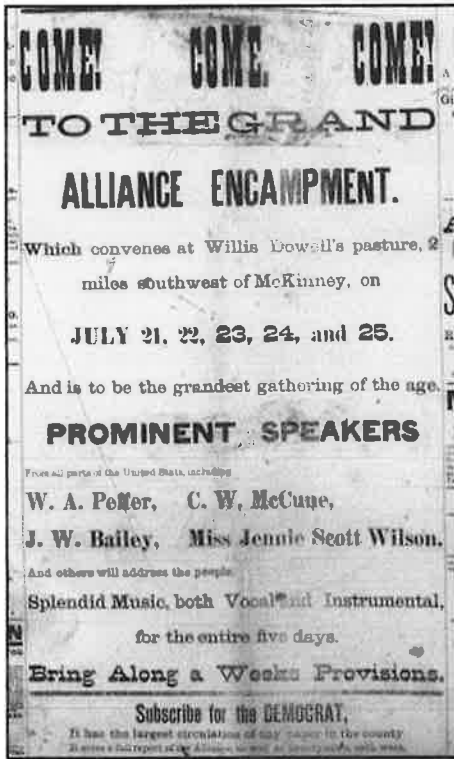


G. Photographs



Willis R. Dowell owned a 200 acre farm 2 miles southwest of McKinney that was chosen to be the site of the Alliance Encampment, an event in 1891 the McKinney Democrat called a "big county love fest." The 5-day event featured music, speakers and other entertainment. Attendees were asked to bring their own provisions since it was intended to be a "self-sustaining" festival.



Willis R. Dowell was a farmer and a stockman with a farm southwest of the McKinney Square near what is now the intersection of El Dorado and Harding Streets.



Francis G. Dowell had three sons, James P., Willis R. and Francis, Jr. The best known of the sons was James P. who started the J.P. Dowell Hardware Store on East Louisiana Street. When the founder died in 1898, his children took over the business.



IN THE GOLDEN WEST.

McKinney Young Man Makes Large Cotton Deals in Jones County.

The Hamlin Herald of Febquary 4 contained the following reference to the cotton trade of Hamlin and the connection of a McKinney young man with some large cotton deals there: "One day last week J. P. Dowell, representing C. F. Witherspoon & Son of Galveston, bought of L. A. Hobdy a lot of cotton that amounted to \$37,837, and a few days later Mr. Dowell bought of Mr. Hobdy 2,000 bales of cotton, giving a check for \$97,930.66 to cover the purchase of the 2,000 bales. This is the largest two cotton deals that have been made in Hamlin so far this year, but there have been many small ones made."

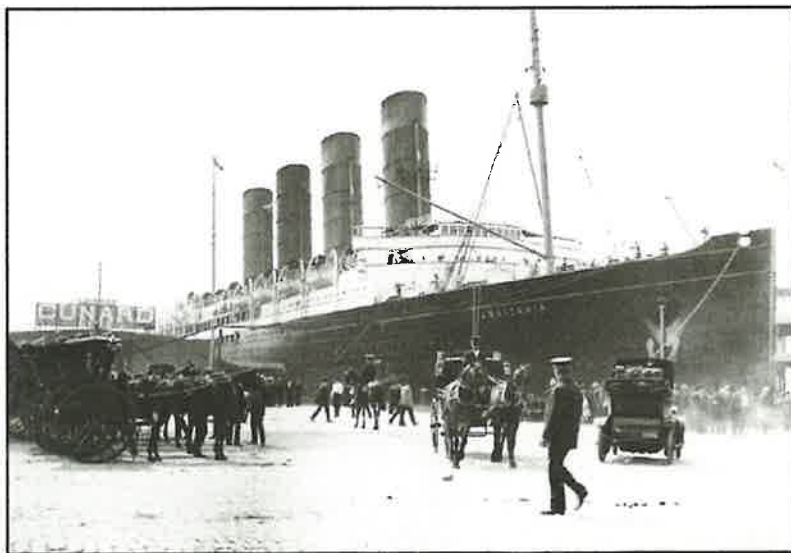
J. P. Dowell, who figures as the purchasing agent in the above mentioned deals was born and raised in McKinney, is a son of W. R. Dowell of this city and brother of Frank Dowell, manager of the McKinney Realty Co.

There is not any better Salve than DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. We

Jim Dowell, son of Willis R. Dowell, entered the cotton trade when he was in his late 20s as an agent for a Galveston-based company. In 1914, he teamed up with his brother Alfred and opened a cotton trading firm on the east side of the McKinney Square.



Cotton dealer Jim Dowell had a second-story office in the building now occupied by Me & Mrs. Jones on Tennesee Street.



A year after the Dowell brothers started their business, they shipped a load of cotton to a buyer in England. That shipment was aboard the Lusitania when it was torpedoed by a German U-boat in May of 1915.



Christelle (Oneal) Dowell was a charter member of the social literary group know as the Jeanne d'Arc Club, founded in 1918. In this group photo of the Club (circa 1950), Christelle is in the middle row, third from the left, wearing a wide-brim hat.

Jim Pat Dowell Initiated Into Honorary Society

The Southern Methodist University Chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon, National Honorary Mathematics Fraternity, has recently initiated Jim Pat Dowell of this city. Mr. Dowell was one of three Sophomore students whose record in mathematics allowed membership in this organization. He has maintained an A



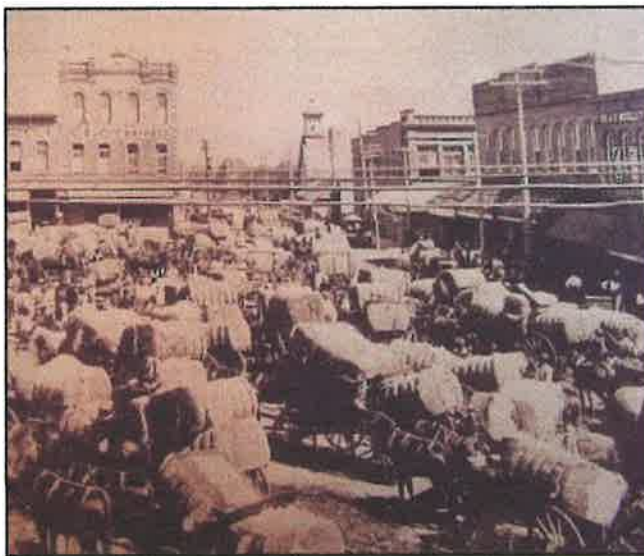
*The son of cotton dealer James Dowell was known as **Jim Pat**. He was the frequent recipient of academic honors. Following the end of WWII, Jim Pat attended Harvard and was among the first students in the U.S. to receive a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering.*

Cotton in McKinney

The arrival of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad in 1872 allowed area farmers to sell their crops to a larger market. In 1860, McKinney produced 16 bales of cotton. By 1880, it was producing up to 50,000 bales annually. Along with this increased production came investment in gins and mills that could process the raw material. The largest of these was the Texas Cotton Mill Company (610 Elm St.) begun by mill magnate J. Perry Burrus in 1910. This mill became one of the largest denim producing mills in the United States. It was in continuous operation until 1969.



Looking south on Tennessee St. (circa 1896)



Looking north on Tennessee St. (circa 1896)

Not all cotton was milled locally. In fact, several mills in England were some of the largest buyers of McKinney raw cotton. Out-of-town mills would often send buyers to McKinney to secure deals.

On market days in the fall, the McKinney Square would become a huge trading pit for the cotton buyers and sellers. The buyers would position themselves in second-floor windows and make bids to the sellers below who would position their bales close to the buyers in hopes of higher bids.

THOSE WHO WILL BUY COTTON HERE

For the benefit of our farmer friends, who will have much of the fleecy staple to sell this fall we give below the names of several who will buy cotton in McKinney: Ed Dorsey, J. W. Purcell, Joe Dorsey, J. D. Bass, Henry Lewis, Walters & Lovell, (who have recently moved to McKinney with their families from Wylie,) and Jim Dowell.

This is just a few of the number who will buy cotton on the streets of McKinney. There will be several out of town buyers arrive in McKinney about September 1. We will then give a complete list of the buyers and the firms they represent. The McKinney buyers will extend to their farmer friends every courtesy possible and will pay them the top price for their cotton. We are sure the farmers could find no better market than McKinney and therefore urge them to dispose of the coming crop in the county capital.

McKinney Daily Gazette, Aug. 21, 1913