

# Welcome to the Guinea Jubilee

*Friday, September 29 3-10 p.m.  
Saturday, September 30 7 a.m.-9 p.m.*

*Abingdon Ruritan Centre  
Festival Grounds, Bena*





CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

### Student art winners

The Guinea Heritage Association recognized its 2023 Guinea Jubilee student art winners during Guinea Heritage Day on Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Abingdon Ruritan Club building, Bena. The winners are, from left, Sophia Setterholm (fifth grade), Colt Jones (fourth grade), Dedrick Murrell (third grade), Elaine Hagen (second grade), Reagan Qillin (first grade) Tegan Hillgoss (kindergarten), Vivien Hall (pre-K) and, not pictured, fifth grade runner-up Peyton King.

## Tidbits of Time in Guinea

BY PAUL L. BROWN

*(Excerpted from the original, which can be found at Buck's Store Museum in Bena.)*

Come walk with me down Memory Lane. The road is wide and well paved. We have walked this road many times before. Just over here to the left is the "Guinea Road." Did you know or do you remember when...

The Guinea Road was blacktopped in the thirties.

The electric line came to Guinea in the thirties.

The Achilles High School and Grade School was dedicated on November 14, 1924.

Sterling Rowe, Jese Thomas, and William Shackelford, our grandparents, were all merchants.

Grandpa Sterling Rowe's schooner, the "Seven Brothers," was captured by the Yankees during the Civil War.

Elmer Robins and Mr. Bob Rowe were barbers at Achilles in the thirties, and haircuts were 25 cents.

Bena Post Office was named for a lady.

Mama used to buy kale from Mrs. Fanny Smith for fifteen cents a mess.

Preacher Andrew Williams used to run Bob King's Store and deliver groceries all over Guinea.

Our third great-grandfather, Aaron Belvin, fought in the Battle of Brandywine during the Revolutionary War.

Tom Hogge was janitor of Achilles School and Union Baptist Church for many years.

Sis Hattie Hall sold her piano to Union Baptist Church.

The Severn Wharf Road was built in 1860.

The Achilles Friends Church was built in 1900. Mr. Wash Smith was one of the carpenters.

Route 1103 was widened and given to the state by my papa, Alton J. Brown Sr., July 22, 1936.

Aunt Bunchie Thomas would wear her shoes on the opposite foot every other day in order to keep them from wearing out too quickly.

James "Jim" Howard, Cousin Bertha's uncle, had such small feet that he wore ladies' shoes.

Elizabeth Earle Deal, Alice D. Brown's stepmother, was a missionary to India. In 1941, she was returning to India after a furlough and was captured by the Japanese in the Philippines. She was repatriated in 1943 on the MS Gripsholm.

Estelle Ferrell Schwartz was born at Severn Wharf at Russell West's place, and Mildred Ferrell Hastings was born at Gustavia King's place.

All of Mama and Papa's children were born at Grandma Thomas's in the bedroom downstairs, except Ann and I, who were born at Perrin.

Cousin Jimmie Thomas, Uncle Bill Shackelford, and Morris Hogge were superintendents of Sunday School at Union Baptist Church.

Mr. Joseph "Josie" Robins and two of his sons were Deacons of Union Baptist Church.

Locate the following: The Joel Hayes-Andrew Rowe Store; The Honeypod Tree; The Beaverdam; Yonder; Bob King's Store; Marchum's Graveyard; Severn School; Henry King's Camp; The Old



FILE PHOTO

This photo of the Achilles Red Men's Hall, taken in 1959, shows three lightning rods on the roof. Paul Brown wrote about lightning rods in his Tidbits of Time in Guinea.

Salem.

Mr. Bob Rowe sold homemade ice cream from door to door ... you took your bowl to the gate and bought the amount you wanted.

There have been four schools at Achilles.

Uncle John F. Rowe, the son of Grandpa Sterling Rowe, died on a boat on his way home from Norfolk in December, 1913.

Uncle Howard Hall was a lieutenant commander on a submarine in World War I.

Percy Robins sold beef from door-to-door from his truck.

Aunt Mattie Brown, Uncle Carroll Brown's wife, taught school at Severn and Marked Pine.

Blanch Shackelford, the daughter of George and Rachel Brown Shackelford, died in childbirth. Her request was, as death neared, "Bury my baby in my arms." The baby had died the day before and was buried on the Charlie Clayton farm at Hayes. It was exhumed and placed in her

SEE TIDBITS OF TIME, PAGE 3C

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TIDBITS OF TIME: *Take a step into the past of Guinea*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2C)

arms, and they were buried at Union Baptist Cemetery. Blanch died on July 21, 1914. Her husband, John Jennings, had died in March of the same year.

Willie Brown, Papa's brother, died of pneumonia in France during World War I. He is buried there.

Mr. Joe Wash Smith and Grandma Martha Ellen Brown are first cousins.

Uncle Bill Thomas, the grandfather of Hammond Robins Jr., had his large house built for \$125 by Mr. George Raynor.

Two of the oldest houses in Guinea are Uncle Ralph Rowe's house, known to us as the Ira Brown house, and Uncle Levi Thomas's house, known to us as Little Eddie King's place.

The mother of Captain Noah F. Deal and wife of Robert Lee Deal, Elizabeth Robins Deal, died in childbirth. Minutes before she died, she said, "Run get Bob Lee, everything is turning black." By the time he reached her side, she was dead. Grandma Methisa Winder Brown, a midwife, was with her.

The original wrought iron fence surrounding the graves of Sterling Rowe Sr. and his wife, Frances Belvin Rowe, is still standing. It was placed there in 1889. This is located at Union Baptist Cemetery.

The wrought iron fence surrounding the graves of William Shackelford, his two wives, and son, James Shackelford, are still standing. James died in 1879, and his last wife died in 1912. These graves are located at the Thomas Cemetery at Severn.

Joel "Tudor" Rowe and his wife, Ellen Freeman Rowe, gave the land for Union Baptist Cemetery in 1883. They are buried near the old church and near the road.

When the hearse bearing the body of Uncle Carey Bland passed the home of Mr. Sam Smith on its way to Union Baptist Cemetery, Mr. Smith made the remark, "I'll be next." He was. They died in 1891.

What is the capital of Guinea? Achilles! Maybe Perrin! Or Bena! Maryus! Severn! Or Jenkins Neck! Your guess is as good as mine.

Lydia Thomas, the first wife of Billy Thomas, and daugh-



FILE PHOTO

Wilbur Templeman, left, opened a barber shop at Bena in 1948 and operated it for 63 years. He is shown in 1984 with a longtime customer, Herbert Eagle. Templeman and his wife Florence were grand marshals of the Guinea Jubilee Parade in 1987; and friends marked the 60th anniversary of his shop in a standing-room-only ceremony held in 2008 at Providence Baptist Church in Ordinary. Mr. Templeman died in 2014.

ter of Jimmie and Nannie H. Thomas, and sister of Hallie T. Forrest, died in childbirth. She died at Gustavia King's place.

The Hall Cemetery is located on the corner of Mrs. Leah Hogge, Mr. Peter West and Willie Shifflett land. There is nothing visible there now.

Mr. George Raynor moved the large house of Mr. Stonewall Rowe about ¼ of a mile down to the banks of the Severn River. He used oxen. It is told that the clock wasn't moved from the mantle while the house was being moved.

The first person buried at Union Baptist Cemetery was Ralph Rowe, the child of Bannister Rowe and Missouri Rowe. He was buried near the old church not far from Mama and Papa's grave but was later moved near the center of the cemetery where there was more room for the entire family.

In 1870, the family of John Thomas set aside the Thomas Cemetery of Severn as a burying ground. His children who gave the land are Robert, John Jr., James, and Elizabeth Thomas and Grandma Mary Ann Shackelford.

Uncle Edster Hall, his son Leamond Hall, Uncle Billy F. Thomas, and Uncle Ralph Rowe were each sheriff of Gloucester County.

The Chapel at Maryus was a branch of Union Baptist

Church. It was founded in 1895. The land for the church was given by Mr. Thomas Hogge in 1894. Mr. Olsey Hall was Superintendent of Sunday School. Services were held Sunday afternoons, and it was a thriving church for a while. It closed about 1930 when transportation to Union became easier. The building later burned.

Miss Alice J. Thornton and her brother, Meaux Thornton, were the first teachers at Achilles School. Miss Alice died in 1930.

Harvey Phillips was janitor of Achilles School after Tom Hogge retired.

Wilbur Templeman opened his barber shop at Bena after graduating from Barber School in 1948.

Mr. Joseph H. Roberts and Captain Willie C. Brown were half-brothers.

In the Thirties, Grandma Thomas cooked hominy. It was my job to take Bubber Joe and Aunt Beulah, Mr. and Mrs. Walter King, and Cousin Walter Hogge a bowl each. She would save a bowl for Mama and Papa and still have plenty for herself. I didn't care for hominy then, now I do.

I remember Mama bringing Grandma fish all cleaned. After Mama left, Grandma would say, "I wonder if Lela salted these fish." She would put the tip of her tongue on the fish and say, "Yes, they are salted," and properly put them away for breakfast.

Cleveland Smith was a carpenter. He built many homes in Guinea. He built the Henry Abernathy house, and



UNION BAPTIST PHOTO

Twins who were enrolled in Sunday School at Union Baptist Church in 1949 included, front row from left, Betsy Clayton Oliver Crosswell and Beverly Grace Oliver Hudgins, Pat Zee Rowe and Angela Sue Rowe Zaller, Marcella Lynette "Sissy" Jenkins Mederios and Johnny Jones Jenkins Jr.; second row, Gordon Meredith Smith and Howell Bruce Smith, Evelyn Ruth Rowe Camp and Ernest Rutledge Rowe, Harvey Lee Harris and Hansford Reed Harris Sr.; third row, John William "Billy" Hogge and Martha Elizabeth "Betsy" Hogge Oliver, and Preston Kay Edwards Riley and Thelma Fay Edwards Mull.

he and Bubber Joe Thomas built Papa's large porch. Paul Smith was a contractor. Teny worked for him.

Mr. Decatur Belvin was captain of a large ship in Baltimore, Maryland.

There have been eleven sets of twins in the Rowe family since 1800.

In 1909, Captain Willie Brown donated a piece of land to Union Baptist Church for a Baptizing House at Sedgy Creek.

Mr. Joseph Brown, Larry Brown's grandfather, spent his last days at the Old Soldiers Home in Richmond, Virginia.

When Joel Thomas Sr. married his first wife, Indiana Rowe, on January 14, 1855, his second wife was two months old. Frances Ann Williams was born on November 17, 1854.

Grandpa Joel H. Thomas and Grandma Mildred Ann Shackelford Thomas were second cousins.

Uncle Willie and Aunt Olie Hogge moved back to Guinea from Newport News in 1920.

When the Electric Line came to Guinea in the Thirties, Grandma Thoams had her grandson, Buster Thomas, wire her house. Each room and porch had a pull chain in the center. The day the electricity was connected, I went to the store and didn't get home until almost dark. Grandma had the lamp lit in the kitchen. I asked her why

she didn't pull the chain and turn the lights on. Her comment to me was, "I wanted you to be the first to turn it on." When I did, the whole kitchen lit up. We were proud to have electricity. Grandma called it "Lectic."

The oldest ones present at our family reunions were Aunt Olie and Aunt Nett, Papa's sisters.

Mr. George D. Ash, who founded the G. D. Ash and Son that later became Perrin Post Office, had a brother in business with him by the name of John B. Ash. He went to Baltimore on a buying trip for the store. He stayed in a hotel that night. He went to bed and blew out the gas light instead of turning it off. He was asphyxiated. He died on July 19, 1885.

The Court Records of 1824 ordered the Sheriff to take possession of the Estate of Elizabeth Thomas, deceased, as no one had applied as administrator. This is the widow

of James Thomas and mother of Jese, Washington and John Thomas.

Most houses years ago had lightning rods on them to keep from being struck by lightning.

In 1784, my fourth great-grandfather, Bannister Rowe, had a family of ten in his home.

In the thirties, Aunt Beulah Thomas had a large carbuncle on her face on the right cheek. It was the size of a biscuit. I remember seeing Bubber Joe dress it. She was scratched by a cat.

Thomas Jefferson was President of the United States when Union Baptist Church was formed.

Uncle Peter Smith, brother of Grandma Martha Jane Smith Thomas, blew up a Yankee gunboat during the Civil War.

Perrin Post Office was founded in 1911 at Sedgy

SEE TIDBITS OF TIME, PAGE 4C



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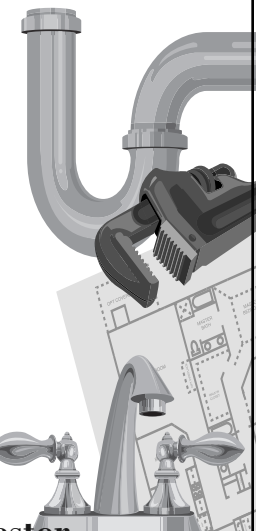
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TIDBITS OF TIME: A look back at the history of the Guinea area

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3C)  
Creek. It was moved from Sedgy Creek to the G. D. Ash and Son Store in 1934 and closed in 1955.

Severn Post Office used to be at Hammond Robins' corner.

Alton Paul and Alicia Brown are related to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Buddy Smith, my next-door neighbor, was killed in action in World War II.

May 29, 1929, Uncle John F. Rowe gave a piece of land to the Union Baptist Church. It was located to the west of the old church.

September 1913, Aunt Missouri Rowe gave one acre of land to Union Baptist Church. It is located on the east side of the present church. Today a beautiful parsonage sits on this land.

When Grandma Thomas died, I was in school in Kentucky. I took the train to Norfolk, where I was met by Uncle Val Hallet and his mother. When we reached Grandma's home my brother Lawrence was the first to greet me, his arm was in a sling. He had just had surgery for a bone felon on his finger. Lois went with me to the casket in the living room. At the funeral, Aunt Addie Ferrell and I walked together and led the procession in the church. Edward was stationed in Fort McPherson, Georgia. He received a furlough, but could not borrow from the Red Cross, so his



Sunday School teachers at Union Baptist Church in 1949 included, from left, Sara Deibert, Mablin Thomas Belvin, William "Uncle Bill" Shackelford, Elizabeth "Bessie" Foster Bray Robins, Paul Lafayette Brown, Josephine Jane Thomas Fields and Lucy Mae Shobe Hogge.

buddies in his barracks took up a collection for him to get

home. He left immediately, but did not get home in time for the funeral.

Joel Thomas Sr. was oyster inspector of Gloucester County in 1893.

Aunt Annie Shackelford, the oldest daughter of Joel Thomas Sr. and Indiana Rowe Thomas, lived to be 100 years old, 1860-1960.

Rebecca Shackelford Rowe has just celebrated her 100th birthday this August 23, 1992. Happy Birthday, Beck.

In the Gloucester Court records of May, 1860, the following stores in Guinea were given licenses to sell ardent spirits: Warner Hogg, Edward H. Rowe, Grandpa Sterling Rowe, John F. Rowe, Grandpa Jese Thomas.

Sometime later, Grandpa William Shackelford sold whiskey at Severn.

Part of the land of the old Achilles High School was given in part by the heirs of Joel "Tudor" Rowe.

I find in the Gloucester Court records of 1835, the mention of Guinea as the location of the store of Joel Hayes who was given license to sell ardent spirits.

Aunt Nett Robins sang at Grandma Thomas's funeral.

In 1868, Union Baptist Church granted letters of dismissal for its colored members to form a church of their own. They formed the Morning Star Baptist Church located about a mile from Union. It is a beautiful and thriving church today.

The year the Bethlehem

United Methodist Church of Bena was formed, George Washington was President of the United States.

Bubber Joe Thomas's house burned in 1954.

My what memories we have today, some pleasant, some sad, but most of all, good memories.



Achilles High School opened in 1920. This photo is from 1921.



Union Baptist Church at Achilles, above, dismissed members in good standing to form First Morning Star Baptist Church, below. Both are shown in 1938, long before their present houses of worship were constructed.



Enjoy The Guinea Jubilee!

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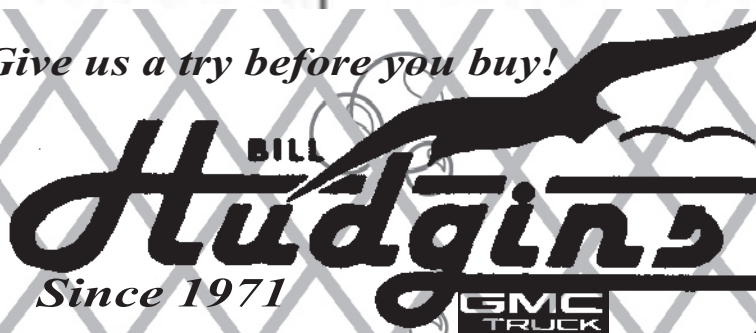
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# Who is Paul Brown?

Who is Paul Brown, who wrote the retrospective articles that appear in this section?

Paul Lafayette Brown, born in Guinea, was a chronicler of the region and its families, said Hamilton Williams, who pursues similar interests today.

“Paul was an early respected and prominent Guinea genealogist keeping track of Guinea families,” said Williams. “He would often go to the clerk’s office in Gloucester courthouse and sit in there and copy old court records and deed books. He copied them in a spiral notebook with a ball-point pen and did not make mistakes. He always had up-to-date family information” if you were working on your family tree.

He said the Buck’s Store Museum in Bena has many of Brown’s materials.

Williams has fond memories of Mr. Brown, who was born and grew up in the Severn area of Guinea. “He had a large family. Most of his brothers went off in World War II.” Paul was among those in the service, and the Gazette-Journal in 1944 said he was in the field artillery at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

“My earliest recollection of Paul Brown is as the Junior Sunday School Department Superintendent at Union Baptist Church, Achilles, in the old wooden building when it was across the highway from the present brick structure. That would have been when I



Paul L. Brown

was 9 or 10 years old and I was in that department,” said Williams.

From his research, Brown was able to write detailed stories about years gone by in Guinea; two of them are in this section.

In addition, he was a longtime Sunday School teacher at Union Baptist Church, teaching intermediate boys ages 10-14. Williams was one of his students, and said Mr. Brown “was a well-respected teacher.”

Brown worked on the Gloucester Point-York River ferry and later at a government installation south of the York River, and as he grew older, he moved to the Peninsula where he spent his final days.

Paul Brown, the chronicler, was born in 1921, the seventh of eight children of Alton Jones Brown Sr. and Lela Elizabeth Thomas Brown. He died in 2006.

# Guinea; a journey of the past, in my imagination

BY PAUL BROWN

*(Excerpted from the original, which can be found at Buck’s Store Museum in Bena. Paul Brown dedicated this work to the memory of his parents, Alton and Lela Brown.)*

In the spring of 1808, my friend and I take a ride to Guinea in a horse and buggy.

Names have changed since that early 19th century buggy ride. Let’s use the 1990 names and locations. Let’s start at Bill Smith’s Corner and proceed east. We must be careful, as the road is narrow, full of ruts and very muddy after a spring rain.

We pass a large plantation. The fertile soil seems to burst forth the shoots of new plants. The cattle are now in the pasture after their morning milking, and the sheep are busy grazing. Everyone seems to be busy on this spring morning. We chat as we bump along in our buggy. What a well-run plantation. Everything is in order, even the wash seems to be placed there in precision.

As we come to a fork in the road (known to late 1990 arrivals as Bena) we pass on by and see a beautiful stand of pine trees. We comment on how straight and large the trees are and what good looking timber it is. We ride slowly to give the horse a breather, for Maude is not a young horse any more. We pass a little church. I tell my friend that this is Union Baptist Church of which I am a member. This is a new church, just formed in this area a few years back.

We look to the left behind the little church and see a beautiful plantation. Every inch of land seems to be in use. This is the Thornton Plantation—so well run. It is known far and near for its good crops, even its sale of eggs, geese, cattle and fowl. 1990 will find many of the Thornton descendants still living on part of this plantation. To the right of us across from the church is the Hansford Rowe farm, beautiful and well run. My friend said that the farm ahead belonged to the Ransones. He knew the family and wanted to ask one of the field hands if the family were home; but I suggest we move on, for we want to get a good look at all of Guinea.

For the people of 1990, we must remember the beautiful plantation we first saw was later part of the Joel Hayes plantation and his large store across the road.

The thriving stores at Bena, Mr. Edgar Pointer, Mrs. Clarence Rowe Sr. and Bena Post Office, are many years in the future—so is the First Morning Star Baptist Church. Bethlehem Methodist Church, just east of Bena on Marked Pine Road, is a little over 10 years old.

Let’s remember as we take our buggy ride in 1808 that Thomas Jefferson is President of the United States and our country is very young, not even 50 years old. John Tyler Sr. is governor of Virginia.

Let’s pause at Achilles. Remember, no school, no lodges, no post office, no Otis Hogge’s or Marvin Crane’s Store, no George Ash’s Store, old or new, not even the name Achilles. In fact, there was nothing there, only the fertile soil. In fact the road from Achilles to Perrin is not even there. This came later. The Severn Wharf road didn’t come into existence until 1860. Membership was small at Union Baptist Church. The cemetery was deeded by Joel M. Rowe to the white citizens of Gloucester in 1880.

Shall we move on? Old Maude has rested. The farm on the left belongs to Livingston Rowe, quite a large farm; and on the right a young man by the name of William King is struggling to get his little farm started. His children will come later on. Remember Bob, Jack, Walter and Georgiana?

As we nudge Maude along, we see the Dobson property, many acres of good farm land. We pause to make a turn on the Line Fence Road but decide to move straight ahead in order to see more of Guinea. The Dobson tract seems to stretch for miles. As far in the future as the year 1920, you can see that from the Joel and Milly Thomas porch to Jim Ash’s store at Perrin is all cleared land.

To the left is good cleared land; a stand of corn is being worked by someone. I don’t know who owns this farm. The farmer seems to know how to raise a good crop. (To you of the future, this land will be owned by Button Thomas, Joel Thomas and his son, Joel H. Thomas.)

The Smith farm comes into view, a well-kept house and farm. Sam and Washington, the children, are still in the future. The Dobsons’ Salem Woods on the right still stretch on.

The Friends church, the cemetery on the left and Lafayette (Fate) Rowe, the one who donated the land for the church, have many years to go before they make their mark in life. In fact, Fate’s father, Sterling Rowe, is just a child of two here in 1808.

We seem to talk in riddles here for only our God can predict the future. We are looking back, choosing a date and looking forward.

We are told when the turn of the nineteenth century came, the people pronounced 1800 as eighteen hundred, but 1801 was pronounced “eighteen’ought’one” and all the way to 1809 was pronounced with “ought” as the third digit. So 1808 was “eighteen’ought’eight.” This was used as late as 1901 to 1909.

We pass on from the land of the future Friends Church and come upon the plantation of Anthony Smith, all 230 acres. This well-kept farm stretches from the road to the Severn River. There is much activity. We pause to give Maude a rest while I look to see if Mr. Smith is around, for I have a keen interest in him and his family. For in the future, he is to have a daughter, Martha Jane, by his second wife, Sarah, who will eventually be Great-Grandmother to many.

Washington Thomas is soon to be Anthony Smith’s neighbor. He will in the future inherit from his father, James Thomas, 98 acres. Look out, Martha Jane Smith, there is a dashing young man in the future for you. Washington Thomas will produce a young man that will make you stand up and take notice.

As we look east, we see the King farm, new, large and well kept.

We turn to the right here and head down the road, but wait! This corner is to play an important role in the future. It will produce two stores and a post office, the Hames M. Thomas and Brothers Store; and just across the street and near the marsh, is a store owned by Sheriff William “Billy” Thomas with Severn Post Office housed in the store. We in 1992 call this place Hammond Robins’ corner. Near this same corner, Ralph Rowe will build a house and raise his family, but this is to come later, for Ralph is only four years old in 1808.

We can see more of the James Thomas plantation as we move south, all 550 acres that was bought in 1788 from

Robert Thurston and his wife, Frances. Richard Haywood and his wife, Sarah, were once owners of part of this beautiful plantation. They bought it in 1754. Neighbors of James Thomas in 1808 are Thomas Rowe, Richard March, George Belvin, Aaron Belvin, Anthony Smith and Beverley Hall. This plantation of James Thomas will be divided and sold many times by 1990, but to clear our 20th-century minds, this plantation stretches from the Severn River to Brown’s Bay and through the Frank Hogge property. This will take in Severn Post Office and store, the Thomas cemetery, the John Thomas property, Bunry Hunter, George, Jim, Robert and Finny Thomas’s land. All of the Brown’s Bay Road and the road adjacent to it.

Let us pass on down the road and pass the future Severn School, my alma mater, and head on to lower Guinea. The land is low and somewhat marshy, we see a few small houses here and there, a cow tied to a stake, and a man plowing his garden.

As we move on and come to a turn in the road, we can see the beginning of the Warner Hogg plantation that will become very prosperous in just a few years.

To you in the 1990s, you will see Maryus Post Office, Murtie’s Corner, and a couple of stores. The Baptist Chapel will rise and be gone by the nineties. The people of this area are fishermen and farmers in 1808 and will be in 1992, although many of the younger generation will take jobs at the Weapons Station, Fort Eustis, Cheatham Annex and other places of employment.

The fish that were so plentiful in 1808 and for many years thereafter will be almost nonexistent as a business by 1990.

As we move on around the circle, we see Jenkins Necks to the left just across the Beaver Dam Marsh. The Bonnywell farm covers many acres. Well-kept homes dot the area; this is a prosperous community. The future will bring at least three cemeteries and many beautiful homes. Familiar names like West, Jenkins, Haywood, and Bonnaville will cover that area.

As we pass the Beaver Dam, we see the property of Lewis Hogge, who will in the future produce many fine offspring.

To the left, we see the Perrin Farm, hundreds of acres, it runs from Jenkins Neck to Bethlehem Church, owned by John Perrin. The farm will in the future be sold and divided in homesteads, yielding private homes of beauty and worth. Mr. Perrin’s summer home still stands, but I guess that is a little later than the turn of the 19th century.

We must head back, but first my friend and I will stop under a shade tree and have a bite to eat. We can let Maude graze while we open our dinner buckets of biscuits, fat back and a bottle of molasses. I am thirsty; we must look for a pump somewhere. As we finish our meal and move on, my friend said, “So, this is Guinea. I like what I see.” My comment is, “So do I.” It is not thickly settled now; but some day in the future, it will be. We are a proud people, proud of Guinea and proud to be Guineamen.

I take my friend up the road to his home and then go to my home in Guinea.



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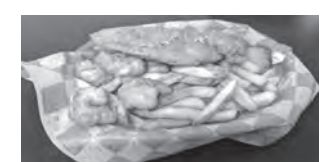
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### Home Grown

Guinea Jubilee co-chairman Ryan Ashe unveiled the design for this year's T-shirt at Guinea Heritage Day. The design includes a photo of a number of oyster cans and a pair of white Guinea work boots on a dock. The T-shirts will be available this weekend.



Enjoy the Guinea Jubilee!

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Conditions at Severn School, a school for white children, were described this way in the Gazette-Journal in September, 1948:

"...Patrons offered their three-room school for comparison with any school in the county—for bottom place, that is.

"Nathan Belvin of Severn stated that he believed conditions at Severn are the worst in the county—"And nothing is done to improve them," he said.

"Captain S. Shackelford, retired fisherman, recalled that he loaned the money to the county 40 years ago to build the school. The construction cost \$1,800, he said, and was later paid back,

"The school principal, Miss Betty Thomas, who has been teaching there for 20 years, said she and the other teacher, Miss Eunice Clements, must start fires in the class-

room stoves each cold morning, taking wood that has to be stored within the school building due to the lack of an outside shed. To reach the outdoor toilets, which some patrons described as 'filthy,' students are said to wade through water in rainy weather.

"There is no electricity in the building and the water supply is a well pump in the front yard."

For context, this was written at a time that lawyers were working in Gloucester County advocating for better conditions in schools for African American children.

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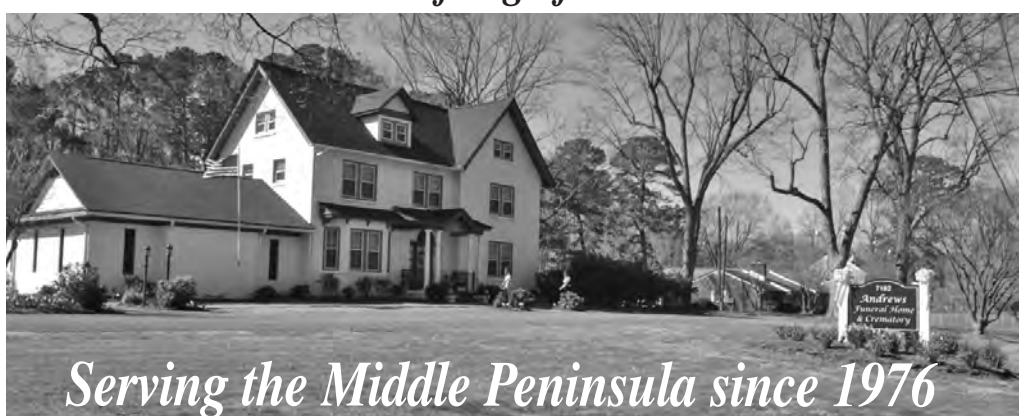
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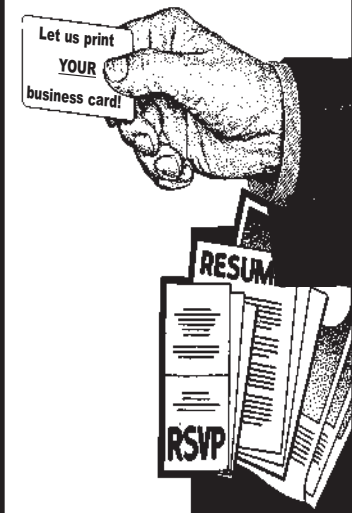
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Buck's Store display

Buck's Store Museum is the first stop on the Guinea Heritage Driving Tour. It was also the first display table at Guinea Heritage Day, which was held on Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Abingdon Ruritan Club. Here, people gather around the photographs and other items from the general store that was turned into a museum.



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Guinea Jubilee merchandise

Although this year's Guinea Jubilee T-shirt wasn't ready in time for the Sept. 10 Guinea Heritage Day program, people lined up to purchase other memorabilia, as well as placing advance orders for the T-shirts, which they will pick up this weekend.

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### First Morning Star

Photos, church programs and other memorabilia from First Morning Star Baptist Church adorns a table at the Abingdon Ruritan Club during the Sept. 10 Guinea Heritage Day program. First Morning Star was Stop #2 on the Guinea Heritage Driving Tour, which was the theme for the display.



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### Union Baptist

Stop #3 on the Guinea Heritage Driving Tour is Union Baptist Church. This display at Guinea Heritage Day includes photographs and historical items from the church that first organized in 1801.



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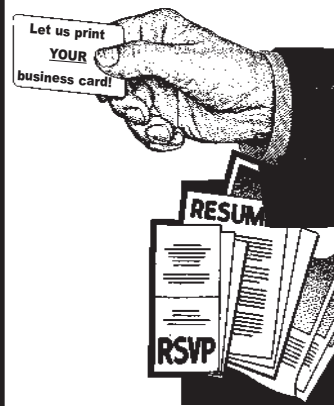
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Grand marshal

Betty Lou Setterholm Sammons was named this year's Guinea Jubilee grand marshal during the Sept. 10 Guinea Heritage Day program. This table was filled with photos of her, as well as a CD containing her country music song, "Look At Me Now."



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Heritage Day crowd

A large crowd filled the Abingdon Ruritan Club building on Sept. 10 for Guinea Heritage Day, getting a chance to bid on Guinea cakes, pick up Guinea Jubilee merchandise and find out who's this year's grand marshal.



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