

Willard's Family



AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CARR THOMAS DOWELL

I was born December 3, 1878 at Mount Sylvan, Texas, a small town 15 miles from Tyler in Smith County. My father, William Carr Dowell, was born at Cookeville, Tennessee. Just when he came to Texas, I do not know; but he was not old enough for military service at the time of the Civil War. I stayed with Uncle Jim's wife, Aunt Lizzie, while Uncle Jim was in the army. My mother was Nancy Ann McAdams. I know very little about my mother's family. I think they came from Mississippi.

My father died before I was born, and my mother married a second time, to John Burges. I have three half brothers and one half sister by this marriage. One half sister died.

My father owned something over 400 acres of land in Smith and Van Zandt counties in Texas. This land was in three parcels, one of which had about 225 acres and had three houses on it. My Father's brother, Peter Dowell, bought land adjoining. Both of them improved their places by planting orchards and gardens.

I lived with my mother until her death, when I was thirteen years of age. According to Texas law I was not old enough to appoint a guardian when she died. When I was fourteen, I appointed my uncle, J. T. Dowell, as my guardian. After a short time I went to live with him at Lone Oak Texas in Hunt County. I lived with him until I went away to college, and I was back there during the summer for several years.

My early education was very poor. I first went to one-teacher country schools that were in session for three or four months a year. Sometimes they had no school at all. Later on I went to a better school that had a longer session, but I think possibly I was in about the fourth grade at the time I went to live with Uncle Jim when I was fourteen years of age. I went to school fairly regularly for three or four years and made quite a bit of progress, but still I was not as advanced as I should have been at that age. The principal of the school at Lone Oak passed a rule that students who were tardy in the mornings would have to stay outside until the second period. One morning when it was very cold, I had helped feed the cattle, then walked about two miles to school and when I got there the door was closed. This made me angry. I went into town. I had two cousins who owned a mercantile business and I stayed there the entire day. That afternoon I told Uncle Jim what I had done and told him I wanted to quit school. He said "Well, what are you going to do?" I told him I would like to rent some land from him. Arrangements were made --- he furnished the mules and equipment. I was to work on halves. I farmed for two years. I made good crops but very little money. Cotton was selling for 5¢ a pound, corn for 25¢ a bushel and oats about 18¢ a bushel.

Several small colleges had been built not too far from our place, and a number of boys and girls were going to these colleges. I decided I would like to go. I had a horse and buggy. I drove over to the nearest college and talked to the President. I traded my horse and buggy for room and board for a year. This college was Henry College. It was a big 4-story wood building. I went to college there and had been there about six weeks when the building caught fire and burned to the ground. I went back home and stayed there for two or three weeks and decided I would go to Add-Ran University at Waco, Texas, now Texas Christian University. I did not have enough credits to enter the University so I entered their Prep School and stayed there for one year, when I was able to enter the University. I finished the four-year college course in three years, graduating in 1901 with a B.A. degree. Some seven or eight members of the graduating class decided to go to the University of Texas the next year. I went with them. We were given credit for 3 years' work and had to do an extra year in order to get a degree. I graduated at the University of Texas with a B.S. degree in 1902. Several members of my class decided they would spend a year at the University of Chicago, but I had been given a fellowship in chemistry at the University of Texas so I stayed there for another year. I worked as a Chemist for a year or two.

I was very much in love with my sweetheart, Jesse Flora Cady. We decided we would get married. We were married February 22, 1905.

I didn't have a job. I remember my Uncle Jim saying that I "had a wife, but no job".

I decided I would go into teaching. I was employed to teach chemistry and physics at the high school at Temple, Texas. I received a salary of \$75.00 per month. Before the year was over, I was offered a position to teach chemistry and physics in the high school at Austin, Texas. So I began teaching that fall in the high school and taught that year and a part of the next year. A friend of mine at the University of Texas notified me that the University had been requested to recommend someone to teach chemistry and physics at a Teachers College at Edmund, Oklahoma and asked if I would be interested. I told him I would. I was recommended and was given the position and left for Oklahoma sometime in November, which was just after Oklahoma had become a state. While it was a territory, practically all of the teachers in the colleges in the territory were Republicans. When it became a state almost all of these Republican teachers lost their positions.

I had arranged to spend the next summer at the University of Chicago, but before I could go I was notified that I was being transferred to another Teachers College at Weatherford, Oklahoma. I had been there a little more than a year when someone brought a petition around and told us that the President of the State Board of Education had a mortgage on his house and asked us to give in order to help him pay it off. Some of us told them it was not right and we would not subscribe. At the time of the election of teachers the next spring, those who did not subscribe lost their positions. I accepted a position in a high school in New Mexico, but a little later on I was elected to tutorship at the University of Texas. I accepted this tutorship because it gave me an opportunity to continue my graduate work in chemistry. I was at the University from 1910 to 1916 except for twelve months that I spent at the University of California doing graduate work. I was made an Instructor in chemistry the second year I was there and was given an increase in salary for the next six years. I was recommended twice by the Head of the Department for advancement to Assistant Professor. Both times the President told the Head of the Department that he already had too many men of professorial rank in his department, so I decided I had better look somewhere else for work.

I should have stated above that I went to the University of California on a teaching fellowship in 1913 and was there for 12 months. When I returned to the University of Texas I spent the next year working on my doctor's dissertation. During that year I got enough results so that they were accepted for a doctor's dissertation at the University of California. I returned to the University of California in the summer of 1915 for the purpose of taking my examinations for the doctor's degree. I was granted my Ph.D degree in the winter of 1915. I returned to the University of Texas and taught for a year.

In the spring of 1916 I was elected Associate Professor of Chemistry at Tulane University in New Orleans. I spent a little more than a year at Tulane. I was disappointed there in that there was lack of harmony in the Department of Chemistry. The clinical laboratory was very poor and there was no money for research.

I heard of a vacancy at Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater, Oklahoma. It was the Head of the Department of Chemistry in the Experiment Station. There were three men in the Department and the work consisted of analyzing feedstuffs, grains, etc. and doing research. According to the information given me, the Department seemed to be pretty well equipped and with enough money for its purposes. I was elected to the position and went there January 1, 1918. The President of Tulane did not want to release me but I promised to get a good man to take my place and he agreed.

After I had been at Oklahoma A. & M. for two or three years, I was made Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station with the understanding that I continue as Head of the Department of Chemistry in the Experiment Station. The Director of the Experiment Station and the Director of the Extension Division were under the supervision of the Dean of Agriculture. After I had been Director for a year, the Dean lost his position and I was made Dean of Agriculture and Director of the Experiment Station. I was Director of the Experiment Station at Oklahoma A. & M. for seven years. I think that the Station made considerable progress during that time. The Office of Experiment Stations in Washington seemed well pleased with the progress that had been made.

The College had a political board. The Commissioner of Agriculture was elected and the four other members on the Board were appointed by the Governor and subject to removal by him. The man who had been Dean of Agriculture wanted to become Dean of Agriculture and Director of the Experiment Station, and he managed to get the Board's approval. This meant that I was without a job. The Director of the Office of Experiment Stations in Washington refused to approve him as Director of the Experiment Station and protested my removal. The result was that I was reinstated, but after I had already accepted a position at Louisiana State University at a better salary than I was getting at Oklahoma A. & M. College.

I came to Louisiana State University as Dean of Agriculture and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station in August 1928. After three years it was decided by the authorities of the University that the office of the Dean of Agriculture and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station would be divided, and I was retained as Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. I remained in this position for thirteen years.

There was quite a bit of confusion at the University after President Smith was sentenced to the penitentiary for misuse of University funds. There was a belief over the State that the Board of Supervisors had been negligent in their duties. The Board reacted to this feeling and went to the other extreme. It began to do things that should have been left to the President and other officers of the University. Various committees were appointed by the Board; one was an Agricultural Committee. This Committee consisted of three members. One of them was an old man (a farmer who knew little about such things), another was a senator who was 80-odd years old, and one was a fairly young man. This young man seemed to dominate the Committee. One of the first actions of this Committee was the removal of Director Bateman of the Agricultural Extension Division from his office. I do not know that the President or the Dean approved of this action. I doubt it. A year later, this same Committee removed me from my office. This was done contrary to the wishes of the Dean of Agriculture and, I suppose, those of the President of the University. I have every reason to believe that the Office of the Experiment Stations in Washington approved the work that I had been doing. However, I was not left without a position. There was a vacancy in the Department of Agronomy and I was made Professor of Agronomy and remained in that position until I retired June 5, 1949. The Board of Supervisor recommended retirement as Professor emeritus (Agronomy) October 9, 1950.

I wish to state that I have always been very grateful to my uncle, J. T. Dowell, for what he did for me. He and his wife, Aunt Lizzie, treated me with the greatest kindness and I appreciate this very much.

List of Honors

When I was in high school in Lone Oak, the teacher of the class in American History offered a prize for the one that made the highest grade in that subject. I won this prize, which was a book on American History. The President of the Board of Regents at Add-Ran University gave a medal each year to the student who achieved the highest all-around standing in the Society named Shirley after him. I won this medal in my Junior year. While I was at Oklahoma A. & M. College a Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi was organized. I was made its President the second year after its organization. After I had returned to the University of Texas to continue my studies in chemistry at the University of Texas and after I had been there four or five years, I decided to go to the University of California where I had been given a teaching fellowship in chemistry. The first year that I was at Louisiana State University a chapter of Phi Kappa Phi was organized and I was made its President. I am a member of Sigma Xi and of Alpha Zeta. I published some of my research in chemistry. An account of this will be found in Who's Who in America and also in American Men of Science.

October 8, 1962

Obituary from the Morning Advocate, Baton Rouge, LA
Entered into eternal rest, September 29, 1968
DOWELL, MRS. JESSIE CADY Died at 7:45 a.m. Sunday at Ollie Steele Burden Nursing Home, where she had resided for the past two years. Age 87, resident of 2543 Fairfields Ave., native of Manistie, Mich. Body at Rabenhorst Funeral Home from 9 a.m. Monday until services in the chapel at 2 p.m. Monday, conducted by Dr. John W. Melton. Burial in Roselawn Memorial Park. Pallbearers: Dr. James Upp, James Huguet, J.E. Hamilton, Dr. W.H. Hamilton, and her grandsons, Carr Thomas Dowell III, James Willard Dowell Jr. and Billy Dominguez. Survived by two sons, Sinclair C. Dowell and Dr. J. Willard Dowell, both of Baton Rouge; five grandchildren, Carr Thomas Dowell III, James Willard Dowell Jr. and Fredna Ann Dowell, all of Baton Rouge, Mrs. Martha Frances Dominguez, New Orleans, and Mrs. Philip Sherwin, Shreveport; a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Glen (Martha) Pendleton, Pineville, and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. C.T. Dowell. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church, and Chapter C of PEO.

Former Dean's Rites Are Set Here on Sunday

Funeral services are scheduled Sunday for Dr. Carr Thomas Dowell, 86, former dean of the LSU College of Agriculture and director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station.

The services will be conducted at 2 p.m. at Rabenhorst Funeral Home by Dr. John E. Melton, with burial in Roselawn Memorial Park.

Dr. Dowell died Friday at Baton Rouge General Hospital.

Dr. Dowell came to LSU in 1928 when he was named dean of the LSU College of Agriculture and director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. He remained as director of the experiment station when the office was separated from the dean of agriculture on July 1, 1931.

He was named professor of agronomy in September, 1941, and remained in this capacity until his retirement as professor emeritus on June 3, 1968.

Dr. Thomas came to LSU from Oklahoma University, where he had been dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the experiment station.

A native of Mt. Sylvan, Tex., he received his B.S. degree from the University of Texas and his Ph.D. from the University of California.

He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, honorary scholarship society; Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma XI and Alpha Zeta. He was listed in Who's Who in America and American Men of Science. Dr. Dowell served as president of the Phi Kappa Phi chapters at both Oklahoma State University and at LSU.

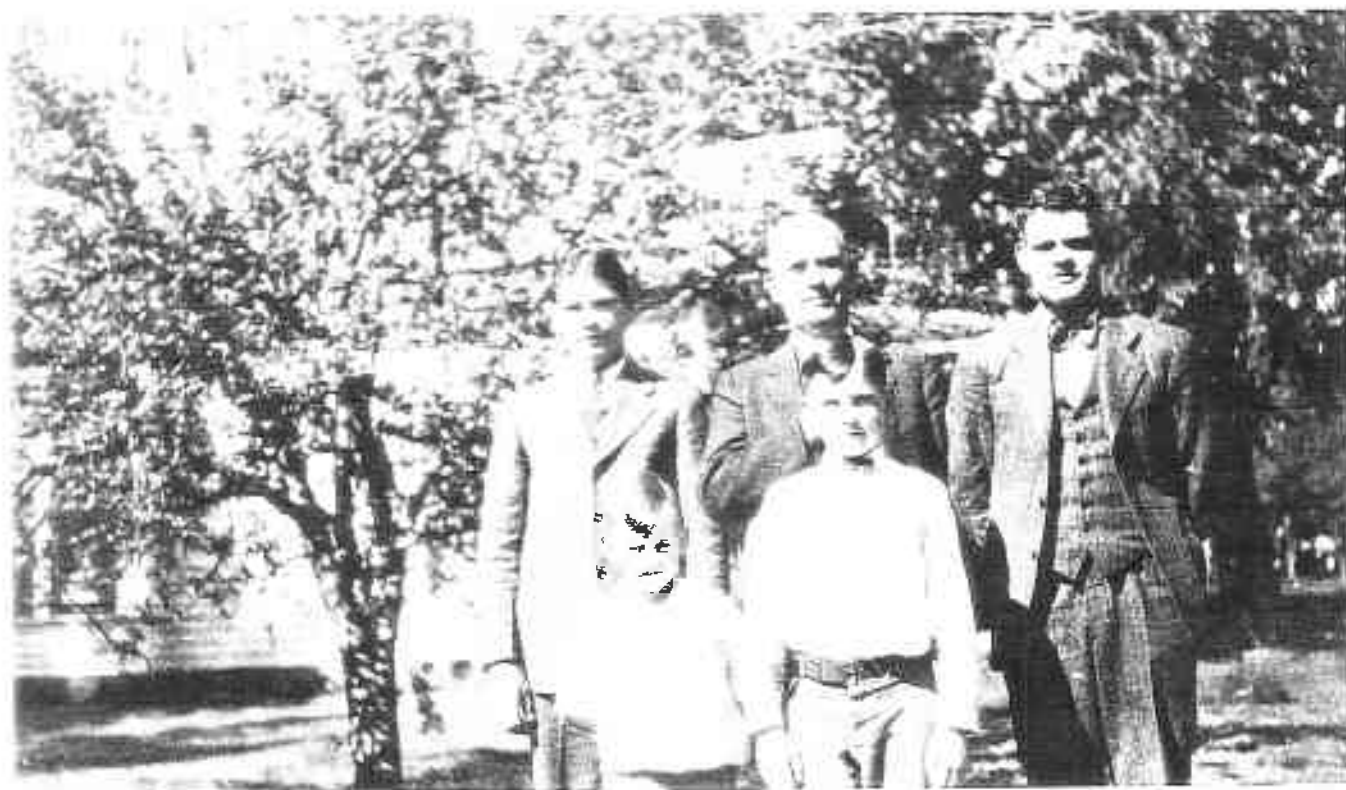
Survivors include his wife; two sons, Dr. James Willard Dowell and Sinclair Dowell; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late Dr. Carr T. Dowell Jr. and Malcolm Dowell.

A resident of 2543 Fairfields Ave., he was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

DOWELL, SINCLAIR C.

Died Monday, Oct. 29, at his residence at 317 Lovers Lane, Baton Rouge. He was 64 and a native of Weatherford, Okla. Body at Rabenhorst Funeral Home with visiting after 10 a.m. Wednesday. Religious services at Rabenhorst Chapel at 2 p.m. Wednesday conducted by Dr. J. Sherrard Rice. Interment in Roselawn Memorial Park. Survived by one brother, Dr. Willard Dowell, Baton Rouge. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and an employe of the Department of Agriculture, State of Louisiana.

James Willard Dowell
A scholar and tennis
champ grows up.

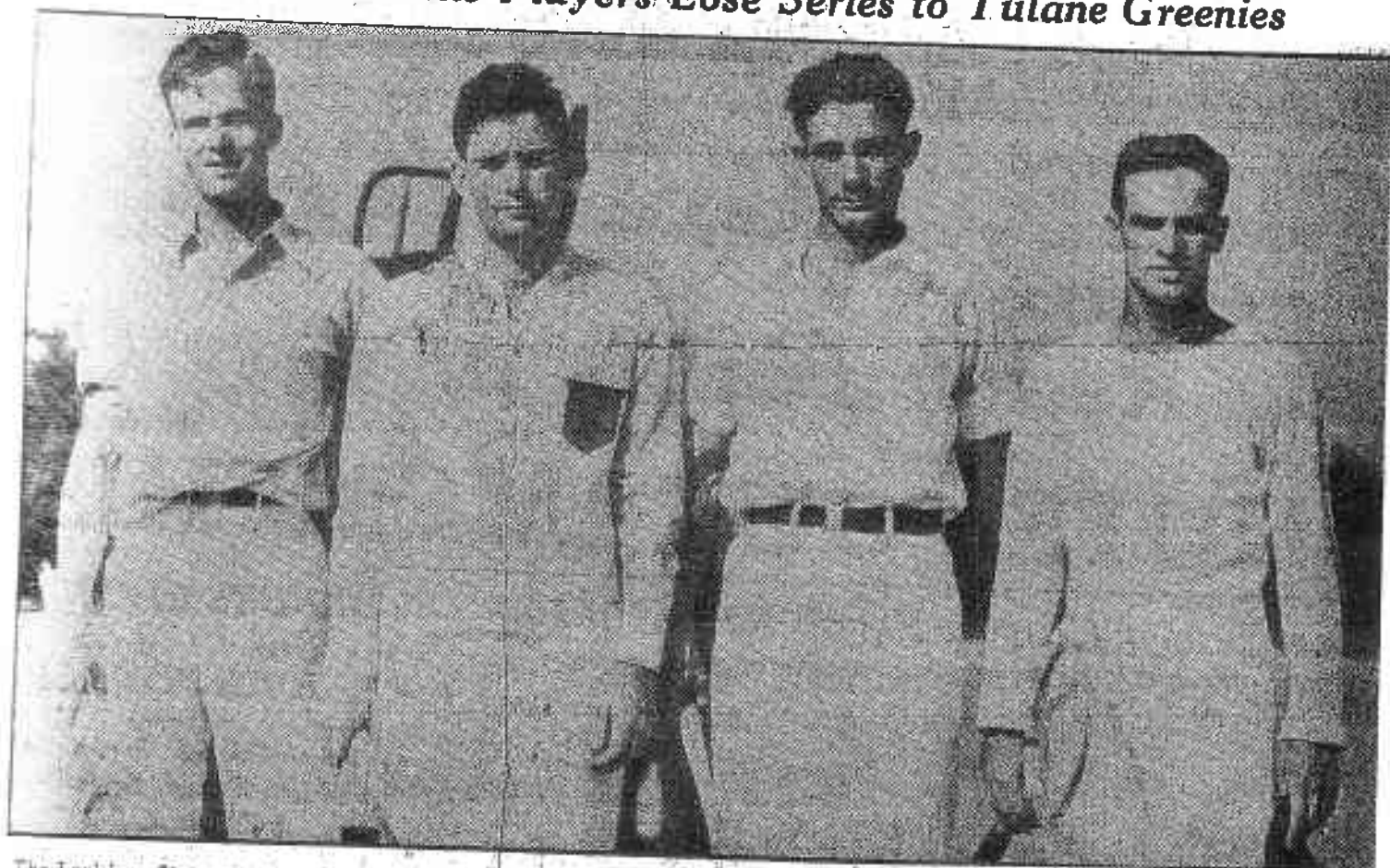


Willard with father and brothers
left to right back, Sinclair (Bud),
Carr Thomas (CT), Carr Thomas, Jr.,
front Malcolm (Mac), Willard

Tulane

Greenies Close Tennis Season

L. S. U. Tennis Players Lose Series to Tulane Greenies



The Louisiana State net stars shown above lost a 5-to-1 match decision to Tulane Saturday afternoon in the Wave Tennis Stadium, with Willard Dowell, second from the left, scoring the only Tiger victory by defeating Ashton Phelps of Tulane in the No. 3 match. The other players are Tom Collins, at the extreme left; Ed Ketchum, on the extreme right, and Billy Robinson is standing next to Ketchum. Ketchum and Robinson were members of L. S. U.'s conference championship boxing team, which won the title here this spring.

—Photo by The Times-Picayune

Willard Dowell Top Seeded in City Tennis Tourney

Former Baton Rouge High Star Is
Rated No. 1 in First Annual Net
Tourney Here; Some Matches Today

By DAN HARDESTY

Willard Dowell, former Baton Rouge High net star, drew the top seeded position in the senior singles division of the Baton Rouge city tournament which is slated to get under way tomorrow morning on the Louisiana State university courts. Following Dowell is Prof. Edwin Davis of the university history department, seeded second.

In the junior division, Harry Barton drew first seeding, followed by Doug Maginnis of the New Orleans Lawn Tennis club.

Barton-Wallace Top Junior Doubles.

Barton and Wallace rated the top spot in junior doubles, with the New Orleans team of Maginnis and Wimberly placing second. Only two were seeded, due to the limited number of entries.

The pairings:

Senior Singles.

Preliminary Round—Jimmy Wallace vs. F. F. Wigginton; Richard Tuite vs. Lewis Norgress; Paul Dover vs. Clyde Hebert.

Upper Bracket—Willard Dowell vs. winner of Wallace-Wigginton match; Joe Schendle vs. Gene Stewart; Harry Barton vs. winner of Tuite-L. Norgress match; Joe Norgress vs. F. D. Powers.

Lower Bracket—Tom Sanders vs. R. S. Morris; Frank Stirling vs. Dr. W. D. Kimbrough; Joe Lassalle vs. Gordon Wallis; Edwin Davis vs. winner of Hebert-Dover match.

Senior Doubles.

Preliminary Round—Wigginton-Wallis vs. Schendle-Dover.

Upper Bracket—Dowell-Lassalle vs. winner of preliminary match; Powers-Abbott vs. Kimbrough-Stewart.

Lower Bracket—Stirling-Hawes vs. Mixon-Watts; L. Norgress-J. Norgress vs. Davis-Sanders.

Junior Singles.

Upper Bracket—Harry Barton vs. bye; Clyde Hebert vs. Billy Owens; Jack Greene vs. Anthony Centanni; Jimmy Wallace vs. bye.

Lower Bracket—Dan Hardesty vs. Fred Heroman; Bobby Breazeale vs. Exon Cotton; Jess Wimberly vs. LeRoy Fleming; Doug Maginnis vs. bye.

Junior Doubles.

Upper Bracket—Barton-Wallace vs. bye; Lynch-Denley vs. Breazeale-Owens.

Lower Bracket—Hebert-Greene vs. Fleming-Gilmore; Maginnis-Wimberly vs. bye.

Can Play Early.

While the tournament officially starts tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, any players who care to play matches this afternoon are asked to do so, as there are several players entered who cannot play before late in the afternoon. With these matches getting started a day early, the entire tourney will be speeded up considerably. This is especially true in cases of players who are competing in both singles and doubles events where they are not free to play at any time of the day.

Willard Dowell Again Seeded No. 1 in City Net Meet

Champion of Last Year Rated Top
Man. in Closed Joust; Matches in
Which Are Slated to Start Today

By Dan Hardesty

Willard Dowell, last year's city champion, drew the top-seeded position in a field of 26 players in the closed city tennis tournament, with Anna Koll heading the list in the women's division. Opening round matches are slated for the Louisiana State university courts this afternoon.

Following Dowell on the ranking list are Tom Sanders, runner-up a year ago; Statham Crosby, Prof. Edwin Davis, Dr. W. D. Kimbrough, Salvadore Gaustella, William Goff and F. D. Powers.

SOCIETY



The C. T. Dowell home on the scenic highway is one of the spots where there is much activity during these first days of the new year for Maj. Willard Dowell, with Mrs. Dowell and their 2-year-old daughter, Marilyn, here for a visit and many of their friends have been dropping in. Maj. Dowell is being transferred from Camp Ruckel, Ala. to Pensacola, Fla., and the family group will leave during the latter part of next week. The three members of the family are shown here.







The unusual and attractive "buggy" picture just above was also taken at Saddle Academy. It features Dr. and Mrs. J. Willard Dowell and their two children, Marilyn Louise, 11, and James Willard Jr., 8, all of whom are horseback riding enthusiasts. The quaint buggy is one used by chaperons to follow a wagonload of children off on a hayride. The Dowells also have another daughter, Fredna Ann, 11 months.

Obituary from the Baton Rouge Advocate, July 9, 1999

DOWELL, DR. JAMES WILLARD

A retired Baton Rouge physician, he died at his home in Baton Rouge. He was 83 and a native of Austin. Visiting at First Presbyterian Church, 2 p.m. until religious services at 3 p.m. Friday, conducted by Rev. Russell Stevenson. Graveside services will be private.

He was an orthopedic surgeon and one of the founders of The Orthopedic Clinic. He practiced orthopedics in Baton Rouge from 1948 until 1988. He earned a bachelor of science degree from LSU in 1936, graduated from LSU School of Medicine in 1939, and completed a residency at Huey P. Long Hospital in Alexandria. He completed a residency in orthopedics on the Tulane Service at Charity Hospital in New Orleans in 1948.

He was past president of the East Baton Rouge Medical Society and the Louisiana Orthopedic Association. He was certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery, a member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He was a lecturer in orthopedics at Tulane University School of Medicine.

A veteran of World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corp from 1941-1946. He was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church, a member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Baton Rouge Country Club, and Bocage Racquet Club.

He is survived by his wife, Fredna Hamilton Dowell; a son, James Willard Dowell, Jr., New Roads; two daughters, Marilyn Dowell Burel, Baton Rouge, and Ann Dowell Scarborough, Salisbury, N.C.; a nephew, Tom Dowell, Covington, and five grandchildren, Cassandra Kemmerer, Shreveport, Todd Sherwin, Downsville, Allison Scarborough and Julian Scarborough, both of Salisbury, and Freddie Deeanna Dowell, New Roads. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Carr Thomas and Jessie Cady Dowell.

Pallbearers will be Cary Dougherty, Jim Smith, Guy Riche III, William Hamilton of Alexandria, Fred Hamilton of Ruston and Ollizo Richard. Honorary pallbearers are Dr. Guy Riche Jr., James LaRoche, Edward Prosser, Dr. John Hopper, Dr. William Moore and Frank Burel. Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 701 North Blvd, Baton Rouge LA 70821 or to a charity of choice.



A Brief Biography of Fredna Hamilton Dowell
by Marilyn Burel
Presented at the 41st Annual Hamilton Reunion
Downsville, LA, August 1, 1999

My mother, Fredna Louise, was the middle child of Allie Mae and Fred Hamilton. She was born in Downsville on November 7, 1919, eighty years ago this November. That makes her the oldest living member of the Fred Hamilton branch of the family and so we honor you today, Mother.

She graduated from Louisiana Tech with a degree in Home Economics and was working in Alexandria teaching sewing and cooking skills in a federal program for girls who had dropped out of high school when she met my father, Dr. Willard Dowell. Daddy was doing a residency at the Veteran Hospital there, and they met at a dance. He called her several times to go dancing when a friend of his, a doctor from New Orleans, came to visit. After several dancing dates, Mother decided she wouldn't date him any more because he only called for a date when his friend came in town. Fortunately, or I wouldn't be here, he asked her to go to a movie. They were married in Downsville on June 21, 1941, 58 years ago. After World War II, they lived briefly in New Orleans while Daddy did a residency in Orthopedics, and then moved to Baton Rouge.

When she was a little girl, Mother refused to go anywhere, even to school, without a handkerchief; and you can bet there's one in her purse or hand right now. She loved horses and she and her best buddy still ride their horses every Saturday. She liked the outdoors, especially swimming; and after her Saturday horseback rides, she still cools off by swimming in False River. She has a spirit of adventure, and it wasn't too many years ago that she and a couple of her lady friends canoed the white waters of the river where the movie Deliverance was filmed.

Mother always had such a fierce determination to do things her way that her brothers called her "the general" behind her back. This determination has served her well. Daddy was sick with Parkinsons for 13 years; the disease affected both his mind and body. Mother was determined to care for him at home when any one else would have given up long ago. He died at home this July 7. Keeping him at home was truly a remarkable feat.

During their marriage, they enjoyed playing tennis together. Daddy had twice been the Baton Rouge city champion, runner-up in state, and was unbeatable on the LSU tennis team. They both loved the church. Daddy was a ruling elder; and Mother, with great love and flair, taught the energetic little boys that no one else seemed to be able to control.

They had 3 children - me, Jimmy, and Ann. Ann lives in Salisbury, N.C., with her two children, Allison and Julian. I live in Baton Rouge with my husband, Frank. I have two children, Cassie and Todd. Cassie lives in Shreveport with her husband, Matthew Kemmerer. Todd is married to Becky and they live in Downsville on land that was part of my grandfather Fred Hamilton's farm. My brother, Jimmy, and his wife, Scarlett, live in New Roads with the newest addition to our family, a baby girl, Freddie, named of course for Mother, the one who taught us all about family love. We honor you today, Mother.

Mother always carried a handkerchief in her pocket. We placed one in her suit pocket in her casket. When my granddaughter, Karissa, was born, I took one of Mother's handkerchiefs and made a bonnet for Karissa. This poem I wrote was on the back of the order of worship at Mother's funeral.

A BONNET FOR KARISSA

Steamed, folded fresh in her top drawer,
Irish linen, Belgian lace, cutwork hearts,
French-knot daisies, old-fashioned
and lightly starched as my mother

who cried and ran home from Downsville School
when she forgot her handkerchief in second grade.
The last time she was without a handkerchief.
The last time she cried in public.

This batiste handkerchief, hand-embroidered
with a rosebud, I stitch with silk
ribbons and smooth pearl buttons
into a bonnet for my granddaughter

newborn to Downsville's red clay hills,
and birch hollows. If only these fingers
could monogram my mother's passion for pastures
clovered in crimson, pine forests dappled with dogwood.

The handkerchief cannot tell Karissa: *I cleaned
her grimy knees each spring she planted red impatiens,
swam when she ran the Ocoee River rapids.
I reeked of horse sweat Saturdays when she galloped
gray-haired and laughing through woods and creeks.*

The handkerchief cannot say: *I wiped away
her pupil's tears in Sunday school,
sponged a sick husband's forehead
ten determined years at home,
sat starched in a silk-suit pocket on the Sabbath.*

The handkerchief does say: *I come
from a woman
who passes things down.*

marilyn dowell burel