**Article printed in 1887 predicted great things for Fayette**

An article entitled “Old Time Fayette Editor Had Plenty of Vision; Predicted Great Things” appeared in a 1949 Centennial Edition of *The Northwest Alabamian & Fayette Banner.* It was a reprint from the July, 1887 edition of *The Fayette Journal*.

Two 1887 *Fayette Journals* were found in the possession of T.A. Rose. “Though the pages were stained and marked with the passage of time, they were unbelievably clear,” reported the editor of *The Northwest Alabamian*. “The unknown editor of this paper had the following remarks to make regarding Fayette’s future growth,” he wrote.

“We are about to subject ourselves to be laughed at again. In years gone, when this part of Alabama was never thought of, we predicted its greatly improved condition in the near future. We predicted that railroads would be built through it and projected the routes of the roads and predicted that we could live to see it and not be very old. Our programme is being carried out and our predictions fulfilled. The county income 1871, with high rate of tax was a little over $4,000: in 1887 it was over eight thousand. The Kansas City road completed this year in the county, [through the Glen Allen area] will raise the revenue to nine thousand. The W.C.F.R.R., [Waterloo Cedar Falls Railroad] completed through this county within three years, will raise the revenue to thirteen thousand. The time will come when old Fayette County, so long laughed at for her wool hats, coperas breeches, rugged hills and blackberries, will come to the front. She is getting so now. And Fayette Court House, long a name to excite a smile, as being forty miles from nowhere; has it in her power to be counted one. Look at the very marked advance or the last six years, in everything that constitutes a town.

We are nine miles from Ford’s Mountain, rich in iron. Indeed we are in the midst of every thing that makes towns and cities. Our climate is not surpassed; our water power convenient. But we are so little now, so far behind will our turn come? Not yet. Birmingham, Decatur and may be one or two other places must first be served and being at present more conveniently situated. But our turn will come in a few years. The northern ice is broken up, and the floods flow this way. The great move of northern capital has begun. Fayette Court House is as favorable for many industries as any place in the south. But we cannot expect to lay on our backs, open our mouths and let the plums drop into them. The plums will not so drop. If we continue inactive the opportunity will pass. The work before us now is to get the W.C.F. R.R. to cross the G.P. [Georgia Pacific] at Fayette C.H. It will not do so without effort on our part. If it crosses elsewhere, the curtain drops on our prospects - lay that for your mud-sill.

Then do what we can to induce the company to take this route. Form a land company. Not only contribute land to the road, and other contributions, but show the company that you have some life in the building up of your place. They have no interest in a dead town, but it is in their interest to assist in building up a live one. There are some live people in this town; those who are willing to give and work for the object specified. But there are others whose interest and activity are born of unmitigated selfishness – they have their net set and they would that others should drive their game into it. Every day that we delay makes the object of securing the road more difficult and uncertain.”

*Note: No record was found that the W.C. F. Railroad was ever built through Fayette County. However, does not some of the sentiments expressed in this article published 123 years ago bring to mind the same importance of the efforts to obtain a 4-lane highway through Fayette?*

Other interesting excerpts from the 1887 paper follow:

It was our intention last week to publish an account of Tom Freeman’s disgraceful conduct at this place, but for the sake of decency, we omitted it. If his employers, Messrs. Berry, Demoville & Co., of Nashville do the proper thing they will dispense with his service.

Mr. R. B. Tarwater is a good barber, as well as a first-class shoe maker. A sample of his haircutting can be seen on Dr. Melton’s head.

Mr. A.J. Kimbrell, who resides in the eastern part of the county, is the father of eleven children and the eldest has not yet arrived at the age of 21. He has never yet had occasion to summon a doctor into his family. This is one instance of the remarkable healthy climate of Fayette County.

R. Robertson & Son had an advertisement which carried the following announcement: “The senior member of this firm has been in business at Fayette Court House for more than 30 years and in order to close up his books he respectfully requests all persons indebted to him to come forward and make settlement, by not or otherwise.

A gentleman of the county requests us to call attention to the little depredations that boys are committing in watermelon patches. The boys do not mean serious injury, and in many cases it is largely fun and adventure with them, additional to the enjoyment of a good melon. Yet, we are desired to inform them, that, they make themselves subject to trespass and petit larceny.

Mr. R. D. South, living nine miles south-east of Fayette C. H., has discovered coal on his place. The deposit is fifteen to twenty inches thick.

The “foot washing” at Hopewell, this county, was largely attended on Sunday last. Every horse and vehicle in town being actively engaged in transporting people to and from the church.