

Shelby County Reporter
Dated Thursday, January 31, 1929

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BOBBY JOE & DIANE SEALES

Shelby County has one cotton mill, the Buck Creek Cotton Mills, Inc., located at Siluria. The officers of the Buck Creek corporation are: Mrs. T.C. Thompson, president; M.L. Cannon, chairman of the board; W.F. Stroud, vice-president and treasurer and F.P. Speight, secretary. The article below, which will be read with unusual interest, was prepared at the request of The Reporter, by Mr. Stroud.

BUCK CREEK MILLS

The Buck Creek Cotton Mills, were built and started about 20 years ago by the late T.C. Thompson. The plant has been enlarged three times since then so that it is now about 2 and one-half times as large as the original plant. They mill has 25,000 spindles, 550 looms and 15 nappers. It manufacturers sheeting and cotton flannel and the output is sold mainly to the Tire and Coat Cutters trade. The material is used mainly for making tire flaps and inner lining for coats. We find a very ready market for our products and are now sold up until April with full time operation. The mill has been operating steadily for the past eight years without any loss of time for business. The resources of Buck Creek Mills are over \$1,000,000. Thompson High School, a fully accredited high school, is located at Siluria. This school was founded by the late Mr. Thompson, the founder of Buck Creek Mills, and when it was turned over to the state board of education, was named in his honor. The school was built largely from funds donated by Mr. Thompson and Buck Creek Mills. The Mill still supplements the funds apporportioned to the school by the board of education. We do not know of a community anywhere, the size of Siluria, that has a better school with more proficient instructions. The mill owns its village of over 120 houses. These houses are rented to the operatives at a very small rental, just enough to keep up taxes and insurance. The Mill operates for the convenience of its employees a Community Building with reading room, game room, shower baths and other conveniences on the ground floor and with an auditorium on the second floor that is used for moving picture show and other meetings. There is also a recreation hall adjoining the Community Building in which are held the kindergarten classes band practice and other forms of amusement and recreation. We now have a 25-piece band, which through its infancy, is beginning to give very good music. The Mill also keeps, free to the operatives, a registered nurse who looks after the sick of the community and who co-operates with the village doctor in promoting health work throughout the village. Through the untiring efforts of our president, Mrs. T.C. Thompson, we have one of the most beautiful villages in the entire country. The fence around the mill is decorated with beautiful roses and the village and other grounds have been laid off with flowers, trees and shrubs, which is also the work of Mrs. Thompson.