DeKalb Neighbor
Date ?

Seer, Philanthropist, That Was 'Aunt Tobie'

By Kirk Martin

Public facilities tend to be named after elected officials, generals and business leaders, but the Scottdale woman who gave her name to a DeKalb library, park and housing project was no less than a fortune-teller.

Tobie Grant, "Aunt Tobie" to most of Scottdale, was born in 1887 and came to be one of the small mill village's most widely known citizens before her death in 1968.

She is said to have owned an insurance company, a cemetery and numerous tracts of land, but her real notoriety came from the answers and advice she gave those who came to her for that purpose. She was always shy about telling how much of her income came from her work as a fortuneteller, and she called herself a "sense-giver" or "adviser."

Published accounts of "Aunt Tobie" on file at the library bearing her name say she had a following of influential and prominent citizens from across Atlanta and from as far away as Covington and Rome.

Polly Engram, for years a postal clerk in Scottdale, got a hint of how far Aunt Tobie's reputation reached when she was hailed by the driver of a shiny Cadillac with a Tennessee license tag as she left the post office. The man wanted to know how to find Tobie and how she rated as a seer.

"I told him, 'She's my friend, but I wouldn't let her tell my fortune,'" said Mrs. Engram, who does not, herself, believe in fortunetelling. "She made a lot of money out of it."

Tobie Grant is credited with having helped find missing persons and lost jewelry. Some say she predicted the invention and first use of the atomic bomb more than a decade before the rest of the world heard of it, and she even predicted the death of her own son.

Despite her apparent success at impressing people with her ability to see the future, Aunt Tobie declined the use of any such props as a crystal ball, tea leaves or incense, dismissing them as "Hottentot superstitions." Instead, she favored prayer to guide her.

In addition to her work as a fortuneteller, Tobie Grant also dabbled in folk medicine. She is credited with being a midwife and setting broken bones. Her potions and elixirs were sought as cures for a wide variety of unrelated ailments.



A portrait of Tobie Grant, spiritual and financial adviser and Scottdale philanthropist, now hangs in the DeKalb library that bears her name.

Described in one published account as an "ample-bosomed" black woman with golden skin, Tobie Grant is remembered as having been proud of her quarter-Indian ancestry. Most of the time the golden oak table in the parlor of her frame house by the tracks was reserved for whites. But she also set aside a "colored folks day" each week during that era when segregation was still the law in more traditional businesses.

Ms. Engram remembers Aunt Tobie as a thoughtful woman who was forever mailing small necessities, like aspirin or snuff, to elderly friends in the mountains who could not obtain it by themselves.

"I like her," she said.

Tobie Grant donated the large tract of land that is now the site of the library, a park and a DeKalb recreation center from among her extensive land holdings. A public housing project nearby was later named for her.

BY MEDORA FIELD PERKERSON

THE ROOM was full of people, men and women, some young, some old, representing various walks of life, morosely grouped like patients waiting in a doctor's office. Now and then, as a sound of movement or a raised voice penetrated from the closed room at the back of the house they brightened expectantly, only to sink back into their chairs as an almost eerie silence settled again over the premises. Outside the rain fell steadily, drowning the red roses which gleamed brightly against green hedges of the garden.

All of these people, no doubt, had started out with the optimistic idea that few others would venture forth on such an errand on such a day with four blocks of almost impassable road separating the Stone Mountain Highway and the two-story frame house occupied by Tobie Grant, colored seeress, of Scottdale, near Atlanta, famous as a finder of lost articles, whether diamond pins, important papers or erring husbands. But there they were, like the early risers who think they will beat everyone else to the Pullman dressing room, and all they could do was to sit and cool their heels and wait their turn, for Tobie refuses to be hurried. Perhaps, that is because you cannot look into the future and keep an eye on the clock at the same time.

Tobie, who is middle-aged and amply proportioned, with keen, intelligent eyes and a bronze cast to her skin, due to Indian blood of which she is very proud, scorns the word "fortune teller," likewise any resort to trances, incantations or other demonstrations calculated to produce an air of mystery. She calls herself a public adviser, and few have better claim to the word, for every day in the week except Sunday she is besieged by those who feel the need of "second sight" in solving the problems which confront them. Nor are these people who wait in line composed entirely of the credulous. Any number of prominent Atlanta women have sought Tobie's aid in locating missing jewelry. Well known business men, when all else had failed, have come to her hoping that she could give them a clue to valuable papers or stolen automobiles. And Tobie could tell you, if she would, of at least one Atlanta debutante whose early divorce might have been avoided if she had listened to Tobie instead of to her fiance.

Tobie has followed her profession for more than twenty-five years, and her mother, "Aunt Nancy," who died last year, also claimed the power to predict coming events which cast their shadows before them. Many legends have grown up about Tobie and most of them are true. They say that when Tobie is tired, she quits for the day, no matter how many people may be waiting. "I used to try to explain," said Tobie, "but you can't explain to people about something like that. First they plead and then they get mad, and there you are. So now I just hop into my Ford and nobody knows I am gone until it is too late."

Two popular young Atlanta matrons tell of paying a visit to Tobie last fall. One of them had misplaced an envelope of club registration papers, and to reassemble the lot would entail endless time and trouble. The two girls waited, along with a group of other people, on the front porch of Tobie's home. Finally, an upstairs window was raised and a head stuck out. "Tobie isn't able to see anybody else today," said the voice belonging to the head. "Everybody has been to the fair but Tobie, and now Tobie is going."

"I wonder if that isn't Tobie herself?" whispered one of the young matrons to the other.

"Yes, this is Tobie speaking," said the voice, as the head was withdrawn and the window slammed. And that was that.

Then there is the time that a prominent Atlanta woman decided to entertain two famous Metropolitan opera stars with a visit to Tobie. She cautioned Tobie to receive them in a flowing white robe. But on that particular afternoon it happened that Tobie had employed a man to plow a nearby field and the man didn't know his business very well, so Tobie took over the reins to show him how. Consequently the famous visitors, one of whom was the late Caruso, got their first view of the seeress triumphantly guiding a plow.

Another young Atlanta matron tells of seeking Tobie's help in trying to locate a diamond pin. And this is what Tobie told her: "Honey, your pin isn't far away. When you took off your coat last night, the pin was pulled off with it and lodged in the pocket of a child's jacket in the closet where you hung your own coat." And so it was.

Still another, after frantic search also for a diamond pin, was told by Tobie that work on the street was then underway in front of her house. "Rake around in a pile of sand near the sidewalk and you'll find your pin." And she did.

The people waiting for Tobie on this particular rainy morning became more sociable as time passed. Again, like patients in a doctor's office, they began cautiously to discuss their "cases." "This is my second visit," said a well-dressed, middle-aged man. "I didn't take any stock in such things until my automobile was stolen a few years ago. The police didn't seem to be having much luck and finally I came to Tobie."

"And what happened?" asked several voices eagerly.

"Well, the first thing she did, before I had said a word, was to tell me that I was worried because my car had been stolen, but that I needn't be, for I would get it back. And I did."

A pretty girl, smartly garbed in skipper blue, spoke up. "I knew of a girl," she said, "who came to Tobie with a bunch of other girls and Tobie told her to be careful about riding in automobiles, and in six months from that time she was killed in an automobile wreck." A little shiver ran around the room.

The red haired woman in widow's weeds said that this was her second effort to see Tobie, and that she hoped she would be successful this time. The elderly matron, who spoke with a clipped New York accent, explained a bit apologetically that somebody had told her that Tobie might help about locating some "papers."

"It is too bad," said another woman, "that somebody didn't bring along cards, so that we could have a bridge game while we wait."

"It might have been better," said someone else, "if we had brought our lunch." And that is exactly what happens on the days reserved by Tobie for members of her own race, who come in droves and make a picnic ground of her premises.

Finally, it was the writer's turn to be ushered into the bare little room, where Tobie gives "readings," as she sits on one side of a small golden oak table, facing her subject.

"It can't be," said Tobie, "that I read their minds, because I tell them where to find things, and if they knew already, they wouldn't come to me."

Tobie declares that she is the busiest woman she knows of, and that she gets rest neither by day nor by night. The telephone, she says, is even worse than the crowds. "Ladies will call me up at 1 o'clock at night, wanting to know if I can tell them why their sons or daughters haven't come home, and do I think they have been killed in an automobile accident? You see, a great many mothers who were brought up with the idea that 10 o'clock was bed time haven't waked up to the fact that young people hardly get started out before 10 o'clock nowadays. I tell them to go on back to bed and not to worry, because their children will be home all right, and sometimes just about when I've finally got to sleep again, they call me and tell me that I was right."

Tobie says that love is still one of the great problems, but that it doesn't compare with the problems that come after marriage. "You'd be surprised," she said, "how many husbands walk out without saying good-bye, and the next thing you know here are their wives wanting to know if they have been kidnaped or murdered, or something."

"Pshaw," I say, "that rascal just took a little trip in a hurry. Nothing has happened to him."

Tobie is a member of the inter-racial committee, and for many years has been actively engaged in work for the promotion of better understanding and good will between the races. She is prominently indentified with club and fraternal work in her section and is an active member of the Wheat Street Baptist Church of Atlanta. Forty acres of her property, she says, have been set aside as a golf course and recreation park for members of her race. Her standing in the community is of the best, and she is credited on more than one occasion with cooperating with civil authorities in the tracking down of criminals. Her vocabulary and her diction are excellent and, although she has appeared as a speaker on various programs, she is entirely free from affectation, and takes great pride in the fact that her advice to those who come to her for help is based on common sense. Listening to the woes of countless hundreds has given her, in addition to her native shrewdness, an insight into all phases of modern life and a grasp of human nature which is, to say the least, remarkable.

She says that her first knowledge of "second sight" came when she was a small girl of about 8. "A white lady where I worked told me that the husband of one of the neighbors had not come home when expected from a trip and that they feared something had happened to him.

"I said, 'Well, she needn't worry. He will be back. I see him with a bandage on his head. A colored man is bringing him home in a carriage with a white horse.' Sure enough, that evening a hack with a white horse and a colored driver drew up at the neighbor's house. Inside was her husband, with a bandage on his head. He had been delayed because of an accident, and the person who had promised to telegraph had failed to do so."

Gall Stone Colic

Avoid operations if possible. Treat the cause in a sensible, painless, inexpensive way at home. Write Home Drug Co., 812-43 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis, Minn., for a recognized practicing specialists' prescription on liver and gall bladder trouble, for literature and treatment which has been giving gratifying results for 28 years. Sold under money-back guarantee. Clip this out NOW.

(Advertisement.)

Exclusive Clientele

Tobie is an ample-bosomed spotlessly clean colored woman, with a profile and a bronzed yellow skin which reveals the quarter Indian blood of which she is so proud. She is nearing middle age and of slave parentage, her appearance that of the moderately prosperous southern negro rather than a prophetess and seer.

No incense burns in the back room of her home where she receives visitors, no mystical draperies adorned with cabalistic symbols hang from the walls. The room is furnished, barely, in golden oak, and one looks out from the window to a backyard where chickens, of luscious frying size, are industriously scratching for worms in the shade of a peach orchard, a setting which seems entirely in keeping with the every-day matter-of-factness with which Aunt Tobie regards her gift of "second sight" and her uncanny ability to foretell the future.

The principal article of furniture is the golden oak table where Tobie sits opposite her callers, and it bears the marks of thousands who have come to ask the colored woman's assistance during the past twenty-five years in which she has been telling fortunes. Across the bottom, between the two legs of the table is a wide foot rest, and in it are two deep grooves where nervous feet have worn into the wood the past quarter century, the bare feet of negroes of the neighborhood, the rough-mud covered boots of white men from up in the country, and the dainty high heeled slippers of society matrons.

For Tobie's clientele is not confined to the ignorant and the superstitious. Her lists of visitors include the names of many matrons without whom no Atlanta social event is complete, and business men without whom the business world would have ill. Once or twice a week she has "Colored Folks" when she sees only the members of her own race, and they come from miles around and sit on the grass under the trees in her front yard and bring their lunches until the scene resembles a meetin' day.

But the remainder of the week is exclusively for white people, and many of them drive out to the little house on the road to Stone Mountain in their limousines. One hears intimate gossip of high society personages as Tobie's callers sit on her vine shaded porch awaiting their turns, but more often they exchange stories about their "cases" and what happened the last time they came to see Tobie, much as in the waiting room of a doctor's office.



The owner of the lost bracelet called up all her friends.

Jewelry Reclaimed

The loss of valuable jewelry is one of the principal troubles which brings a society matron to call on Tobie, although perhaps the largest number of requests from all classes is for assistance in finding missing persons. Tobie has given advice to hundreds of men on business matters, also, and in many instances she has assisted in the solution of crimes. Tobie isn't boastful of her achievements, but she does say that any of these here husbands and wives who wants to run away, they'd better not let Tobie get on their trail, because she's sure is a first rate wife and husband hunter."

A prominent matron of Buford, Ga., and a frequent visitor in Atlanta was one who received Tobie's assistance in the recovery of valuable jewelry, in this case an expensive platinum and diamond hat pin.

"I said to her, 'Sugar, you lost that pin while you were trying on some dresses here in Atlanta last week, but you're going to find it some day,'" declared Aunt Tobie, in describing the incident. "The next time you see it it is going to be on another woman's bosom, and when you see it you'll speak up about it."

And sure enough, when she was in Atlanta some weeks later, she looked up at the saleslady who was waiting on her in a store, and there was her pin. She went quietly to the manager and told him about it and they called in the girl. She was real nice about it and said, yes, she had found it on the floor of the store and had never known to whom it belonged.

Another case of lost jewelry has its humorous as well as its embarrassing features. After a New Year's eggnog party, the hostess missed a platinum and diamond link bracelet, which she had left in the dressing room while washing her hands and had neglected to replace on her wrist. Tobie smiled expansively in recalling the distressed hostess' visit.

"I asked her, 'Didn't you all have some punch or eggnog at your party? Well, one of the ladies who came to your party had been to some other eggnog parties before she came to yours and, Sugar, she was in a kind of state of mind that she wasn't exactly responsible. She took your bracelet, but she didn't mean any harm. And now that poor lady is in a fidget because she's embarrassed about taking it and don't know from whom she took it.'

"I said, 'Suppose you sit down and call up everyone who was at your party, ask how they are, and tell them

war department and the veterans' bureau, she finally found on the lists of nurses who had been overseas a nurse by that name, and she wrote to her. Soon an answer came back. The nurse said she had been with her boy when he died, and she sent the mother the boy's Bible and other personal effects."

Tobie has helped not only in locating missing people, but has lent her aid in tracking thieves to earth, murderers to justice, straightening out domestic affairs, love problems, missing jewelry, and business investments. She says there are business men who will not invest a cent of money or turn over a deal unless she puts her O. K. on them. She has helped erring sons and daughters back to the narrow path, and in one case has pointed out to a girl that the man she was to marry the next week already had a wife and two children.

(Continued on Page 20)



Mysterious crimes have

STATE Georgia | COUNTY McDuffie | TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Clarks Town District | NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE x | WARD OF CITY x | NAME OF INSTITUTION x

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 6 | ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 33 | SHEET NO. 7B

ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 8 DAY OF Jan 1920. H. H. Murphy Jr. ENUMERATOR.

Place of abode: Dwelling house number in order of visitation	Place of abode: Family number in order of visitation	Name of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family.	Relation: Relationship of this person to the head of the family.	Home: Owned or rented	Home: If owned, free or mortgaged	Sex	Color or race	Age at last birthday. If under 1 year, give age in months.	Single, married, widowed, or divorced	Citizenship: Year of immigration to the United States	Citizenship: Naturalized or alien	Citizenship: If naturalized, year of naturalization	Education: Attended school any time since Sept. 1, 1919	Education: Can read	Education: Can write	Nativity and mother tongue: Person: Place of birth	Person: Mother tongue	Father: Place of birth	Father: Mother tongue	Mother: Place of birth	Mother: Mother tongue	Year of immigration to the United States	Occupation: Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinning, weaving, etc.	Occupation: Industry, business, or establishment in which at work, as cotton mill, farm, etc.	Occupation: Whether employer, salary or wage worker, or own account worker	Number of farm schedule
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		11	11	Evangeline	Wife			F	W	46	M				yes	yes	Canada	French	France	French	Canada	French		none			
				Lucius A	Son			M	W	20	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Alabama		Canada			Farmer	General farm	W	
				Adelaide	Daughter			F	W	19	S				yes	yes	Alabama		Alabama		Canada			Operator	Telephone Co	W	999
				Phillip H	Son			M	W	17	S				yes	yes	Alabama		Alabama		Canada			none			
				Alexander D	Son			M	W	13	S				yes	yes	Alabama		Alabama		Canada			none			
				Edward B	Son			M	W	10	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Alabama		Canada			none			
				Evangeline	Daughter			F	W	5	S						Georgia		Alabama		Canada			none			
110	10	11	Hamilton, Carl	Head	R			M	W	58	Wd				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Operator	Farm	W	1
			Renan W.	Wife				F	W	60	Wd				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Alabama			none			394
			Tom H	Son				M	W	22	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Farmer	Farm	W	394
			Charley W	Son				M	W	14	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
			Lemuel L	Son				M	W	12	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
X	11	12	Cagle, Lee S	Head	R			M	W	28	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Laborer	Cooperage	W	152
			Phillips, Rosa S	Niece				F	W	19	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Alabama			none			
			Edna S	Niece				F	W	12	S						Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
X	12	13	Kelsoe, Robert E	Head	R			M	W	34	M				yes	yes	Missouri		Scotland	English	Scotland	English		Telephone Lineman	Telephone Co	W	674
			Anna M	Wife				F	W	28	M				yes	yes	Tennessee		Kentucky		Tennessee			none			
			Camilla	Daughter				F	W	5	S						Louisiana		Missouri		Tennessee			none			
			Robbie E.	Daughter				F	W	3	S						Tennessee		Missouri		Tennessee			none			
			Alpha	Daughter				F	W	2	S						Georgia		Missouri		Tennessee			none			
	14		Mrs E Sarah Pearl	Head	R			F	W	26	S				yes	yes	Georgia		United States		United States			none			362
111	13	14	Hammond, Lemon	Head	R			M	B	45	M				yes	yes	Georgia		United States		United States			Farmer	General farm	O	2 000
			Jessie M	Wife				F	Mu	36	M				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Laborer	Home farm	W	010
			Bessie	Daughter				F	Mu	15	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Laborer	Home farm	W	010
			Richard	Son				M	Mu	13	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Laborer	Home farm	W	010
			Lizzie	Daughter				F	Mu	11	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Laborer	Home farm	W	010
			Hoke	Son				M	Mu	9	S				yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
			Marguerite	Daughter				F	Mu	6	S				no		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
112	14	16	Hamilton, Jno P	Head	R			M	W	46	M				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Farmer	General farm	O	2 000
			Minnie E	Wife				F	W	29	M				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			010
			Herman	Son				M	W	16	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Laborer	Home farm	W	010
			Mary E	Daughter				F	W	13	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Laborer	Home farm	W	010
			Inez E	Daughter				F	W	11	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Laborer	Home farm	W	010
			Lucile	Daughter				F	W	9	S				yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
			Lloyd	Son				M	W	6	S				yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
			Hamilton, Minnie	Mother-in-law				F	W	68	Wd						Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
X	15	17	Bennett, Tom	Head	R			M	W	36	M				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Laborer	Public Roads	O	621
			Bertha	Wife				F	W	27	M				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
			Mary Thos	Daughter				F	W	10	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
			Ellie M	Daughter				F	W	7	S				yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
			Lindsey Dees	Boarder				M	W	36	S						Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Laborer	Public Roads	O	621
113	16	18	Brand, Solomon	Head	R			M	B	41	M				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Cook	Turpentine Farm	O	4
			Rosia B	Wife				F	Mu	37	M				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Telegraph Operator	Railroad Co	O	813
			J Semia	Son				M	Mu	17	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
			Mildred	Daughter				F	Mu	16	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
			Kendall, Nancy	Mother-in-law				F	Mu	66	Wd						Georgia		U.S.		Virginia			none			
			Steele, Henry	Nephew				M	Mu	10	S				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
			Caldwell, Allen	Servant				M	B	60	S						Alabama		Alabama		Alabama			Farmer	General farm	W	960
			Jessie Richard	Nephew				M	Mu	6	S				yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			none			
114	17	19	Giles, Barker	Head	R			M	Mu	28	M				yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia			Farmer	General farm	O	600

Leaflet No. 24

B.

(7–896.)

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Supervisor's Dist. No. 4
Enumeration Dist. No. 139

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1879, and ends May 31, 1880.
Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
Note C.—Questions Nos. 12, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Lx Town, Log Dist. 1479, in the County of Upson, State of Georgia, enumerated by me on the 20th day of June, 1880.

Sarah A. Jennings
Enumerator.

Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation	Families numbered in the order of visitation	The Name of each Person whose place of abode on the 1st day of June, 1880, was in this family.	Relation to Head of Family	Personal Description: Color, White, Black, Mulatto, Chinese, or Indian	Personal Description: Sex, Male or Female	Personal Description: Age at last birthday prior to June 1, 1880	Personal Description: If under 1 year, state months in fractions of a year	Profession, Occupation or Trade of each person, male or female	Months this person has been unemployed during the census year	Health: Attacked with Acute or Chronic Disease, giving name of disease	Health: Temporarily disabled so as to be unable to attend to ordinary business or duties on the day preceding the day of enumeration	Health: Defective in mind, sight, hearing, or speech, or from some permanent disease or accident	Health: If deaf and dumb, or blind, from birth	Health: If maimed, crippled, bedridden, or otherwise disabled	Education: Attended School within the Census Year	Education: Cannot read	Education: Cannot write	Nativity: Place of Birth of this person, if born in the United States, or Foreign Country	Nativity: Place of Birth of the Father of this person, if born in the United States, or Foreign Country	Nativity: Place of Birth of the Mother of this person, if born in the United States, or Foreign Country
		Sarah	Wife	W	F	30		Keeping House										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Ella	Daughter	W	F	7		At School										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Charlie	Son	W	M	6		At Home										Georgia	Ga	Ga
651	653	Jacob Hardy	Boarder	W	M	75		Minister										S. Ca.	S. Ca.	S. Ca.
		Virginia A. Hardy	Boarder	W	F	30		Keeping House										Georgia	Ga.	Ga.
652	654	Gilbert Reedy	Head	W	M	42		Farmer										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Martha	Wife	W	F	37		Keeping House										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Lucy	Daughter	W	F	13		At School										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Ellen	Daughter	W	F	9		At School										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Samuel	Son	W	M	5		At Home										Georgia	Ga	Ga
653	655	Raymon Fox	Head	W	M	53		Farming	V									Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Mary	Wife	W	F	44		Keeping House										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Randall Mary	Daughter	W	F	20		Works on Farm										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Joseph	Son in Law	W	M	26		Works on Farm	V									Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Ella	Grand Child	W	F	8		At School										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Nellie	Grand Child	W	F	5		At Home										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Anna	Grand Child	W	F	3		At Home										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Mary	Grand Child	W	F	1		At Home										Georgia	Ga	Ga
654	656	Randall Jacob	Head	B	M	36		Farming	V									Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Fanny	Wife	B	F	28		Works on Farm	V									Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Martha	Daughter	B	F	8		At School										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Mary	Daughter	B	F	3		At Home										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Tony	Son	B	M	2		At Home										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Bob	Son	B	M	1		At Home										Georgia	Ga	Ga
		Here ends the Village of Lx Town																		
		Nobody died or was born in Log Dist. 1479 during the year ending June 1st 1880 to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nobody married or was divorced in Log Dist. 1479 during the year ending June 1st 1880																		

Sarah A. Jennings

Enumeration of Log Dist. 1479 completed this 20th day of June 1880.

Sarah A. Jennings
Enumerator.

Nothing written in columns 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 to 21, an affirmative mark only will be used—thus /—except in the case of divorced persons, column 11, when the letter "D" is to be used.
Column No. 12 will only be asked in cases where an affirmative answer has been given either to question 10 or to question 11.
Column No. 14 will only be asked in cases where a painful occupation has been reported in column 13.
In column 7 no abbreviation in the name of the month may be used, as Jan., Apr., Dec.

Page No. 38

☞ Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

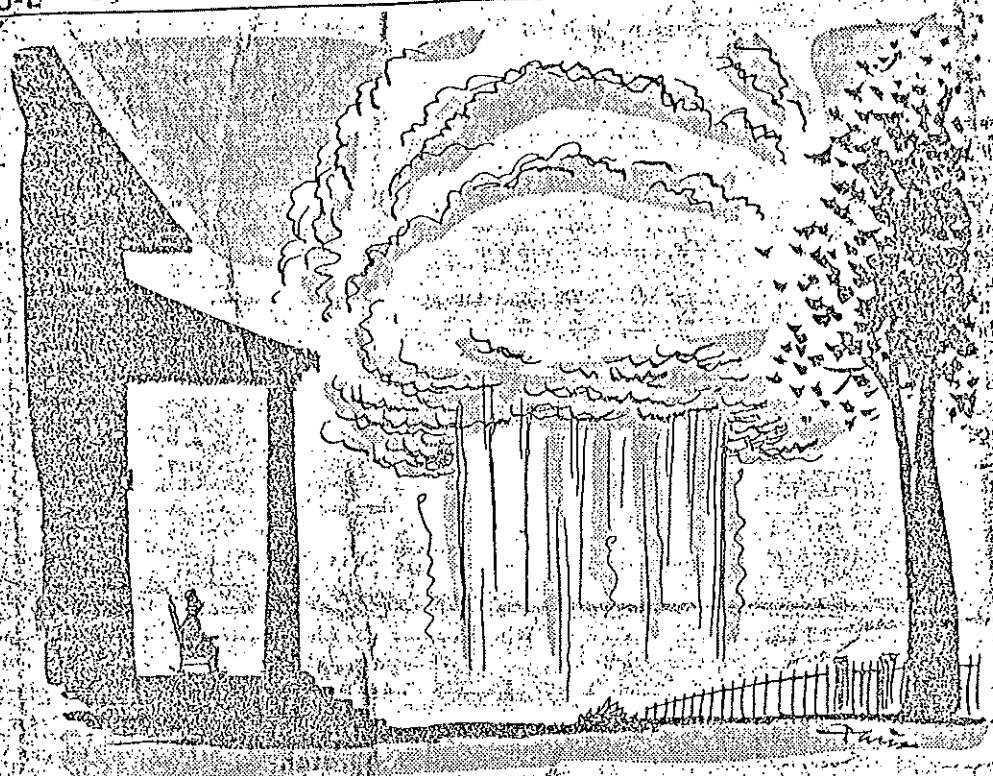
SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in _____, in the County of Upson, State of Georgia, enumerated by me on the 9th day of June, 1870.

Post Office: Thomaston, Ga. Chas. H. Corbin, Ass't Marshal.

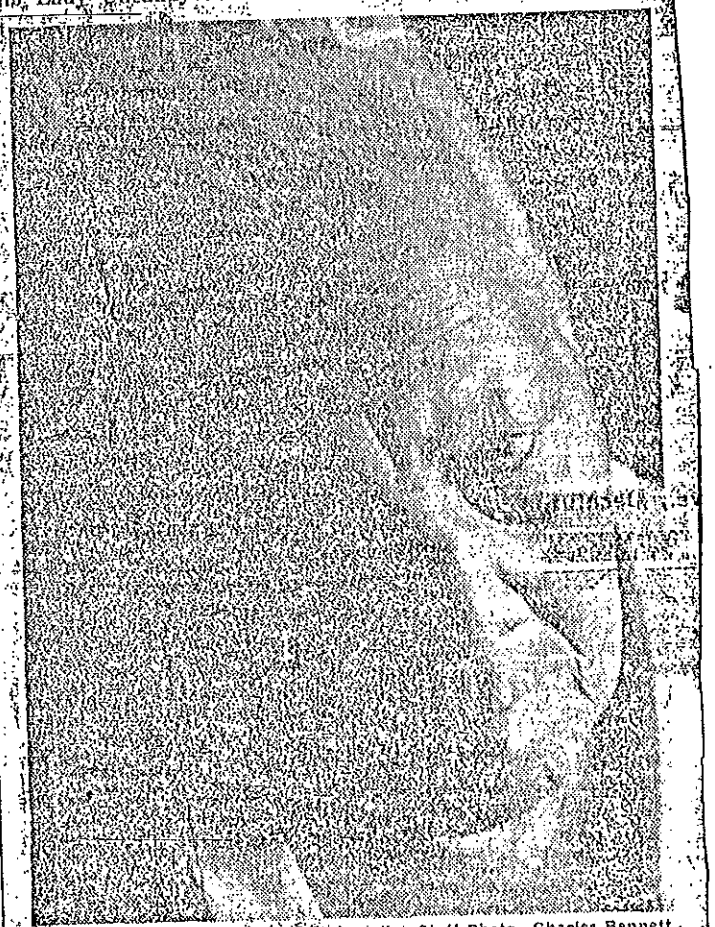
Dwelling-houses, numbered in the order of visitation.	Families, numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	Age at last birthday. If under 1 year, give months in fractions, thus, 1/12.	Sex—Male (M.), Females (F.)	Color—White (W.), Black (B.), Mulatto (M.), Chinese (C.), Indian (I.)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate owned. Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Parentage. Father of foreign birth.	Mother of foreign birth.	If born within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	If married within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	Attended school within the year.	Education. Cannot read.	Cannot write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Constitutional Relations. Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and upwards.	Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and upwards, whose right to vote is denied or abridged on other grounds than rebellion or other crime.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
324	324	Andrews Thomas	41	M	W	Farm Hand	$3000 00/100	$650 00/100	Georgia									1	
		— Caroline	36	F	W	Keeping House			" "										
		— John	19	M	W	Farm Hand			" "										
		— Mary	17	F	W	at Home			" "										
		— Robert	16	M	W	Farm Hand			" "										
		— James	14	M	W	do.			" "										
		— Addie	11	F	W				" "					1					
		— Bettie	4	F	W				" "										
		— Genia	1	M	W				" "										
325	325	Andrews William	74	M	W	Retired Farmer	$8680 00/100	$7590 00/100	Virginia									1	
		— Elizabeth	93	F	W	Keeping House			" "										
		— Jim	15	M	B	Farm Hand			Georgia						1	1			
326	326	Haygood Thomas	44	M	W	Farmer	$5000 00/100	$3000 00/100	" "									1	
		— Alley	39	F	W	Keeping House			" "										
		— Thomas	19	M	W	Farm Hand			" "										
		— Nettie	17	F	W	at Home			" "										
		— John	16	M	W	Farm Hand			" "										
		— Emma	12	F	W				" "					1					
		— Mollie	10	F	W				" "					1					
		— Mattie	8	F	W				" "					1					
		— Oreana	5	F	W				" "										
		— Jone	2	F	W				" "										
327	327	Worthy Jesse	40	M	B	Farm Hand			" "						1	1		1	
		— Sylvia	35	F	B	do.			" "						1	1			
		— Spence	19	M	B	do.			" "						1	1			
		— Martha	16	F	B	do			" "						1	1			
		— John	14	M	B	do.			" "						1	1			
		— Lee	12	M	B	do			" "						1	1			
		— Pat	10	M	B	do.			" "										
328	328	Worthy Moses	25	M	B	do			" "						1	1		1	
		— Emily	23	F	B	do			" "						1	1			
		— Andrew	8	M	B				" "										
		— Edmond	6	M	B				" "										
		— Moses	6/12	M	B				" "			Dec							
		— Greene	22	M	B	Farm Hand			" "						1	1		1	
		Rose Lizzie	18	F	B	do.			" "						1	1			
329	329	Traylor Betsy	40	F	B	do.			" "						1	1			
		— Lou	5	F	B				" "										
		— Sam	3	M	B				" "										
		Kendal Nancy	20	F	B	Farm Hand			" "						1	1			
	6	No. of dwellings, 6 No. of white females, 12 No. of males, foreign born, ____ " " families, 6 " " colored males, 12 " " females, " " ____ " " white males, 9 " " " females, 7 " " blind, ____							No. of insane, ____			1		4	17	13		6	

MyFamily.com

19



ARTIST'S DRAWING DEPICTS AUNT TOBY ROCKING AT HOME
DeKalb Lady Uncanny at Predictions



Staff Photo—Charles Bennett

MRS. GRANT, DECATUR PROPHETESS
'What They Want To Know'

Scottdale Soothsayer Tobie Grant Dies at 96

Funeral was held Wednesday at Wheat Street Baptist Church in Atlanta for Tobie Kendall Grant, the 96-year-old soothsayer of Scottdale who died Saturday. The Rev. William H. Borders officiated and burial was in Washington Park Cemetery.

"Aunt Tobie" used to see 40 to 50 visitors each day before old age slowed her down. She gave advice on everything from romance to lost articles. She reportedly helped DeKalb County police solve a murder case years ago.

It was said that she predicted the atom bomb 15 years before its invention.

Before she moved to southeast Atlanta about two years ago, Aunt Tobie lived in an old two-story white frame house on Turner Road in Scottdale in DeKalb County. There, in an upstairs room she would tell fortunes to those who came to her with problems. During the 1950s when DeKalb County was cracking down on fortune tellers, Aunt Tobie spent a lot of time alone.

She said she was not a fortune-teller. "Oh, I know what a lot of folks say," she once told a newsman. "They say, 'Let's go out and see Tobie Grant.' And somebody says, 'who's she?' And they say, 'She's a fortune-teller.' Well, I ain't no fortune-teller. I'm a sense-giver."

Born in Atlanta, Tobie Grant was the daughter of a well-known fortune-teller. She grew up to be a good businesswoman and at one time owned two insurance companies and several tracts of real estate. Once, she donated part of her land in Scottdale to the county for a park for Negro children. The park sat right below her house and was called Tobie Grant Park.

SHE WAS married to Julius Grant, who died many years ago, and had given birth to one son and adopted two others. She outlived all but one of her children, Raymond Grant of Atlanta.

Most DeKalb County policemen knew or have heard about Aunt Tobie.

"I've heard a lot of the older ones talking about her," a young DeKalb policeman said, "and she was supposed to have been pretty accurate."

One story has it that Aunt Tobie located two bodies for DeKalb police many years ago.

Another officer remembered the time when a policeman lost his billfold which contained $300. "Back in those times, $300 was a lot of money to lose," he said, "so the man asked Tobie Grant where he could find his billfold.

"She told him that he must have been sitting down somewhere and if he'd go back to that same place, he'd find it." The officer remembered where he had been sitting that afternoon and went back to find the billfold lodged between the seats.

Aunt Tobie once told a newsman that she had been telling fortunes since she was "knee-high to a duck." She said, "Folks has looked for me when they needed help, and I've looked for them when I needed help. That's the way

Tobie Grant-Sense Giver

The passing of Tobie Grant recently ended the life of one of DeKalb's most colorful, mysterious yet well-known figures.

One Atlanta paper called her a "soothsayer" (one who professes to foresee the future) but she was more than that. Tobie could tell you about most anything.

"I ain't no fortune teller," she once rebuked a reporter. "I'm a sense-giver."

In her day, her abilities to give advice were valued very highly. Many prominent Decaturites reportedly turned to her for help to find such lost items as rings and jewelry. She reportedly helped DeKalb police find two bodies in a murder case once.

One time when the Ku Klux Klan was getting real active in the County Tobie told a newsman that "if any of them Ku Kluxers come Klucking around here" she planned to put a mighty powerful hex on them.

Tobie Grant, the daughter of a well-known Atlanta area fortune teller, was a good businesswoman too. She reportedly owned two insurance companies at one time in addition to several tracts of land.

The property which is now Tobie Grant Park, operated by the County, was donated for that purpose by the Negro woman.

It is located just down from the frame house on Turner Road in Scottdale where Tobie for many years had visitors numbering 40 to 50 a day before DeKalb County cracked down on fortune telling for profit.

She moved to southeast Atlanta two years ago.

Her death, at 96 years old, ends an era which will be remembered for years to come in DeKalb.

THE READER

A publication of DeKalb County Public Library **Summer 2002**

Tobie Grant: Not Just a Homework Center

By Grace Hipona
Youth Specialist for Tobie Grant

The Scottdale-Tobie Grant Library and the recreation center in the same building have served as the community center for the Scottdale community since 1962. The library is named for Mrs. Tobie Grant who was a citizen of Scottdale and donated forty acres of her land to be used for the community center and park.

Tobie Grant is a homework center that provides assistance for children and young adults with their school assignments and projects. There are viewing and listening stations for videos, audiocassettes, and multi-media PCs. However, from my observations and interactions, the branch goes beyond expectations.

Jacki Brown, on-site manager, and Trimeka Honden, desk assistant, not only encourage school-related reading and learning, but also serve as positive role models, providing an environment where kids can learn how to deal with cultural differences and other social issues. For example, when the kids get into arguments or disagreements, Jacki and Trimeka teach the kids to handle their disputes through conversation and understanding rather than give into the natural tendency to use physical force to solve their problems. Jacki and Trimeka also teach the kids to abide by the rules and to respect others.

As the school year comes to an end and summer arrives, it is a challenge to motivate the kids to read and continue learning during the hottest days of the year. Nevertheless, there are programs, such as visiting storytellers, throughout the summer. Also, there are educational games available that are geared to helping the kids practice their math, verbal and other skills.

Decatur Rotary Club gives money to enrich Homework Center

By Laura Hauser, Literacy Services Officer

With funds generously donated by the Decatur Rotary Club, the DeKalb County Public Library has hired Grace Hipona (see above article) to work with students two afternoons per week at Scotdale-Tobie Grant Homework Center. A recent Emory graduate who is active in sports and volunteer activities, Grace has been a valuable addition to the staff at Tobie Grant.

In the short time she has been there, Grace has gotten to know some kids, helped with end-of-the-year school assignments, played computer games with kids and found other ways to enhance literacy skills. After a short summer break, we anticipate Grace's return to Tobie Grant as she begins a graduate program at Georgia State University.

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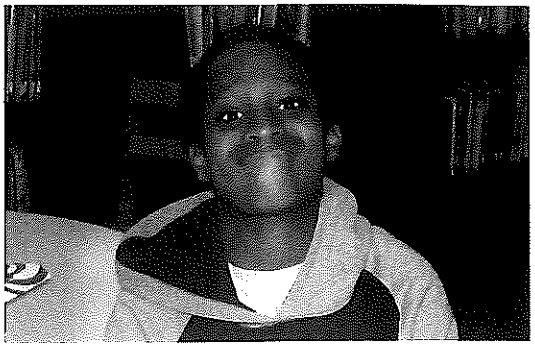
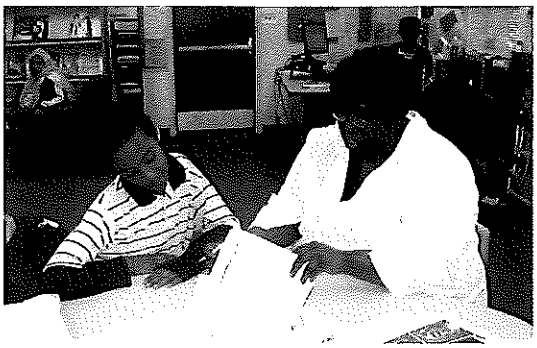
Tobie Grant Homework Center

Tobie Grant Homework Center has DeKalb County Public Library's longest running literacy program which is a vital service to the Scottdale neighborhood. About thirty-five patrons, mostly family groups, regularly use this small classroom-sized homework center. The following patron and staff stories show the important impact of this program.



Idiris is an honor roll student

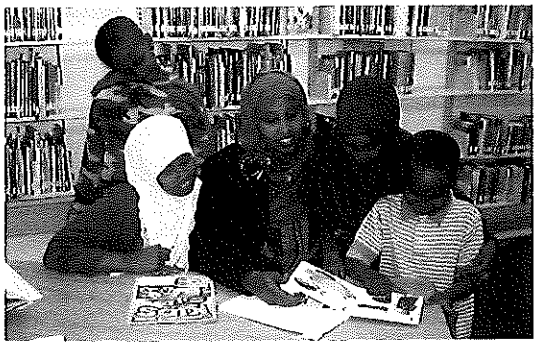
Library Assistant, Brenda Williams, describes Idiris as a "Rising Star." Brenda met Idiris as a first grader three years ago. She remembers him then as struggling with comprehension and memory problems. His mother Roda agrees, but now she proudly declares Idiris is a third grader on his school's honor roll. Roda and five of her seven children can be found at the Tobie Grant Homework Center four or five afternoons a week, even during the recent spring break. She brings her children to take advantage of the homework help provided by Brenda and Marlene White, the Library Literacy Facilitator. Roda credits the help her son gets as the catalyst for his blossoming. "Sometimes it only takes some encouragement," Brenda states. "Idiris had to see that he can learn like anyone else."



Marlene White with a student

During her five years as literacy facilitator, Marlene White has seen a transition as neighborhood families and new immigrant families jointly share this county library service. Marlene sees herself as an "ombudsman" for public library and public school cooperation. As such, she helps with written and online communication between the parents and the schools, talking with teachers about upcoming projects. She works with the children on standardized test-taking skills and content. The DeKalb Library Foundation funds books that these children are given to start their own home libraries. Her love of these children is seen in her face and her commitment to adjust her hours so that she is now available for her middle schoolers.

SamSam, working with four of her seven children at the Center on an afternoon during spring break, wishes for more assistance from Marlene because "There are so many children needing help." SamSam also expresses the need for more computers for the Center. Marlene originally came to the Center four afternoons a week, **however current funding levels allow only two afternoons, even though there is significant need.**



SamSam reading to her children

Yummy Idioms

Don't starve for idioms this summer! Here are some food-related idioms from Dave's ESL Café (www.eslcafe.com) for literacy teachers and learners to enjoy together.

- be fed up with (with someone or something): be out of patience (with someone or something); be very tired of someone or something. "Julian, you're too careless with your work. I'm fed up with apologizing for your mistakes!"
- a piece of cake: very easy. "Teresa said the test was difficult, but I thought it was a piece of cake."
- bite off more than one can chew: take responsibility for more than one can manage. "I'm really behind with my project. Can you help me? I'm afraid I bit off more than I could chew!"
- chow down: eat. "It's almost 6:00 p.m. Are you ready to chow down?"
- couch potato: someone who spends too much time watching TV. "You're a real couch potato, Luis. You need to get more exercise!"
- an egghead: a very intelligent person. "Sam didn't make very good grades in school, but his sister was a real egghead."
- grab a bite: get something to eat. "I'm really hungry. Would you like to grab a bite with me?"

> Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.
>
> W. B. Yeats

Working With Adult Learners:

What do we need to know?

Adult learners bring their knowledge, experience and energy to the teaching and learning relationship. How can tutors and teachers make the most of their work with adults? Check out these recommendations from the Panhandle Adult Learning Center in Florida:

1) Establish positive expectations. Adults learn best when they feel that the teacher is caring and that the teacher believes they will succeed.
2) Expect success. At the end of each lesson, the student should feel that she or he has succeeded at something new. This allows the student to "own" what she or he learns, and the teacher can tell the learner that he or she is already a reader!
3) Create a learner-friendly environment. Adults do not want to be treated like children, and the teacher should keep in mind that the learner is an adult. The student is frequently successful in many areas of life and deserves respect.
4) Make it a collaborative effort. The learner should gradually assume responsibility for self-direction. The teacher is a co-partner in learning who helps the student to develop strategies to make his or her work a success.
5) Adult learners are different from child learners. They want to read meaningful texts. They process information differently from children. Instruction should be presented in small increments with plenty of time for repetition and practice.

Brush Up on Your Tutoring Skills!

People who tutor frequently often find that they have established a comfortable relationship with their students. While this can be helpful in encouraging the student to keep up with work, tutors need to be sure that they are keeping their sessions fresh, engaging and challenging for their students. Reviewing these basics may help your tutoring stay on track.

- ***Remember the difference between explaining and lecturing.***
  Keep lecturing to a minimum. Tutors are there to help students find and use the resources they need – including appropriate books, notes and examples from places other than you! Empower your learners by explaining, not lecturing.
- ***Ask helpful questions.***
  Guide your student to do most of the explaining. Ask open-ended questions ("Where should we start?"), probing questions ("What made you think that?"), and rephrase questions (break your original question into smaller parts). Then LISTEN to your student's response! Is she grasping the concept? What is his body language saying?
- ***Let the student do the work.***
  By allowing the learner to have control of the learning process, you encourage independent learning and help him or her gain confidence in their own ability. Let your student have the pencil, look up information or have control of the mouse and keyboard. If you are only showing everything, any successes you experience are yours – not the student's. In any situation, it's better to empower rather than to simply dictate.
- ***Use drawings and diagrams.***
  We all have different learning styles, and using drawings can be helpful to visual learners. For tactile learners, you may have them draw visual aids for themselves. This will reinforce their learning.
- ***Use positive reinforcement.***
  Both verbal and nonverbal responses to your learner will be encouraging. Saying things like, "Good job on ____!" or "You have been working very hard at this. I'm proud of your effort!" can be a real boost. Nonverbal communication, like nodding your head, smiling and even giving high-fives can also give your students a sense of accomplishment and fun.

- Source: The Owensboro Community College Teaching and Learning Center, Owensboro, Kentucky

Aunt Nancy Kendall, Negro

EX-SLAVE HAD THOUSANDS OF WHITE FRIENDS

Seeress, Goes to Reward

Old Aunt Nancy Kendall is dead.

Death came to the aged colored seeress near the midnight hour Wednesday in the home of her equally noted daughter, Tobie Grant, at Scottdale, following an illness of about three weeks.

Known affectionately far and wide, in virtually every walk of life, as "Aunt Nancy," the remarkable ex-slave thus passed after a long life made picturesque by her amazing powers of what, in the absence of better classification, must be called supernatural vision of things to come; for Aunt Nancy numbered among those she had counselled in time of distress rich men, poor men, beggars and probably men beyond the pale of the law.

Aunt Nancy was in her 77th year at the time of her passing. She was slave-born in Upson county, and in 1888 had moved to Atlanta, where she and her daughter, Tobie, lived on Auburn avenue, moving out to Scottdale only a few years ago. Where their home was virtually a mecca to those seeking consolation in time of trouble, or peering beyond the curtain of the present into the dim, uncertain void of what lay ahead.

For whatever peculiar or particular gift of vision the old woman possessed was so astounding that it drew to her a circle of friends that ranged into the thousands, and its bulk was made up of white men and women that included those of the more decorous life, —politicians of high order, bankers and businessmen; women in society that is spelled with a capital "S".

The things that Aunt Nancy foretold during her lifetime, would fill a volume. Among some of those recounted Thursday was that 'way back in 1900, it was old Aunt Nancy who foretold of a great martial cataclysm that would envelope the world—the World War. Five years before the pistol shot at Serajevo rang around the earth Aunt Nancy saw and told of seeing a colossal conflict embroiling nations and with them the United States. Nobody believed her, but Aunt Nancy told them that such a war was coming and that the cream of American manhood would go to foreign shores; that America would emerge victorious.

Native Atlantans will not scoff at the vaunted powers that were the old woman's, or those that now are readily attributed to her daughter, Tobie Grant. She has never been a "fortune-teller" to them; and, indeed, neither Aunt Nancy, her mother before her, or her daughter, has ever relished that description of powers which they believe to be of divine inception. They have always simply called themselves advisers, Tobie said Thursday.

"My mother was a devout woman," her daughter recalled. "She was extremely devoted to religion and was of the Baptist faith. She was slave-born and without education of any schools, but she had a wonderful intelligence."

Tobie said that her mother's first fame as a prophet of things to come came during the 70's when she was consulted by relatives of the family of Woolfolks, at Culloden, who were found murdered in a well on a farm. It was then that Aunt Nancy described the slayings and repudiated reports that a son of the Woolfolk family had gone out west several weeks before the slayings occurred. She told relatives and the authorities that young Woolfolk was in hiding in near-by woods and he was captured, Tobie says, confessed and was hanged for the crime.

Aunt Nancy's mother, also gifted, Tobie said, was half Indian and half white. Aunt Nancy herself was the mother of a large family, having 15 children, four of whom still are living. Of the several sons, all served in wars which the United States was engaged, and all had clear records for their military service.

Tobie Grant herself is the fifth daughter and 13th child of Aunt Nancy. She paid high tribute to her mother in recalling the highlights of the aged woman's life, and declared that it always was Aunt Nancy's impelling motive to console those who sought her out for "revelations;" that she never resorted to the use of any material objects in her prophetic work, such as coffee grounds, sand pictures or the like.

"She would always pray before she tried to see into the future for people," Tobie recalled. "And she had a blessed memory and feeling for those who once owned her."

Funeral services for Aunt Nancy will be held Sunday in the Greater Wheat Street Baptist church, and interment will be in the Washington Park cemetery. A special section of the church will be reserved for white friends of the aged seeress desirous of attending the funeral.

not dated Probably 1930
Sun 5/24/31 article
2nd pg 1st col bottom 1pg



Love affairs furnish many of Tobie's problems.

Tobie Locates *Lost* Husbands

Love Is Still a Great Problem for the Majority of People, According to This Colored Seeress, Who Has Been Solving Atlanta Mysteries for More Than Twenty-Five Years

Tobie Solves All Atlanta Mysteries

Lost Jewelry, Missing Husbands, and Buried Treasure Are Some of the Cases With Which Aunt Tobie Deals at Her Home in Scottdale.

BY PEGGY PORTER

THE ancient art of foretelling the future has been given a modern twist by Tobie Grant, colored fortune teller of Scottdale, near Atlanta. The scientific expert of the federal weather bureau has as little patience with the visionary predictions of "goose bone" forecasts as Tobie with the tricks and incantations which have been considered a necessary part of the practice of her profession since the days of Egypt.

By contrast with the fortune telling sessions with gypsies, who mumble mysterious words over palms, crystal gazers who fix their victims with glittering eyes, and mediums who go into terrifying trances and summon their "controls" from the spirit world, Tobie is both a surprise and a relief. Not even the coffee grounds and tea leaves favored by members of her race who practice the occult have any part in Aunt Toby's sessions. All these tricks she dismisses scornfully as "Hottentot superstitions."

"As near as I can tell you, honey," she said, "its just about like seeing a motion picture. I just close my eyes and hold their hands and then I usually see what is going to happen. I don't bother to ask them questions. I just tell them what they come to see me about. Just this morning a man came in to see me, and before he sat down I said, 'Mister you came to find out about what became of that hunting dog of yours, didn't you?' and he was the most surprised white man you ever saw. I just sit them down across the table and look at them for a minute or two and then I tell them, 'Sugar, you're wondering if your husband is dead,' or 'Honey, you'd better not put your money



She deals frequently with ghosts.

The platinum and diamond lost bracelet lost at a New Year's party, was one of the drollest cases with which Tobie has dealt.



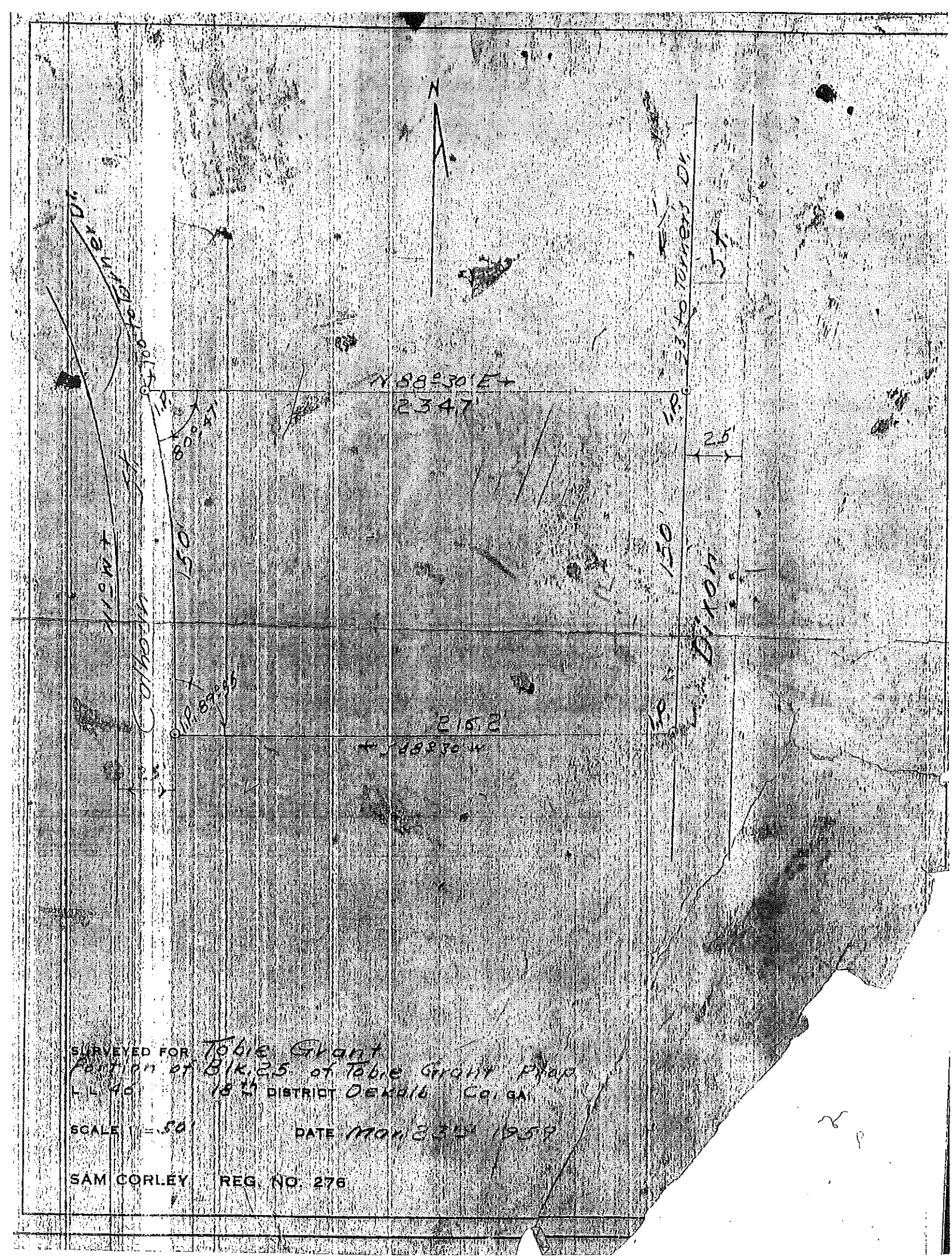
you're worried sick over losing your bracelet.'

"The lady took my advice and called up all her company to inquire after their health, and in three days the bracelet came back to her by insured mail, with a fictitious return name and address on the box."

Locates Stolen Money

Among the most exciting "fortunes" Tobie has been interested in was the locating of the stolen money said to have been buried by Old Bill Minor, railway bandit, who died at the state prison farm without revealing the treasure's hiding place. Among the most tragic was the final untangling of the mystery surrounding a young soldier of the A. E. F. who had been marked "Missing in Action!"

"Right after the war a mother came to me, all worried and haggard. I knew her son was dead. She told me that he had been reported 'missing' and that nothing else had ever been heard from him. Of course she had hoped and hoped, but there had never been a word. I knew he was dead. I could feel it, but I told her to go home and I'd pray over it and call her up the next day. And after I'd thought and prayed it all came to me and I told her to write



SURVEYED FOR Tobe Grant

Portion of Blk. 25 of Tobe Grove Place

L. L. 90 18th DISTRICT Oconee Co. GA.

SCALE 1" = 50' DATE March 31st 1958

SAM CORLEY REG. NO. 276

omb Foretold in '30s DeKalb's 'Aunt Toby'

by from fortune telling, "Aunt Toby" won't divulge.

One source of income was her various "home remedies." Among her many elixirs for everything from kidney trouble to flagging desire, is a formidable concoction of phosphorous soda and an unidentified purgative. She patented this last mixture and says that it was purchased by a drug store chain. "Cures everything," says "Aunt Toby."

MRS. GRANT has been generous with her money, as many of the people she helped in the past will testify. She donated a piece of her property to the county to be turned into a park chiefly for the children, and she has made many other gifts. Along with the park, Aunt Toby also has a branch of the DeKalb County Library System named after her.

There are many stories of her prowess as a soothsayer. Not all of them can be verified, but many of DeKalb's most prominent citizens vouch for her ability. Besides foretelling the coming of the Atomic Age, Aunt Toby is adept at mending broken homes — reconciling both partners with a combination of magic and shrewd intelligence. Behind her interest in seeing a marriage a success is her limitless love for children. "I can't stand to see a child abused or neglected," said Aunt Toby.

One of her saddest moments she said came when she foresaw the death of her own son.

"I was downtown with a friend," whispered Aunt Toby—her voice soft and worn from use. "Suddenly I felt like I was dying, and I hollered for this man to help me, but it wasn't me that was dying. It was my son." As it turned out, her son had been struck by a trolley. Later, he died of the injuries in the hospital.

MRS. GRANT has located many missing persons through her marvelous powers. She once located a man's body for his wife who wouldn't believe he was dead. "All I told her was he can't come home any more," said Aunt Toby. "Then I told her he was in a hole and couldn't get out," she said. "And that's where they found him two days later."

FOR ALL HER fortune telling, Aunt Toby is sharply critical of what she calls "spell casters."

"They make fools out of ignorant people," says Aunt Toby. "Whenever somebody comes to me under a 'spell,' and wants to know what's the matter with themselves, I tell 'em outright they ain't got good sense," says Mrs. Grant. She says that there are still many spell casters operating in this area.

Mrs. Grant's mother was a famous fortune teller. "Aunt Nancy," as she was known in those days, passed the trade down to her daughter. "It's nothing you can learn," said Aunt Toby, "you've got to be born with the spirit." The future is revealed to her when she least expects it she said. "When the spirit comes over me, I can see people's problems before they tell me about them," she said.

New Era
Dec. 18, 1947 Black History

Tobie Grant gives 10 acres for park. A memorial to her two sons one killed in action as sergeant in 42nd Infantry division in World War I. The other son served in World War II & was killed in accident just after being discharged from army.

Tobie, residing county 30 years during first World War she registered for women's service and delivered over 200 babies of white & negro mothers, when most doctors were in service. "That ol' model-T Ford kept going night & day."

Refer for more history

New Era Black Hist.
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