

Appendix 71 to
THE HISTORY OF CHEHAW COUNCIL
DAR Book on Scouting in Albany in the 1910s

HAROLD R. "HUDDY" HUDGENS, JR. ALC
ALBANY LAND CO., INC.
2402 DAWSON ROAD
ALBANY, GA 31707
(229) 888-0022
www.albanyland.com

HISTORY

And Reminiscences of
DOUGHERTY COUNTY
GEORGIA

COMPILED BY MEMBERS OF
THRONATEESKA CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

ALBANY, GEORGIA

1924

BOY SCOUTS AND CAMP FIRE GIRLS

HISTORY OF BOY SCOUTS IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY

Typo - Should
be 1912.

The first troop of Boy Scouts in Dougherty County was organized in Albany in March, 1922, by D. H. Redfearn. Within a few months three other troops were organized, and these four troops soon contained eighty Scouts.

Although no very thorough Scout work was done by this first organization, it continued to function until after the beginning of the World War. The news from the battlefields of Europe so overshadowed local activities that it was difficult to keep interest aroused in Scouting. For this reason the Scout work closed in 1915, and no effort was made to reorganize in Dougherty County until after the war.

The first Scout Encampment was held at Miller Springs on the Ochlochnee river in Thomas County, Georgia, in June and July, 1912. Those attending that encampment were:

W. G. Lagerquist
John Adams
Hugh McClure
W. D. Sumter
Lawton Mathews
Charlie Lehman
Baldwin Young
Albert Bullard
Robert Arthur
Eldred Simkins
Ralph Riley
Majors Walden
Jim Tom Pullen

• Edmund Jackson
Lonnie Jackson
Edwin Clark
Gus Tomlinson
C. B. Barbre
Willie White
Holcombe Tarver
Charles Tyler
Dan Moseley
Edwin Smith
A. A. Sheddan
D. H. Redfearn

In September, 1919, Mr. Paul J. Brown attended a Rotary Convention at Macon, Ga., at which Mr. Stanley A. Harris, National Field Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, delivered an address on Scouting. Mr. Harris mentioned in this address a new plan of Scouting, which he was developing; this plan consists of the organization of an entire congressional district into a Scout unit, with a paid Scout Executive, whose duties are to organize troops in every county in the district and to supervise the work in general. Mr. Harris stated this plan had not been tried anywhere in the United States at that time, and that he was desirous of trying it in some district in Georgia.

When Mr. Brown returned to Albany, he brought this matter to the attention of the Rotary Club, and they became interested in establishing this plan in the Second Congressional District. The Kiwanians joined in the movement and offered to assist the Rotarians in financing the project for one year. Although there was considerable delay in completing the organization, the Second Congressional District was organized in November, 1920, with Albany as headquarters. This was the first district organized in the United States under this new plan, and so successful has it been that other Congressional Districts have been organized in Georgia, as well as in other states of the Union.

The success of this organization in the Second Congressional District is due largely to the support given it by the Rotarians and the Kiwanians. At the invitation of these organizations Mr. Stanley A. Harris came to Albany in December, 1920, and held a meeting with some of Albany's leading business men, at which meeting Mr. H. T. McIntosh was chosen Temporary Organization Chairman, and Mr. Julian Reynolds was appointed as his assistant. These two men obtained the consent of representative men in the other counties of this district to meet in Albany on December 17, 1920, to form a permanent organization.

This meeting was held at the New Albany Hotel. D. H. Redfearn, of Albany, was chosen President and W. O.

Fleming, of Bainbridge, Vice-President; B. Y. Chambers, of Moultrie, Secretary, and P. J. Brown, of Albany, Treasurer. An executive committee was selected which consisted of the President, D. H. Redfearn; Treasurer, P. J. Brown; R. E. McCormack, of Albany; C. U. Leach, of Sylvester, and Dr. C. K. Sharp, of Arlington. These officers, working with this executive committee, soon organized the entire district. They employed W. M. Bagby as Scout Executive, and he immediately began organizing troops in the various counties of this district. Only seven of the counties came into the organization during the first year. Those counties which did come into the organization failed to bear any part of the financial burden except Colquitt, Grady, Decatur, Mitchell and Calhoun. This district plan would have failed during the first year for lack of financial support from the counties which failed to pay their proportionate share of the expenses, if it had not been for the citizens of Albany who assumed the financial burden of those counties which failed to contribute. For this reason the people of Albany contributed to this organization the first year more than twice as much as all the counties in the district combined. This credit is due to the people of Albany for preventing the failure of the district plan during the first year. During the second year all the counties came into the organization, and are now bearing a portion of the expenses, although Albany is still contributing about one-half the entire budget.

There are now six troops of Scouts in Albany and forty-two troops in the Second Congressional District. The six troops in Albany contain one hundred and thirty-five Scouts, and the other troops in this district contain about eight hundred.

During June, 1921, the Albany Boy Scouts established a camp at Nochaway Creek in Baker County. Fifty-six boys from Albany attended this camp, and there were thirty from Arlington. They were capably led by Lehman Sumter, J. J. West, Charles Shackelford, Dave Gortatowsky and W. M.

Bagby, of Albany. This camp gave its name to the Scout Council for the Second Congressional District, which was chartered under the name of Nochaway Local Council when it entered the national organization in August, 1921.

As an illustration of the efficient work being done by this district plan, Albany has the honor of having had the first boy to attain the rank of Eagle Scout within a period of one year from the time of his registration. This boy is George Johnson. Scout records show that no other boy in the United States has attained this honor so quickly.

The Scout work unquestionably has developed the moral and intellectual standards of the boys in Albany. It is believed by those in charge of the work that the boys who are now Scouts, on account of their Scout training, will make better men than they would have made, and that a troop of good Scouts now will be a body of good citizens in the future.