

8102  
Fall 2019

# The LEGACY

A Publication of Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc.

## HELPING OTHERS

# Heal

ALUMNI  
SPOTLIGHT

T.R.R. COBB'S

## MAKING OF A MISSIONARY

A BREAKTHROUGH BY

# Buzzards

AN INSPIRATION FOR THE WRIGHT BROTHERS



I care nothing for Butler's *Analogy*, nor any other ponderous book which strives to prove, by external evidence, that there is a God.

What better proof do I want that somewhere, in some form, there lives a *power* which sends thrills of happiness through me—emotions that shake every fibre of my being, as the breezes shake the aspen leaves—  
*when I have done a good deed?*

— Thomas E. Watson, *Prose Miscellanies*, 1912



# Contents



*4* **Campus Notes**  
Watson-Brown Scholar Updates



*10* **Alumni Spotlight**  
by Shannon Friedmann Hatch



*12* **T.R.R. Cobb House**  
by Samuel N. Thomas, Jr.

*14* **Sticks & Stones**  
by Franke Smith

## OUR MISSION

The Watson-Brown Foundation, through creativity, diligence and financial support, labors to improve education in the American South by funding its schools and students, preserving its history, encouraging responsible scholarship and promoting the memory and values of our spiritual founders.

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# CAMPUS NOTES



## Watson-Brown Scholars in Action

**Avery Anderson**, Sophomore, Clemson University: “Arriving at Clemson in the fall, I already was in love with my school. I had a wonderful roommate and a perfectly spelled out vision of what I wanted my year to look like and what I wanted to be involved in. I applied for everything and jumped into many different programs so that I would make the most of my Freshman year. The problem was that I’d fallen prey to the typical Freshman experience, spreading yourself too thin. Additionally, I found myself lost in a sea of thousands of students, each trying to forge their own unique path. My breakthrough realization came after I received a rejection email from one organization I applied for. The feedback I was given stated that although I had a strong skill set for the position, I needed to develop my Clemson story more before applying again. I struggled over the words at first, because I thought I had a great Clemson story about how I followed in my brother’s footsteps to enjoy everything the university could give me. It wasn’t until a pivotal experience just a few weeks later that I truly understood why I was at Clemson. As a member of Freshman Council, I was given the opportunity to climb with the rest of the council to the highest point on campus, a closed off bell tower overlooking the entire university. Our director gave a challenge to observe the whole campus and think about who we were in the middle of everything going on. That moment, I realized that my mission at Clemson was to join the legacy created by thousands of alumni as I seek to serve the university and give back to the school that is the foundation of such a formative season in my life. It turns out that sometimes hearing ‘no’ can be the best answer, for without it, I wouldn’t have taken the time to think about my why, my legacy, my Clemson story.”



AVERY ANDERSON



SYDNEY CRAIG

**Sydney Craig**, Sophomore, Mars Hill College: “My first year of college was nothing less than excellent. Between academics, softball, and friends, I was constantly busy. I made so many new friends and met people from all over the world, an opportunity only Mars Hill University could have provided me. I also learned more about myself, changing my major from biology to nursing. “Softball has always been a huge part of

my life and still is. Between 6 a.m. workouts, weight-room sessions, and practices every day, I was always busy. Balancing school and softball was a skill I had to learn quickly in order to be successful. Softball allowed me to meet some of my best friends and form relationships with people I would have probably never talked to. I have created relationships with other athletes across campus, too.

“An interesting thing about Mars Hill is our president, Tony Floyd. This year was his first year at Mars Hill, and he is amazing. He attends sporting events in his game-day pants and always makes sure to talk to us after. During exams, he and his wife baked cookies and handed them out to students as they walked to class. The softball team actually had a chant for him whenever he attended our games. All in all, I couldn’t ask for a better first year of college and it’s all due to the amazing people at Mars Hill University.”

**Ananya Chakraborty**, Junior, Augusta University: “This year has truly been one of incredible growth and self-discovery for me. The beginning of Sophomore year, I officially started my first full academic term as President of the MEDLIFE chapter at Augusta University. This chapter of MEDLIFE, a nonprofit organization that stands for Medicine, Education and Development for Low Income Families Everywhere, was founded during my spring semester of Freshman year by myself and some friends I had known since high school. Our organization membership quickly grew from only 20 individuals to an impressive 92 in the span of one semester. Our chapter organizes multiple fundraising events



ANANYA CHAKRABORTY

throughout the semester to support the MEDLIFE movement and we also provide our members with local volunteering opportunities. However, my favorite aspect of our chapter and MEDLIFE as a nonprofit organization are the service-learning trips. This past summer, I left with four of my MEDLIFE board members to travel to Lima, Peru, for a weeklong volunteering trip with MEDLIFE to learn about the various systemic causes of poverty that MEDLIFE tackles and to get hands-on experience with how the MEDLIFE staff really strives to build relationships with communities and helps bring them basic resources and necessities so that they can become self-sustained.

“During this trip, we all had the opportunity to work in four different rural hillside communities or *cerros*, rotate around different medical stations during the mobile clinic sessions, and build and inaugurate a new staircase for safer transport in one of these communities. The short glimpse I had into the lives of these communities and seeing in person the impact that our work had made on so many individuals gave me even more motivation to continue to grow our chapter and encourage other students to participate on service-learning trips and take part in this life-changing experience themselves. Since that summer, we have organized two additional trips, sending another eight individuals from our chapter to Lima and receiving the New Student Organization of the Year Award.

“This past year I was also honored with Emerging Leader of the Year Award, and this year I received the Diversity and Social Justice Award from Augusta University, as well as MEDLIFE’s Leadership Award, which is given to three chapter leaders from all MEDLIFE chapters around the globe. None of these awards, or my incredible experience in Lima, would have been possible without the support of everyone from my parents, Executive Board members, and the Watson-Brown Foundation. I hope that this coming fall we can also continue to spread the MEDLIFE Movement and I can continue exploring and pushing my boundaries. Until then, I will be spending the summer in Miami participating in the Minority Students in Healthcare Motivational Program, during which I will be residing at the Miller School of Medicine for seven weeks for a mini-medical school experience comprising of select medical school courses, shadowing and workshops to increase my preparedness as a medical school applicant.”

**Noah Fitzer**, Sophomore, Agnes Scott College: “Every first-year student at my school takes a semester-long global-learning class that focuses on a particular abroad or domestic area, and for one week near the end of the semester, each group spends time in that area. My class studied the Navajo Nation, and it turns out I thought I knew a lot more about modern Diné (Navajo) life than I actually did. I learned to think of ‘Native Americans’ not as one big group, but as completely separate tribes that have the shared experience of being perpetually exploited by colonisers and the institution that is the United States. Through personal connection, primary resources, and experience taking part in ceremonies and farm labor, I gained a much better understanding of Diné tradition and the connection the tribe has to its land. My feelings of entitlement to the territory my country calls its own have completely changed, and I will continue to consider and examine the Diné perspective as I make decisions that affect the people around me.”



**Brittany Mills**, Junior, Georgia State University: “My second year of undergraduate education has definitely been the most challenging, yet the most rewarding. I made the transition into starting my major classes which are advanced biology and chemistry courses. I spent hours upon hours studying, attending office hours, collaborating with other students, and even going to the tutoring center where I was a tutor myself. My dedication paid off, and I was able to maintain my 4.0 GPA.

“Last summer, I conducted research in epidemiology and biostatistics at Duke University. For the summer of 2019, I was honored to be accepted into the multiple internships programs at Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, John Hopkins University, and UCLA. After careful deliberation, I will be studying bioinformatics, more particularly, gene regulation at John Hopkins University as an Amgen Scholar.

“I am beyond grateful for the Watson-Brown Foundation’s continued support of my academic endeavors. Thank you very much.”



**Thomas Knight**, Sophomore, Kennesaw State University: “My biggest accomplishment in college thus far, along with maintaining a 4.0 GPA, is creating a diverse friend group and support system. The people I have surrounded myself with have continuously pushed me to be the best that I can be, and for that I am grateful. I have not only had multiple experiences that have shaped the way that I perceived the world, but also have learned a lot of information that will make me more productive and understanding. All of this would not have been possible if it was not for this Foundation, and for that I say thank you.”





FREDERICK THOMPSON



CHANDLER THACKER

**Chandler Thacker**, Junior, University of South Carolina: “This past year, I served three roles within my sorority as the head choreographer once again, the sophomore representative for our philanthropy board, and the assistant new member education. Another huge accomplishment I received was becoming a Pi Chi. Girls from every sorority were given the opportunity to apply and, after careful consideration, only so many were given interviews. Finally, I was chosen as a Pi Chi for the 2019-2020 recruitment year and will be a counselor to almost 2,000 girls rushing at USC Columbia in August. I was so honored to have received this opportunity, and I am so excited to be a role model to so many girls as they find their home away from home in Greek Village as I did two years ago.

“A few other accomplishments I received include being named to the Dean’s List again, being chosen to work at Victoria’s Secret at the Columbiana Mall from a group interview, I led my Greek Sing dance team to victory as we placed third overall in the competition, and I was on the Ignite Team for Dance Marathon as I contributed to our school raising \$1,038,156 For The Kids! My studies have been absolutely amazing, and I have excelled in all of my classes as I have prepared for law school. I can’t wait to be the real Legally Blonde someday.”

**Fredrick Thompson**, Senior, Emory University: “Dancing at the Paul Taylor School of American Modern Dance was one of the most defining moments of my dance career to date. I can’t help but explain the lessons I learned from the intensive without all the lessons I learned leading up to it as well. At the end of last semester, I was so nervous about it that I almost couldn’t bring myself to apply. This was one of America’s best and historic modern dance companies, so what if they didn’t like me? What would that mean for me as a budding dance artist? They asked for an audition video and that was one of my biggest hang-ups. Dance at Emory University is all about feeling movement within your own body, so to an extent, there is no right or wrong, which is why I love dancing there and it’s what convinced me to be a dance major. Yet, this was a world-renowned company, and what they saw in my audition video would determine everything, which made me fear it even more. Quite frankly, I would feel so embarrassed if I were to be rejected from the intensive itself, and I let that fear hold me back for a long time. In the end, it was the support from my partner and my big sister that gave me the courage to keep going, and I eventually turned in my application, not entirely happy with it, but I put in my best effort.

“Then, after a sixteen-hour bus ride, I finally made it to New York, but little did I know the next obstacle was just around the corner. I hadn’t heard anything back from Paul Taylor because I had waited to apply for so long, but I mustered up the courage to walk up to their front doorstep on the first day. I got there and of course, they hadn’t seen my application because in the days leading up to it, they were on their winter break as well. I was heartbroken that I let my fear get the best of me like that, and so I was prepared to take my dance bag and turn the other way out of the door. However, one woman decided to take a chance on me and told me I could stay for the first two classes and then they would have to tell me if I could stay or go. The fear set in again, but this time I didn’t let it shut me down. I danced for my life in those first two classes. The first class was a ballet class, and I felt completely prepared for an upper-level ballet class after taking ballet classes at school for the past year. I thought the second class, which was a modern dance, Taylor technique class, was going to be more my speed because I consider myself primarily a modern dancer. I was wrong. The Taylor technique was completely different than what I was used to. There were so many movements I didn’t know I could move from, and where was I supposed to find them in my body? Yet, once again, I kept going and I actually had a great time in both of those classes, because I did my best, I was focused, and I didn’t let any hiccups hold me back. Whatever they said after those classes, I knew that I had done what I had come to do, and I was satisfied with that. After those two classes, they took me back into the office and sat me down as I prepared for the worst. And they told me, that I could stay! On the inside, I was jumping with joy, but on the outside I tried to contain it to a slight surprise so I wouldn’t look like total newbie to the dance world.

“I grew so much and found the confidence in myself to continue to pursue my dreams and believe in myself no matter what else came in the future. A huge thank you, as well, to everyone at the Watson-Brown Foundation, for supporting me on my way to becoming the dancer and person I want to be.

“This year has been a year of true growth. I was the type of person who thought that the person I was then was the person I would always be. I was quite sure of myself, but that self was holding me back. I grew the most in myself this year, in my school work, my major, my personal relationships, and my life’s vision. Maybe I was a little naïve in thinking that I wouldn’t change, but I’m glad I did and a part of me knew I would anyways. You have to be open to change, because that is life!”





KYONG NATALI

**Kyong Natali**, Junior, University of Georgia: “My Sophomore year has been a lot of ups and downs. I have felt miserable in my accounting class, and the upper-level classes I had to take for major were challenging. However, it has taught me many things along the way. I have learned that these challenges are short and the hours I spent studying are going to be part of my experience as a college student. Putting my life in a bigger picture has energized me to persevere during tough times. In the midst of the tough times, I created many friends through the campus ministry I was/am still part of. For example, during my spring break, I traveled to St. Ann’s, Jamaica, for a mission trip and was able to facilitate growth between my team, as well as those who we had gone to serve. The spiritual growth as a follower of Christ has been incredible, and I am blessed to have peers around me that can challenge me in my walk with Christ and as a student. This summer I am returning to Tyler, Texas, to serve at a Christian Camp called Pine Cove Timbers. I have the pleasure of working with eighth and ninth graders again, and the platform that I am able to stand on to share the Gospel out of my comfort zone is both challenging and transforming. I am excited to continue to learn and expand knowledge at the University of Georgia.”

**Sydney Maddox**, Sophomore, Southern Methodist University: “My first year in college was extraordinary. I had the opportunity to take part in a Virtual Student Federal Service internship with EducationUSA Russia, danced on the largest opera house stage in Dallas, danced with American Ballet Theater in New York City, and had my first published essay! I gained so much knowledge and grew so much in such a short time. Through my internship, I worked with Russian students who are applying or plan to apply to universities in the United States and met individually with them as well as held group discussions monthly. I made incredible bonds with students on the other side of the world and learned so much about life for international students. My school’s spring dance department



SYDNEY MADDOX

performance was at the Winspear Opera House in Dallas, where we premiered three new works by world-renowned choreographers to music by a live orchestra. It was quite a surreal experience that I look forward to having again my Senior year. In January, I auditioned for a summer program with American Ballet Theater and was accepted. I spent the month of June dancing every day in New York City and learning from world renowned artists at one of the best dance institutions in the country, while seeing performances by the ABT Company in the evenings at the Metropolitan Opera House. I wrote an essay for an English class on the effect and importance of art in “Autumn” by Ali Smith, and was selected to be published in my university’s English textbook for the upcoming year. It has been quite an exciting year, and I could not be more thankful for the Watson-Brown Foundation for helping me to achieve and grow.”

**Avion Mahoney**, Sophomore, University of South Carolina: “Although my college experience has proven to be very different than my peers, being an independent student and maintaining three jobs on campus, I still was able to get thoroughly involved during my Freshman year, and find my niche at the University of South Carolina.

“Firstly, I was afforded the opportunity to serve on the Freshman Council. Freshman Council is an entry-level program of Student Government, designed to give passionate Freshmen an opportunity to make a difference in whichever way they deem fit. I served on the health-and-wellness committee, and with the help of my team members, was able to initiate the very first campus-wide fitness regimen: Get Fit Carolina. Additionally, we started a program called ‘Mental Health Mondays,’ which served as a highlight feature on the Student Government Instagram page. Various tips, articles, student highlights, and other posts contributed to Mental Health Mondays, with the goal of decreasing stigma and increasing awareness of health related resources on campus.

“In addition to student government, I also received the opportunity to intern for Dr. Ling Harris, a professor in the accounting department. Being a triple major in accounting, finance, and management, I gained valuable skills working in my designated college and also learned abundantly from the experience. As stated previously, this was in addition to my other



two jobs as a residential hall desk assistant and an office assistant for university housing. Each employment opportunity allowed me ample time to complete all of my academic work, while also supporting myself financially. I would recommend working a desk job to any incoming Freshman, as I believe this aided immensely in my ability to maintain a 4.0 for the entire academic year while being fully independent.

“Towards the end of spring semester, I became an official orientation leader for the university starting in the summer term, and a resident mentor starting in the fall. Both of these jobs involve a huge sense of mentoring, as I will work closely with incoming Freshman and aid in their adjustment to college life. As I once was an incoming Freshman filled with nervousness and excitement, it’s surreal that now I will be a number-one resource to others in that same position. I feel blessed to have been afforded so many opportunities on campus and be able to say I’ve found where I belong.

“I’ve also hit some personal milestones and currently have projects in the

works. In March, I officially started my own scholarship foundation: Dreamers Scholarship Council. Due to the significant impact that educational scholarships have had on my life, I truly have developed a passion for the cause and wish to give other students the same opportunities I’ve been afforded. As of right now, I am developing our website and preparing other logistical branding components. However, I hope to have everything up and running by the end of the summer and award our first scholarship in the fall. My involvement at USC has definitely contributed to my decision in finally starting my own foundation. Although transitioning to college is uncomfortable, I discovered so many things about myself that I’ve never known and am still discovering daily. I just want to thank the Watson-Brown Foundation for believing in my capabilities and contributing to my education. It is my mission to be the gift that keeps giving and serve as a mentor, resource, and friend to other incoming Freshman and soon-to-be college students across the country.”

# DANIELLE ANDERSON



## Alumni Spotlight

BY SHANNON FRIEDMANN HATCH

**T**he stomp of her horse's hoof across her parent's land at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Chickens with their throaty squawk, scratching the ground as she tossed their feed. Her high school JROTC drill—rifles spinning from hand to hand with practiced slaps. The roar of Clemson Memorial Stadium on a Saturday, as the Tigers took the field. Her voice raising in hallelujah on Sundays. These sounds are the soundtrack of Danielle Anderson's life. We all have one, the backbeat of each second, minute, hour, day. However, one can go their entire life and miss its music ... or simply tune out. Not Danielle. As a marriage and family therapist, she spends her days listening. But more than that, she helps her clients tune in again. "It's important

for people to be heard," she said. "Don't keep things silent—there's power in expressing your feelings. It's the first step to being able to heal."

For as long as she can remember, friends and even people she didn't know that well would seek her out for advice on their struggles, hopes, fears. "I have a real love for people," she said. "It meant so much to me that people felt comfortable talking to me."

As an undergraduate at Clemson, she double majored in psychology and anthropology. Eager to figure out her next steps as far as graduate school, she dug into what was available in the field outside of a research-based career and fell in love with the theories of marriage and family counseling.

After graduating and taking a year off planning her own wedding, she began her master's in marriage therapy through Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. As fate would have it, one of her

professors at Clemson used to teach there, it was only 35 to 45 minutes away from home, and it was the only accredited degree program in that area of study in the state. “I realized that this was where I was meant to be,” Danielle said.

However, even though she was following her passion, it wasn’t always easy. “The first two semesters were intense and rigorous,” she remembered. In addition to learning the models and skills, she had to demonstrate the theories through lots of role play with her classmates, all taking turns being both therapist and client. “We were given a framework like anxiety or a life transition, and we’d have to demonstrate either the symptoms or the knowledge of diagnosis from the DSM,” she said, referring to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, the field’s tome.

Her coursework also included a practicum in a clinic with a fifteen-client caseload. On one side of a two-way mirror, she conducted a session—on the other side sat her professor and classmates, who offered feedback halfway and at the end. “At first, it was challenging, but I grew to love it.”

She graduated the summer of 2018 and earned her license in January of this year. In August, she opened her own practice in Greenville, South Carolina, and in addition to marriage and family therapy, plans to continue her work in the substance abuse field, which she was first exposed to during her studies when she worked with inmates in the Spartanburg County Detention Center.

“It’s such a blessing to be doing something that I only dreamed of,” Danielle said. She continued that as a therapist, “I sit with people in their most dark and challenging

moments. To be able to be with them and see their strength—and help them see it—I am so honored.”

She admits, though, that one challenge is “turning it off” when she’s not at work. She said, “This field is unique because it’s part of who you are and your career.”

And so, she’s learning that the sound of the lock at the end of the day, signals a different rhythm.

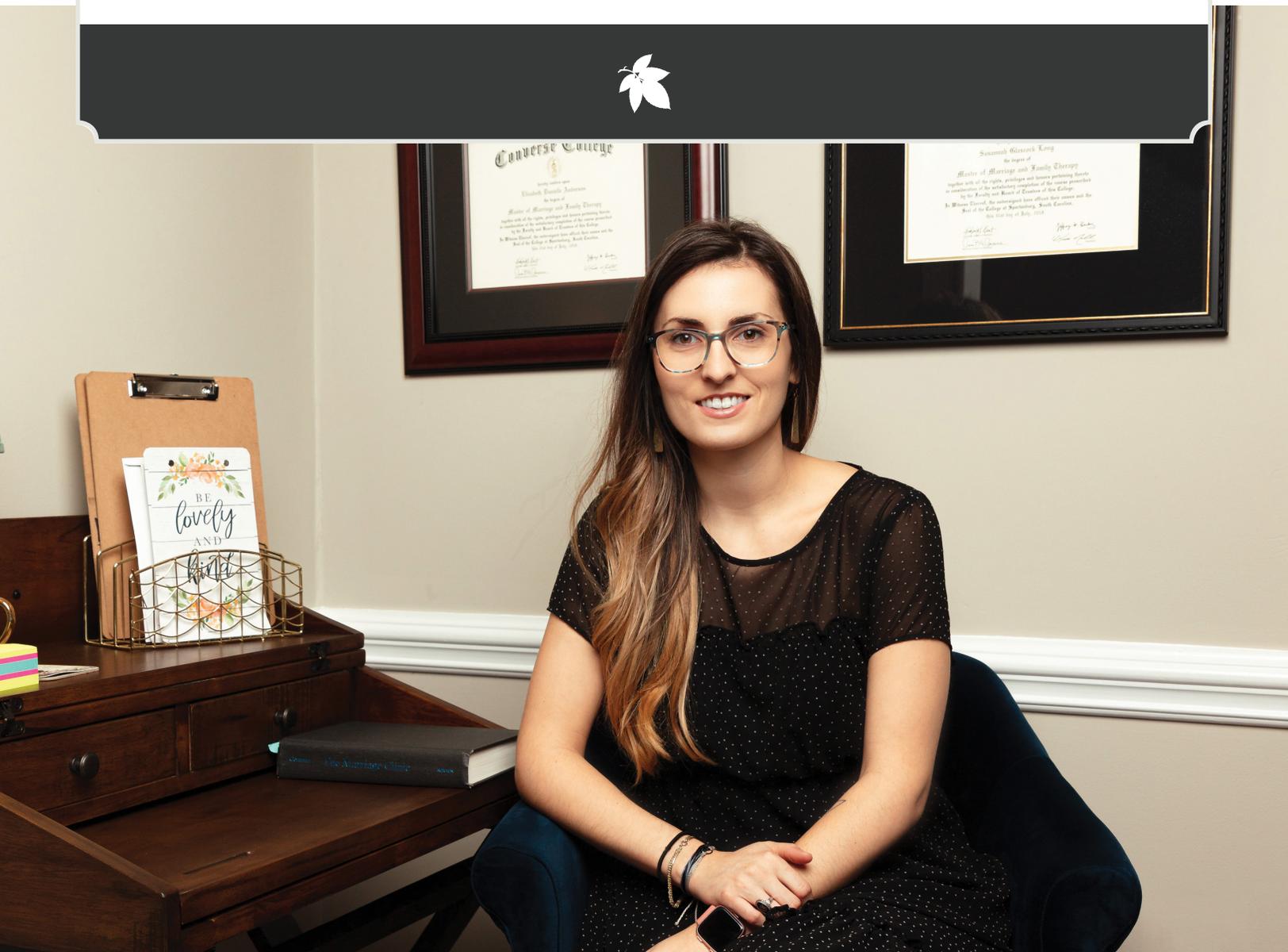
The piano keys striking the cords as she plays and unwinds.

Her nephew laughing when she and her husband visit on the weekends.

Her two dogs running to the door as she grabs the leash for a hike.

Professionally, she helps others find their direction—but during a quiet walk in the wilderness, she can turn down any road.

*“It’s such a blessing to be doing something that I only dreamed of.”*





# TOM COBB: A DOMESTIC MISSIONARY



## T.R.R. Cobb House

BY SAMUEL N. THOMAS, JR.

**F**rom the death of his beloved daughter, Lucy, in October 1857, until his own death in battle in December 1862, Tom Cobb was a stalwart supporter of Calvinism and the Presbyterian Church. For his remaining five years on this earth, Cobb never seemed to waver in his efforts to spread, or support the spread, of Presbyterianism.

After marrying Marion Lumpkin, daughter of Joseph Henry Lumpkin and a member of a strong Presbyterian family, Cobb officially joined the Athens Presbyterian Church in 1848. Initially, he can be viewed as a rather lukewarm member, but all of that changed in October 1857 due to two events. The first of these was a movement then sweeping the country — the Third Great Awakening. The other was the death of his beloved daughter Lucy during a scarlet fever epidemic.

With these two events in play, Tom Cobb was an easy convert to the missionary movement taking hold of the country in the late 1850s. From this point on, until his death, Cobb followed a rather evangelical path in most all walks of life. Mary Ann Cobb wrote her husband Howell in July 1859 that

“[Tom] suffers in mind still about Lucy and it’s his business alone that saves him from despair.”

That business was at least in part this new evangelical spirit. This led Cobb into many endeavors whether in pushing for the construction of a new church building, starting a chapter of the Young Men’s Christian Association, or promoting the creation and strengthening of Sunday schools in the town, Tom Cobb remained at the forefront of domestic missionary efforts. “Tom is the moving spirit in all. He is deeply engaged in the work of converting souls,” wrote sister-in-law Mary Ann Cobb to her husband in June 1859.

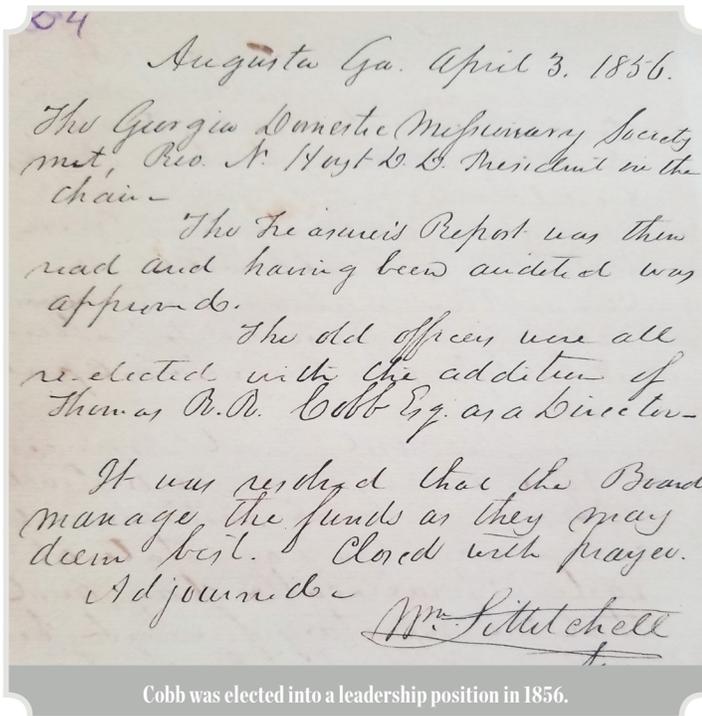
One group that was tailor-made for his missionary inclinations was a society created in 1825 — the Georgia Domestic Missionary Society. During a meeting of Hopewell Presbytery, a three-member committee composed of Drs. John E. Brown and Moses Waddel and Rev. William Moderwell, met in Lexington, Georgia, “to enquire into the expediency of establishing a Domestic Missionary Society.” According to E.L. Hill in his Historical Sketch of the Georgia

Domestic Missionary Society published in 1911, just three days following the meeting of Presbytery, the committee reported back that in their opinion, “the establishment of such a society is both expedient and practicable.”

With that report in hand, Brown, Waddel, and Moderwell, along with Alonzo S. Church and Benjamin Gildersleeve voted to create the Society. The stated purpose within the Georgia Domestic Missionary Society’s constitution was to assist with developing Presbyterian churches, helping them to grow in size and mission and “to send ministers wherever they think it expedient in the State of Georgia.”

The Board of Directors for the Society was initially composed of three ministers and two Elders: “Joseph Bryan, of Mount Zion, was chosen President; Augustus Moore, of Augusta, Treasurer; Rev. Mr. Moderwell, Corresponding Secretary, and Rev. B. Gildersleeve, Recording Secretary.” Joseph C. Stiles was appointed by the group to be their “general agent to collect funds and form auxiliary societies.”

Within just a few years the Georgia Domestic Missionary Society was conducting



Cobb was elected into a leadership position in 1856.

all of the domestic missionary activities for Presbytery in a semi-independent capacity. After 1834 all of Hopewell Presbytery's domestic missionary activities were being conducted entirely by the Society in a now completely independent role.

Athens First Presbyterian Church was the center and motivating force of the Society from its inception and the leadership of the Society remained predominantly in the hands of Athens First Presbyterian Church for the extent of the Society's existence. Just one month before his death in May 1862, Alonzo Church was still serving as Vice President of the Board of the Society. In 1851 the Board Chair was in the hands of Rev. Nathan Hoyt, the full-time minister of Athens First Presbyterian. For the next five years the Board of the Society remained unchanged. One of the members of the Board at this time was an Elder of Athens Presbyterian, William L. Mitchell.

Mitchell served as the Secretary of the Society for several years. When the Board met in Augusta 1856, Mitchell proposed the addition of a new Board member in his good friend and fellow Elder at Athens First Presbyterian, one who was not only supportive of the goals of the Georgia Domestic Missionary Society, but also energetic in its operations. In his minutes of the April 3, 1856, meeting of the Georgia Domestic Missionary Society Board, Mitchell recorded, "The Georgia

Domestic Missionary Society met, Rev. N. Hoyt D. D. President in the Chair. The Treasurer's Report was then read and having been audited was approved. The old officers were all re-elected with the addition of Thomas R. R. Cobb Esq. as a Director."

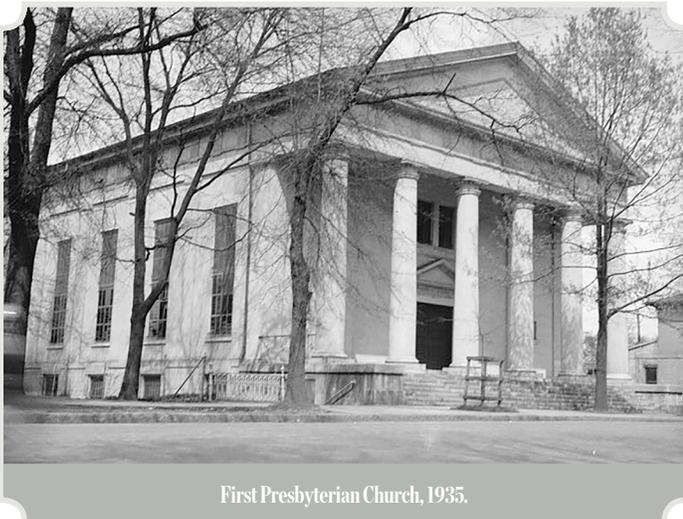
In 1859 the Elders of Athens Presbyterian Church approached the Georgia Domestic Missionary Society seeking a missionary to minister to the congregation's enslaved community. "Resolved: one Joseph Williams a colored preacher of our denomination [should] be invited to come & labor among us a missionary to our Col'd people." The minutes of the Georgia Domestic Missionary Society recorded that "a Resolution from the Session of the Presbyterian Church in Athens was presented by the Secretary requesting this Board to employ Joseph Williams as a Missionary to the colored people within the bounds of that congregation and this Board being satisfied of his fitness for the Missionary work and trusting that God in his merciful providence is opening a door for a colored membership in this part of the vineyard it was on motion of Wm. L. Mitchell."

On the behalf of the Church Session of Athens Presbyterian Church, the Society resolved "to open a correspondence with Joseph Williams upon the subject of his removal to Athens as a missionary, and ascertain upon what terms he is willing to be employed to labor in the Athens Presbyterian congregation and such other places in Hopewell Presbytery as a door may be opened to him, so as to become a permanent missionary of this Society." The Society was apparently successful in obtaining Williams' service as the Church Session allotted "one hundred & fifty dollars ... towards the support of Joseph Williams for the year 1861." Tom Cobb traveled to Columbus, Georgia, where Joseph Williams was at the time to offer to him the position on behalf of the Society.

The Society continued its meetings through the tumultuous years of the Civil War and its aftermath. In 1877 the Society was officially incorporated within Clarke County with its new charter being drafted by William L. Mitchell and Howell Cobb (Jr.). Because of the Society's strong Athens board membership at that time the Society was officially located in "the city of Athens and shall be under the control of the Augusta Presbytery or whatever Presbytery may become the successor of the Augusta Presbytery and including the city of Athens." Augusta Presbytery was the successor of Hopewell Presbytery.

For the next 108 years the Georgia Domestic Missionary Society continued its faithful charge of sending ministers wherever they thought it expedient within the State, "and to assist in building up feeble Churches." In 1985 the Georgia Domestic Missionary Society was effectively disbanded and all funds held by the Society were then turned over to Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

As 2020 dawns, Athens First Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary of serving northeast Georgia as a beacon of Presbyterianism. And one man who helped fuel that beacon was our own, Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb — a Domestic Missionary.



First Presbyterian Church, 1935.



The historic church still stands as a landmark in downtown Athens.



# HOW THE VULTURE CHANGED THE WORLD



## Sticks & Stones

BY FRANKE SMITH

Vultures are amazing creatures. They soar gracefully, if ominously, through the air and provide an invaluable service to the rest of us by quickly disposing of the carcasses that inevitably litter the landscape. Vultures are uniquely suited to this task, and researchers have found that the bacteria which naturally lives on their skin, especially their faces, and in their gut is so harsh that it keeps them from getting sick. In fact, bacteria that would kill most other animals can live in the vulture's gut, without harming the vulture at all. These gruesome and awesome facts aside, we owe another debt of gratitude to the lowly vulture; for without the vulture, humans might never have learned to fly.

The Wright Brothers gained one of their greatest insights from watching this humble bird. They were undoubtedly so successful because of their willingness to research, study, and test their findings with Herculean levels of patience and perseverance. Their research included writing letters to scholars like Octave Chanute and institutions like the Smithsonian for reference materials about the wind and the theories and failures of their predecessors. It also

Wilbur Wright, of Dayton, Ohio, is still in the lead of the world when it comes to flying machines. His aeroplane, at Lemans, France, won the prize Michelin cup, for remaining in the air nearly two hours, the best previous record being one hour and a half, also made by Mr. Wright, September last.

Excerpt from *The Jeffersonian*, January 7, 1909

included hours sitting and watching vultures. The brothers felt that more than raw power was required to develop a successful flying machine, that one needed skill above all else. To that end, they examined the flight of vultures and how they moved in the air.

The brothers actually mentioned these observations in their letters to Chanute and, like many, mistakenly referred to vultures as buzzards. Our third grade field trip students are always shocked to learn that no buzzards live in the United States; they are native to Europe and Africa. We teach an entire program on vultures. They have very interesting adaptations, but I digress. The Wrights' observations of vultures led to the development of wing warping, a method by which they could move the rear side of either end of the flying machine's wings to gain greater control of the craft. This single discovery was one of the major advancements that made their flyers effective while others' failed.

After their first successful flights in December of 1903, the longest of which lasted a little under a minute, the Wrights continued to test new ideas and designs, and in 1909 Tom Watson's newspaper, *The Jeffersonian*, reported Wilbur's successful and record breaking flight of over two hours. Of course, he was only breaking his own record.



been trying to arrange my affairs in such a way that I can devote my entire time for a few months to experiment in this field.

My general ideas of the subject are similar those held by most practical experimenters, to wit: that what is chiefly needed is skill rather than machinery. The flight of the Buzzard and similar sailors is a convincing demonstration of the value of skill, and the partial needlessness of motors. It is possible to fly without motors, but not without knowledge & skill. This I conceive to be fortunate for man, even by reason of his greater intellect, can more reasonably hope to equal birds in knowledge, than to equal

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## OUR FOUNDER

Walter J. Brown was a journalist and a broadcast pioneer who built and chaired what would become Spartan Communications, Inc., one of the larger privately held TV companies in the country.

Early in his career, Brown had an office in the White House when he served on the staff of Secretary of State James F. Byrnes. Brown's enduring love for politics was eclipsed only by his respect for Jimmy Byrnes. Inspired in part by Byrnes's philanthropy—which in 1948 established the James F. Byrnes Foundation—Brown created his own private Foundation in 1970. Named for Thomas E. Watson and J.J. Brown, the men to whom Brown attributed his success, the Watson-Brown Foundation today continues to ensure that hundreds of deserving students are provided the opportunity to excel at the college of their choice.