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Notes on conversation July/1975 with Sallie Mae Calhoun Wood and sisters Elizabeth and Helen; their first cousins, Odie Bell Calhoun and Allie Calhoun Lowrey; and Allie's daughter Jimmie Sue Mullen in Tarrytown, GA.

Helen and Elizabeth: James I. Calhoun, B.R.'s father, went off to fight in the Confederate Army, leaving his wife and several young children. One day a dirty, ragged man whom the children didn't know came to the door. They went running to their mother. As soon as she saw him she said, "Why, that's your father!"

He was so infected with lice that they had to put him and his clothes in the molasses barrel to disinfect them. Also had to shave his head.

His wife, Nancy Connell Calhoun, daughter of R.S.D. Daniel Connell, had a cousin, John G. Hamilton, who refused to fight. He hid out under a rock on the land that belongs to Sallie Mae now. When he got hungry he would come knocking at Nancy's door, begging for food. He would get the children to watch for the "detail."

One morning they came running in to tell him the dogs were barking just as he had sat down to eat breakfast. He said, "I can't take time to eat now. That's the detail come to get me."

He was wearing an overcoat with big pockets. He swept all the food off the table and stuffed it into his pockets, then jumped on his horse, told the children to take the top rail off the fence, jumped over it and galloped off with his overcoat flying out straight behind him.

The detail didn't get him that time, but another time they did. Somehow he got away and jumped in the creek or river and hid between two logs with only his nose sticking out. He never did have to fight for the Confederates.

At a family gathering B.R. Calhoun once remarked (referring to his youngest sister Maggie), "She's the ugliest woman I ever have seen. She just looks fierce!"

Uncle Wash, B.R.'s brother, was voted the ugliest man in the county. He always said if he found anybody who was uglier, he would fight him.

One day the train stopped, and the engineer told him there was a man on there uglier. Uncle Wash got on the train and looked the man over, then decided, after a careful examination of the man, that he wasn't uglier after all; so he didn't have to fight him. (Odie Bell said she looks like Uncle Wash.)

That same afternoon we went to Lyons where another cousin, Hortense Calhoun Benton, lives. She was an attractive woman in her 50's with curly red hair, blue eyes, a full face and a pleasant smile. She and her husband own quite a bit of land and cattle as well as a stock yard. My daughter looks very much like her.

"Uncle Dan'l," B.R.'s brother, was her and Jimmie Sue Lowery's grandfather.

Nancy Connell Calhoun, Allie's grandmother, had curly red hair.

Allie Calhoun Lowrey was the daughter of Daniel O. Calhoun. Sallie Mae, Elizabeth and Helen were daughters of George State Archives Folder Collection (James) Wash(ington)'s daughter.

Odie Bell also said she remembered B.R. Calhoun's office being full of clocks. People gave him their clocks when they didn't have cash to pay him. (He was a lawyer.)

Either Odie Bell or Allie said that B.R. wouldn't take a case unless he was convinced that the defendant was in the right.

Sunday, 7-27-75 Went to the Baptist Church in Soperton. Met more cousins, including Mark Simons, son of the ugly Aunt Maggie. He was plump and affable, not at all bad looking, and dressed in a well-fitting green suit.

Cousin Allie's brother-in-law arrived Saturday night from Texas. His 101-year-old father and sister live in Soperton. When introduced to my daughter, Jeannette Wilson, he beamed affably and pronounced, "She's a Calhoun all right!" I told him this was the first place I'd ever been where I didn't have to explain to suspicious friends and relatives where she got her red hair.

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July 3, 1977 Allie Calhoun Lowrey, age 88, said she remembered her father and uncles telling her that their father, James Irvin Calhoun, came home from The War just often enough to play with the older children. He used to throw them up on the hay. After 18 visits another baby was usually on the way.

Emily B. Calhoun

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