



MANETTA MILLS OFFICE PERSONNEL, 1943, (front row left to right) Shaw Simpson, Harry Heath, Bob Willis (back row left to right) James Whitesides, Harold Glass, Gilbert Heath, Charlie Murphy.

James S. Whitesides

When I came home from Army Service in 1943 I was employed by Manetta Mills. The Office personnel at that time consisted of Mr. W. Shaw Simpson, Mr. Charles E. Murphy, Mr. Harold W. Glass, Mr. Robert M. Willis, and myself.

The Lando Elementary School was in operation at that time. Mr. G. B. Heath, President of the mill, was trustee. In 1944 Mr. Heath decided to retire and had me appointed as trustee. The school for the white, with Mrs. L. L. McCrorey as Principal, was located in the Village. The Negro school, with Mrs. Maggie Bailey, as Principal, was located on a knoll across from Brooks and Kiser Service Station. A few years later the schools were consolidated with Oakley Hall, Richburg, and Edgemoor Schools.

In the late late 1800's my grandfather, Sidney Robinson, and his brother, J. M. Robinson, owned and operated a general mercantile store. The store was located between the present mill office and the mill. They also owned property in front of the present mill office and built what became known as the Old Boarding House. This property was later sold to Mr. B. D. Heath.

At the same time the mill owned and operated a general Mercantile Store known as the Company Store. Because of the lack of transportation, it was necessary to carry all items needed by the residents of Lando.

Speaking of transportation, there were at that time two bridges over Fishing Creek leading into Lando. Quite often both bridges were covered by water during rainy seasons and sometimes were washed away. During these times it was necessary to enter Lando by rail or to go around by Richburg.

At one time wood was the only fuel used for heating and cooking. The wood was sold from the company wood yard. The manager of the company store noticed that some of his wood was disappearing so he conceived a strategy to put a stop to it. He bored some holes in a few logs and placed some black gun powder in them. They were stolen but he never lost any more wood.

In 1973, after thirty years of pleasant association with Manetta Mills officials, employees, and residents of Lando I retired. ■