



MONTEVALLO  
**Main Street**  
*Memories*

**VICTORY AUTOS BUILDING**

by Clay Nordan  
 Vice-president, Montevallo Historical Society

<b>EVERYTHING</b>		
HATS, SHOES, SUITS, Overcoats, Rain Coats, Saddles, Harness, GLOVES, Shoes, Nailbrush, Furniture, Etc., Etc.	NEEDED BY <b>MAN,</b> <b>WOMAN</b> OR <b>CHILD</b> <b>WE</b> <b>SELL.</b>	CAPES, CLOAKS, Shawls, Perfumes, Jewelry, Dry Goods, Timepiece, Clockwork, Groceries, Toys, Cordons, Etc., Etc.
OUR PRICES <b>Are the Lowest in Town.</b> <b>H. C. &amp; W. B. REYNOLDS,</b> MONTVALLO, ALA.		

The building commonly known today as the old Victory Auto building that stands on the northwest corner of Main and Shelby Streets got its start shortly after the end of the Civil War when former Confederate Captain Henry Clay Reynolds came to town and opened a general mercantile business. Together with his son, W.B. Reynolds, they thrived and grew to the point where they also had stores in West Blocton and

Centreville. Capt. Reynolds was the key promoter for locating the Alabama Girls Industrial School in Montevallo and became the school's first president in 1896 when Miss Julia Tutwiler withdrew her acceptance of the position at the last minute. The Reynolds also owned and published the local newspaper, the Montevallo News, at the time of the founding of AGIS.

An interesting capsule biography of the rich and colorful life of H.C. Reynolds appears in the June 2021 edition of Chamber Chatter. It can be found in pdf format at [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org) under the "Chatter Contributions" tab for 2021.

After the Reynolds' business came to a close, the building became the home to Montevallo's first Ford automobile dealership, Reid Motor Co. in the 1920's. Since then, a variety of General Motors dealerships have followed in Reid's



footsteps. Among them were Montevallo Motor Co.; Ron Shafer Chevrolet; Carl Cannon Chevrolet; Ken Terry Chevrolet; Leach Pontiac GMC; and the most recent occupant, Victory Autos.

The building has been unoccupied since before 2019 when it was purchased by the City of Montevallo. Since then, no potential occupants have expressed any interest in moving in, so the city has developed a strategy that includes demolition of the building and replacing it with a much needed Main Street hotel. At this time, progress on the plan hinges on completing environmental impact studies and finalizing talks with a hotel management company.



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**Montevallo Historical Society**  
*Opening the Portals of Our Heritage*

Saturday, December 16, 2022 • 12:00 Noon  
**Montevallo City Cemetery**  
 Please Join Us for a Special Ceremony Honoring the Memory of nearly 400 Local Veterans Buried Here and to Lay Remembrance Wreaths on their Graves for the Holidays.

MONTEVALLO MAIN STREET MEMORIES is adapted from the series, THROWBACK THURSDAY, a Montevallo Historical Society and Montevallo Main Street partnership started in 2018. Each installment revisits commercial and residential life on Main Street and in the downtown area in the early to mid-twentieth century. The series remains available online and may be viewed at [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org) under "Local History".