

Montevallo *Historical* Times

Vol. 6 No. 2

Newsletter of the Montevallo Historical Society

Summer 2022



Kroell Photos Prompt Significant Donation

The publication in the *Montevallo Historical Times* earlier this year of Dr. Mike Mahan's 1967 photos from the George Kroell house caused an unexpected connection to spring up between the Montevallo Historical Society and several surviving descendants of the venerable Kroell patriarch.

The contact began last year when MHS director Marty Everse received a request from Yvonne Graham of Twining, Michigan to use a photo he had posted online. Yvonne mentioned to Marty that she was a Kroell descendant and she soon led him to another member of the family, her cousin Patty DeBardeleben of Selma, whose mother, Dionetta, was a granddaughter of George and Mary Jennett Kroell.

Several exchanges of information via email then ensued with MHS vice-president and newsletter editor, Clay Nordan, involving Patty and Yvonne. In the process, both cousins decided to become MHS members, joining at the Patron level.

Yvonne mentioned several times that she had shared with her father the photos and other Montevallo and Kroell family facts she had learned, but she never identified him.

Then, out of the blue on May 29, 2022, Charles Kaiden Kroell sent an email to Clay introducing himself as Yvonne's father as well as George Kroell's 89 year-old great-grandson.

Charlie's grandfather, Pat Kroell, had been one of George's sons and his father, also named George, was one of the eleven children (including Dionetta) that Pat and his wife, Sarah Frances, brought into the world.

In a letter attached to his email, Charlie says in regard to the Montevallo Historical Society, "I have been much impressed with what I see as an active, dynamic organization,

very interested in its city's history. Impressed to the extent that I would like to offer, as donations to the Society ... one item of material substance and two written documents, all having relevance to the history of Montevallo."

Believing that he is in all probability the last "extant" male Kroell, the item "of material substance" that he proposes is old George Kroell's handsome gold pocket watch that was passed down to Charlie following his own father, George's, death in 1940. He concludes, "I have come to feel strongly that the proper final resting place for this elegant timepiece is in Montevallo, in its historical archives."

The written documents that Charlie also proposed to donate consist of an eight page letter, written in 1989 and addressed specifically to Charlie, from his aunt, Frances Kroell Haile. Then there is a 146 page professionally transcribed family oral history recorded by the same aunt in 1996.

As can be seen from the photos on this page, the pocket watch was manufactured by the Illinois Watch Co., which is still in business in Quincy, Illinois.

The front of the case (which opens to reveal the watch face) is ornately personalized with the initials "G. K.", emblematic of its original owner, George Kroell. The back side of the case also features the engraved image of a strutting peacock.

The MHS board of directors voted to accept Charlie's generous and important donation at its meeting on June 5, 2022. The items have since arrived and are now safely in our possession. We plan to soon display the donated items for everyone to see at a general meeting. Since making his donation, Charlie and his wife Marijean have joined MHS as Patrons.

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Time has flown by and we find ourselves in the middle of the year 2022.

As I am writing this President's Letter, the world continues to face a global crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic. We witness cascading variants of the virus and reliable information about the risks of gathering in large groups is difficult to find. Inevitably we must continue to engage with our community. The MHS Board of Directors has decided that the time has come to resume our usual activities. We can never afford to stand still, and we are not. So, what is coming?

I am honored to lead the Montevallo Historical Society again this year. As I enter my fourth year as president of MHS, I notice that our society has never been more relevant and important for those of us living locally in Montevallo. With 169 members across Alabama and the United States, we are a strong and vital organization focused on being your go-to historical resource. I've come to think of us as one large best-in-class historical team. A team that provides abundant opportunities to learn, teach, mentor, and share top quality historical information and advice. A team that enables us to preserve, advocate, brainstorm, and give back to our community and to each other.

The changes around us, whether social, political, technological, scientific, economic, or otherwise require that we navigate through new and increasingly complex landscapes which profoundly impact our community. We can help shape those new landscapes.

I have always been impressed with the quality and diversity of our programming. Now with our increased focus on interactivity, we will provide you with more opportunities to learn by doing and from each other.

I'm proud of our society's successes, particularly in providing more opportunities for meaningful engagement of our

members and providing outreach opportunities. In the year ahead, we will continue these initiatives.

Please check out the details of all our offerings for this fall. You will not be disappointed!

♦ Our first general membership meeting in two years will be held Sunday, July 24th 2:00 pm at Parnell Memorial Library featuring a talk by local author and journalist Bill Plott.

♦ We are also looking forward to our second annual Gala in October as guests of Janice Seaman at the Fox and Pheasant Inn. We hope that this year will be especially enjoyable for everyone. Thank you to our Gala Committee for planning an amazing evening and to our many members and friends who have expressed a desire to attend.

♦ In addition, we will celebrate Christmas in December with an annual open house for all our members.

♦ And we will sponsor our first *Wreaths Across America* installation in December for veterans buried in the Montevallo City Cemetery.

Thank you to our members, for your continued participation in and enthusiasm for MHS, and for your incredible support. Finally, I'd like to give a special shout-out of appreciation to our Board of Directors for their tireless work on behalf of the society. Thank you for all the resources, guidance and support you continually provide. Thank you all.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Susan

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Susan Godwin
President

Clay Nordan
Vice-President

Bill Glosson
Secretary

Janice F. Seaman
Treasurer

Montevallo
Historical Society

Opening the Portals of Our Heritage

540 Shelby Street
Montevallo, AL 35115

www.historicmontevallo.org



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Directors

Marty Everse

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DISTINGUISHED FOUNDING DIRECTORS

Dr. S.M. Mahan, Jr. (1934 – 2018)

Dr. James S. Day

Montevallo Historical Society

Roster of Active Members – 2022

KROELL BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS (\$250)

C&V Painting, Inc.
Sherry Vallides
Fox & Pheasant B&B Inn
Shoal Creek Realty
Janice Seaman
Smitherman's Pharmacy
Sammy Shunnarah

.....

JESSE WILSON SOCIETY (\$250)

Richard Anderson
Sharon Anderson
Bill Denson
Helon Everse
Marty Everse
Clay Nordan

.....

PATRON LEVEL (\$100)

Charlie Binion
Laurie Binion
Beth Jeter Bishop
Linda Cicero
John Cox
Patty DeBardeleben
Robert Doyle
Lois Doyle
Yvonne Kroell Graham
Catherine Griffin
Hud Heaton
Miki Mahan Heaton
Cecily Orr Hullett
Margie Scott Jones
Bill Keller
Jeanetta Keller
Charles Kaiden Kroell
Marijean Kroell
Billie Lacey
Carol Lightfoot
Kirk Lightfoot
Bob Lightfoot
Gene Lightfoot
Peggy Whaley Marshall
Guy Milford

Barbara Morris Nabors
Melinda Nix
Rusty Nix
Mildred Bolton Orr
Sara Pankaskie
Emily Pendleton
Debbie Pendleton
Sally Sears
Anne Thomas
David Thomas
Sid Vance
Barbara Vance

SINGLE & FAMILY LEVEL (\$25 OR \$40)

Ellen Andrews
Mary Arledge
Steve Arledge
Terry Arnold
Sarah Arnold
Phyllis Bailey
Cathy Barber
Brenda Bates
Rebecca Beaty
Wayne Beaty
Gary Bell
David Bennett
Patricia Bennett
Lee Binion
Cheryl McClure Blackmon
Becky Holcombe Bolton
Jim Brown
Janet Rotenberry Burnett
Tad Cairns
Glenda Terrell-Cairns
Pam Campbell
Pat Clark
Marshel Roy Cunningham
Ed Czeskleba
Karen Czeskleba
James Day
Rene Day
Marilynn Donoho
Paul Doran
Judy Lien Duda
Sara Lacey Erwin

Judy Robinson Feagin
Barclay Fisher
Bryan Fowler
Nancy Fowler
Bruce Fraser
John Galloway
Mike Galloway
Sarah Galloway
Danny Gamble
Mae Glosson
William Glosson
Susan Godwin
Hershel Hale
Margie Hardin
Keith Harrelson
Carey Heatherly
Jim Hermecz
Barry Hocutt
Debbie Ingram
Ben Ingram
Kitty Keener
Karen Kelly
Perry Hurt Kent
John Kirby
Carolyn Kirby
Stanley Lacey
Jimmy Lawley
Linda Lawley
Eddye Lawley
Mary Lawson
Susan Ledbetter
Billy Lee
Brenda Lewis
Elizabeth Chism Ludwig
Michael E. Malone
Scott Martin
Bruce McClanahan
Jane McClanahan
John McCulley
James McDonald
Jerry McGaughy
Susie McGaughy
Jan McKinnon
John McKinnon
Joan McMillan
Norman McMillan

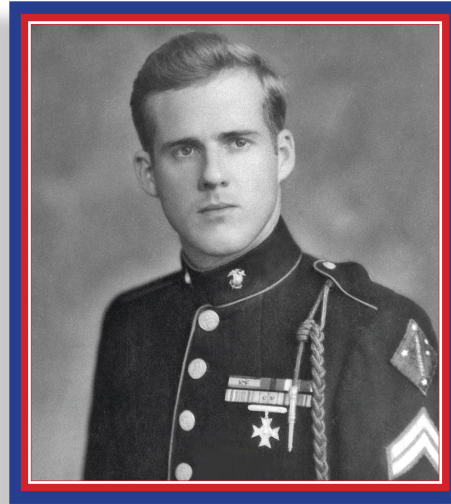
Jeannie Meigs
Laurie Middaugh
Barb Milstead
Herb Milstead
Jack Moran
Lynn Rotenberry Moran
David T. Morgan
Bill Muehlbauer
Courtney Parker Murphy
Bill Nathews
Laurie Jean Orr
Michelle Pawlik
Joan Pickett
Mike Pickett
Bill Plott
Atticus Plott
Douglas Rodgers
Libby Rodgers
Randie Sears Rosenberg
Molly Sears Rosenberg
Andrew J. Rosenberg
Mitt Schroeder
Steve Sears
Alma Sears
Spenser Sears
Adelle Simpson
Jeanne Sledge
Luke Smith
Eddie Spears
Maureen Spears
Plesia Spears
Carolyn Frost Turnbull
Scott Turnbull
Marilee Turnbull
Jonne C. Thornton
Becky B. Thornton
Hubert Van Tuyll
Susan Wilder-White
Bill White
Nancy Wilstach
Dee Woodham
Barry Woodham
Bobby Wyatt
Jan Wyatt
Julia Youngblood
Gary Youngblood

A Different Kind of Acclaim

It's doubtful that anyone who either lived or worked in Montevallo at any time in the past ever achieved more international fame and recognition than Eugene B. Sledge.

In, *Rest in Peace, Sledgehammer*, David Morgan, Sledge's friend and fellow University of Montevallo faculty member, summed up the impact of Sledge's 1982 World War II memoir, *With the Old Breed* as "one of the top ten books ever written on military history – not American military history, world military history! Some have heralded it as the most important war memoir ever written."

Morgan continues, "Gene's book ... brought much glory and honor to the campus of the University of Montevallo. Some of the nation's premier historians and writers came to Montevallo because of it". Among them were the great writer and journalist, Studs Terkel, the noted military



**U.S. Marine Corporal
Eugene Bondurant Sledge
("Sledgehammer" to his comrades)**

historian, Paul Fussell, and the highly popular World War II author, Stephen Ambrose.

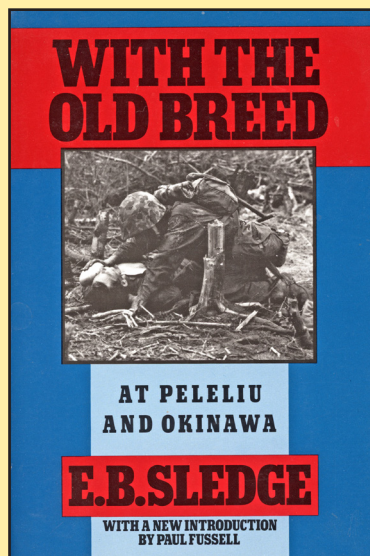
The acclaim that followed the publication of WTOB eventually led his account of all he had seen in the Pacific to be adapted for the story and framework for a major documentary film as well as a made-for-TV series.

But a much less sensational kind of acclaim would accrue to the personal portfolio of Eugene B. Sledge as a result of the years of diligent and concerned effort he devoted to his students as a Professor in the UM Department

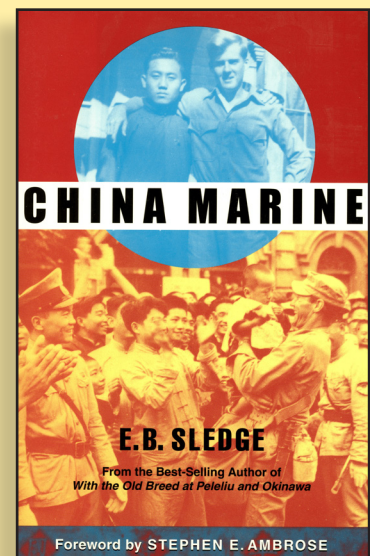
of Biology from 1962 until his retirement in 1991.

Eugene B. Sledge died in 2001 but his legacy and reputation remain as solid as ever with all those who admired him. Among these are former students whose lives were impacted by the strong and caring influence he had on many of them. The following pages contain some of their memories.

– Clay Nordan



With The Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa, is often described by military historians as the "Best book ever written on combat in the South Pacific in World War II". Ken Burns drew heavily from Gene Sledge's memoir for his award-winning documentary, *The War*, and it was a major source for the HBO series *The Pacific*. *China Marine* is Sledge's sequel that chronicles his tour as a U. S. Marine serving in occupied China after the Japanese surrender.



My name is Gary Fuller. I was a student in three of the courses Eugene B. Sledge taught in the biology department at the University of Montevallo. The first of the three courses was Biology 101.

I was a freshman and really should not have been in college at all. I was a “C” student in high school and I am not sure why or how I was admitted in September of 1967, but meeting Eugene B. Sledge in that first semester at Montevallo changed my life.

By the end of September in 1967, I was failing all my freshman classes. I was doing my best, but that was far from what I would need to get through a curriculum at what was then known as Alabama College. Dr. Sledge asked me to follow him to his office after one of his freshman biology lectures.

In private, he asked me for an explanation. In that conversation we learned that we both came from Mobile, Alabama and both had graduated from Murphy High school there, but I could not give him an excuse for my inability to keep up with my course work. He was the first and only professor that seemed to care whether I passed. My study habits and note taking skills were minimal. I made a “D” in his freshman biology class, but I passed.

When I returned to Montevallo in September of 1968, for my third semester there, I was a sophomore on probation. By Thanksgiving I was asked to leave the campus and was officially kicked out of college. I was inducted into the Army on 4 February, 1969. After a Signal Corps course in long distance communications, I was sent to Okinawa.

After my stint in the Army, I returned to the newly renamed University of Montevallo and entered as a Biology major in September of 1972. This time I had determination and enrolled in Dr. Sledge’s comparative anatomy class. After his first lecture in the course, I approached him and asked if he remembered me. He said, “Of course. Welcome back.”

I walked with him to his office and recounted

my military experiences. He asked me about Okinawa, but he talked only tangentially about his service there. I made an “A” in comparative anatomy, a class that would have been way above my head as a freshman.

In that semester, Dr. Sledge and I became friends. We often talked about Okinawa after he learned I was there in 1969, but it was not until I read his memoir and his account of the battle that I realized how much he had suffered.

He became a mentor and an inspiration. When Dr. Sledge liked you, he gave you a nickname. I was 22 years old, but I looked like I belonged in a high school science class not a college anatomy lab.

He started calling me “Young Fuller” and our friendship grew in that semester. He was building a home on Cardinal Crest Drive in Montevallo and I visited the site with him and heard him speaking with the foreman on the job. The foreman told him if he insisted on having “them little dog houses” (dormers) on the roof, they would

cost a lot of money and have no functional purpose.

After the conversation, Dr. Sledge walked away talking about “them little dog houses” in the same mid-Alabama dialect the foreman had used. For some time to come, he used “them little dog houses” to remind us of our responsibility as educated members of society. He often ridiculed academia for using its own language which he called “educator-ese.”

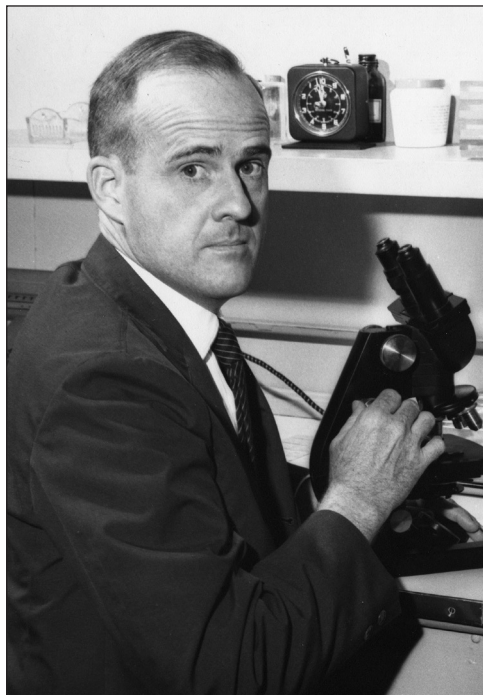


PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Gary Fuller graduated from the University of Montevallo with a B.S. degree in Biology in 1976. He went on to earn a Pharmacy degree at Idaho State University and worked in that profession for 33 years before retiring in 2015. He was drawn to the Mountain West by his passion for fly-fishing and the unique flora and fauna of that region. He and his wife Cynthia have an adult daughter and have lived in Grants Pass, Oregon since 1987.



His disdain for their abuses of the English language were well-known. Dr. Sledge had a talent for identifying your trivial misdeeds and peccadillos. He would then “help” you laugh at them and yourself. It was very disarming.

He once corrected a student in front of the entire class who had mispronounced *zoology*, the scientific study of animals. The target of Dr. Sledge’s derision called it “zoo-ology.” He told the student that zoo-ology has four O’s in it, but the name of the class in which he had enrolled had only three O’s in it. It is pronounced zo-ology, not zoo-ology. The lesson had a sting, but it was a perfect example of his signature wit.

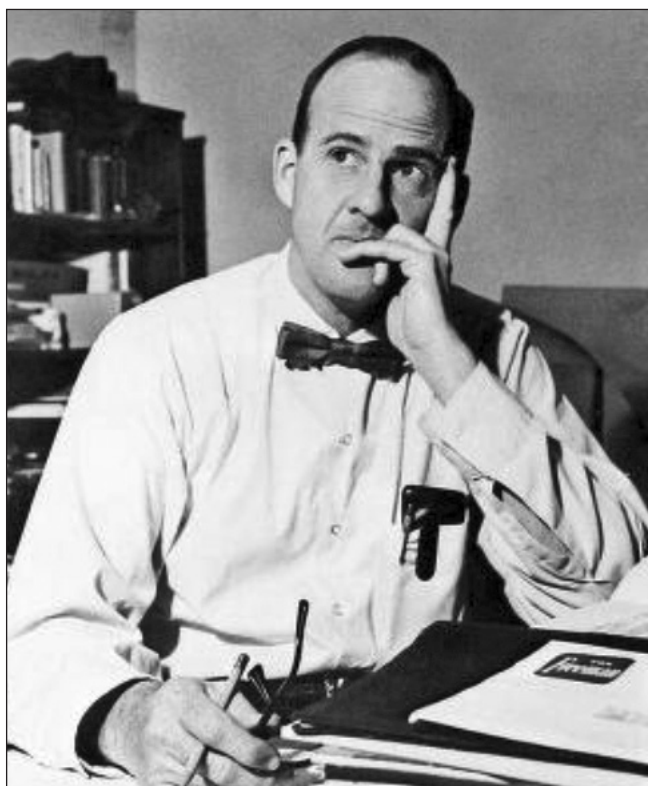
I never forgot it and neither did anyone else in the class. He was also a stickler about the word “dissect.” The word is often mispronounced as “die-sect.” He would point out that, “In anatomy classes we practice dis-section.” In the eyes of Dr. Sledge, “die-section” would be something you might perform on a pair of dice.

In the summer of 1973, I enrolled in the ornithology class Dr. Sledge taught every other summer. By then we had become fast friends and I visited his office often, eager to enjoy his wit and conversation. He always had time for me.

My parents went through a difficult period as I entered high school and were not able to care for their children as a family unit. As a result, I lived at an orphanage in Mobile during the years before I came to Montevallo for college.

As far as I know, there was only a small number of students from the orphanage that ever attended college in Montevallo. I have often thought that Dr. Sledge knew I was one of them because of his Mobile connections and took me under his wing because of it.

Sometime during each of the summer ornithology courses, a “field trip” was scheduled to Dauphin Island at the mouth of Mobile Bay. We left the campus on Friday afternoon and came back on Sunday afternoon. We traveled in a three-seater station wagon from the University motor pool and he asked me to be the driver. He made it clear he had doubts that I would be able to drive the speed limit. Consequently, I responded by never driving at more than the posted speed. The rest of the passengers were not happy with me, but Dr. Sledge got a huge kick out of it. He just sat back in his seat, pointing his finger forward saying, “Press



on Young Fuller.”

After dropping off the other students at their motel, I drove Dr. Sledge to his boyhood home in Mobile where he would spend the night. I planned to spend the weekend with my mother on Mohawk Street.

On the wide porch of the magnificent Sledge antebellum family home, he asked me to wait while he dropped off his bag and said hello to his mother.

He pointed to a very large potted plant and told me there is usually a wren nest there every year. After he disappeared through the front door, I went toward the potted plant and a small bird darted away.

When Dr. Sledge returned, he identified the wren eggs in the nest we found on the soil among the branches. It was another subtle lesson revealed to me about birds. Each species used a specific part of the environment. Therefore we should protect all habitats to insure their survival. His mother’s potted plant just happened to give the wren what it required for a successful nest, year after year.

The ornithology text Dr. Sledge used (Pettin-gill’s fourth edition) is only one of two textbooks I held onto after my college days were over. It covered bird anatomy, habitat, reproduction, song, behavior and identification among its chapters, but



I was invited to his new home once after class and sat with him in that screened porch for a glass of iced tea. I met his sons and wife Jeanne during that visit. I also realized how happy he was in that house. He had his family and he had his birds. By 1973 he had pared his needs to a precious few. I propose that it was in the safety of that home that he began to write his book.

the textbook never came close to giving us what Dr. Sledge would pass on as we strolled with him through the forests surrounding Montevallo in the summer of 1973.

We once saw a jay that was frustrated with the task of opening a pecan hull to extract the meat within and turned away to start pecking viciously on a completely unrelated item. He called it “redirected behavior” and made sure we understood that it still exists somewhere on a chromosome in the DNA of humans. His example of redirected behavior helped me in my career of serving the public from behind the counter of a pharmacy. Hardly a day passed without a frustrated customer/patient verifying the example Dr. Sledge had shown us in

the summer of 1973.

When the ornithology class ended, Dr Sledge asked me to be one of the two comparative anatomy teaching assistants in his September course. I was honored. It was a vote of confidence that I needed and a nudge I used to endure the rest of what was a difficult course of study to navigate.

After the end of the fall semester of 1973, I was never again in a class taught by Dr. Sledge. When I returned to college at the University of Montevallo after my discharge from the Army, I had convinced myself I could do the work, but it was Dr. Sledge that confirmed that idea and helped make my graduation possible.

Thank you Sledgehammer.



This picture shows Dr. Eugene B. Sledge with some of his Biology 380 students at the University of Montevallo on an invertebrate zoology collecting field trip to Brierfield, Alabama on November 16, 1967. On the back row from left to right are: Martha Steele, Wallace Harrison, Steve Bailey, Sid McLaughlin, and Randy McDonald. On the front row from left to right are: Malcolm McBraid, John Hurd, Dr. E.B. Sledge, and Joe Ash.

Dr. Eugene B. Sledge on a birdwatching excursion with some of his biology students in the vicinity of Moore's Crossroads on the northern outskirts of Montevallo. The photo was taken on June 30, 1977.



PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE COURTESY OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



This picture shows Dr. Sledge with some of his ornithology students at the University of Montevallo on a field trip to a farm outside of Ashville, Alabama in 1972. On the back of the photo Sledge notes they were "all excellent students!" From left to right are: Jim Kitson, Michael Findley, E.B. Sledge, (unidentified), (unidentified), George Murphree, Virgil Lugar, Rick Remy, and (unidentified) in front.

Rick Remy, pictured at far right above, contributed this observation about how Dr. Sledge influenced him as a student of Ornithology:

Whether making skeletal measurements of a Brown Pelican while peering through the eyepieces of a dissecting microscope, tracking a soaring Red-tailed Hawk through the objectives of his binoculars, or sighting and pointing out a flock of Bobolinks to his tag-along students, Dr. Sledge's knowledge of and appreciation for all things avian was infectious. His connection with his students bordered on the familial. Frequently available for one-on-one discussions, he was instructor and student – eagerly teaching and learning.

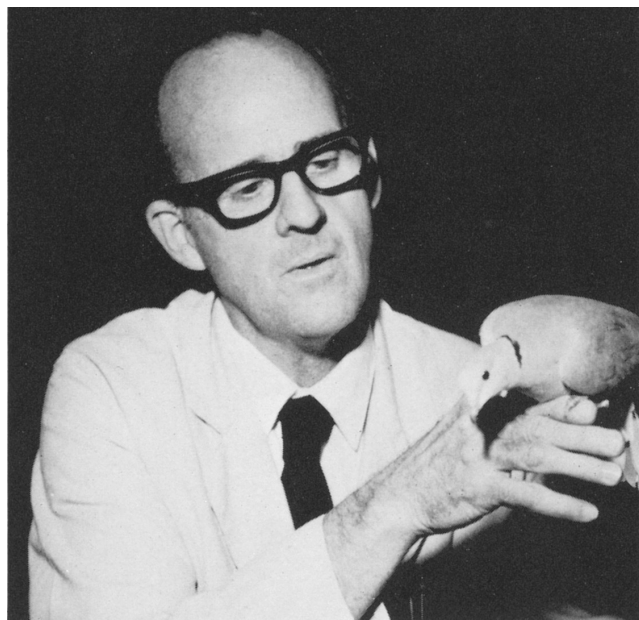
**A motto lived and advocated / Press-on, uttered as if a pledge
There's order in the chaos / I learned from Dr. Sledge**

My name is Robin Rigell Karpf, MD. When I began college at the University of Montevallo in 1971, Dr. Sledge was the chairman of the Biology Department. As a Biology Major with a minor in Chemistry, I learned a great deal from Dr. Sledge's courses. He taught me Zoology, Comparative Anatomy, Embryology and Ornithology. My first impression of Dr. Sledge was a serious, no nonsense professor. I soon discovered that while he was all of that, he also had a dry sense of humor and a wry observational demeanor. His teaching style followed the Socratic method and challenged us to use our growing knowledge to dive deeper into the subjects we were studying. This, coupled with his sense of humor, made our classes entertaining, fun and sometimes surprising.

I remember with fondness his warm, friendly, jovial personal greetings for me in the hallways and on campus.

After my junior year at Montevallo, I decided to do a summer session and signed up for Dr. Sledge's elective Ornithology course. One day in class, Dr. Sledge turned to me and asked me to use what I knew about the nervous system of birds to explain the falsehood in the old wives' tale claiming that mother birds will abandon their eggs if touched by a human leaving their scent.

With a straight face and serious demeanor, I con-



fidently and humorously replied, that the sense of smell in the bird's brain and nervous system is very underdeveloped and of course, given the extremely highly developed ocular system, that the real reason the mother bird would abandon her eggs, was because she would see the human's finger prints instead of smell their scent. I will never forget the class' reaction when Dr. Sledge broke down in laughter, realizing that I had matched him at his own game.

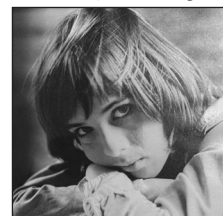
Having grown up in Natchez, Mississippi in the deep south during the 60's and 70's, with two older brothers who were intellectually gifted, I did not fully realize my own gifts and talents. Dr. Sledge encouraged and guided me in developing my intellect. He encouraged the practice of observation, analysis, synthesis and critical thinking through his teaching which has stayed with me throughout my medical training and practice of medicine. Treating us with respect, he strove to bring the best out of each one of us, to enjoy learning and to always maintain our sense of humor.

Biology 102 Psalm

*Dr. Sledge is my professor
I shall not pass.
He maketh me to sit down in Bloch Auditorium.
He leadeth me through the skeletal system.
He restoreth my soul.
Yea, though I walk under the shadow
of academic probation,
I shall fear no suspension,
For Sledge is with me.
His red vest and rich personal experiences
they comfort me.
He prepareth an examination before me
in the presence of my deans.
My microscope turneth over.
Surely laughter and mirth shall
follow me all the days of my life.
And I shall sit in the class of Sledge
for one semester more.*

This clever expression of admiration by one of Dr. E. B. Sledge's University of Montevallo students was jotted down on an index card among his papers, which are housed in the Auburn University Libraries archives.

Robin Rigell Karpf graduated from the University of Montevallo with a B.S. degree in Biology in 1974. She was then accepted to the UAB School of Medicine (Psychiatry and Community Medicine), graduating in 1981. After 10 years in private practice with her husband, Dr. Gary A. Karpf, Robin served from 1994-2014 as the full-time Medical Director and School Physician at the Lawrenceville School in Princeton, NJ. The Karpfs have an adult daughter and son and are now retired.





This photo was taken at a reception honoring Dr. Sledge's retirement from the University of Montevallo in 1991. Pictured left to right are: Dr. John W. Stewart – UM president, Dr. Sledge's wife Jeanne Arceneaux Sledge, E.B. Sledge, and Dr. Sledge's youngest son, Henry Sledge.



At right is a re-creation of a letter of evaluation and appreciation that Dr. Sledge received from the chairman of the UM Biology Department at the end of 1989.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MONTEVALLO

December 8, 1989

Dear Gene:

I like to take a few moments occasionally to personally acknowledge the contributions and hard work of my faculty. The end of my first semester at Montevallo seemed to be a good time to do so. I especially appreciate your cooperation and good humor, your counsel and fine teaching. I also want to especially note the high standards, not just academic, but personal as well, you demand of your students. Your efforts are very much appreciated by me, by your students, the department, and the University. You have my personal thanks for a fine effort.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Relyea, Ph.D.
Chairman, Dept. of Biology

Historical Society Sponsors Veterans Holiday Wreath Laying at Montevallo City Cemetery



Two Montevallo Historical Society members, Marilyn Winslett Donoho and Judy Lien Duda presented a proposal this past June for the MHS board of directors to consider as a community service and potential fund raising project.

They knew that the Alabama National Cemetery north of town has participated in the nationwide veterans memorial holiday “Wreaths Across America” program for several years.

Marilynn and Judy had become concerned that the service of veterans who are buried in the Montevallo City Cemetery was not being recognized and honored with wreaths at the holidays in the same way. Some preliminary research revealed that more than 100 veterans are currently buried in the Montevallo Cemetery. And there could be many more.

To make this happen, they found out that they first needed to secure the permission of the City of Montevallo to lay the wreaths. Then they needed to enlist the endorsement of a sponsoring organization so as to earn credibility for acceptance by “Wreaths Across America”. The MHS board was more than happy for the Society to become an endorsing sponsor.

On a specific Saturday in December each year, “Wreaths Across America” conducts wreath laying ceremonies at the graves of nearly two million veterans buried in more than 2500 cemeteries across the nation. Live wreaths are ordered and paid for (\$15 each) by families and friends of the veterans and the wreaths are delivered to the cemeteries in time to be laid by volunteers on the special day.

Since 2022 will be the inaugural year in the program for Montevallo Cemetery the coordinators want to start small, so the total number of wreaths laid at the cemetery on December 17, 2022 will be restricted to 100. The easiest way to purchase a wreath is through the Montevallo Historical Society “Wreaths Across America” web page. “Grave Specific” wreaths designated for specific individuals may be purchased at the site or if you prefer to provide general support, you may purchase multiple wreaths and they will be placed for you on available veterans graves.



Families of 125 veterans have participated in The Montevallo Main Street Veterans Banner program by purchasing a banner to honor the service of their loved one. Banners are displayed on Montevallo’s city streets on Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and Veterans Day. More than 30 of these same veterans are buried in the Montevallo City Cemetery, and can be remembered at the holidays with the laying of a special wreath on their graves.

To Order a Veterans Banner Call (205) 665-2555 ex. 106

To Purchase a Wreath or Volunteer to help, Visit www.historicmontevallo.org

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**General
Membership
Meeting**

**July 24, 2022
Parnell Library
2:00 pm**

Local Author and Journalist, Bill Plott, will be our Speaker

The Rio Grande
RANGERS
on the stage in person for
MATINEE and Night Performances
SATURDAY SEPT. 10 • 1938



In addition: The 3 Mesquiteers in "Outlaws of Sonora"
No Advance in Admission

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