

Apr-May 1927

FSTC Correspondence

A. G. PATTERSON, PRESIDENT  
H. F. LEE, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER  
F. P. MORGAN, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER



HUGH WHITE, SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION  
I. F. McDONNELL, CHIEF ENGINEER  
J. H. ALLDREDGE, CHIEF RATE EXPERT

JOHN BRANDON, SECRETARY

## Alabama Public Service Commission Montgomery

April 2nd, 1927.  
File 128.

Fairhope Single Tax Corp.,  
Fairhope, Alabama.

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your  
Annual Operating Report for the calendar year 1926,  
which was received in this office today.

Yours very truly,

*M. L. Cooper*  
M.L. Cooper,

Auditor.

C-p



## OFFICE HOURS

10 TO 11 A. M.  
2 TO 3 P. M.  
7 TO 9 P. M.

439

PHONES } OFFICE 167  
RES. 219

## DR. J. A. TEEGARDEN

3336 MICHIGAN AVENUE  
INDIANA HARBOR, INDIANA

4-4-27

Mr. E. B. Gorton  
Fairhope  
Ala.

Dear Mr. Gorton.

Received your letter with tax bill. When Mr. Reed was in Fairhope he thought - he had my taxes straightened out. By surrendering a receipt from Miss Lowell for Fifteen Dollars and some Cents, he received a receipt - which I will enclose, also a note from Miss Lowell which was pinned to the receipt - which was surrendered. Also the rebok-check which I have not cashed to date. I forgot it -

I thought - my tax was all paid. I will be much obliged to you if you will straighten it out - and then let me know if I owe anything more.

I am longing to see Fairhope and all the good folks there, but I have been feeling pretty good and the weather has been exceptionally mild, so I have made no definite date to visit - Fairhope  
J. A. Teegarden



#### Other Happy Villages.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

Apropos of THE TIMES remarks on Hewlett Harbor, the "Happy Village" that regulates its own taxation, it may interest your readers to know that there are other equally happy villages. In fact your choice of adjective was excellent. A community that can regulate its own taxation has great cause to be happy.

These other towns or villages I have in mind pay the State and county taxes as incorporated associations. But within their own limits they exercise their own choice as to what class of property shall bear the burden of revenue and neither State nor county has anything to say about it.

These villages are Fairhope, Ala., with over 4,000 inhabitants; Arden, Del., 500 inhabitants, and Free Acres in New Jersey, Summer population 150, with fifteen or more families remaining during the Winter. Also two new "baby" happy villages, Tahanto, Mass., and Halidon, Me. G. COLBRON.  
New Canaan, Conn., April 1, 1927.

120 North 3rd Street  
Wilmington North Carolina

after  
Fairhope,  
Ala.

My dear Sir:-

This enclosed  
clipping is from the New  
York Times and interests  
me.

I am a New York woman  
spending the month of April  
in Wilmington.

I wish to locate  
permanently in the South  
and am looking for just  
what I hope your little  
town may have to offer  
me.

Would you please answer  
a few questions in regard  
to Fairhope, or if you have  
a Chamber of Commerce or Mayor  
perhaps they would kindly  
give me the desired informa-



ENT  
120 North 3rd Street

Wilmington North Carolina

Postmaster

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tion.

First have you a book store  
in Fairhope? or what  
would be the prospect of  
opening a small book store  
there? On what R. R. is  
Fairhope? Near what large  
town? In what County?

This information will be  
much appreciated by one who  
is greatly interested in the  
civic advancement of small  
progressive towns throughout the  
South, for I am a native  
Southerner albeit for several years  
I have been interested in the  
book business in New York.

Thanking you in ad-  
vance for any information  
which you may kindly give  
upon these questions

I am  
Yours Truly

(True) J. E. Micou

April 6th

1917



$$\begin{array}{r}
 150 \\
 25 \\
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 3750 \\
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 18750 \\
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$$\begin{array}{r}
 3750 \\
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 3750 \\
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 3750 \\
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 \end{array}$$

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 28 \\
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 42 \\
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 302 \\
 36 \\
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 2.96 \\
 18 \\
 \hline
 54
 \end{array}$$



COMMITTEE OF SPECIAL SCHOOL FUND

Fairhope, Alabama

April 12, 1927

Fairhope Single Tax Corporation  
% Mr. E. B. Gaston, Sec.  
Fairhope, Alabama

Gentlemen:

On November 16, I received a check from your Corporation to the amount of \$50.00 to be applied as a contribution to the Special School Fund for the fourth and fifth grades in the Public School.

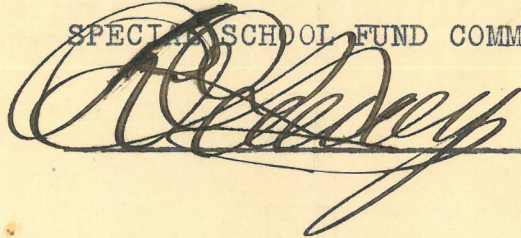
I want to thank you in behalf of the Public School, and especially in behalf of the Committee that has this special fund in charge.

Your letter and this copy will be passed on to the P. T. A. Society when I hand in my work the latter part of this month.

Again we thank you.

Yours very truly,

SPECIAL SCHOOL FUND COMMITTEE

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to the Chairman, is written over the typed name of the committee.

Chairman.

RCK:F



Apr. 19, 3

Dr. J.A. Teegarden,  
3336 Michigan Ave.,  
Indiana Harbor, Ind.

Dear Doctor:-

There was double assessment of your property accounting for the two bills for taxes. I have had the matter corrected and return you your receipts and check. The check is good. Cash it. Your rent is paid up to end of 1927.

Lovely weather down here and Fairhope looks lovely. Better get off and come down and see us.

Best regards to you and wife.

Sincerely yours,



4/26/27

Mayor Northrop and members  
Fairhope Town Council,

Gentlemen:-

The members of the Committee appointed by the Colony Council have looked over the lot which is desired by the Town, and have agreed on a valuation between \$750 and \$1,000 which will be reported to the Council, the committee not having power to do more than make recommendations.

The committee had in mind giving two or three years in which to pay, with interest at six per cent.

This is submitted simply to give your body an idea of the probable action of the Colony Council, for your consideration.

If there was any far way other than through taxation, by which if the Colony gave its share of the worth of a site proportionate to its ~~xxxxx~~ portion of the value of the land within the Town limits other property owners can be brought to give their share, I am sure the Colony would be glad to give its part outright.

As there is no such way its idea is that if a fair price is placed on the land, it will pay its portion in taxes and others will have to do the same.

Very respectfully



Treasurer's report for May, 1927.

	Recd.	Paid.
Rent	\$1368.91	
Penalty	40.79	
Wharf	1071.30	
Telephone	77.60	
Land fund, membership, leases, bonus &c	86.00	
St imp.	29.30	
Taxes		\$ 539.69
Wharf		380.93
Telephone		63.95
Bills payable( St. Imp. )		1933.72
Salaries		125.00
Parks		47.80
Council Room rent and light		18.76
Legal advice		74.00
Road signs		45.00
Advertising, reg. Courier ad &c		27.08
Mann land purchase contract		620.00
Library Asso.		75.00
Rent acct. via refund tax.		105.45
Sundry ex.		5.25
Cash May 1	\$2673.90	\$4061.63
Certificates May 1	3562.27	
	177.25	
Cash May 31		2174.54
Certificates May 31		177.25
	\$6413.42	\$6413.42

*M. H. Brown Secy.*



5/10/27

W.H.Bryant, Manager  
Home Telephone Company,  
Mobile, Ala.

Dear Mr. Bryant:

John Lawrence calls my attention to the fact that I was to write you in regard to a possible change in the telephone situation here--which I had been intending to do for some time.

I understand you noted that we had a call from representatives of the Southern Bell Telephone Company, as appeared in our Council proceedings as published in the Courier--and the reason for publishing such is that people interested may be advised.

The situation has long been unsatisfactory to the Colony and to its subscribers, but we would not thin of making a radical change without submitting the matter to you and permitting you to make such ~~changes~~ suggestions or proposals as you might desire; for our relations have ~~been~~ extended over a long time and in the main been very satisfactory.

I am not on the committee to which the matter has been referred but I suggest that you call me up and let me arrange a meeting for you with the committee in advance of next Monday night's meeting, or come over and attend the Council meeting next Monday night, or perhaps both.

Assuring you of my warm personal regard,

Most sincerely yours,



5/11/27

Dr. George H. Wood,  
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Mr. Wood:-

Our Council has decided to exercise its right under <sup>the</sup> clause nine, of your lease to "resume possession" of the <sup>land</sup> by you, for the "public purpose" of conveying it to the Town of Fairhope, for use for public buildings it is proposed to erect thereon.

Under the lease the value of your improvements is to be ascertained by appraisement, you to select an appraiser, the Corporation one and the two a third.

Please name your appraiser promptly, that we may get the matter closed up, as the Town is anxious to get to work on its proposed improvement.

For your information I might say that according to our books there is a balance due from you on the rent to the end of June, of \$52.79. Of course <sup>rent</sup> would cease as soon as the arbitrators had reported, which would give you some credit from the amount stated for unearned rent, if acted upon before the end of the half year.

I am sure if you decided to come down here to live we would be able to find you a more desirable residence lot.

Expecting to hear from you promptly, I am,

Yours very sincerely

Secretary.



May 16, 27

T.E.Mann,  
Gladbrook, Ala.

Dear Brother Mann:-

I have not been in a hurry sending your certificate of membership in the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, but knew you were to be sometime on the road. You have probably reached home by this time and here is the certificate.

Hope you had a pleasant trip and got home all safe and well. It was a great pleasure to have you with us this winter and we hope you will come again and bring more of the Manns and more of your friends with you.

You have probably noted by last Courier that Mr. Powell failed to get any support at the Forum meeting at which he brought up the policy of the Colony Council to guard against speculation in Colony land. We rather "burned him up"

Fine weather, though unusually cool for the season. Poor people in the flooded section. We are surely sorry for them.

With very best regards to you all,

Yours very truly



May 17, 1927

Mrs. Floy Mann Schermerhorn,  
Gladbrook, Iowa.

Dear Mrs. Schermerhorn:-

I am happy to inform you that the committee on your application for membership reported in favor of acceptance last night and the application was accepted. On receipt of the balance of the membership fee I am prepared to issue you a certificate. Hoping that "you all" as we say in this country, are well and with very best personal regards,

Most sincerely yours,

---

Secretary.



# BENSON-BECKMANN PAINT CO.

INCORPORATED



MOBILE, ALABAMA.

May 24th, 1927.

113.85-  
48.70-  
64.60  
113.40-  
353.2  
Mr. Gaston Sr.,  
% The Fairhope Courier,  
Fairhope, Ala.

Dear Mr. Gaston:-

I am enclosing a letter just received from Mr. Cummings, also copy of my answer, which is self-explanatory.

Mr. Cummings did not tell me anything about complications in buying Colony land for several months after I had made the purchase from him. From his letter it would seem that I am just a victim of complications in lease matters that will cost me over a thousand dollars, and I am as yet at a loss as to know what is best to do.

When I discussed the matter with you I was firm in the belief that I could make suit and adjust the matter to my entire satisfaction, but after discussing the matter with several parties, having Mr. Cumming's letter from which you will notice he has stated he advised me regarding the Colony property (which he did not do at that time) I cannot see just what course it is advisable for me to take.

If there is any further information you can give me it will be greatly appreciated, for I am anxious to close this matter at an early date.

Thanking you for the courtesies extended me while in Fairhope, and looking forward to seeing you again, which will be the next time I am in Fairhope, I am

Yours very truly,

WAB/w

*W. A. Benson*

P.S. Please return Cumming's letter for my file.



6/13/27

W.A.Benson,  
Mobile, Ala.

Dear Mr. Benson:-

I am returning your letters from Mr. Cummings, but have taken the liberty of having copies of the made which I hope is satisfactory. I am very sorry indeed for loss you have sustained through him.

And sorry too that by a fluke, we permitted him to be elected president of the Chamber of Commerce last Friday night.

He was looking out for himself as he always does and others of us were so busy that we did not see to getting out the opposition.

My son was first vice president and Mr. McIntosh, retiring president held that the vice president should be advanced to the presidency but son positively declined on account of the demands of his business. M.A.Bowen was placed in nomination, then Cummings, and Cummings himself placed Mr. Pitman in nomination. That helped to divide the opposition--as was, no doubt, intended--and the result was Pitman 5, Bowen 12 and Cummings 13. not a majority, but it was allowed to go that way.

Yours very sincerely

P.S. I should add that Mr. Cummings was quite wrong with regard to the Colony withdrawing the present form of lease. The matter was well threshed out before a meeting of members and the opposition found that they did not have sufficient support and have since subsided. There are always a few in chronic opposition and some who want to speculate in the Colony land, but they have not been able to control the Colony policy and are not likely to do so.



May 24th, 1927.

Mr. O. K. Cummings,  
Fairhope, Ala.

Dear Mr. Cummings:-

I have your letter of the 22nd and you seem to be confused as to the time you made statements to me regarding the Single Tax Colony, but at the time you sold me the property you advised me that it was a good buy and you were sure I could make a nice profit on it in a short time and you did not state anything whatever pertaining to any conditions that would keep me from making a sale to anyone else at a profit. At a future date after I discussed the matter with you at which time you advised that Mr. Gaston and some others were trying to keep anyone from making sales at a profit on any of the Colony property, with the exception of what you would term the improvements.

From the different things I hear regarding sales made in Fairhope I am not pleased at all at the way I have been treated by you. If I were the only one that felt they had been mistreated there would be a chance of my being in error, but the only way I can see the matter now is that you sold me a piece of property knowing at the time that it was against the constitution of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation but advised me that it was a good buy for speculative purposes.

I am thoroughly familiar with the statements you made me because I did not inspect the house until a few months after I had purchased it for the reason I had every confidence in you and believed you were telling me only what was absolute facts about it. I can readily see that from the big profit you had made where it was to your interest to sell the property, and the only way I will believe you to be fair with me is to take the property back and I will be glad to lose \$300.00. If you believe it to be good you would certainly want it back on this basis and especially since you would get the property at \$300.00 profit, which I think is very good indeed. To date I have spent over \$1300.00, but I am willing for you to mail me a check for \$958.00, or half of the amount with a ninety day note to cover the balance.

I am sorry I feel as I do about the matter and I cannot help but believe you will want to treat me fairly if you go over the matter in your mind thoroughly and consider my position.

Please advise me this week what to expect.

Yours very truly,

WAB/w



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I am sorry I feel as I do about the matter and I cannot help but believe you will want to treat me fairly if you go over the matter in your mind thoroughly and consider my position.

Please advise me this week what to expect.

Yours very truly,



Fairhope, Alabama.  
May 22nd 1927.

W. A. Benson,  
Mobile, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Benson:-

Replying to your favor of the 21st- it seems that some of the things I told you have escaped your mind. I will try to refresh your mind but first I would like to clear up. a few other things.

Yes, I made a good profit on the property I sold you-I would not have sold it to you other wise, and you bought the property in order to make a profit yourself and for no other reason. That you may know how much, the property cost me a total (repairs, back Colony rentals and all) about \$816.00.

I told you I believed that the property would bring \$2500.00 and I still believe so. The fact that the last year there has been little property sales throughout the gulf coast is as well known to you as to me. The opening of the bridge and the building of the roads that are promised is expected by everyone to start a property movement.

You knew at the time of your purchase that the Colony objected to property being sold at profit in Fairhope-that they have tried to stop it since the beginning. I explained to you several times that people who deal in Single Tax property simply took an assignment of the leaseholds and ignored the Colony. This is done by most of the people who dabble in Colony lands. For instance, the Hotel Kanuck has been owned for the past fourteen years by the present owner and still the lease has nearly been assigned and not as yet run through the Colony. I am holding several pieces of property under the same condition and for the same reason. To run a lease through the Colony at this time means that you have to accept one of their new forms of leases and agree not to sell at a profit, and this people are not willing to do. This is common knowledge and any business man here will tell you the same. I took the assignment from Mr. and Mrs. Griffin on this property and hold the lease in that condition and gave you a contract calling for the assignment of the lease when you have completed the payments called for, which will be promptly done. I would be pleased to have you talk with Captain M. A. Bowen-R. F. Powell or any one of the Fairhope business men regarding this. The property is in the name of Griffin on the books of the Colony but is very much in my name on the lease and this procedure has been advised by very good attorneys and follows for several years in many cases. At this time there is a petition out and signed by over half of the Colony members to have the Colony withdraw the new form of lease, and I believe that it will be done soon, which would even do away with that feature of the matter. All this I explained to you at the time you bought the property. I am not in the habit of misrepresenting and am very sorry if you have misunderstood anywhere in the matter.



I have no quarrel with the Colony but do not agree with their policy in some ways. I am not alone in this by any means as the above statement regarding the petition would indicate. As I told you before, I will help you exactly as I promised to sell; it is no different with this property than any other at this time, property has not been moving at all.

I expect to be in Mobile the latter part of this week, and will try and see you and answer any further questions you may have.

Respectfully,

C. N.



Leblavia Cuba May 20<sup>th</sup> 1927

Postmaster This Hope Dear Sir can  
you tell me about this Hope and the  
surrounding country as I am leaving  
Cuba after a stay of 24 years am coming  
over in the do not as yet get out where  
if you cannot give me the details  
please ask some one who can and oblige  
Saml. Reply

Harris Towle  
Leblavia  
Cuba

order

Dear