

July 1, 1978

Dear Mrs. Storting:

Let me assure you that the slides of "The Founding of Talladega" are on the way. I had to have duplicates made - such as they are. They should have reached you some days ago. Meantime thanks for your (very!) poetical feel letter. Indeed June is one of the most rewarding months of the year. But here in N.Y. it's mostly legend - rain, rain, and more rain. At the moment - a bit of cool air along with 80° - 90° temperatures. Here one never knows - we just take it in stride. By the way, John Howard is slow in responding it is - (as you don't know) because his frailty - his age, his ailments, his health problems of long standing. Meritine write a positive letter to Pips by Winslow! tell them what you must have - now!

Best to you,
Alan Woodruff

Talladega College was founded several years after the Civil war - on a plot of land formerly housing young white boys (a prep school) One of the original Bldgs still stands. It was used as the 1st bldg for the college. I also believe it was a prison for civil war prisoners?

The first panel or slide - depicts a possible scene of underground RR activities. Escaping slaves await arrival of Ohio river boat to continue their flight further north - maybe Canada. Northern Whites helped in the escapes. Some of these persons later became members of the American Missionary Association which, after the Civil War, actually established schools throughout the Southland for the freed slaves. Talladega was one such school. In addition - many northern whites came south to teach in these schools - some of whom can be found today still in these schools. The Amer. Miss. Assn. flourishes even today continuing its philanthropic programs.

Panel two Portrays the opening of the College. Young freed slaves have come to register - but having no money for tuition, they brought along food stuffs and live stock (on the hoof!) to pay the fees. I have tried to introduce a bit of human interest here by showing a chicken

escaping from its coop, a stray dog, and a freed senior citizen, watching from his rig from the road side - outside the white picket fence. There was actually such a fence around the grounds, according to Dr. B. Nell Gallagher who was president of Talladega when I exhibited the murals. The man near the center of the panel, pointing to the bldg in the background is William Sarey, then (at the founding) was himself a freed slave. His daughter later became a teacher in the College. The white man in a black coat under the tree in center of panel is a northern white who had come down to teach - as is the other white who sits at a table, quill pen in hand, registering an entering "freshman". Others (to the right) examine books for the very first time. Since William Sarey was a positive force in the early days of the college, the trustee Board to name the New Library in his honor (1939) ^{was the year.}

Early in that year the Sarey Library was in full swing of being built on the Talladega Campus. It was to house the six panels - the "Museum" and the "Founding". The library was completed early that spring - and the murals - which I had painted in Atlanta were installed in time for "Founder's Day".

The 3rd panel shows the workmen completing the building. I believe the work was done by local masons, carpenters, etc. The director (architect) in charge was W.W. Fletcher. He was head of the maintenance staff at Talladega during those times. Altho I knew personally, then I have since forgotten his first name. He was truly a great builder. He stands (in the mural) just to the left of the unfinished Saveny Library, in the background.

If you can manage it, Mrs. Stoebling'd like to have duplicates of these slides. The ones I had made didn't turn out well at all, they're useless. I'll certainly re-imburse you more anon.

Hurriedly but
Sincerely,
Jalen Woodruff