

**BUILT ON
A LEGACY
OF GIVING**



BRIDGE CAMPAIGN 2019-20

Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. Deuteronomy 15:10 NIV



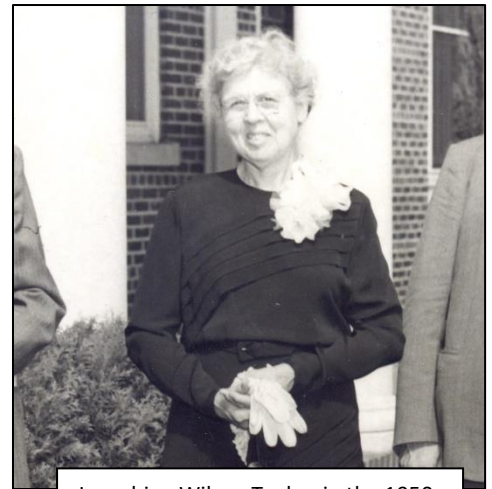
Josephine Tucker in 1918

Josephine Wilson Tucker and Carter E. Ledford selflessly gave by prioritizing the students in their work at Southern.

Josephine Tucker was the Dean of Women from 1916 to 1919. During her time here, Southern experienced two epidemics back to back: Smallpox and the 1918 National Epidemic of the Spanish Flu.

Smallpox broke out after a girl was misdiagnosed as having the chickenpox which rapidly spread due to non-sanitized, shared warm compresses.

And before the smallpox epidemic ended, the Spanish flu broke out. The flu infected the school nurse, dean of men, and nurse's assistant. Without hesitation, Dean Tucker jump in and took care of all those infected without any previous medical training. She was willing to risk illness to save her students and colleagues. The courageous acts of Tucker saved many lives.



Josephine Wilson Tucker in the 1950s

Carter E. Ledford was the manager of agriculture and Thatcher Farms in the early 1920s into the 1930s. Because of Ledford's hard work, he put Southern's dairy on the county radar. He put the dairy on the honor roll of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

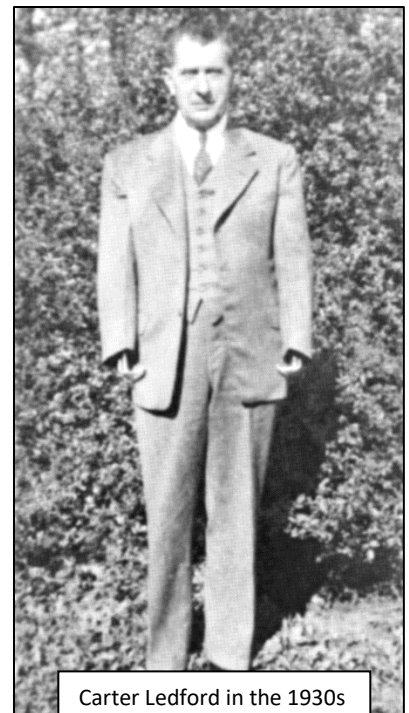


Carter Ledford in 1922

Ledford also took the farm to high places. In 1931, the cafeteria was able to keep 333 gallons of spinach, 150 gallons of beets, 75 gallons of sauerkraut, 100 gallons of peaches, 5 tons of grapes turned to juice, 320 bushels of potatoes, and blackberries in green beans. And there was still enough food to make a profit selling it locally.

Because of his hard work, Ledford provided revenue and savings for the school during a difficult financial time while also providing students with a way to pay off their tuition.

The selflessness of Tucker and Ledford gave students the opportunity to continue at Southern. The spirit of giving is still found on campus today and can be demonstrated through Gifts in Kind. Tangible gifts like giving food to the Food Pantry give hungry students meals and opportunities for success at Southern.



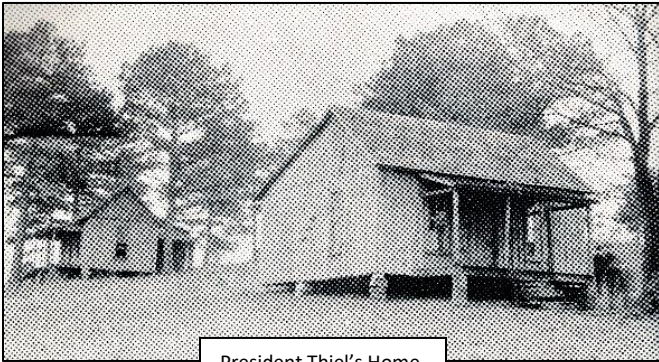
Carter Ledford in the 1930s

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President Thiel's Home

When Southern moved to Collegedale in 1916, the living quarters were few and primitive. President Leo Thiel lived in dilapidated tenant's quarters near Goliath Rock at the then limestone quarry.

This shack of a house had holes in the roof, floors, and walls. There were very few

structures on the property. Those who did not have a structure to live in, lived in a tent.

For at least two years, faculty, staff, and male students lived in a Tent Village.



One of the tents from the Tent Village

They endured torrential rains and a particularly bad blizzard.



President Leo Thiel

The girls lived in the Thatcher's Yellow House during this time. The boys dormed four- to-an-outdoor tent-house. However, there came a time when the tents ran out and some of the young men lived in the attics of the primitive buildings on Southern's young campus.

At this time, our campus – including the Yellow House – had no electricity and no heat. However, true to the missionary spirit Southern was built on, President A. N. Atteberry stated, "The

pioneer spirit was dominant. The young men and women felt they were experiencing some of the conditions our missionaries often endure."

Legend has it very few complained.

The spirit of sacrifice lived in all those who worked and attended Southern in its early years. That same spirit can still propel us to give sacrificially in any area of campus that we are passionate about today.



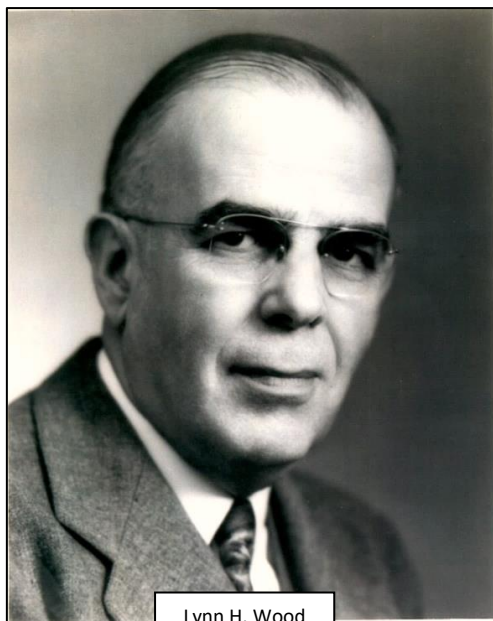
Farmer Thatcher's Yellow House

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Lynn H. Wood

Southern's humble beginnings started with George W. Colcord donating all of this time and money to Southern.

But it didn't stop there.

In the early 1920s, the Board of Trustees met with President Lynn H. Wood. They told President Wood that they were calling a vote to close Southern.

Southern was heavily impacted by the depression of 1920 and suffered a severe debt problem. Out of credit and time, Southern needed \$4,000 to stay open.

President Wood convinced the Board to hold off on the vote until he spoke to the faculty and staff. At a meeting with all employees that evening, Wood explained the gravity of the situation.

Elva Gardner said, "At Southern, there was, from the beginning, a humble spirit of self-sacrifice manifested in the faculty." *Southern had endured*

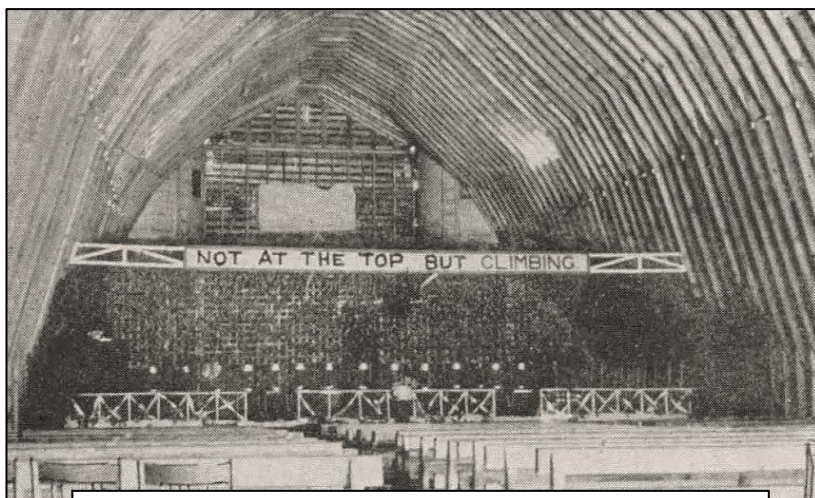
for close to 40 years, and the employees of Southern guaranteed it would endure for many more.

Without need for prodding, employees stepped up and cut their salaries for the sake of the school. Those who were unable to afford a cut in their salary donated what they could. Some gave by working additional jobs, such as builder, delivery man, or carpenter. That way Southern wouldn't have to hire more employees or outsource jobs.

Southern's treasurer and business manager, John R. Kennedy, told President Wood that he would work an entire year for free as long as he had gas to get to work and a roof over his head.

By the end of the meeting, Southern employees had raised more than the \$4,000 they needed to stay open. That is the equivalent today of close to \$52,000.

Selfless giving is what kept the legacy of Southern alive.



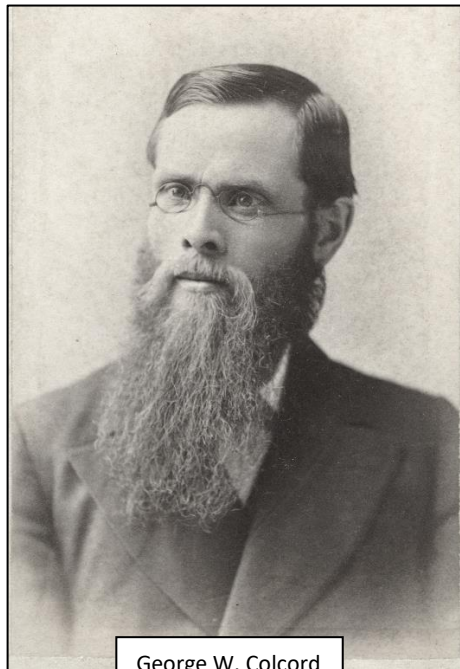
The barn built in 1920 by Southern faculty and student labor. In this image, the barn is being set up for a graduation ceremony in the early 1920s.

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George W. Colcord

George W. Colcord was called to start a school in Graysville, Tennessee in 1892. He started the school without any funding from the General Conference or the Southern Union -- all completely out of pocket. He rented a space above a general store to use as a makeshift classroom.

He later bought supplies and building materials to build a schoolhouse for Graysville. Colcord brought his family, his wife and nephew, to Graysville as school leaders he could rely on. Every one of the Colcords worked for little to no money, prioritizing the success of the young school rather than personal gain.



2nd floor served as first classroom.

Colcord also gave in a way that took deep courage. In the 1890s, this region of Tennessee had strict Sunday laws. It was soon brought to light that the school Colcord started, required work and sometimes class on Sundays.

Many residents of Graysville were disturbed by this violation of—what they viewed as—God’s law. Three out of the five faculty members, including George Colcord and his nephew, Celian Colcord, were indicted. The judge ruled that as long as each faculty member paid a fine, they could avoid jail time.

However, Colcord stood for religious tolerance and didn’t believe he or anyone should pay a fine for respectfully following one’s religious beliefs. He, his nephew, and the other teachers decided together to work in a prison chain gang rather than pay a fine. Colcord and the faculty viewed fine-paying as an admission that their religious beliefs and actions were wrong.

By going to prison, they each took a stand for the values of Adventism and for what became founding values of tolerance at Southern Adventist University. Because of the selflessness and sacrificial giving of George W. Colcord, Southern was established and survived its first major trial.



Prison: Celian Colcord, 1st from left, back row. George Colcord, 2nd from left, back row.