

## Chancellor, Alabama - Heritage book

Chancellor is located in Geneva County on State Highway 27, about one mile from the Coffee County line. The land on which Chancellor now stands was once owned by Wiley J. Chancellor, for whom it is named, and Wade Bryant, and his son, Robert Bryant.

Wiley Chancellor came to Opelika, Alabama from South Carolina and then moved down the river to Geneva County where he home-steaded land and moved to it on January 1, 1855. It is said that Wiley Chancellor owned over a thousand acres. He owned a blacksmith shop, a grist mill, a cotton gin, and a saw mill. He was also in the land business and sold land for 75 cents per acre.

Wiley's nephew was the first to be buried at El Bethel Cemetery. The family and neighbors built the first log church, with Wiley furnishing land and materials for the building.

All of his family, except one son, are buried there. Wiley Chancellor died in 1893.

A post office was built in 1890, some of the postmasters were Preston B. Davis, Pom Wood, Will Oliver and Mrs. Alma Jones (29 years) and Kirby Wesley. Rural mail carriers were Mr. Lawson, Billy Gilmore, Fletcher Cheshire, Jesse Cain and Harry Wesley.

The Central of Georgia built a railroad through Chancellor about 1900 and the town began to grow. There were cross tie camps, saw mills, turpentine stills, cotton gins, a commissary, a boarding house, grocery and dry goods stores, a millinery and other businesses.

Dr. Matheny was the first doctor and he built a drug store, later there was Dr. Justice and then Dr. Stanley. An elementary school was built, which was later consolidated with Coffee Springs.

In the 1930's the Central of Georgia discontinued their route through Chancellor and business slowed down. Gradually the commerce in Chancellor declined. Many of the buildings were abandoned and torn down or burned.

Although Chancellor is almost a totally different town today, it is still loved greatly by its inhabitants. Even though the names are not all Chancellor, many of those living here can find the name, Wiley Chancellor, in their family tree. *Sources: Papers by Rose Shiver Bowdoin Submitted by the committee.*