

University	Building Named for Individual(s)	Building Name	Final Decision
Valdosta State University	William Ashley (1832-1867)	Ashley Cinema	Change
Valdosta State University	Joseph Mackey Brown (1851-1932)	Brown Residence Hall	Change
Valdosta State University	John Wesley Langdale (1860-1911)	Langdale Residence Hall	Change
Valdosta State University	William Jones Lowndes (1782-1822)	Lowndes Residence Hall	Change
Valdosta State University	James W. Patterson (1823-1862)	Patterson Hall	Change

**ASHLEY CINEMA (1979) Valdosta State University**  
Summary by Lisa Tendrich Frank

**Who Was Ashley?**

Valdosta State University's Ashley Hall was named for the street it sits on, Ashley Street, which was named for **William Ashley** (1832-1867), a physician and slaveholder.

**Summary of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

As an enslaver of African Americans, Ashley demonstrated that he did not value the humanity of all people equally. Citizens in the city of Valdosta have proposed changing the name of Ashley Street (and several others) because of his slaveholding.

**Sketch of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

Ashley enslaved at least seventeen African Americans during his lifetime. The 1860 census includes the enslaved people in his household. There is no record of what kind of labor they performed or if he enslaved people earlier in his life.

**More Biographic Details**

Ashley was born in Telfair County, GA in 1832 to Desire Burroughs Maxcy and Cornelius Ashley, a farmer. He married Juliet Maxcy Ashley. Their son, Cornelius Raines Ashley was born in Georgia in 1858. They lived in Texas in 1860, where Ashley enslaved seventeen people between the ages of 2 and 50.

Ashley's son helped create the South Georgia State Normal College for Young Ladies (now Valdosta State University) and served on the school's board of trustees as treasurer.

Ashley died in 1867.

**Works Cited:**

Ancestry.com

## **BROWN RESIDENCE HALL (1964) Valdosta State University**

Summary by Lisa Tendrich Frank

### **Who Was Brown?**

Valdosta State University's Brown Residence Hall was named for **Joseph Mackey Brown** (1851-1932), the governor of Georgia (1909-11 and 1912-13) when the school opened.

### **Summary of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

Though his various anti-Semitic writings, Brown instigated and justified the lynch mob that killed Leo Frank in 1915. In doing so, Brown demonstrated a disregard for the humanity of Jews.

### **Sketch of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

In 1913, Leo Frank, a Jewish factory manager faced false accusations that he raped a murdered a white 13-year-old factory employee. Brown fueled the public's anger and directed it toward Frank by publishing a series of editorials that connected Frank, anti-Semitic stereotypes, and the brutal crime. After a jury found Frank guilty and gave him the death penalty and after Georgia's Governor John Slaton commuted the sentence, Brown made explicit calls for the public to enact extralegal justice of Frank. He told his readers to be sure not to accept that "anybody except a Jew can be punished for a crime." Instead, he urged "the people to form mobs" which they did in August 1915 when they hanged Frank.

### **More Biographic Details**

Brown was born in Canton, GA on December 28, 1851 to Elizabeth Grisham and Joseph Emerson Brown, Georgia's governor (1857-1865) during the secession crisis and the Civil War. He married Cora Annie McCord in 1889. They had three children.

Brown graduated from Oglethorpe University (1872). He studied law at Harvard as well as at the law practice of one of his brothers and passed the bar in 1873. However, Brown's failing eyesight prevented him from practicing law, so he enrolled in an Atlanta business college. He went to work for the Western and Atlantic Railroad, first as a clerk and eventually rising through the ranks to become the traffic manager for the Western and Atlantic Railroad system (1889). After his time with the railroad, Governor Joseph M. Terrel appointed Brown to the Georgia State Railroad Commission (1904-07). He lost his post for disagreeing with the next governor, Hoke Smith, who wanted to lower passenger fares.

Following in his father's footsteps, Brown ran for governor in 1908, defeating Smith. He made no public speeches during his campaign. Instead, Brown depended on and played off of the unpopularity of Smith's economic policies, using the campaign slogan "Hoke and Hunger, Brown and Bread." Their political feud continued throughout Brown's political career as the two adversaries jockeyed for political office. Smith defeated Brown in the 1910 gubernatorial primary as well as in the general election (Brown ran as an independent). When Smith left office to fill a vacated U.S. Senate seat, Brown won the unopposed 1912 gubernatorial election. They ran against each other for a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1914, when Smith again defeated Brown. As governor, Brown supported prohibition, lower tax rates, and a state labor department. He signed bills that required the registration of cars as well as of revolvers.

Between 1913 and 1915 Brown published incendiary anti-Semitic editorials against factory manager Leo Frank, who was falsely accused of and convicted of raping and murdering a thirteen-year-old

female factory employee. When Governor John Slaton commuted Frank's sentence, Brown continued to agitate against Frank telling Georgians not to accept that "anybody except a Jew can be punished for a crime." He later promoted "the people to form mobs" to carry out what he insisted was justice. Brown's written missives helped instigate the men who kidnapped and lynched Frank in August 1915.

Brown was the author of *The Mountain Campaigns in Georgia* (1886) and *Astynax* (1907). He served as the director and vice president of the First National Bank of Marietta and as the owner of Cherokee Mills.

Brown died on March 3, 1932.

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## **LANGDALE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, Valdosta State University**

Summary by Lisa Tendrich Frank

### **Who Was Langdale?**

Valdosta State's Langdale College of Business Administration was named for **Harley Langdale, Jr.** (1914-2013), the owner and operator of the largest naval gum stores in the world.

### **Summary of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

Through the use of debt peonage at his turpentine camps, Langdale showed a disregard for the humanity of his mostly African American workers. Scholars have likened the early 20<sup>th</sup> century camps to a new form of slavery in that they restricted the freedoms of workers and prevented them from leaving or negotiating for better compensation.

### **Sketch of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

Langdale's denial of the humanity of his workers manifested itself in many ways. Following in the footsteps of his father and others in the turpentine industry, he implemented a system of debt that ensured that his workers could not legally leave the work camps, his overseers routinely used violence to keep workers from moving, and the labor conditions in the turpentine industry were notoriously inhumane. Local officials noted these conditions, and those of other turpentine camps in the region, and deemed them necessary to ensure a labor force. In other words, only compulsion would lead workers to take this employment.

### **More Biographic Details**

Langdale was born on September 8, 1914 to Thalia Lee and Harley Langdale in Lynchburg, VA. His father owned a large turpentine business that was the largest gum naval stores producer in the world. Langdale inherited part of this company and added acreage in his lifetime. He ultimately owned around 200,000 acres of land in Georgia.

Langdale attended the Citadel before graduating from the University of Georgia with a degree in forestry. He then returned home and transformed his holdings into The Langdale Company, a diversified forestry company that harvested and produced turpentine, lumber, and other products. As chairman of the company, he used his background in forestry to both extract turpentine and other products more efficiently and to conserve the actual forest rather than strip it bare.

The labor conditions in the turpentine camps were notoriously inhospitable. Langdale, especially early in his career, relied almost exclusively on a violent system of debt peonage to keep his largely African American labor force compliant and stable. Turpentine workers were notoriously underpaid, they suffered from the noxious fumes from its processing, and were often injured during the process of hand slashing the pines. As a result, Langdale typified the industry in his use of a combination of debts, violence, and legal coercion to keep workers in place. Langdale, aided by technological improvements in the industry that were often of his devise, changed his policies as peonage and labor laws mandated.

The harsh realities of the turpentine industry did not limit Langdale's social standing. A well-respected businessman, Langdale served as a director of various companies and sat on many boards and executive committees. For example, for several decades he served as a director of the Georgia Southern and Florida Railway Company, director of the Citizens and Southern National Bank, and was a director of Georgia International Life Insurance Company.

Langdale played a leading role in the development of Georgia's and the south's modern forestry industry. Among his many positions, he served as a chairman and president of Southern Forest Products Association, President of Forest Farmers Association, President of the Georgia Forestry Association, Chairman of the Forest Research Society (Southeastern Section), and Chairman of the Society of American Foresters (Southeastern Section). These contributions resulted in various honors, including the National Forest Products Association's Forest Management Award, the Forest Farmer Award, J.W. Fanning Leadership Georgia Award, the Georgia Man of the Year Service to Agriculture Progressive Farmer Award, the University of Georgia School of Forest Resources, and the Georgia Forestry Association Wise Owl Award.

Langdale died on February 10, 2013.

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## **LANGDALE RESIDENCE HALL (1969) Valdosta State University**

Summary by Lisa Tendrich Frank

### **Who Was Langdale?**

Valdosta State University's Langdale Hall was named for **John Wesley Langdale** (1860-1911), an early businessman in southern Georgia and the founder of one of the state's largest turpentine enterprises. His grandson and namesake served on the university's Board of Trustees.

### **Summary of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

Through the use of debt peonage at his turpentine camps, Langdale showed a disregard for the humanity of his mostly African American workers. Scholars have likened the camps to a new form of slavery in that they restricted the freedoms of workers and prevented them from leaving or negotiating for better compensation.

### **Sketch of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

Langdale's denial of the humanity of his workers manifested itself in many ways. He implemented a system of debt that ensured that his workers could not legally leave the work camps, his overseers routinely used violence to keep workers from moving, and the labor conditions in the turpentine industry were notoriously inhumane. Local officials noted these conditions in Langdale's work camps, as well as in those of other turpentine camps in the region, and deemed them necessary to ensure a labor force. In other words, only compulsion would lead workers to take this employment. The physical conditions of the camps led Langdale to conclude that they were not appropriate living conditions for the women of his family. He moved his wife and daughters to Florida to escape the stench and other horrors of the system.

### **More Biographic Details**

Langdale was born at Blount's Ferry, GA on the Suwanee River on February 10, 1860 to Elizabeth and Noah H. Langdale. His father died in 1862 while he was serving in the Confederate army.

Langdale married Nancy Burnsed in 1884, and they raised several children at a home in Clinch County, GA. In 1898, with the arrival of the railroad, Langdale expanded and diversified his business interests. At first, he largely herded small herds of cattle and hunted various animals for their hides. He was a self-described woodsman. After the arrival of the railroad, he became more connected to global markets and focused his attention on naval stores and the lumber industry more generally. He purchased thousands of acres of mostly forested land and continued to purchase land for many years. From these holdings, he became one of the most prominent leaders of the region's lumber and timber industry and one of the wealthiest men in the region.

His workers—almost entirely African American—suffered from the plights common to the turpentine industry. Langdale established turpentine camps on each of his holdings, used a system of debts to keep his workforce from leaving, and used violence to ensure that workers were productive and did not leave the camps without permission. Local officials allowed this form of peonage to continue despite its abusiveness because few leaders could imagine the turpentine industry without these abuses. With few, if any, safety standards, turpentine workers suffered from the effects of toxic fumes and physical injuries quite frequently.

In 1905, Langdale's wife and daughters moved away from the turpentine fields of south Georgia and made a home in Jasper, FL. Langdale and his sons remained with their turpentine interests in south

GA. In 1908, Langdale helped create the nearby town of Council, the location of a sawmill that he operated.

He died on June 7, 1911.

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## **LOWNDES RESIDENCE HALL (1966) Valdosta State University**

Summary by Lisa Tendrich Frank

### **Who Was William Jones Lowndes?**

Valdosta State University's Lowndes Residence Hall is named for **William Jones Lowndes** (1782-1822), a prominent South Carolina politician for which Lowndes County, GA is also named.

### **Summary of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

As an enslaver, Lowndes acted upon his beliefs of racial inequality and worked against human rights.

### **Sketch of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

Lowndes enslaved African Americans throughout his life, although the size of his enslaved population varied. His parents gave him some enslaved people, he also obtained some through his marriage, and he also bought and sold African Americans throughout his life. At his death, his will included 119 African Americans as his property.

### **More Biographic Details**

Lowndes was born February 11, 1782 at the Horseshoe Plantation in St. Bartholomew's Parish, SC to Sarah Jones and Rawlins Lowndes. His father was a prominent enslaver and member of the general assembly of South Carolina. Lowndes married Elizabeth Breton Pinckney, daughter of a South Carolina governor. Together, they had three children.

Lowndes suffered from rheumatic fever as a child, leaving him weak throughout his life. Nonetheless, he distinguished himself in private schools in both Charleston and England, and returned home to study law. He began practicing law in 1804. That year, he won election to the state's general assembly and served until 1808 when he lost a state Senate race.

Throughout his life, Lowndes owned and managed several rice plantations in South Carolina and used enslaved men and women to cultivate them. Throughout his life, the size of his enslaved population varied. He bought and sold enslaved people, and moved them between his rice plantations as work demands dictated. For most of his life, he relied on overseers to tend to these absentee plantations. At his death his will listed 119 African Americans as his property.

In 1810, Lowndes returned to political office by winning a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. A talented orator, Lowndes took a leading role among Congressmen seeking a strong U.S. military. He pushed aggressively for a military response to Great Britain's incursions of U.S. sovereignty, sought to buttress the nation's defensive capabilities, and was a leader in congressional fight to engage Great Britain in the War of 1812.

Lowndes also played influential roles in the creation of the Second Bank of the United States, the coinage of money, naval affairs, and the establishment of protective tariffs. He also wrote a plan that led the United States to pay off its national debt. Finally, and most importantly, he worked alongside Henry Clay to pass the Missouri Compromise (1820). The multipart set of legislation brought the slave state of Missouri into the United States in return for limits on slavery in other territories.

Lowndes left public service as his health declined. He resigned from Congress in 1822, and he died on October 27, 1822 en route to England where he hoped a change in climate would resolve his ailments.

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Vipperman, Karl. *William Lowndes and the Transition of Southern Politics*. University of North Carolina Press, 1989

## **PATTERSON HALL (1969) Valdosta State University**

Summary by Lisa Tendrich Frank

### **Who Was Patterson?**

Valdosta State University's Patterson Hall was named for **James W. Patterson** (1823-1862), an attorney and Confederate soldier.

### **Summary of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

Patterson's enslavement of African Americans as well as his service in the Confederate army helped support a commitment to the continued enslavement of African Americans in the south. He did not make any public statements in favor of or against the mistreatment of humanity.

### **Sketch of Actions and Beliefs Toward Humanity**

Patterson enslaved at least fourteen people prior to the Civil War. At the first news of war Patterson raised an infantry company for the Confederacy and joined other southerners as they fought to preserve the enslavement of African Americans in the south.

### **More Biographic Details**

Patterson was born in King William County, VA in 1823 to Susan G. and Thomas Patterson. He graduated with a law degree from Brown University and then moved to Forsyth County, GA to practice law there. He married Mary Frances Stephens on October 29, 1851.

The Pattersons moved to Troupville in 1854, where he practiced law and taught school until 1860. The 1860 census lists him as a lawyer and a planter with fourteen enslaved people, ranging in age from 50 years old to 1 year old, in his household. They moved to Valdosta in 1861, where he continued practicing law.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Patterson organized a company of infantry in Lowndes County, GA. The men elected him as their captain before they left Valdosta for Richmond, VA on June 20, 1861. Their company joined the 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Regiment as company I. He was killed at the Battle of McDowell on May 8, 1862.

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