

invited to his house.

As a young man, Mr. Poe and his brother used to cut down oak trees and fashion railroad ties which they sold for 25 cents. For a time the two brothers tried working in the coal mines on the Deep River. Mr. Poe said it was back-breaking work because the coal seams were only four feet high in cramped tunnels, which resulted in swinging a pick from a horizontal position, so they went back to cutting railroad ties. Later Wilson Poe worked in a textile mill and advanced to become the repair and maintenance man for the company housing. Eventually he bought a house and land "around the time the big war ended" which probably meant 1945.



Mr. Hubbard, a retired tenant farmer near Farrington. The photo was taken as part of a Farm Security Administration project.

PHOTO BY JACK DELANO, MAY 1940

Willingness to help one another with what meager means they had was demonstrated by the Poe family's neighbors after their home suffered a fire. The family was promptly given a

place to stay and received furniture and clothes.

About 15 years ago I personally experienced the generous concern of a complete stranger. Stopping to use an ATM machine at the Cole Park Shopping Center one Sunday morning, I received my money but a power failure stopped the machine before it completed a receipt or returned my card.

A local man in big overalls arrived to draw cash, hesitated when I told him what happened, but needing cash, he decided to insert his card. He received his cash, card and receipt, and explained that I could get my ATM

card back at the local bank branch the next day. When I mentioned that we were on the way to our daughter's wedding in New York State, he mistakenly believed that I had not received my money and needed it for the wedding. The man immediately offered to draw funds from his account and lend it to us. Another man also in overalls, overheard the conversation and offered to draw from his account if we needed more. This act of kindness and trust extended to me, a complete stranger, obviously "not from around here" made me realize that we had indeed moved to the right place.

Fred J. Vatter is Past President of Chatham County Historical Association and a Board Member.

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