

C. A. GASTON

Dr. C. A. Gaston, pioneer Fairhope settler and longtime community leader, died on April 14 in Charlottesville, Virginia. He was 90.

Born in Des Moines, Iowa on October 29, 1891, "Cornie" Gaston migrated with his parents and a small band of others who founded the Fairhope single tax colony on Mobile Bay in Alabama. He was the last surviving member of that founding group.

A graduate of both the Fairhope High School and the School of Organic Education, he left home in 1911 to explore and work in Central and South America - as a drill-hand on the Panama Canal construction project, a gold prospector in Panama, and a copper miner in Peru. He enlisted in the Army in 1917, served briefly on the West Coast, and returned to Fairhope in 1918 to work for his father's newspaper, the Fairhope Courier. He became a chiropractor.

In 1936 he succeeded his father as Secretary of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, a position he held for the next 36 years, retiring in 1972 at the age of 80. Widowed in 1968, he moved in 1979 to Charlottesville, Va., to live with his son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Mary Gaston.

An individualist and a zealous champion of free land and free people, Dr. Gaston wanted no memorial fund to honor him, but he hoped that those who might wish to remember him materially would contribute in whatever way they might choose to advance those principles.

His son Paul tells us that, steadfast to the end, Cornie Gaston, when taken to the hospital, expounded Single Tax to nurses and doctors. Paul, a professor at the University of Virginia, is working on a book about Fairhope. He has become a member of the Henry George Institute.