

T. Fairhope

Fairhope pioneer dead at 90

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

Born in Des Moines, Iowa, on October 29, 1894, "Cornie" Gaston came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Gaston, and a small band of others who founded the single-tax colony here in 1894. 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 to work in central and South America - as a drillhand 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*.

In 1921 he married Margaret Nichols. The young couple went to Chicago in the mid 'twenties where Dr. Gaston earned a degree from the National College of Chiropractic. He opened an office in Fairhope in 1927 and practiced until after World War II. He was elected to the Town Council in 1932 and served until 1948.

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. He also wrote frequent editorials in the *Courier*, owned by the E.B. Gaston estate until 1963.

Dr. Gaston was widowed in 1968.



'Cornie' Gaston

He continued after his retirement to live in the North Summit Street home which he and his wife had built in 1921, but in 1979 he moved to Charlottesville, Va., to live with his son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Mary Gaston. He visited Fairhope most recently last summer.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law and three grandchildren; a brother, Arthur F. Gaston, of Fairhope; and several nephews and nieces.

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.