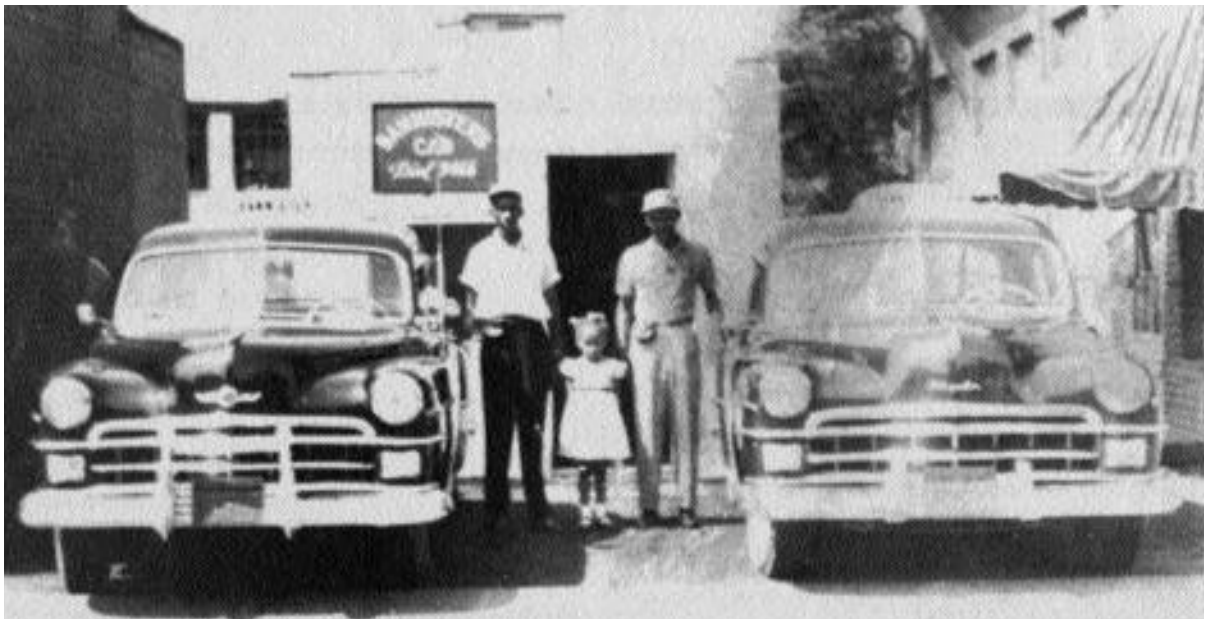
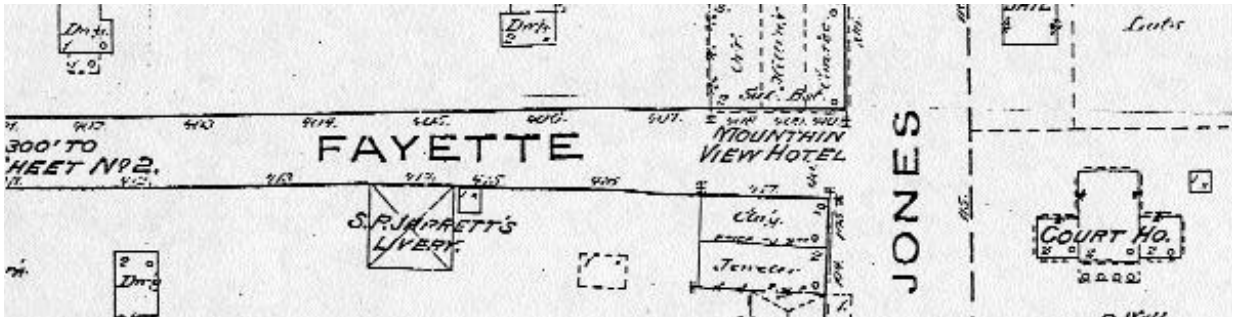


Co-owners James Bannister, Sr., and Leroy Bannister (above) started Bannister's Cab in 1948 on Fayette Street. They posed for this photograph with Peggy Ann Drewry (now Peggy Friend, a retired teacher in Richmond, Virginia) and two 1950 Chryslers. American, Bannister, Redd & Seay and other cab companies are no more as Martinsville's few remaining taxi services compete with an ever increasing reliance on privately owned cars. They are not yet ready to join other transportation options in the history books like local passenger trains and the horse rental or livery services, such as the one shown below on a detail from an 1886 map.

John H. Cahill was one of the last self-employed barbers on Fayette Street, operating the Cahill Barber Parlour at 136 1/2 Fayette Street for more than 35 years. His service to the community however extended beyond his talents with scissors. A member of Fayette Street Christian Church and active with the Senior Ushers Fellowship, John Cahill was also a member of the Sons of Solomon Masonic Lodge #111 and Ku Wat Temple #126.




*Bannister Cab photo is courtesy of the Martinsville Bulletin; the Sanborne map is from City of Martinsville Director of Water Resources, John Dyches. Background on the late John Cahill is from his wife Mary.*

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*WORKING AND PLAYING ON FAYETTE STREET: an exhibit created through the partnership of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the Fayette Area Historical Initiative.*

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