

THE HUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL REVIEW

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The Huntsville Historical Review

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EDITOR
HENRY S. MARKS

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HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

CONTRIBUTORS

MRS. OLIN B. (SHELBY) KING was a student at the University of Alabama in Huntsville when this paper was written. Mrs. King and her husband are the current owners of the Fearn House.

DR. LELAND R. JOHNSON is a historical researcher and a past contributor to the Review.



THOMAS FEARN
THE MAN
by

Mrs. Olin B. (Shelbie) King

The house that Dr. Thomas Fearn built on Franklin Street about 1822, reflects the imagination and proud heritage of the people who first settled in Huntsville in the early 1800s. Prominent planters and merchants from Virginia and Georgia made this the first English-settled town in Alabama. When the state was admitted to the Union in 1819, Huntsville was the first town in the state in population, politics, prestige, wealth and culture.¹ Huntsville also boasted the first newspaper in Alabama, published in 1812. The first bank in Alabama, the Planters' and Merchants' Bank, was organized in Huntsville in 1816.²

Dr. Fearn was one of the most prominent men in Huntsville and possibly the most prominent doctor in the South. He was born November 15, 1789 in Danville, Pittsylvania County, Virginia, the son of Thomas and Mary (Burton) Fearn. His father was a native of Buckingham County, Virginia, and the grandson of John and Leanna (Lee) Fearn, who lived at Gloucester County, Virginia. Thomas Fearn's maternal grandparents were Dr. Robert and Judith (LaForce) Burton, who lived at Middlesex County, Virginia.³

Dr. Fearn obtained his early schooling at Danville, Virginia, then entered Washington College, Lexington, Virginia, in 1806. He was graduated from the old Medical College at Philadelphia in 1810.⁴ Immediately after his

graduation he moved South, selecting Huntsville as a good place to live and practice his profession. He found the town in the midst of an economic boom, and from all evidence, acquired considerable holdings in the county. Ann Royal, in a letter from Huntsville dated June 8, 1822, mentions Dr. Fearn, Pope and others as being "rich as princes" and envied by some people with "little minds who never did a generous act in their lives."⁵

In 1813, Andrew Jackson moved into Alabama to carry on the war against the Creek Indians. Henry Marks states in his book that all of Alabama, even Mobile, was regarded at the point of extermination by the "red sticks" faction of the Creek Nation, led by William Weatherford.⁶ Among the volunteers from Huntsville was Dr. Fearn, offering his services as a physician. During this period he dressed the wounds of General Jackson. The General later appointed the doctor surgeon's mate of the hospital at Huntsville. Jackson visited Huntsville on many occasions and it is quite likely he visited with Dr. Fearn on some of these trips.

After the Creek Wars, Dr. Fearn became very active in the development of Huntsville. In 1816, he and eight other prominent local men organized the Planters' and Merchants' Bank of Huntsville, the first corporation of its kind in the state.

In 1818 Dr. Fearn traveled to Europe to study medicine and European surgical techniques. He remained there for several years studying surgery in many of the hospitals in London and Paris. When he returned to Huntsville in 1820, the physician brought with him many books he had acquired during his stay.

Most of these have been given to the library in Huntsville, but some are still in the possession of the Garth family.

On February 26, 1822, Dr. Fearn married Sallie Bledsoe Shelby (born 1806, died May 2, 1842), daughter of David and Sarah (Bledsoe) Shelby, who lived at Gallatin, Tennessee. Her family was very prominent in Tennessee and Virginia. Shelby County, Tennessee is named in honor of her grandfather, Major John Shelby.⁷

On June 27, 1822, four months after his marriage, Dr. Fearn bought a parcel of land on Franklin Street from his brother Robert for sixteen hundred dollars. From the amount of the purchase, one could assume that there was some type of building on the land at that time. Where the doctor lived before his marriage is unknown. According to a reference made in an Alabama deed book, he owned a brick shop on or near the public square in 1815.⁸ The large two-story house he built on Franklin Street was done in three stages; the main part, done in the Federal style popular at that time, was probably started soon after he purchased the land from his brother. The two drawing rooms, three bedrooms upstairs and the portico were added in 1849 by George Steele, the well-known Huntsville architect working in the Greek Revival manner. The amount he charged for the addition was two thousand dollars, as stipulated in notes written to each other dated March 1, 1849 (see exhibit B). There are no records to indicate when the library was added. It is believed to have been built for Dr. Fearn's office; however, the doctor gave up his practice in 1837 because of increased business activities, so this would indicate the room may have been built in the

early 1830s.

Dr. Fearn's discovery that quinine (which he made here from the cinchona bark of South America) was the best weapon with which to cure malarial fever, left his name imprinted in the annals of medicine. His reputation grew, and honorary degrees began to be bestowed upon him. He was offered the chair of surgery at Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky; at the school of medicine, Louisville, Kentucky in 1831; and at the University of Cincinnati, all of which he refused. Dr. Fearn served as a member of the board of state medical examiners from 1823, until he resigned in 1829.

Like so many other leaders of his time, Dr. Fearn was drawn into politics. Twice he served in the state legislature, in 1822 and 1828-29.¹⁰ Although he was against secession from the Union, he was selected as one of the nine Alabama delegates sent to the Provisional Confederate Congress in January, 1861. When he was defeated by the secessionists, however, he promised his support, and aided in framing the Constitution of the Confederacy.¹¹

Dr. Fearn was the builder of the second Huntsville water works, installing cast iron pipe to replace the previously used hollow cedar log "pipes." In 1836 he and his brother George purchased an existing water works from Thomas Ronalds for \$2,530. Dr. Fearn operated the rebuilt water works until 1854, at which time the City purchased it for the sum of two thousand dollars to be paid in ten equal annual installments.

The Huntsville Directory of 1859-60 listed

Dr. Fearn as a planter, not a doctor. By this time he was involved in many different ventures. With his brother Robert (according to Thomas McAdory Owen, Robert owned the land which is now the city of Memphis),¹² he successfully marketed cotton. This led him to construct a canal from Big Springs Creek to Ditto's Landing, on the Tennessee River ten miles south of Huntsville. For that purpose, the Indian Creek Navigation Company was chartered by the state legislature in 1820, with Dr. Fearn as one of its five commissioners. When the canal was finally completed in 1831, it could accommodate boats carrying fifty passengers and up to 80-100 bales of cotton.¹³

Dr. Fearn also devoted much time to civic activities in Huntsville. He was a trustee of Green Academy throughout its existence and was president of the board of trustees of Huntsville Female Seminary and the North Alabama College for Men. On December 19, 1821, he was elected to the first board of trustees of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. (The trustees were paid three dollars a day then for meetings and three dollars every twenty-five miles they traveled to and from meetings.)¹⁴ Dr. Fearn was asked to help find teachers for the staff, and he wrote many letters on behalf of the school for this purpose. The University finally opened its doors on April 18, 1831, with the help of such capable men as Dr. Fearn.

In 1862 Huntsville was occupied by Union forces under General O. M. Mitchell. Dr. Fearn and ten other prominent citizens were arrested by Mitchell in an attempt to force the community to change its rebellious attitude toward the Federal troops, to stop firing at pickets from ambush, and to extend to General Mitchell,

as well as his staff, customary social courtesies. The prisoners were requested to sign a statement urging local residents to cease their acts of hostility. They could accept that condition or remain behind bars. Dr. Fearn's house on Franklin Street was seized at this time and used by Mitchell's troops. These eleven town "fathers" were William McDowell, William Acklin, A. J. Withers, George P. Beirne, William H. Moore, Samuel Cruse, the Rev. J. G. Wilson, T. S. McCalley, G. L. Mastin, Stephen W. Harris and Thomas Fearn. A prominent visitor also seized was Bishop Henry C. Lay of the Episcopal Church.¹⁵

The twelve imprisoned men at first refused to sign the document Mitchell had drawn up, and from May 2 to May 15, 1862, they deliberated whether to sign the document. Finally, after the threat of being sent to Fort Warren, the twelve reluctantly signed Mitchell's paper denouncing all illegal and guerrilla warfare by citizens.

While a prisoner, Dr. Fearn had contracted pneumonia, and because of that lingering illness died the following year, on January 16, 1863. He left seven daughters: Mary Eleanor, who married Gustavas L. Masters of Huntsville; Sarah Leanne, who married William S. Barry, of Columbus, Mississippi; Katherine Erskine, who married Matthew W. Steele (son of George Steele) of Huntsville; Ada, married to Dr. George Steele (son of George Steele) of Huntsville; Maria Eliza, who married Wm. Willis Garth of Huntsville; Berenice Shelby; Lucie Lee, who married George Miller of Georgia.¹⁶ Dr. Fearn's wife, Sallie, had died on May 2, 1842, leaving him to care for the girls alone.

Dr. Fearn's will, dated March 30, 1860 (see attachment C) stipulated that his sons-in-law, Gustavas Masters and William W. Garth, be the executors of his will. He left his watch to the oldest grandson; his wife's pearls to the daughter who had not married, and his horse Arkansas was left to his son-in-law M. W. Steele. He further stipulated that the house and furniture, along with the slaves (he had 82 at one time) would, after three years, be liquidated and divided equally among the seven daughters. Exactly three years after her father's death, Maria Fearn Garth bought at public auction, from her father's estate, the house on Franklin Street for ten thousand and one hundred dollars (see exhibit D). The house remained in the Garth family until 1964.

Thomas Fearn's life as a doctor, businessman, politician and public servant gives him a very important place in the history of Huntsville. His works live on, not just in his accomplishments, but also in the magnificent house he built.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Judge Thomas Jones Taylor, A History of Madison County and Incidentally of North Alabama 1712-1840. (University: University of Alabama Confederate Publishing Co., 1976), p. 120.

² Hugh C. Bailey, John Williams Walker University of Alabama Press, 1964), p. 86.

³ Thomas McAdory Owen, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography Vol. III (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1921), p. 567.

⁴Owen, p. 568.

⁵Ann Newport Royal, Letters from Alabama 1817-1822, ed. and annotated by Lucille Griffith (University: University of Alabama Press, 1969), p. 245.

⁶Henry Marks, Sketches of the Tennessee Valley in Antebellum Days: People, Places and Things (Huntsville: Southern Press, Inc., 1976), p. 40.

⁷Owen, p. 568.

⁸Madison County, Alabama Deed Books A, B, C, D, E, 1810-1819. Compiled by Dorothy Scott Johnson (Huntsville: Johnson Historical Publication, 1976), p. 21.

⁹Owen, p. 568.

¹⁰Edward Chambers Betts, Historic Huntsville from Early History of Huntsville, Alabama, 1804-1870 (Birmingham: Southern University Press, 1909 reprinted 1966), p. 115.

¹¹William Smith, The History and Debates of the Convention of the People of Alabama (Spartanburg: The Reprint Co. Pub., 1975), p. 118.

¹²Owen, p. 567.

¹³Marks, p. 95.

¹⁴James B. Sellers, History of the University of Alabama, V. I (University: University of Alabama Press, 1953), p. 10.

¹⁵Pat Jones, "Yanks Imprison Leading Residents in 1862 Siege," Huntsville Times (1931) as found in Historic Scrapbook, V. 3, pp. 71-73, in the Heritage Room of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library.

¹⁶Owen, v. 568.



TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS
OF THE SALT MONOPOLY IN ANTE-BELLUM DAYS
IN THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

by

Dr. Leland R. Johnson

In 1973 Leland R. Johnson, a past contributor to the Review, wrote a letter to Elbert Watson, the past editor of the Review. Unfortunately, it was lost in the transition of officers and editor; only recently discovered, it is finally presented to the membership, as Dr. Johnson wished.

I expected that when I initiated study of river navigation and Engineer activities in the states of Ohio and West Virginia I would no longer be distracted by historical documents relating to Tennessee Valley and Huntsville history, but such has not been the case.

While researching the history of the Kanawha Valley (in West Virginia. The Kanawha or Great Kanawha River is a tributary of the Ohio, formed by the junction of New and Gauley Rivers in West Virginia.) and its early salt industry I found information relating to the history of Huntsville in U. S., Congress, Senate, The Trade In, and Manufacture and Uses of Salt, S. Doc. No. 196, 26 Congress, 1 Session, 1840. Inclosed is a copy of that information.

Background is as follows: manufacturers of salt in the Kanawha Valley organized the first "trust" (or monopoly) in the history of the United States in 1816. In 1839, Senator

Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri (formerly of Tennessee and an officer of General Jackson's army which operated in Alabama during the War of 1812) launched a congressional investigation of the Kanawha salt trust, which, by limiting production, was keeping prices at a high level. He mailed a list of 30 questions to community leaders throughout the West and Midwest. The first xerox sheet (of pp. 2-3) are his questions; the second sheet (pp. 40-41) prints the reply of G. T. C. McClanahan of Jackson County, Alabama; the third sheet (pp. 42-43) continues McClanahan's¹ reply and begins the reply of Dr. William H. Glasscock,² Thomas Miller,³ and Charles A. Jones⁴ of Madison County, Alabama; sheet four (pp. 44-45) concludes the Madison County reply.

Possibly you might like to print the material in the Review as filler, or perhaps some member of the Historical Society might like to edit the materials, identifying people, places, and so forth.

Queries upon the salt monopoly in the west, and upon the price and quality of salt in that quarter of the Union, and upon the measurement thereof, and upon the abuses and impositions in the manufacture and sale of salt. Submitted to his constituents, for their answers, by THOMAS H. BENTON. — September 1, 1839.

1. What are the varieties or different kinds of salt usually sold in your part of the country?
2. Is it sold by the weighed or measured

bushel? and if by the former, how many pounds are allowed to the bushel?

3. Do you know of any law in your State which authorizes 50 pounds of salt to be sold for a bushel?

4. Is the selling of salt a free trade, subject to general competition in your part of the country; or is it a monopoly in the hands of one, or a few in a place? If the latter, how many salt merchants are there in your town or county, and do they seem to be of the same company or combination? and do they seem to have limits and bounds for each one to sell in exclusively?

5. What is the present selling price of different kinds of salt in your neighborhood, by the single bushel? and what has been its highest and also its lowest price by the single bushel at any time within the last five or ten years?

6. What is the price by the barrel? and also what is the highest and what the lowest price by the barrel at any time within several years past?

7. When sold by the barrel, is it sold according to the real weight at the time of sale, or according to the weight marked upon the barrel when first filled, commonly call lick weight?

8. Is the real weight generally, or always, below the marked weight? and if so, what is the usual difference, and what the greatest difference that you have heard or know of? what is the tare allowed for the barrel, and what its real weight?

9. Are the barrels sometimes exposed in the open air to the sun and rain, either while coming to market or waiting sale, so as to add

wastage from such exposure to defective weight from drying and leaking?

10. Is an increased price demanded for the salt if re-weighed, and, if so, what is the usual amount of the increase?

11. How many bushels by weight are usually marked on a barrel?

12. How many measured bushels would the same barrel contain?

13. After deducting for wastage, leakage, and drying, how many measured bushels does a barrel usually contain? and what is the lowest quantity it has been known to contain?

14. What would be the weight of a measured bushel of each variety of salt in your neighborhood?

15. Does the credit usually given on the sale of goods and groceries in your part of the country extend to salt; or is this an exception from the general rule, and sold for ready money only?

16. Is your part of the country regularly and plentifully supplied with salt; or does it occasionally suffer for want of an adequate supply?

17. Do you know of any instances of extortionate rise in the price of salt? and, if so, state the time and circumstances.

18. Do you know whether there is lime, bitter water, or other impurities, in any of the kinds of salt sold in your neighborhood? and, if so, in which of the kinds? and how do you detect the impurities — by chemical analysis, or common observation?

19. Is the domestic salt fit for pickling beef and pork, and for preserving butter and

curing bacon for exportation, or long keeping, or consumption in the south?

20. Do you know, or have you heard from credible sources, of any practices among salt-makers to adulterate their salt by using tal-low, or other substances, to cause lime, or bitter water, or other impurities, to be retained in it, to increase its weight? and, if so, state the circumstances.

21. Do you know, or have you heard from credible sources, of any combinations, or companies, or individuals, undertaking to monopolize the manufacture and sale of salt at any of the works which supply the west? and, if so, at what times and places? with such particulars as you may know or have heard of.

22. Do you know, or have you heard, of any practices among such monopolizers to restrict or lessen the quantity of salt made, either by renting wells and furnaces, and letting them lie idle; or by paying owners not to work their wells, or a part of them; or by hiring persons not to dig or bore new wells; or by entering into arrangements with salt-makers not to make above a certain and limited quantity each?

23. Do you know, or have you heard from credible sources, of any arrangements among salt-makers and monopolists to district the country for the sale of their salt, or to have the exclusive supply within certain limits; and, if so, the particulars which have come to your knowledge.

24. Do you know, or have you been credibly informed, of any combinations among salt-makers and monopolizers to raise the price of salt, and to keep it up? and, if so, how much such rise may have been, either at the works, or at the place of sale where you live?

25. Do you know, or have you been in like manner informed, of any combinations or agreements among the monopolizers not to sell salt below a fixed price, but as much above it as any one pleased?

26. What is the lowest price of salt that you have heard or know of, at any of the works, when there was no monopoly? and what the highest price at the same works, when there was?

27. Have the people in your part of the country ever been so necessitated for salt as to be obliged to submit to impositions, and to take such as they could get, at such price and measure as the monopolists chose to prescribe, and of such quality as they offered?

28. Is salt sold or bartered for produce in your part of the country, or only for ready money?

29. Would the people of your part of the country use more salt if they could get it cheaper, and of good quality, and fair measure?

30. What should be the price of alum salt in your part of the country, supposing the duty to be repealed, and the import price at New Orleans to be, by the measured bushel weighing eighty-four pounds, as follows: For Turk's Island, and other Bahama Island salt, from eight to nine cents a bushel; for St. Ubes and other Portugese and Spanish salt, from six to seven cents a bushel; for Mediterranean and Italian salt, from four to five cents a bushel; for Adriatic salt, from three to four cents a bushel. Supposing these to be the import prices of pure sun-made alum salt at New Orleans, and purchaseable there by barter, in exchange for provisions and other western productions, what should be the fair selling price of the article where you live? and what should it cost the farmer if he had it pur-

chased and bought up on his own account, without paying profit to a merchant, or duty to the Government?

Communication from G. T. C. McClanahan, Esq., of Jackson county, North Alabama, October, 1830.

Your 1st query.—The trade of salt is entirely monopolized here by James White, of the Holston salt-works, in Virginia. I cannot exactly tell to what States these works furnish salt, but it is to be supposed to the western parts of Virginia, eastern part of Tennessee, a part of North Carolina, the northern part of Georgia, North Alabama, and some in South Alabama.

Query 2d. Colonel J. White has a depot at this place, a mile and a half from Tennessee river, down which stream he boats his salt. And if any person else brings salt here to sell, they immediately undersell that person and ruin him. The people sometimes get their salt from Nashville, when they have a convenience of doing so; and it comes much cheaper, after paying land carriage 130 miles, than White's salt; but no person dares to compete with him here, because he can, at his will, undersell any person who pays a land carriage of 130 miles; and therefore instantly break him up. One thing is yet to be told, which will convince any man of the sin and oppression of this monopolizing system. This same James White will carry his salt by us down to Ditto's landing, 10 miles below Huntsville; haul it out to Winchester, Tennessee, which is 55 miles of land carriage, and sell it there so much lower than he will here on the river, (take it out of his boats,) that some of the planters, who are able, take their wagons, and cross a very bad mountain, (part of the Cumberland,) and haul their salt over from Win-

chester, which is 45 miles from this place. Is this not oppressive to the poor? Would not this monopolist wring from the distressed orphan, widow, and war-worn soldier, all their earthly sustenance? And yet the Congress of the United States, this boasted land of liberty and equal laws, countenances such oppressive acts. Why does Mr. White not sell as low here on the river as at Winchester, after carrying his salt 120 miles — 55 by land? and that, too, the very same salt. The answer is obvious. At Winchester there is some competition; it is not so far from Nashville, where foreign salt may be obtained. And this is why he sells it lower there than at this place.

We are here fenced in with almost impassable mountains, at a great distance from any commercial depot, and without the means of shunning the exorbitant exactions of these vampyres, who take the bread from the mouths of our children with the calculating coldness of an Arab. And these acts are legalized by a Congress of freemen! We are glad to hear the stern voice of indignation at this oppression uttered by some of the patriotic republicans of that body; and we should glory in being among the most persecuted victims, if by that means this most pernicious system of monopoly could be overturned.

Query 3d. We have no foreign salt here for sale; two years ago some gentlemen brought a few bushels from Nashville, and sold for \$1.87½ per 50 lbs., underselling the salt gentlemen here at that time. The domestic salt has got lower than it was four years ago. Then, it was \$2.50; now, \$1.87 to \$2.

The freight from New Orleans to Nashville is one cent per pound, as I am informed by a merchant of this place; and from Nashville to this place one and a quarter cent per pound.

4. There is a depot here, and another at Ditto's landing, as I am told, for selling salt. These places are about 55 miles apart by land. The remaining part of the question I do not know anything about.

5. Col. White, as I have been informed by good authority, leased the Preston salt-works, in what is called New Virginia, for \$9,000 or \$12,000 annually; but I am further informed that the lease is out, and the works are to go into active operation to compete with White, he having let them be idle heretofore. These are "dead wells," but the number of dead wells he has I am unable to inform you.

6. Salt is sold here by weight, 50 lbs. to the bushel; and 50 lbs. (the bushel) of the salt, which I tried (without pressing) measured 1,188.4632 solid inches, making 4 gallons 1.5952 quart, dry measure, which is but very little over half a measured bushel. Therefore, when salt is two dollars the 50 lbs., we have to pay at the rate of \$3.66½ the measured bushel. This is oppression in a free country; this is the fruit of the tariff.

7. In selling by the barrel, the weight of the barrel and the nett weight of salt is sometimes, and most commonly, placed on the barrel; but the weight of the barrel is marked much less than its real weight.

They make no deduction for the drying of the salt. One barrel I particularly weighed out, and it lost twenty pounds; and I am credibly informed that some have lost as much as fifty.

8. The monopolists here sell for money, or cotton at the cash price, which is the same thing as money. They do not credit their salt. There are always two prices for cotton here - a cash and a discount price. Merchants, in

taking in cotton for their accounts, give more for it than they will in money; and this is called the discount price. The salt gentlemen sell their salt for cotton at the cash price. The remaining part of the query I know nothing about.

9. The monopolists have fallen here, since they find that people would go to Nashville for their salt if they did not. But they know at what price to keep it up; they know the planters cannot take the trouble to go 130 miles to Nashville to get a little salt; and they know that no person dares to compete with them, as they could instantly reduce the price of their salt, and thereby ruin their competitor.

10. They certainly must realize great gains, or they would not give nine or twelve thousand dollars annually for one manufactory to let it lie idle. Why does not Congress lease all the salt-works in the United States, and let them lie idle, and then knock the duty off of salt, if they wish to encourage the manufacture of salt by filling the pockets of the manufacturers? It would be much better for the people. They would be great gainers by purchasing the salt-works and demolishing them, or letting them out at a small rate, and then striking the duty from salt.

The remaining queries I am in hopes will find abler persons to answer them than I.

Communication from a meeting of the citizens of Madison county, Alabama, 8th of November, 1830; the subject proposed by Dr. William H. Glasscock, and authenticated by the signatures of Thomas Miller, president, and Charles A. Jones, secretary.

Answer to 1st. The salt consumed here is

almost exclusively obtained from Col. James White's manufactory of Virginia, and sold by his agents in East Tennessee, a part of North Alabama, and West Tennessee.

To the 2d, we can give no definite answer.

3d. The price of domestic salt is \$1.25 per bushel by the barrel, or \$1.75 by the single bushel. Foreign salt sells at about the same. The freight of salt from New Orleans to Huntsville is about $1 \frac{3}{4}$ cent per pound.

4th. Col. White has salt deposited in different parts of this State, and others at various distances from each other — say 10 to 15 miles.

5th. Preston's works were for some time discontinued for (say) ten thousand dollars per annum.

6th. Universally sold by weight, allowing 50 pounds to the bushel; the measured bushel will weight from 70 to 80 pounds.

7th. When the salt is weighed out of the barrel, it seldom holds out, and frequently loses from 5 to 20 pounds. We may add, that however honestly it may have been put up at the works, it is generally brought down in open boats, subject to the winter rains, which damage it more or less; and we know of but one of his agents who sells it any other way than by the marked weight.

8th. Salt is sold for nothing else but ready money.

9th. Salt is sold high or low, according to competition. The Kenawha, ground alum, and Liverpool, are brought in but sparingly, which is the only competition.

10th. We believe that White realizes great gains. We are sustained in this opinion from

his carrying it by land 25 or 30 miles farther, where he meets with competition, and selling it for less than he does here.

11th. Wholly unfit.

12th. It will not be received for either.

13th. We can give no correct answer.

14th. It is indispensable for stock of all kinds. It is thought they require more in the western States than maritime States, owing, probably, to the absence of the sea-breeze, and vapor impregnated with salt coming from the sea and alighting on the vegetable matter. Stock of all kinds should be salted twice a week; but owing to the high price of salt, the stock are probably not salted more than once in two weeks, on an average. From the best accounts, 3,000 barrels of salt are consumed annually in Madison county, averaging about 6 bushels (of 50 lbs.) to the barrel. The population being about 27,000 gives us, on an average, $33\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to each person. Were those heavy duties taken off, the consumption would be much greater.

15th. Salt is thought to be useful in preserving hay, fodder, and clover; each will keep well, if sprinkled over with it, though not thoroughly cured when put up. Moreover, our pork is often spoiled from the want of a sufficiency of salt to pack it up in, which we cannot obtain on account of the high price. Thousands and tens of thousands of pounds are often lost from that circumstance alone. Alum salt would be an immense saving to North Alabama, in that one particular.

Resolved, therefore, unanimously, That the delegation from this State, as well as those of our sister States, have our unfeigned thanks for their exertions and co-operation,

the last session of Congress, with Mr. Benton, in endeavoring to repeal the duty on salt; and that we request our delegation to use their utmost to effect the repeal of a tax so burdensome to us, and of no ultimate advantage to any State.

FOOTNOTES

¹This pioneer is not identified in any of the standard early histories of the region, such as DuBose, Pickett, Garrett, or Saunders, nor in Kenamer's History of Jackson County (Winchester, 1935).

²Dr. William H. Glasscock was a member of the Alabama legislature during the period 1830 to 1835 but was defeated in 1835 when he ran for the federal congress. Judge Thomas Taylor, A History of Madison County (University: Confederate Publishing Company), p.111.

³Thomas Miller was a prominent land holder in the northern part of Madison and Jackson Counties. Taylor mentions that he purchased land in the area during the first land sale and added to his holdings in the sales of July, 1830. He also subscribed \$20.00 to the Texas independence cause, at New Market, on May 18, 1836. Taylor, p. 107.

⁴Jones is not mentioned in Taylor, nor the other reference sources listed in footnote one.



BOOK NOTES

From time to time we will report on books that are important or interesting, or both, that have no direct relation with the history of the Tennessee Valley. Our primary aim will be to inform, not to judge. Draw your own conclusions.

KANSAS PLACE-NAMES, by John Rydjord. Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1980. iii, 563 pp. \$29.50; \$12.50, paperbound.

Kansas, of course, is very much connected with Southern and Confederate history — just a reminder of "bleeding Kansas" is enough. The names of towns are fascinating generally, for the scope and variety of them are universal. Yet many towns in Kansas owe their origin to the Southeast. For example, Spring Hill in Kansas was named by one James Honey because Spring Hill in Alabama was "one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen."

The author, a retired educator, has spent his retirement years on his evident labor of love and has arranged his material topically with some chronological sequence. Why this arrangement? Because Mark Twain "purportedly disliked the dictionary because it was constantly changing the subject." And because a dictionary has no index.

A REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE AT WAR, by Charles Royster. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1980. V, 437 pp. \$19.50.

This is an excellent portrayal of and discussion about the role of the national character as developed in the Revolutionary War in

the interplay between democratic principles and military necessity. Analytical rather than narrative in presentation, the book dwells on the irony of the need to maintain democratic principles the revolution purportedly were based upon, yet accept military discipline and order to win the war. Experience gradually showed Americans that they could not draw a clear line between Europe, tyranny, brutality, and rigid military discipline on the one side and America, liberty, virtue, and voluntarism on the other."

ENCLAVE Vicksburg and Her Plantations, 1863-1870, by James T. Curry. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1980. XV, 230 pp. \$16.95.

An intensive investigation of Vicksburg and its environs during the period 1863-1870, it provides us with an in-depth analysis of Union control.

After its capture, Vicksburg became an enclave of Union territory in the heart of the Confederacy, where slavery was abolished and the population mushroomed to 50,000. Following the war it reverted to civilian control, then federal troops again occupied Vicksburg during Congressional or Radical Reconstruction.

Curry, Assistant Professor of History at Jackson State University in Mississippi, gives us in this provocative essay the major reasons why Vicksburg never reached its potential. Very well done.

Editor

KING CROCKETT: NATURE AND CIVILITY ON THE AMERICAN FRONTIER, by Catherine L. Albanese. Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1979. 25 pp. \$3.50, paper.

BLACK HISTORY'S ANTEBELLUM ORIGINS, by Benjamin Quarles. Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1979. 34 pp. \$3.00, paper.

Sometimes good things come in small packages, and inexpensive, too. So it is with these two reprints of articles originally appearing in the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society. Most of the general reading public remains unexposed to the professional journals and the University Press of Virginia is to be congratulated for making significant articles more available to the general public.

Albanese's "King Crockett" is a fine examination of the creation of the Crockett myth of greatness, primarily as it developed from his autobiographical Narrative and the Crockett Almanacs. Myth wins over reality, also bestiality over refinement and civility. This might (ought) to make one wonder if much of the same mythmaking occurred in our own Tennessee Valley, in our own early history. For Davey once "lived" not too far away. Albanese also makes us aware of the national political aspirations of Crockett and the role of politics in the creation of the legend — another possible lesson for today.

Quarles, professor of history at Morgan State University in Baltimore, is one of the country's leading black historians. He shows us that today's efforts to recapture the African and Afro-American past is not some-

thing new, but was first consciously attempted in the first half of the nineteenth century, in order to combat white mainstream assertions that blacks had no history worthy of relating, since they were inferior.

Quarles is objective in his treatment of this quest for identity, for he provides the reader with the weaknesses as well as the strengths of what the quest produced. The history produced was "open to question in its documentation and tone," but "if their grasp of history was fragmentary and partial, it was neither lacking in vision nor devoid of a core of essential truth." Well said.

Editor

THE TEXAS GULF COAST: INTERPRETATIONS BY NINE ARTISTS.
College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1979.
112 pp. \$29.95.

Every so often I get a book to review that I simply cannot do justice to--all the words at my command are insufficient to describe the book. Resorting to a Thesaurus does not help. Words like haunting, incisive, enticing, evocative are only clues.

So it is with this depiction of the Texas Gulf Coast by nine artists. Forty-seven color plates reveal this area as seen by these artists. Plus an excellent textual introduction to the area.

You will simply have to see the book to believe, and understand.

Editor

VIOLENCE AND CULTURE IN THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH, by Dickson D. Bruce, Jr. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1979. 240 pp. \$16.95.

According to available statistics, the South before the Civil War appeared "to be a violent place to live . . . regardless of one's race or class." Also "certain forms of violence were exclusive, or virtually so, to the South." Bruce, like many another, has tried to study both forms of violence and the place of violence within the cultural mores of the South. He has succeeded very well.

Basically, Bruce regards the Southerner before the Civil War as a pessimist. Deeply afraid of passion, regarding the veneer of civilization as so thin that it frequently cracks, the Southerner became inured to violence, not because "it was good, but because with their sense of impotence to a perverse humanity, they were resigned to its necessity." Bruce also makes the most important point that the Southerners "never saw violence as anything other than a response." So Southerners never caused violence, they reacted to it. That they reacted with force, violence, did not generally occur to them. It does make it easier to blame someone else for what one does, especially if passion lies so conveniently near the surface.

We may not like these conclusions but this provocative book will make us think.

Highly recommended.

Editor

AFRICANS AND CREEKS, FROM THE COLONIAL PERIOD TO THE CIVIL WAR, by David F. Littlefield, Jr. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1979. 260 pp. \$22.50.

In Alabama most students of American history are familiar with the story of the Creek Indians and that the powerful Creek Confederacy controlled much of Alabama and Georgia when settlers first began moving in. Conflict between Indian and white led to war by 1813. The Creeks lost; their subsequent removal to unwanted lands in the West began a policy that was to virtually destroy all the Indian nation by century's end. What is not as well known is that, from the middle of the 18th century on, blacks played a significant, sometimes dominant, role in Creek affairs.

AFRICANS AND CREEKS tells the little-known story of the Creek Indians and the blacks who became part of their nation. The author begins his story in the colonial period, when black runaways and the slaves of Spanish, French, and English traders began to live among the Creeks. These men and women were not regarded as slaves by the Indians. After the Revolution, increased contact with whites led the Creeks to acquire blacks as slaves. Littlefield explains in detail the differences between the Creeks' unique system of slavery and the white model. He then examines the blacks' part in the war of 1813 and 1814, and shows how events in this conflict led to an alliance between the blacks and the Seminoles of Florida. The blacks became a source of controversy within the tribe during the removal process: Littlefield describes the black role in that event.

Slavery was maintained in the new western Creek nation. Blacks continued as a source of tribal conflict between the Creeks and the Seminoles, who were also relocated. Littlefield explains these developments and examines in detail slave trading by the Indians during the period. A discussion of the role of the Creeks and their blacks in the Civil War, and the process of emancipation, completes this study.

This is the third book that Littlefield, Chairman of the English Department at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, has produced for Greenwood Press. Like the others, it is based on primary as well as secondary sources, and contributes to our understanding of our past.

Editor

PERSPECTIVES AND IRONY IN AMERICAN SLAVERY, edited by Harry P. Owens. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1976. 170 pp. \$8.50, cloth; \$3.50 paper.

WHAT WAS FREEDOM'S PRICE, edited by David G. Sansing. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1978. 113 pp. \$7.95, cloth; \$3.95, paper.

THE AGE OF SEGREGATION: RACE RELATIONS IN THE SOUTH, 1890-1945, edited by Robert Haws. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1978. 132 pp. \$8.50, cloth; \$3.50 paper.

HAVE WE OVERCOME? RACE RELATIONS SINCE BROWN, edited by Michael Namorato. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1979. VII, 200 pp. \$15.00, cloth; \$7.95, paper.

For the past four years the Department of History of the University of Mississippi has sponsored the Chancellor's Symposium, very likely the best series ever held in this country dealing with the problem of race relations in the South. The participants have been well-known historians; white and black, male and female, youthful and mature. Every year after the symposium the proceedings have been published, in paperback and hard bound editions.

Most of the essays are perceptive and reflect the best standards of historical scholarship. Together, they provide the reader with a detailed overview of black/white relations throughout the history of the country.

These four volumes should be a part of every library in the South and should be read by all people living in the South.

Editor

THE UNION CAVALRY IN THE CIVIL WAR, by Stephen Z. Starr.
Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1979.
IV, 461 pp. \$27.50.

This will be the first comprehensive treatment of the role of Union cavalry in the Civil War, when all three volumes of the proposed set are published, and will surely prove to be the definitive work on the Union cavalry. However, the initial volume can stand by itself, and will be the one to be enjoyed by the pro Southern folks, for it covers the period from Sumter to Gettysburg, when the Confederate cavalry had all the best of it.

The book actually opens with the final Union cavalry operation of the war, Wilson's invasion of Alabama and Georgia. The author's intent is to show the Union supremacy by the end of the war and how this superiority was achieved.

Starr next gives an excellent overview of the history of cavalry operations in the United States before the Civil War, setting the stage for conflict. He then gives the preparation for war by both sides, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of both. The two worst weaknesses of the Confederate cavalry were the lack of discipline and the Southern system of depending on cavalymen to furnish their own mounts, which, beneficial in the beginning, turned out to be disastrous. Starr also maintains that the major step of Union cavalry towards parity with Confederate units was "the replacement of most of the initial cadre of officers . . . by men who had had several months or years of cavalry experience in the ranks . . . Their skill as fighting men is a major factor in explaining the dramatic improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal cavalry from mid-1863 on."

For the reader who would rather read about battles, the highlight of this volume will be the detailed descriptions of the campaigns. Some will claim that here Starr is at his best.

Editor

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